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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE
March 9, 2021
8:36 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Della Trumble, Chair
Melissa Berns
Coral Chernoff
Natasha Hayden
Patrick Holmes
Richard Koso
Christopher Price
Sam Rohrer
Rebecca Skinner

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 3/9/2021)

(On record)

MR. MIKE: Good morning everyone on teleconference and Microsoft Teams, and I want to welcome everyone and, Della, I think we're ready to go.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you, Donald. Good morning everyone we'll call this meeting to order. It looks like the time is about 8:36. I guess we'll start with a roll call.

MR. MIKE: And, Della, Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. Do you want me to go ahead and begin roll call.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, if you can. Are you hearing me okay?

MR. MIKE: Yes, I can hear you well.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, yeah, go ahead and start with the roll call, please, thank you.

MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you, Madame Chair. This is Donald Mike, Council Coordinator for the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council. This is will be a roll call for the Council members for Kodiak. Just for everyone's benefit online, we have 10 seats and we have one vacancy.

Mr. Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Richard Koso.

MR. KOSO: Yep.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Sam Rohrer.

MR. ROHRER: Good morning, I'm here.

MR. MIKE: Mr. Christopher Price.

MR. PRICE: Good morning from Unalaska.

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1 MR. MIKE: Christopher Price, was that
2 you?

3
4 MR. PRICE: Yes, I'm here.

5
6 MR. MIKE: Thank you.

7
8 Ms. Coral Chernoff.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MR. MIKE: Ms. Rebecca Skinner.

13
14 MS. SKINNER: Here.

15
16 MR. MIKE: Ms. Della Trumble.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Here.

19
20 MR. MIKE: Ms. Natasha Hayden.

21
22 MS. HAYDEN: Good morning, I'm here.

23
24 MR. MIKE: And Ms. Melissa Berns.

25
26 MS. BERNs: Good morning, I'm here.

27
28 MR. MIKE: And Ms. Coral Chernoff.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, we have eight
33 members present and we have a quorum, and I'll see if
34 Coral Chernoff is available.

35
36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
39 Donald. I think with that we'd like to maybe open our
40 meeting and have -- Pat, would you be willing to do our
41 opening prayer.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Ma'am. I don't know
44 if you guys see me on the video, all I see is myself.

45
46 (Prayer)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
49 I'd like to welcome everybody to the Kodiak/Aleutians
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0004

1 Federal Subsistence Advisory Council meeting. Again,
2 we are on conference call and I'm thankful that we have
3 as many members that we do on our RAC, it's been an
4 issue with other Councils of not getting appointments
5 so we're thankful for that.

6
7 I'd like to go ahead and do an
8 introduction for everybody. Donald, I'm not sure how
9 we should probably do this, or start with Council
10 members, and we had the roll call and so if I could
11 just get, Donald, how you want to handle who else is
12 online, maybe by agencies.

13
14 MR. MIKE: Yes, thank you, Madame
15 Chair. Donald Mike. My suggestion would be
16 introduction of the Council members and then we can
17 move on to public or Native organization introductions
18 and then agency folks. And we can start with any BIA
19 folks online, then Fish and Wildlife Service, then Park
20 Service and any BLM folks. That would be my
21 suggestion, Madame Chair, thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
24 Donald. Let's have Council members, let's go, any one
25 of you want to start. Maybe Rick do you want to start
26 with you, welcome back.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, if not,
31 Pat, do you want to start.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, hi, this is Pat
34 Holmes from Kodiak and I'm glad that I'm still able to
35 be on the Council and work with everyone. I've
36 probably worked and lived in almost every place from
37 Cape Douglas to Attu and up to the Pribs and, anyway, I
38 just always enjoy this meeting and talking with folks.
39 Are we supposed to -- okay, that's it.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. KOSO: Hey, Della, this is Rick
44 here now.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

47
48 MR. KOSO: Yeah, sorry about that. I
49 had this darn thing on mute there. I guess I'm not too
50

0005

1 sharp at this stuff either. Anyway, I'm Rick Koso from
2 Adak in the Aleutians here. Anyway, good to be back.
3 I know I've been absent for almost a year and a half or
4 two. So I look forward to being back in business with
5 you guys and gals, so thank you very much.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick,
8 welcome back, both you and Pat.

9
10 Sam.

11
12 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, good morning, thanks,
13 Della. This is Sam Rohrer. I'm here in Kodiak. And,
14 again, I've just looking forward to the meetings,
15 appreciate being back on with all of you and looking
16 forward to the day we can be meeting in person again.
17 I miss getting to sit across the table from each and
18 every one of you. So anyway thanks.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.
21 I think we all look forward to that day hopefully soon.

22
23 Chris.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, are you
28 online, Chris Price.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral Chernoff.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

37
38 MS. SKINNER: Good morning. This is
39 Rebecca Skinner and I'm from Kodiak. And I guess
40 update on Coral, I think she's trying to fly in from
41 Larsen Bay this morning so whether permitting I think
42 she should be on once she gets into town.

43
44 Thanks.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
47 Rebecca.

48
49 Natasha.

50

0006

1 MS. HAYDEN: Good morning, Della.
2 Natasha Hayden. I am from Kodiak. I'm happy to be
3 able to meet with you virtually, at least, at this
4 point, and like others look forward to meeting in
5 person again soon.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
8 Natasha.

9
10 Melissa.

11
12 MS. BERNES: Good morning, everyone.
13 Melissa Bernes. I'm from the village of Old Harbor but I
14 currently reside in Kodiak. Glad to be here this
15 morning.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 Melissa. Good to hear your voice. My name is Della
19 Trumble. I live in King Cove, born and raised. And I
20 actually spent high school in Kodiak for four years
21 back in the '70s.

22
23 So with that I think we'll continue on,
24 Donald, do you want to go ahead and call the next
25 group, please.

26
27 MR. MIKE: Yes. Thank you, Madame
28 Chair. I don't know if we lost Mr. Chris Price or not.
29 Chris, are you still with us?

30
31 MR. PRICE: Yeah, I got back on.

32
33 MR. MIKE: Okay. Can you quickly
34 introduce yourself.

35
36 MR. PRICE: Yeah, good morning. This
37 is Chris Price from Unalaska. And appreciate your time
38 in this meeting for us to be able to look at these
39 important issues that affect all of our communities in
40 the region. Thank you for having this meeting today.
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Chris. And
44 introduction of Council members and public and
45 agencies, so if we could have introductions, if we have
46 individual public that are out there that wish to be --
47 that wish to introduce themselves, please introduce
48 yourself. Individual public.

49
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0007

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Good morning. This
2 is Patty Schwalenberg, the Executive Director Alaska
3 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. I understand
4 there may be some questions later on in the meeting
5 about subsistence harvest of migratory birds.

6
7 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Patty. Any other
8 individual public.

9
10 MS. FAIRBANKS: Hello. My name's Tina
11 Fairbanks. I'm the Executive Director of Kodiak
12 Regional Aquaculture Association and we operate
13 hatcheries owned by the State of Alaska but operated by
14 KRAA on Afognak Island and here in Kodiak and conduct
15 research all across the Archipelago.

16
17 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Tina. Any other
18 individual public that wishes to introduce themselves.

19
20 MR. FIELDS: Good morning. Duncan
21 Fields from Kodiak. I work on fisheries issues, and
22 was interested in the discussion of the RAC today and
23 tomorrow. Thank you.

24
25 MR. MIKE: I'm sorry, can you restate
26 your name, please.

27
28 MR. FIELDS: Yes, Duncan Fields here in
29 Kodiak.

30
31 MR. MIKE: Okay, Duncan. Thank you,
32 Duncan.

33
34 MR. FIELDS: Thank you.

35
36 MR. MIKE: Any other individual public.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MR. MIKE: Okay, if there's no other
41 individual public we can go to tribes or Native
42 organizations.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MR. MIKE: So let's start with any
47 tribes out there that wish to introduce themselves to
48 the Council.

49
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0008

1 MS. WEST: Hi. This is Catherine West
2 with the Native Village of Karluk.

3
4 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Catherine. Any
5 other tribes.

6
7 MR. LANCE: Good morning everybody.
8 This is Tom Lance with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

9
10 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Tom. Any other
11 tribes.

12
13 MR. VANDAELE: Good morning. This is
14 Matt Van Daele, also with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

15
16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Matt. Any other
17 tribal members.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MR. MIKE: And if there's no other
22 tribal -- Native organizations, we've already heard
23 from Sun'aq Tribe -- or I'm sorry, any Native
24 organizations that wish to introduce themselves.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MR. MIKE: Okay, none, we'll go to
29 Federal agencies. Any representatives from BIA.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MR. MIKE: Okay, none. Any reps from
34 BLM.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MR. MIKE: Okay. And then any -- we'll
39 go to Fish and Wildlife Service, we'll start from the
40 south and head north.

41
42 MS. FOSADO: Hi, good morning everybody.
43 Good morning, Madame Chair, and members of the Council.
44 This is Maria Fosado, Refuge Manager at Izembek Refuge.
45 I've been in Cold Bay for just shy of a year, so, good
46 morning and thanks for having me.

47
48 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Maria.

49
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0009

1 MS. MELENDEZ: Good morning, Madame
2 Chair and Council members. My name is Leticia
3 Melendez, the Deputy Refuge Manager here at Izembek
4 National Wildlife Refuge. It's a beautiful day in Cold
5 Bay and it's good to hear your voices again. Thank you
6 for the opportunity and I look forward to all the
7 information that's being shared today and tomorrow. I
8 also would like to thank you, Michael, for all the work
9 that you've done putting this together. Thank you,
10 very much. I know it's a lot of work and we greatly
11 appreciate it.

12
13 MR. HARRIS: Good morning. This is
14 Frank Harris with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
15 I'm a Fish Biologist with the Anchorage Fish and
16 Wildlife Conservation Office.

17
18 MR. MIKE: Do we have any
19 representatives from Kodiak Refuge, can you introduce
20 yourselves, please.

21
22 MR. BRADY: Yeah, this is Mike Brady.
23 I'm the Refuge Manager at Kodiak National Wildlife
24 Refuge. Good morning.

25
26 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mike.

27
28 MR. DELEHANTY: Good morning. This is
29 Steve Delehanty. I'm in Homer. I'm the Refuge Manager
30 for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

31
32 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Steve. Do we
33 have any representatives from Alaska Peninsula Becharof
34 Refuge.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MR. MIKE: Any other Fish and Wildlife
39 Service Staff that haven't introduced themselves.

40
41 MR. KLAUSNER: Good morning, everybody.
42 My name is Hansel Klausner. I'm with U.S. Fish and
43 Wildlife Service. I'm currently serving in the role of
44 Carol Damberg as the Subsistence Program Coordinator
45 for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So thank you and I
46 hope you have a good morning.

47
48 REPORTER: I'm sorry, but could you
49 repeat your name, please?
50

0010

1 MR. MIKE: You said your name was
2 Hunter Foster?

3
4 MR. KLAUSNER: Hansel, just like Hansel
5 and Gretel, and the last name is Klausner.

6
7 MR. MIKE: Oh, Hansel.

8
9 REPORTER: And repeat the last name,
10 please.

11
12 MR. KLAUSNER: Yeah, I'm in Carol
13 Damberg's position currently until the end of March.

14
15 MR. MIKE: And what was your last name
16 again, please.

17
18 MR. KLAUSNER: Klausner. And that's K-
19 L-A-U-S-N-E-R.

20
21 REPORTER: Thank you.

22
23 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you. Any other
24 Fish and Wildlife.

25
26 MS. ERLLENBACH: Yeah, hi, Joy Erlenbach
27 here with the Kodiak Refuge, Wildlife Biologist.

28
29 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Joy. If we don't
30 have any Fish and Wildlife Service employees or Staff
31 to introduce themselves, we'll move on to -- do we have
32 any reps from National Park Service.

33
34 MR. REAM: Good morning, everyone.
35 This is Joshua Ream. I'm the Regional Subsistence
36 Program Manager with the National Park Service out of
37 the Anchorage Regional Office. I'm also a member of
38 the InterAgency Staff Committee. Thank you.

39
40 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you, Josh.

41
42 MS. FLOREY: Good morning. This is
43 Victoria Florey also from National Park Service,
44 Regional Office in Anchorage, and I'm a Subsistence
45 Program Analyst.

46
47 MR. MIKE: Thank you. Okay. Let's move
48 on to Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

49
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0011

1 MS. FOX: Good morning, Madame Chair
2 and Council members. This is Lisa Fox with Fish and
3 Game in Kodiak. Also on the line is Ross Rennick, the
4 Sand Point Fish and Game Biologist and Tyler Lawson,
5 the Cold Bay Fish and Game Biologist. Tyler is the
6 project lead for the McLees Lake weir and has a short
7 summary to provide you with an update on the McLees
8 Lake weir project if there's a good time for that,
9 possibly after the Fish and Game Buskin Lake report
10 from Kelly Krueger.

11
12 MR. SELINGER: This is Jeff Selinger.
13 I'm the Region 2 Management Coordinator with Fish and
14 Game stationed in Soldotna.

15
16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Jeff.

17
18 MR. SELINGER: You bet, thank you.

19
20 MS. KRUEGER: Hi, this is Kelly Krueger,
21 and Mark Witteveen with Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game, SportFish Division in Kodiak.

23
24 MR. JACKSON: Hello, this is James
25 Jackson. I'm the Kodiak Commercial and Subsistence
26 Area Management Biologist.

27
28 MS. KEATING: Good morning. This is
29 Jackie Keating the Research Lead for Southcentral for
30 the Division of Subsistence.

31
32 MR. POLUM: Good morning. This is
33 Tyler Polum, I'm the Kodiak area Sportfish Biologist.

34
35 MS. DUBLIN: Good morning. This is
36 Robbin Dublin. I'm the Southern Region Program Manager
37 for the Division of Subsistence based in Anchorage.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Are there any other Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game Staff that wish to
41 introduce themselves to the Council.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MR. MIKE: Okay. With that, if there's
46 anyone online that have not introduced themselves
47 please introduce yourself now.

48
49 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair,
50

0012

1 Council members. This is Orville Lind, Native Liaison
2 for the Office of Subsistence Management.

3

4 (In Native)

5

6 Good morning.

7

8 MR. STONE: Good morning. This is
9 Jared Stone, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
10 Subsistence Management.

11

12 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Madame
13 Chair, Members of the Council. This is Robbin LaVine
14 and I'm an Anthropologist with the Office of
15 Subsistence Management. Nice to see you all and hear
16 you all.

17

18 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Madame
19 Chair. George Pappas, OSM.

20

21 MR. MIKE: I want to apologize to OSM
22 Staff, I was so busy with the rest of the initial
23 introductions but thank you OSM Staff. And, Madame
24 Chair, Orville Lind is the Native Liaison, Jared Stone
25 is our Fisheries Biologist, Robbin LaVine, our
26 Anthropologist, and George Pappas is our State Liaison
27 and they make up the team to work with the
28 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council. And I am
29 Donald Mike. I'm the Council Coordinator for
30 Kodiak/Aleutians.

31

32 Thank you, Madame Chair, and we can
33 move on.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
36 Donald. And welcome, again, everyone. And for the
37 record, if anybody in the public would like to testify
38 during the course of the meeting, please let us know
39 and we always have that opportunity. So if there is
40 anybody available right now that would like to speak
41 then it would be a good time. But we keep that open
42 through the course of the meeting.

43

44 Next item on the agenda is to review
45 and adopt agenda. Do I hear a motion.

46

47 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Before we move
48 on.

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0013

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Yeah, this is Donald Mike,
4 Council Coordinator. The meeting agenda is on Page 2
5 in your meeting material and for process today, if the
6 Council can adopt the agenda on Page 2, and then prior
7 to this meeting there were some concerns and issues
8 that came up and I provided an updated agenda, so once
9 the agenda is adopted on Page 2 and then we get into
10 discussion I will provide the details of what needs to
11 be included in the amended agenda.

12

13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 REPORTER: Della, this is Tina, the
16 court reporter. Before you go on, also, could
17 everybody that's either going to make a motion, do a
18 second, call the question, can you please state your
19 name first or afterwards so I know who's doing that.
20 And for everybody else that's online, if you're not
21 directly speaking with the Council can you please put
22 your phone on mute so we don't have background noise
23 overriding the Council's business.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 Go ahead, Della.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tina.
30 All right, so I guess the next steps is to approve this
31 agenda and then make the amendments to it or do you
32 want to go ahead and make the requested amendments and
33 then we approve it.

34

35 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
36 Donald. If the Council would just go ahead and move to
37 adopt agenda on Page 2 and then during the discussion I
38 can introduce the amendments.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
43 you. So a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

44

45 MR. KOSO: I'll make that motion,
46 Della.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
49 Rick Koso. Do we hear a second.

50

0014

1 MS. BERNS: This is Melissa I'll second
2 that motion.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I didn't quite
5 get that, was that you Natasha or Melissa.

6
7 MS. BERNS: This is Melissa.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
10 Melissa. Okay. Discussion. Donald.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. I had sent an email
14 yesterday to all the Council members just for your
15 reference and to guide you through the agenda over
16 teleconference. And on Page -- the second page of the
17 agenda, Page 3, we have an update on community and
18 outreach on the fisheries closure review, and I'll
19 provide that.

20
21 And then under old business, after the
22 fisheries closure reviews, the National Park Service
23 wishes to brief the Council on the individual C&T on
24 the actions taken by the Federal Subsistence Board so
25 that would be under old business and after the
26 fisheries closure review.

27
28 So under new business you will see the
29 call for Federal wildlife proposals, and it's been
30 crossed out, and it has been moved down after the
31 agency reports, so that would provide an opportunity
32 for agencies to present biological data on the wildlife
33 prior to submitting or recommending any wildlife --
34 potential wildlife proposals.

35
36 And then under agency reports we have
37 Mortensen and Russell Creek issues, and we'll hear from
38 Staff from Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

39
40 And then under Migratory Birds, under
41 agency reports - Migratory Bird Agency report, we'll
42 also hear from Alaska Department of Fish and Game
43 Migratory Birds and the Subsistence Division and Alaska
44 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council wishes to provide
45 some additional information that this -- this is an
46 opportunity for comments to be provided. And then we
47 will have a report from Izembek on consistence permit
48 system for hunting in Izembek Refuge.

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1 So -- and then under agency reports
2 further down we have Department of Fish and Game.
3 Hopefully we'll hear from Alaska Department of Fish and
4 Game small game reports, on biological data,
5 particularly ptarmigan in Unit 9, Unit 10 Unimak
6 Caribou biological report, and they'll provide -- after
7 that's completed, we'll have an opportunity for call
8 for wildlife proposals.

9

10 So that's the recommended amendments
11 for the agenda before you, Madame Chair, thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
14 Donald. Are there any other additions, changes that
15 anyone would like to recommend, Council, on the agenda.

16

17 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark
18 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mark.

21

22 MR. BURCH: I would just make the point
23 that Rick Merizon, our Small Game Program Lead is not
24 available tomorrow but I do expect him to be available
25 today for that ADF&G Small Game Ptarmigan Report, Unit
26 9 item. So if you want to talk with him about that
27 we'll need to do that today.

28

29 Thank you, Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I
32 think we can adjust the agenda to do that, Donald, so
33 if we can work that in somewhere today. And if he has
34 a specific time that works better for him to let us
35 know. Any other recommended changes to the agenda.

36

37 MS. KEATING: Madame Chair. This is
38 Jackie Keating with the Division of Subsistence at Fish
39 and Game.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
42 Jackie.

43

44 MS. KEATING: Good morning. I just
45 wanted to make sure that we have a chance for the
46 Division to give an update on the three projects we've
47 got going in Kodiak and Unalaska.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0016

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
2 Donald, can you put that under the ADF&G reports.

3
4 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. FOX: Madame Chair. This is Lisa
7 Fox with Fish and Game in Kodiak. I was also hoping
8 that Tyler Lawson's summary report on the McLees Lake
9 weir could be added to the agency reports.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we can add
12 that in there.

13
14 MS. KRUEGER: This is Kelly Krueger
15 with Fish and Game in Kodiak.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Kelly.

18
19 MS. KRUEGER: Hi. I was just wondering
20 if we could add in our Buskin River sockeye salmon
21 stock assessment presentation into the agency reports
22 as well.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can do that,
25 thank you, Kelly.

26
27 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, maybe,
30 Donald, if you're taking notes on this, if we can send
31 out by email another draft agenda after this is cleaned
32 up so we've kind of got a cleaner copy to be working
33 with.

34
35 MR. MIKE: Okay, Madame Chair, I'll
36 work on that. Thank you. I'll provide an update
37 agenda for the Council's reference.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
40 other recommended changes.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
45 question.

46
47 MR. KOSO: I'll call the question.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
50

0017

1 question by Rick Koso. All in favor signify by saying
2 aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
7 sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
12 And Donald will get us a copy of the agenda.

13
14 All right, the next item on the agenda
15 is election of officers. Is it -- do we want to go
16 ahead and move with this or do we want to wait for
17 Coral.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: I would like to nominate
24 Della. I think it would be really good to have you
25 continue because you've got such a broad range of
26 experience and basically know almost everybody in our
27 region one way or the other. So I'd like to nominate
28 you for Chair.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We can do
31 that, Pat. But I'm going to move this to Donald to
32 handle this portion right now.

33
34 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 And I didn't hear any comments from the rest of the
36 Council members if.....

37
38 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair.

39
40 MR. MIKE:they wished to wait for
41 Coral.....

42
43 MS. HAYDEN: Sorry.

44
45 MR. MIKE:to get online -- I'm
46 sorry, go ahead.

47
48 MS. HAYDEN: Sorry, Donald, to
49 interrupt, this is Natasha. I -- maybe I -- Madame
50

0018

1 Chair, if Rebecca has an update on whether or not Coral
2 will be available soon. If she's going to be able to
3 join us soon, I think I would prefer to wait until
4 she's able to join us and participate in the elections.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, this is Rebecca.
7 Coral was thinking that she would arrive back in town
8 around 10:00 or 10:30, so relatively soon she should be
9 back. And also, again, this is Rebecca. I think at
10 our last meeting we did put off election of officers
11 because there were Council members not present, and so
12 if that's how -- I think that precedent has been set so
13 I would prefer to wait if it -- since it does look like
14 we'll be able to have all Council members present a
15 little bit later today.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Yes, if there's a consensus
24 among the Council members we can delay the election of
25 officers until time certain, or until Coral joins the
26 Council meeting.

27

28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
31 Donald. I don't have a problem with that, so we can
32 move on here, if everybody else is okay. We'll do the
33 review and approve previous meeting minutes. Do I hear
34 a motion to approve.

35

36 MS. BERNS: So moved. This is Melissa.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do I hear a
39 second.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Second. Pat.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
44 Discussion.

45

46 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
47 Natasha.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,

50

0019

1 Natasha.

2

3 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks. I just wanted to
4 point out that the Sea Otter Working Group notes didn't
5 include some of the discussion about the Sea Otter
6 Working Group meeting that was held, the majority of
7 the people in that working group weren't able to
8 participate because we either weren't notified. I'm
9 not really sure what the process is. Would it -- if
10 other people want to have discussion about the minutes,
11 other elements of the minutes or if I need to make a
12 motion to amend.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I think at
15 this point if there are corrections or changes to the
16 minutes they need to be brought up and then you can ask
17 to have it amended -- you can ask to have it amended at
18 this time to include what you were stating. The motion
19 has been made to approve, we're just making the changes
20 at this point and then we'll do a vote on approving.

21

22 MS. HAYDEN: Okay, thank you, Madame
23 Chair. I would request that the last sentence of the
24 first paragraph, it says, other working group members,
25 Mr. Price, Ms. Hayden and Ms. Berns were not able to
26 participate. I'm not sure if Mr. Price and Ms. Berns
27 were notified, but I was not notified of that meeting.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
30 Are there any other changes Natasha.

31

32 MS. HAYDEN: Yeah, yeah, and I think
33 that the discussion was that we had decided that we
34 were going to acknowledge that we had received the
35 reports regarding the activities around the otter
36 stakeholders, but that we were going to have a reset
37 for an initial working group meeting to give all work
38 group participants an opportunity to participate.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
41 Donald, did you get that, or Tina.

42

43 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair, I got
44 those as noted. So that's one of the amendments for
45 this review and adopting of meeting minutes.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

50

0020

1 Natasha, does that cover your changes.

2

3 MS. HAYDEN: I think so. Yeah, I think
4 that covers it Madame Chair, just that I hadn't been
5 notified and I'm not sure if Ms. Berns or Mr. Price had
6 received notification prior to the meeting, if not,
7 then if anybody else has any comments about it, I'd
8 welcome that.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
11 Natasha. Does anybody else have any recommended
12 changes to the minutes.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing
17 none, we'll go ahead and vote on the minutes as amended
18 by Natasha. All in favor signify by saying aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
23 sign.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carries.
28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. That was a
31 vote on the amendment to the meeting -- the previous
32 meeting minutes, and then I think we need to vote on
33 the main motion.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So all in
36 favor of approving the minutes as amended signify by
37 saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
42 sign.

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried
47 and passed. Next item on the agenda are the Council
48 member reports. I've just been using the names down
49 the list as we have on the Page No. 1 as the Regional
50

0021

1 Council members. So, Pat, we'll go ahead and start
2 with you.

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Yes, thank you, Madame
5 Chair. I think because of Covid folks haven't been out
6 and doing community things with a lot of folks but I
7 just wanted to highlight that coming up here soon, as
8 the tide series, minus tides in the early evening, good
9 time to go out with a Coleman lantern and start looking
10 for urchins, and I did go out earlier and get a nice
11 mess of limpets and towards the end of the month here,
12 there's nice minus tides during the day that start.
13 And so March and April, particularly are good times to
14 go for sea urchins before they start spawning in late
15 April and May. And also same time periods in the high
16 tides, once we get moving along here then herring will
17 be much more available.

18
19 But, anyway, that's it.

20
21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
24 Good to hear your voice. Rick, welcome back, go ahead.

25
26 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thank you, Madame
27 Chair. Yeah, I just got reappointed here too so I
28 appreciate that. So don't think I found that out
29 until the 15th of January so I was kind of under the
30 impression that I wouldn't be serving on this Board so
31 I kind of got a little lax on Adak as far as what was
32 going on, but I also kept in tune with most of the
33 folks out there that do subsistence hunting and stuff.
34 So anyway I'm looking forward to being on and hopefully
35 contributing to this Board.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
38 Sam.

39
40 MR. ROHRER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
41 This will be a pretty minimal report. As Pat said, I
42 think with folks not getting out a whole lot there's
43 been probably less community interaction than what we
44 would normally have.

45
46 You know I looked back at what I
47 reported this last fall and my report's going to be
48 similar to that. Deer numbers continue to be real low
49 on the west side of the island, that's where most of my
50

0022

1 experience is, but the -- you know, the input I've been
2 hearing from other folks around the island is the east
3 side numbers are down, somewhat as well, I think things
4 look quite a bit better when you get down to the south
5 end, though. But certainly the west side and north end
6 are pretty -- the numbers are pretty off.

7
8 And then the only other thing to report
9 is just it's been interesting, there's been some
10 increased discussion in the community about these
11 closure reviews, heard from some of the AC members that
12 OSM was at the AC, the local AC meeting talking about
13 them, so, thanks to OSM for doing that, and certainly
14 that raised some interest in the community and I've
15 been getting some feedback from different folks so will
16 bring that up when the time's right and we're having
17 that discussion.

18
19 But other than that, that's all I have
20 to report.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.
23 Chris Price.

24
25 MR. PRICE: Yeah, hi, good morning.
26 Hey, thanks everybody for your report. And today we
27 should have the -- the tribe should be presenting a
28 report on our paralytic shellfish poisoning project and
29 some of the work that we're doing there. I know I'm
30 interested in what Tyler has to say about what happened
31 last summer with McLees. And then the subsistence
32 surveys that Jackie Keating and her group has been
33 working on. So I'll be looking forward to hearing from
34 those experts in those areas.

35
36 So, thank you, that's my report.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
39 Chris. Coral is not here yet, so we'll get her report
40 when she gets back -- Rebecca -- or gets here --
41 Rebecca.

42
43 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thank you. This is
44 Rebecca Skinner. One of the things I wanted to report
45 on is that I participated on a panel for the Alaska
46 Marine Science Symposium and the panel was held January
47 26th of 2021. Prior to that panel I had sent an email
48 around to all of the KRAC members asking if there was
49 any input on the topics the panel was focused on, the
50

0023

1 Gulf of Alaska, and changes in the ecosystem. The
2 panel went well. It was kind of a blur being on a
3 panel. But I think that there was a lot of agreement
4 amongst all the panelists that really more information
5 would be better, more information about the ecosystem,
6 the water conditions, and then how different species
7 react to those different conditions. And I think that
8 the panel and all of the marine science symposium
9 panels and sessions, it was all virtual, I think those
10 are still available online if anybody wants to watch
11 that. But the panel was called, Changes in Nearshore
12 Ecosystems and Relevance to Coastal Communities in the
13 Gulf of Alaska.

14
15 The other thing I wanted to touch on,
16 it may be a little bit tangential to this forum, but
17 over the last two weeks the Coast Guard and the
18 National Transportation Safety Board conducted a
19 hearing on the Scandies Rose sinking. So the Scandies
20 Rose was a Bering Sea crab boat that sank off of Sutwik
21 Island on December 31st, 2019. It was a two week
22 hearing. There was a lot of information and a
23 determination won't come out for awhile, but what I did
24 want to make sure to share today was just a reminder
25 that for anyone who's out on the water, the value of
26 having a personal locator beacon, so kind of like a
27 personal eperb (ph) just be aware of the weather
28 conditions when you leave and, you know, how you think
29 they're going to be wherever you're going and then it
30 was really highlighted that it's important to know your
31 own safety equipment, so particularly if you have a
32 life raft, understand how it's configured, where the
33 stuff is that's in it so that you're not trying to
34 figure out how to use it in the middle of an emergency.
35 And that was a virtual hearing, all of the witness
36 testimony is available online as well for that.

37
38 And then bringing it back to Kodiak,
39 specific, I did snap a few pictures with my iPhone of
40 emperor geese in Womens Bay, that was about a week ago.
41 I was going to send it around but I didn't end up doing
42 that. But anyway so I've observed emperor geese in
43 groups in Womens Bay.

44
45 And then just a note that here in
46 Kodiak it has been fairly cold, we have a lot of snow
47 and I have seen a lot of deer wandering around in town
48 on the sides of the road.

49
50

0024

1 Other than that that's all I had to
2 report.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
7 Rebecca. Natasha.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha are you
12 still there.

13
14 MS. HAYDEN: Yeah, sorry, I -- Madame
15 Chair, can you hear me now.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

18
19 MS. HAYDEN: I have had similar
20 observations to what's already been stated about the
21 deer population. I went on a deer hunt, I believe in
22 the fall, it was in the end of November, I was
23 encouraged by the sight of -- we didn't see a huge
24 abundance of deer but we did see what looked like very
25 healthy does and fawns. So, you know, barring any sort
26 of like deep freeze coming in the next month or so, I
27 think that we'll probably see a fairly rapid rebound of
28 the deer population.

29
30 I'm trying to think of other
31 subsistence -- I appreciate Pat pointing out about the
32 tides, upcoming tides for opportunities for sea
33 urchins, and starting to have my friend -- my friend
34 sending pictures of summertime salmon harvesting so
35 we're starting to get excited for the upcoming season.
36 I'm looking forward to hearing the forecast for this
37 upcoming salmon season for the Kodiak area. I'm also
38 looking forward to hearing the reports on all of the
39 salmon closures that we're going to be hearing
40 throughout the meeting.

41
42 That's all I have, thanks.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
45 Natasha. Melissa.

46
47 MS. BERNS: Good morning, everyone. I
48 think, as everyone said the deer were a bit sparse.
49 Well, I guess to start off, I apologize for not being
50

0025

1 at the last meeting. I was not able to call in due to
2 my location, I was actually down on the Fort Peck
3 Indian Reservation picking up three bison to bring back
4 to Sitkalidak to join our herd. So that's kept me tied
5 up for those two days in September.

6
7 As was shared, the deer are sparse
8 around Old Harbor, we did see a lot of healthy animals
9 similarly to what Natasha was just speaking of. People
10 were able to harvest a little bit. There was some
11 concern around the community of Old Harbor with the
12 hunting lodges and so our Native corporation and trust
13 took some action to limit the amount of deer that were
14 able to be taken by non-shareholders on corporation
15 lands, so we limited that to one deer on corporate
16 lands and then they were able to go and harvest their
17 other animal on Refuge land if that was their choosing.

18
19 There were good access to goats this
20 year too and so people were able to take advantage of
21 hunting those. Numbers seemed to be up around the Old
22 Harbor area and south of the RG480.

23
24 In addition there's lots of waterfowl.
25 I did see quite a few flocks of emperor geese in and
26 around Old Harbor, and a couple flocks were several
27 hundreds of emperor geese that I noticed on the
28 northwest side of Sitkalidak Island right in the
29 straits. And I seen those when I was out doing bison
30 surveys and captures in January.

31
32 People continue to harvest clams that
33 are good subsistence activities for folks in the
34 winter.

35
36 We had one subsistence bear taken and
37 meat was distributed around the community, that was
38 this past fall.

39
40 We are in the process of building a
41 processing facility in Old Harbor, thankful to have
42 received some Covid funding that the tribe was able to
43 put towards this facility. It'll allow folks around
44 the community to bring in both their deer and bison and
45 to be able to hang them and we'll have things kind of
46 in bear safe -- or as bear safe as you can get
47 facility. We'll have that fenced off with electric
48 fences. So just trying to minimize those negative bear
49 encounters and bears taking any game meat.

50

0026

1 So I think that's about all I have.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks, Melissa.
4 Good to hear your voice. I seen the bison on FaceBook
5 so that was pretty exciting to see.

6

7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Please mute your
11 phones. For my report, I think, it's been a pretty
12 rough winter. We've had some fairly good storms,
13 consistent storms let's say, just a few with higher
14 winds, but we have had a lot of wind, some snow, more
15 than we've had in the past four years I think.

16

17 And people have harvested caribou and
18 they were able to get out. But I'd say the weather has
19 been a contributor of not being able to get out.

20

21 The guys now are out fishing for the
22 cod, the Covid monies, the Cares Act, the PPP monies
23 have helped a lot of the fishermen after their salmon
24 season last year.

25

26 I think one interesting thing we've
27 been watching in our neighborhood is there's been a
28 blue heron around for -- he's been around for probably
29 two months now, and he's -- the eagles have been after
30 him and then these last -- a couple days ago he's been
31 sitting on the light poles like the eagles do so we
32 think he's trying to pose as an eagle now so they quit
33 attacking him. But we don't know where he came from.
34 So we've been told that in the past, you know, that
35 every now and then it does happen, but he's been
36 interesting to watch.

37

38 There's been fresh bear tracks out and
39 close to town in the Rams (ph) area so we know they're
40 starting to come out and they didn't actually go into
41 hibernation until it was November, late November last
42 year, so times are changing.

43

44 Other than that we've been doing with
45 the clams and I think subsisting on -- and seaeggs --
46 but I think other than that everything else is going
47 as well as it can be giving the issues surrounding
48 Covid. I think the majority of our communities are
49 starting to get vaccinated now so that's looking --

50

0027

1 looking forward to being able to -- to be able to meet
2 in person and do other public functions that we have.
3 And we've been fairly fortunate in our community to
4 have a very, very small number of cases. I think one
5 actual -- maybe 4 local due to travel, and then a
6 number, I think, small number from one of the fishing
7 fleet, but -- and, you know, Peter Pan Seafoods has
8 been contained, they haven't let anybody on or off
9 their premises for quite some time now, but given the
10 circumstances around some of the other fish processing,
11 in Akutan and Unalaska, we've been very fortunate.

12

13 So the other things, I think, and is
14 getting some letters from, and calls from community
15 members in Cold Bay, I did share those with you. So I
16 think given that I haven't done a lot of traveling, I'm
17 usually through Cold Bay a lot and am able to talk to
18 people face to face or -- it's been tough, so I think
19 -- hopefully we'll be able to have our meeting there
20 this fall. I'd like to try to work a little more
21 closely with the community as we're able to given the
22 circumstances and see what we can do to figure out what
23 some of the issues are firsthand. I know I've been
24 hearing things over the past couple years, but not to
25 the extent, I think that I've seen it -- the other
26 thing that the King Cove Corporation does allow, has a
27 land use permit fee that we allow for people to hunt
28 off our lands, and we've just -- have only gotten a
29 very minimal amount of permits in Cold Bay, less than a
30 handful, I think, and that's something we need to work
31 harder on and the education, but I also have gotten
32 pictures of guides that have taken their people on to
33 our lands. So that's something the King Cove
34 Corporation, in their meeting, I think coming up
35 Wednesday and then our annual meeting that we'll have
36 some discussion on, so we'll see what comes of that.

37

38 But other than that I don't have
39 anything else to add to my discussion.

40

41 Okay, I guess we'll go ahead and move
42 on. Does anybody else have anything they want to add
43 on these reports.

44

45 MR. KOSO: Della, this is Rick here. I
46 should have talked a little bit about the caribou in
47 Adak. I did stay in contact with the city manager and
48 some of the other folks in Adak.

49

50

0028

1 And, you know, they didn't have much of
2 a problem locally getting their caribou this year
3 because of the Covid. I know a lot of people didn't
4 fly in this year because they stand down there for a
5 couple of weeks and so it eliminated a lot of the local
6 travel but they still encountered the guiding. I think
7 there was a boat out there and a couple of the guides
8 that do bring in quite a group, but they supposedly
9 gone right straight from the airport to the boat, which
10 didn't happen sometimes and there was also some reports
11 that there was some of the meats that was given to
12 certain individuals, that it was inedible because of
13 the rut season that they were able to hunt it. So I
14 think those are a couple issues that we need to keep a
15 close eye on for Adak.

16

17 So, thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
20 Yeah, I think that was another thing just adding for
21 the issue in Cold Bay, I think was the amount of guides
22 and activity that did go on considering with Covid. In
23 Cold Bay it's a very small community, I think it's at
24 like 60 people. So at one point when you've had 16
25 people or so that actually did have Covid it was a
26 little scary to see how fast something like that can
27 have an impact on the community. So anyway more to
28 come.

29

30 MS. HAYDEN: Della, this is Natasha.
31 Just very quickly, I wanted to -- I forgot I wanted to
32 report that a couple of my Staff that work on Afognak
33 and live in Afognak full-time have seen some very large
34 bear tracks so starting to see more bear activity
35 coming just recently in the last week.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, that and
38 wolves too, people have been seeing wolves more again.
39 So all right, does anybody else have anything else they
40 would like to add.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I guess
45 we'll move on to the Chair's report. I did attend the
46 meeting, the January 26th through the 29th. A report
47 was done, I think, by Katya, and I did have Donald send
48 that out to everyone. A lot of the -- basically the
49 fisheries proposals, and the one issue that we had
50

0029

1 which was the special action on -- in regard to the --
2 gosh my brain isn't working -- issues around the State
3 closures for subsistence, I think we decided to table
4 it at the time and if, for some reason, that it came up
5 that there was a need to try to do something with
6 subsistence on any of the places that were listed
7 between Kodiak and Aleutians that we can go to the
8 process of special action. Interestingly enough, fall
9 and that, we did have some of the issues brought up in
10 Cod Bay. The other piece of it was listening -- or
11 following -- trying to get the meetings with the
12 various advisory groups, I did sit in with the one on
13 Unalaska that they weren't able to get a quorum to have
14 a meeting for that discussion and that's rescheduled.
15 I did talk to the Mayor in Cold Bay and the AC Chair in
16 King Cove and we need to -- they're aware of the
17 Russell Creek and Mortensens and they -- we had
18 discussed on trying to set up a meeting in the future
19 and so we'll go ahead and move on that. And then I
20 know some discussion on the Kodiak one. So the whole
21 thing is to put it off until the next fisheries cycle,
22 however, to kind of continue to work on these as we go
23 forward, and if, for any reason, to have to do
24 something by special action we would take that step.

25
26 The other big issue had to do with
27 Council appointments, I think Eastern Interior --
28 correct me if I'm wrong, Donald, was down to maybe two
29 or four Council members, none of their members -- RAC
30 members had been appointed and I'm not sure exactly
31 what happened, but that was a major concern for them
32 because they didn't even have enough for a quorum to do
33 any kind of -- to do any kind of business.

34
35 So those were the main issues, I think,
36 and hopefully, like I say, that things are clearing up,
37 that we can start -- you know, these meetings can start
38 being face to face because I think it's more meaningful
39 and we do the best we can but look forward to things
40 changing.

41
42 Are there any comments or questions.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Della.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, on the closure
49 issues. I brought that to the attention of the Advisory
50

0030

1 Committee and asked to have those things -- I sent them
2 to the two tribes here in town and I checked with one
3 of them and they didn't get any contact from anybody
4 else from OSM or anything as far as giving them a
5 briefing. And also people I've talked to here, and I
6 called and talked to a couple folks in Dutch and they
7 don't really see a need to do this right now and I
8 agree on, you know, having deferring it and then a
9 special action if it's actually needed. And there were
10 a lot of questions at the Kodiak meeting and I don't
11 know if those were answered.

12

13 But anyway I think you're on the right
14 track there, ma'am.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
19 They have, I think it was Joshua and -- oh, my brain is
20 not working this morning, sorry -- we have a couple of
21 Staff that have been working with this at these
22 meetings and so I think Robbin and Joshua and they've
23 been doing a really good job. And I think it's just
24 trying to get through this process, that it's -- what
25 I'm finding, I think, is a lot of people aren't aware
26 of it, No. 1, and No. 2, what does it mean if we change
27 it, and I think it's more of a public process, not only
28 from the standpoint of education but to determine what
29 the next best steps are so.

30

31 Okay, are there any other comments.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And just a
36 reminder, if there's anybody from the public online,
37 let us know if you would like to testify or make any
38 comments. We appreciate hearing from you. I did get a
39 couple -- a note this morning from one of the people
40 that wrote the one letter, that he wasn't available
41 because of work-related issues but if he's able he'll
42 get back to me and I'll let you know.

43

44 Okay. Moving on, public and tribal
45 comment on nonagenda items, and I just covered that.
46 Moving on to old business. Fishery closure reviews, is
47 that Robbin and.....

48

49 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Madame

50

0031

1 Chair, this is Donald.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
4 Donald.

5

6 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you. The
7 fisheries closure reviews Robbin LaVine and Mr. Jared
8 Stone will provide a briefing on those topics. But at
9 last fall's meeting, these fisheries closure reviews
10 were brought in front of the Council and they moved to
11 defer until we get public input. And the Council
12 directed OSM Staff to do community outreach and we
13 outreached to the tribes in Kodiak and the Alaska
14 Peninsula. We had our first meeting with the tribes in
15 Kodiak early in the year, and then we did outreach with
16 the local Advisory Committees and we had a meeting with
17 the Kodiak Local Advisory Committee and we provided the
18 briefing on the fisheries closure reviews for them, and
19 we -- like you said, Madame Chair, we had a meeting set
20 up with the Unalaska AC but they did not have a quorum
21 so we're still working on that to present the fisheries
22 closure review to the Unalaska Local Advisory
23 Committee. And with that, Ms. Robbin LaVine and Mr.
24 Jared Stone will provide a quick briefing of our
25 outreach efforts.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair
30 and members of the Council. This is Robbin LaVine and
31 I'm here with my colleague Jared Stone to give you a
32 briefing on these deferred fisheries closure reviews.
33 You see them listed in your agenda in the Council book
34 and they are Fisheries Closure Reviews 21-08, 09, 11,
35 13, 16, 18 and 19. So we're going to give you an
36 update on where we're at and answer any questions you
37 may have about next steps in the closure review
38 process.

39

40 So you know under the new closure
41 review policy half of all closures will be reviewed
42 during each applicable regulatory cycle. Even years
43 for wildlife, odd years for fish and shellfish. So the
44 last fisheries regulatory cycle there were seven
45 closures to review, and as you know as you were just
46 informed the Federal Subsistence Board deferred all
47 seven closure reviews in your region and the reason was
48 to give Staff time to gather input from the communities
49 most impacted by Board action on these reviews.

50

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1 you.....

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
4 Robbin LaVine.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:want to go
7 ahead and -- go ahead Robbin.

8

9 MS. LAVINE: Yes. So these are
10 closures that we, in the Federal Program have adopted
11 from prior to Federal management of these waters, so
12 they are State closures, they're Federal closures.
13 These closures are -- these are closed. These are
14 closed to subsistence fishing under Federal
15 regulations. So Federally-qualified subsistence users
16 cannot subsistence fish. They can participate in local
17 State opportunities under sport regulations. This is
18 the first time we've reviewed -- this is the first time
19 we have reviewed these closures, I think, since we
20 adopted them. So we're looking for guidance from you
21 on how to respond.

22

23 And I might let you know all of these
24 closures share the following in common, all of them
25 were incorporated into the Federal regulations from
26 State regulations between 20 and 30 years ago, this is
27 the first time they've been reviewed. All closures
28 involve waters that are closed to subsistence fishing
29 while remaining open to sportfishing. In all of these
30 areas, the majority of subsistence fishing often
31 happens elsewhere, and if these closures are removed,
32 you lift them, and the Board lifts them then general
33 Federal subsistence regulations would apply.

34

35 Moving forward, the Board can take four
36 broad actions on closure reviews.

37

38 The Board can retain them as is.

39

40 They can rescind them, that means just
41 take them away so they're open to Federally-qualified
42 subsistence users.

43

44 They can modify these closures. Like
45 modify the length of time, you know, or they can close
46 to all uses, including sport, or they can close to all
47 uses but subsistence, so that would be a modification.

48

49 Or they can defer, that's what they did

50

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1 at this point in time at your urging.

2

3 I might stop there and see if anyone
4 has any further questions.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: And, Della, this is
7 Rebecca.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
10 Rebecca.

11

12 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. So this is
13 Rebecca Skinner. As far as timing, you said that this
14 would come up for the Federal Subsistence Board meeting
15 January of 2023, is that the meeting where they would
16 need to pick one of the pathways that you just
17 outlined, so the Board needs to decide something at
18 their January 2023 meeting?

19

20 MS. LAVINE: Correct. Correct.

21

22 MS. SKINNER: Okay.

23

24 MS. LAVINE: So we've got between now
25 and I think really at your next fall meeting cycle, I
26 mean in 2022. So you would be -- we would have between
27 now and your fall meeting to kind of review, gather
28 input on these closures, then we will be presenting
29 these closures to the Council in the fall of 2022 for
30 guidance, for Board guidance for your recommendations
31 on all of them, and at that time there will be 15 to
32 look over. And then the Board will take action on them
33 at their January meeting of 2023.

34

35 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. So my
36 -- I guess my general comment then is because the RAC
37 deferred this set of reviews -- because we said we
38 lacked information, we lacked input, I am hoping that
39 either at this meeting or at our next meeting, so the
40 fall 2021 meeting of the RAC, that we outline a plan or
41 at least a -- I guess a checklist of outreach
42 opportunities that we want to occur so that we have
43 time, we, the bigger we, have time to undertake that
44 outreach, so by the time we get to our fall meeting of
45 2022 we are comfortable making a recommendation on
46 these closure reviews.

47

48 So right now where we stand, I think we
49 have plenty of time, we have, what, a year and a half,
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1 which sounds like a long time, but then as you start
2 trying to do outreach and, you know, making sure you're
3 hitting the appropriate meetings in the appropriate
4 communities all of a sudden a year and a half doesn't
5 sound like such a long time. So whether we come up
6 with that checklist or that outreach plan at this
7 meeting, or if we do that in the fall, I -- I think
8 that if we don't do that we risk being in the same
9 situation again when we're asked to make a
10 recommendation on these closure reviews we're going to
11 feel like we don't have enough information, and at that
12 point I just -- I think it would be very unfortunate to
13 have the RAC recommend another deferral when we've had
14 plenty of notice to deal with this.

15

16 And then just the other thing I'd point
17 out is that as Robbin said, we went from seven closure
18 reviews, because all of those were deferred, now we
19 have to -- we're going to have to get -- we have an
20 opportunity to get input on all of the closure reviews
21 because we asked to -- because the Federal Subsistence
22 Board made the decision to defer all of these reviews
23 until the next cycle.

24

25 So that would be my comment, and I mean
26 I'm happy to put some effort into bullet-pointing and
27 outreach plan if that would be helpful but I think that
28 that would be a productive next step for the RAC.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
33 Rebecca. And I would recommend to go ahead and do some
34 sort of outreach plan. Trying to coordinate this with
35 the local Advisory Committees is hard because they're
36 -- you know, we look at Unalaska they tried, they
37 didn't have a quorum, I've been working with Grant here
38 but they haven't had any meetings, and just the time
39 and effort to try to get this put together and working
40 with other agency Committee meetings has been -- it's
41 been a little hard, and then of course the issues
42 around Covid didn't help at all, I think, but -- so I
43 would recommend we do that and then we have plenty of
44 time.

45

46 And I'm also wondering what those other
47 eight new ones look like, and in what areas they are
48 for to add to all of these so we can start working on
49 all of them together.

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1 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
2 Robbin.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
5 Robbin.

6
7 MS. LAVINE: I need to verify or fully
8 vett the next eight and we need to cross check some of
9 our materials and, of course, as you know we haven't
10 begun any analysis on these. But I can let you know
11 that my preliminary, let me see, one, two, three,
12 four, five, six, seven, eight -- oh, good, my
13 preliminary notes I can share with you that we have
14 Unalaska Bay streams closed to salmon; Adak and Kag
15 Alaska fresh water closed to salmon; Trout Creek closed
16 to salmon; Womens Bay salmon; Kodiak area all fish;
17 Fiflo Bay (ph) Creek salmon; Little Kitoi Creek salmon;
18 and Womens Bay king crab. Again, I have not been able
19 to investigate these further and we haven't been able
20 to do a deep dive into these closures, their history,
21 the issues but we will do our best to be prepared.

22
23 MS. SKINNER: And, Della, this is
24 Rebecca again.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
27 Rebecca.

28
29 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thank you. Robbin,
30 is part of the research that you need to do, does that
31 involve creating the -- I'm going to call them the
32 write-ups on each of the closures, so in the materials
33 we have -- what I'm going to call the coversheet, so
34 it's the table that identifies which closure review it
35 is, it gives the current regulation, it gives the OSM
36 conclusion and it explains the position of different
37 entities or agencies on the proposal; am I correct in
38 understanding that for the next eight closure reviews,
39 we don't have these write-ups available for those right
40 now?

41
42 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. Through the
43 Chair, thank you, Ms. Skinner. You are correct we
44 don't have any materials aside from a kind of very
45 basic understanding of where these closures exist. But
46 what we need for a fully informed review includes, you
47 know, biological backgrounds, harvest, you know, an
48 understanding of all the different regulations that
49 impact that area, what kind of regulations might be in
50

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1 place should the closure be lifted. We need to
2 understand the different populations, how robust
3 returns are, and -- and all of that stuff, which does
4 take effort for each individual closure to be reviewed.
5 They end up being -- we end up producing documents, as
6 you know, for these reviews that are about six to eight
7 pages long on average.

8
9 Thank you, Madame Chair.

10
11 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. And
12 then in the normal course of business, when do you
13 anticipate having the write-ups available for the next
14 review.

15
16 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Through
17 the.....

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19 MS. SKINNER: And let me -- I'm just
20 asking that so we're planning, if we do come up with an
21 outreach plan, I'm trying to better understand when the
22 material that would really help that process might be
23 available.

24
25 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Thank you,
26 Madame Chair and Rebecca Skinner. We would not plan on
27 beginning these reviews until 2022, in general as far
28 as how we manage our workloads. We are understaffed
29 yet and so we are in the process of staffing up. And
30 we have these cycles divided up in a way to help us and
31 to help the analyst manage workload. So I think it
32 would be tremendously helpful to have some preliminary
33 materials available by the time we next meet. I am an
34 analyst myself so I'm not a person directing Staff work
35 flow but it's something that we can discuss and we
36 might be able to have, you know, some preliminary
37 information that doesn't involve a full analysis. But
38 understand when we do our analysis, when we do our
39 reviews, we do them in such a way as they are -- they
40 go through multiple reviews and we have many different
41 eyes on them in order to catch things but I imagine
42 some very basic information could be available by next
43 fall. This is something that I think leadership can
44 discuss at your direction.

45
46 Thank you.

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48 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.
49 And then I think this is my last question. From a work
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1 load standpoint on your end, if we have an outreach
2 plan and in anticipating that as outreach occurs, there
3 might be questions about, you know, the analysis or
4 questions about the closure reviews, from a work load
5 standpoint, would it be better on your end if we -- if
6 our outreach plan divided up the outreach between the
7 seven closure reviews in front of us now, so if we
8 started, that was Phase 1 of outreach, maybe that
9 occurred over the next, you know, 12 or 18 months, and
10 then Phase 2 would include the eight new closure
11 reviews for which we don't have materials, so from your
12 perspective is it better to break up the outreach into
13 the two sets because that's, I think, how you
14 anticipated dealing with it, or is it -- does it matter
15 to you if we wait and do all 15 at once through a
16 series of outreach efforts.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Through the
21 Chair. If I could waive my magic wand I'd say let's do
22 them all, you know, let's -- if we are working with
23 communities, if people are inviting us to present on
24 these issues, these issues that are really important
25 to, you know, how we are supporting you in managing
26 our, you know, our resources, we'd want to get a jump
27 start on it. I think so many of them share a lot in
28 common, and so once we figure out how, we might want to
29 -- you might want to take action, or you might want to
30 suggest the Board take action on these closure reviews,
31 I think it'll be -- I think it'll be pretty smooth
32 going, smooth sailing after we understand options
33 available and how to -- how you may want to address
34 them, and how local people interact with us and provide
35 information.

36

37 So in a perfect world, we know that
38 these next eight are coming and it would be wonderful
39 to get a head start on providing some preliminary
40 materials that can help inform discussion. And, again,
41 like I said I can't -- I can't promise what those would
42 look like and what might be required from my office to
43 ensure that they are well vetted and accurate. That's
44 what the review processes are for. But gosh I'd love
45 to see that if we were going through all the effort of
46 meeting with community, tribal and council
47 representatives, that we have as much information
48 available to support their discussion and -- and we
49 might have some preliminary vetted materials by this
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1 fall. I don't -- I can't say more. I can't -- it's
2 only speculation on my part.

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Thank you.

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MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

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MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Robbin, I really appreciate your sincerity in addressing the issue. I think that at this point from listening to folks, the big question overall is, why is this being done, the second question, because it's, sure there's an opportunity but is it needed, and then the question that spins off that are people not getting their subsistence that they need with the existing management and closures. And then you need to have address one of the questions that was raised at the -- well, actually there was several questions from the Kodiak Fish and Game AC that I hoped would have been available, answers, for the meeting, and I didn't note them all down but I think one of them of significance is the jurisdictional questions, and, particularly one of the questions was in relation to Afognak because I could see that a person could say if we had this implemented with sportfish gear, where there would be some potential conflicts for the land owners, and in that case Afognak, it's mainly the tribal or the Afognak Corporation, Ouizinkie, Port Lions all have a joint land use management plan but I could see a person, a guide could come in and say, gee, I'll just get all my people to have a Federal subsistence permit if they're qualified for the area and then they can go to the mouth of the stream and walk up the stream and do all their fishing with a literal interpretation that was presented before, they could do all their fishing and then not end up having access permits and create some difficulties there and then that raises a big question of who is going to manage and enforce this if it's defined that it's needed because the -- here in Kodiak the Refuge hasn't had an enforcement person in four years as far as the road system, we're lucky in June to have any State Game Wardens here, maybe one, because they all go to the main land and then they wouldn't necessarily be doing this enforcement, and I know Steve Delehanty doesn't have people to even do his regular projects, so who is going to keep track of the people that are using this gear type if it's defined that it's

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1 really needed.

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So those are some big questions.

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6 And I think looking at Afognak Island,
7 if you go and read that proclamation No. 39, December
8 24, where it was transferred from the Federal fisheries
9 reserve, it has a statement of all submerged lands and
10 waters of the Pacific Ocean lying within three miles of
11 the shoreline. And so one literally could look at that
12 and say, gee, that just stops at the shoreline and not
13 in the actual island. And so that's another sticky
14 issue, the jurisdiction that really needs to be
15 discussed and defined before we go off on a greater
16 organization on the individual systems.

16

17

So, thank you.

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MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, George
Pappas. I have some information for you.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
George.

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MR. PAPPAS: So, Madame Chair, at the
Kodiak State Local Advisory Committee meeting, we went
through our presentations as you had heard last spring
and some questions, some really hard questions came up
about jurisdiction. Since this has not been an issue
for 30 years in Afognak and marine versus -- or excuse
me -- in fresh waters, where the jurisdiction exactly
falls, my confidence in what I was taught was shaken so
I specifically committed to some of the local AC to dig
in and provide a legal description of what can and
cannot be done for all to be -- to share on the same
playing field.

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Now, I was hoping to have something
done before this meeting but I was specifically
instructed by the Solicitors for a total time out on
this until we do a full analysis because there's a lot
more going on here than just jurisdiction. You got the
Sturgeon case in the background, you got the pause from
the previous Administration that happened, you have
some issues with every time the Administration switches
in DC, some delays, a lot of things are not adding up
to get that done for today. But I have committed and
this will be specifically for the Regional Advisory
Council and we'll share it with the local AC there and

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1 all future ACs or other outreach efforts that Rebecca
2 recommended so everybody's on the same playing field.

3

4

5 Now, the question that was asked, I'm
6 in a State Park in Afognak and I'm in a boat, do I have
7 marine -- do I have Federal subsistence jurisdiction,
8 well, you know, the other day I had the Kodiak Refuge
9 manager, Alaska Maritime team on board, the
10 cardiographer getting together and we're going to come
11 up with an answer and we're going to come up with
12 something very clean and clear that everybody can
13 understand so we're on the same page and all questions
14 will be answered.

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So thank you, Pat. I wish I had it for
this meeting. I was trying to get it to impress you but
it didn't happen this go around but we will have it to
you and it would be good to have that document ready to
go for the rest of the other outreach efforts that
we're going to potentially do between now and next
meeting.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MR. HOLMES: Thank you, George.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
George.

MR. JACKSON: Chairman, this is James
Jackson, Fish and Game, could I say something.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sure, go ahead.

MR. JACKSON: Yeah, again, this is
James Jackson, Kodiak Commercial Salmon and Subsistence
Management Biologist. If I could add one more thing to
George's point of clarification, if he could come up
with both what is fishable and what's not, but also
what is enforceable would be nice to know at all.

MR. PAPPAS: Point noted. Thank you,
through the Chair.

MS. SKINNER: And, Della, this is
Rebecca.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
Rebecca.

1 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. I guess this
2 question is for the whole RAC, besides Afognak, are
3 there other areas where there might be the similar
4 jurisdictional and enforcement concerns that we can
5 have maybe George take the lead on researching so that
6 -- because we know we have 15 of these closure reviews
7 to go through and so if there are other areas where
8 there's a jurisdictional conflict or jurisdictional
9 uncertainty, I think it would be helpful if we could
10 try to identify those today so that the necessary
11 research can be done because I do think as we do
12 outreach on these, if there's basic questions along the
13 lines of why are we doing this and what is the
14 jurisdiction and who's in charge and what does
15 enforcement look like, those are the kinds of questions
16 that are going to come up and it's going to be really
17 challenging to do effective outreach if we don't have a
18 good handle on that.

19

20 So, again, are there other areas
21 besides Afognak Island where these similar
22 jurisdictional/enforcement concerns exist.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on one
27 second. Rebecca, did you get your question answered or
28 is somebody going to be able to answer Rebecca's
29 question before we go to Pat.

30

31 MR. PAPPAS: This is George Pappas
32 again. One of the areas that's not part of the closure
33 review process but was of concern and wanted further
34 definition from the local AC there in Kodiak was the
35 Karluk on marine waters. As you probably know Kodiak
36 and Afognak have the most complicated Federal
37 subsistence fisheries jurisdiction in Alaska, but an
38 excellent excellent recommendation, Rebecca, about
39 having the package explains basically every potential
40 consideration for your region for jurisdiction-wise,
41 and I think the most confusing will be the Afognak, I
42 believe we'll get that cleaned up in short order, and
43 then maybe some information about the mouth of the
44 Buskin, you know, submerged waters, and also off the
45 mouth of the Karluk, that area. So those three we'll
46 see if we can't have some information available, it's
47 out there. There's been some corporate knowledge lost
48 at OSM in the last couple of decades and we need to
49 recover from that and provide a permanent document that
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1 everybody else can reference in the future.

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Thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

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MS. FOX: Madame Chair, this is Lisa
Fox with Fish and Game in Kodiak.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Lisa,
and then Pat.

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MS. FOX: Oh, sorry, Pat, I didn't mean
to step in front of you.

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MR. HOLMES: No problem.

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MS. FOX: I just wanted to say that
there are going to be jurisdictional issues in anywhere
these closure reviews are going forward and a lot of
the bigger questions that are being asked will need to
be answered there as well. There is the possibility
that if any of these closure reviews are something that
the RACs want to go forward with as far as having them
changed, those same changes could be made through the
State process for State subsistence purposes.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Lisa.
Pat.

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MR. HOLMES: Can you hear me, I don't
know if I'm muted. Hello.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can hear you
Pat.

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MR. HOLMES: Okay. All this high tech
stuff like a phone with buttons is -- anyway, I think
that was a good point that Ms. Fox made and one of the
questions I asked with talking to Chris and some people
at Unalaska about, and another possible place is, what
1997 was my last year working out there, with the
Department, and I -- after talking to the AC and a lot
of folks we changed the markers there at Dutch Harbor,
at the mouth and I don't know -- I don't think the city
owns Dutch Harbor, but they might, and I do believe that
they own the tide lands, because that was one of the
things we talked about at that time, so does another
entity own the tide lines change the -- whether or not

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1 those are Federal waters or State waters because the
2 whole Illiyuik drainage is basically private land for
3 the most part and I don't think any Federal land in
4 there, so it's, again, like Afognak spinning off of the
5 definitions for relating to the Maritime Refuge and so
6 that could be another sticky wicket as to who owns the
7 tidelands and possibly the waters in the boat harbor so
8 that might be one to put on your list as well.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
13 So any other comments.

14

15 MR. KOSO: Della, Rick.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

18

19 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I guess I just have
20 one comment on Adak. I know you're talking about maybe
21 some closures around Adak on the salmon to, you know,
22 commercial fishery and making it just a subsistence
23 fishery, I think there needs to be a lot more study on
24 that. I know there's a lot of areas in Adak that, you
25 know, with the gillnet fishery or even a small seine
26 fishery that can be fished, you know, conservatively,
27 and if you were to close the -- I know they mentioned
28 the one bay there on Adak there, that is Red Salmon Bay
29 and I think there's -- you know, that bay, I think is
30 capable of a small commercial fishery. I hate to cut
31 the salmon fishery off out there when we're just
32 starting to build up a fish plant and they need every
33 product they can get to survive it and it also could be
34 an asset to the community there, to the poor local
35 fishery.

36

37 So I just wanted to bring that up as
38 part of the Adak one.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Well, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry. One thing that
47 rattled out of my foggy brain here was in relation to
48 this whole question and I think that Robbin, and,
49 correct me, the basic premise is is that to have rod

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1 and reel for subsistence would be to provide for a need
2 that wasn't met for subsistence users and I believe
3 there was one scenario where sport would continue when
4 subsistence couldn't, I may be wrong but I think you
5 also might want to review as to how things are managed,
6 because I believe, at least Buskin's closest to me,
7 that if the forecast is good then everybody's
8 optimistic, you open with the normal limits for
9 subsistence and here nets are the customary and
10 traditional way and then you have the -- awe shucks --
11 oh, basically as if it's a weak run then the sport
12 limit is reduced and if it's really bad then they could
13 change the markers but generally speaking, and my
14 experience is as things are good, then the markers are
15 moved in, the sportfish limit increases and basically
16 that example that she gave where people would be
17 disenfranchised from their harvest, I really don't
18 think has ever existed. So you would need to, I think,
19 rather than have that as a hypothesis, see if it does
20 occur. I could see other parts of the State might
21 create that problem, but I think here the State really
22 does try to work with folks to make sure that they get
23 their subsistence needs, and the Buskin, they don't
24 even allow any commercial fishery directed to it when
25 the reds are in and only at Afognak if it's an
26 exceptionally large run and everybody is getting what
27 they need but then even that opening usually isn't in
28 as far as where the subsistence fishery takes place.

29

30 So I think you need to examine and see
31 if there is a problem in this region that would create
32 a difficulty rather than operating on the hypothesis of
33 that you might be able to provide subsistence needs
34 when there's no problem.

35

36 So, I'm sorry, thank you, Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
39 I'd like to thank everybody for their comments and
40 discussion on this and it just shows just how
41 complicated this whole issue is. Is there anybody else
42 that has any comments to add to the discussion.

43

44 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair, this is Sam,
45 I'd like to make a comment.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

48

49 MR. ROHRER: Thanks. So, yeah, I've

50

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1 been listening to other folks comments and reading the
2 information, talking to other community members about
3 it, and I guess my thoughts in a lot of ways mirror
4 Pat's on this.

5
6 It seems to me, I'm not sure what the
7 problem is we're trying to address with the closure
8 review. The harvest for the most part is wide open in
9 these areas under State regulations. No one is being
10 -- I mean and I might be missing this in the Aleutian
11 areas, but certainly on Kodiak to the best of my
12 knowledge, the harvest is wide open in these areas
13 under the State regulations. So we wouldn't actually
14 be providing any additional opportunity. Every
15 Federally-qualified subsistence user on Kodiak can
16 participate under the State regulations. So as I look
17 at over the next year and a half, holding numerous
18 meetings and educational outreach efforts and things
19 like that, I'm thinking in the back of my head we're
20 going to put a lot of time, OSM's going to spend a lot
21 of money, there's going to be a lot of efforts put into
22 this, to what end, we're not actually creating any more
23 opportunity. And so it just seems like an awful lot of
24 effort on our part with not a very big pay off in the
25 end if -- if there's more opportunity for the community
26 to be had then I guess I'd be open to hearing about
27 that, but from what I can see there's not.

28
29 On a separate note the jurisdictional
30 issues, those are important issues. They do need to be
31 addressed. The State and the Feds need to figure that
32 out. I've no doubt, you know, the attorneys are going
33 to be involved, the Solicitor's office is going to be
34 involved, in my mind that's a separate issue. Let the
35 -- the State and Feds need to figure that out. But as
36 far as lifting those closures, we're going to put an
37 awful lot of effort and time and the Feds are going to
38 spend an awful lot of money on this and in the end what
39 have we actually accomplished, what additional
40 opportunity have we created.

41
42 And then lastly I would say, if we do
43 think there's area where we could create more
44 opportunity I'd like to explore Lisa Fox's idea, I
45 think we could potentially do it through, again,
46 through a proposal to the Board of Fish, that'd be a
47 lot faster and cleaner process.

48
49 So that's all I have for now.
50

0047

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.
2 Robbin, do you have any comments in regard to the
3 discussion.

4
5 MR. PAPPAS: This is George Pappas,
6 Madame Chair.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: George, go
9 ahead.

10
11 MR. PAPPAS: Well, this is very
12 interesting discussion and I do appreciate it.
13 Creating additional opportunity is -- seems to be a
14 theme here. Well, on Federal public lands, the law
15 states there must be a Federal subsistence fisheries
16 priority and the Federal Subsistence Board allows the
17 regions to do different things across the state if they
18 want, you know, a Federal subsistence only fishing, if
19 they want to share it, if they want schedules, if they
20 want gear types. So if the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional
21 Advisory Council is satisfied with not having a Federal
22 subsistence priority on Federal public lands in the
23 fisheries that are being reviewed here, that's fine. I
24 mean that's the regional choice. Is this need driven.
25 Well, it's based on opportunity that's provided by the
26 Federal Subsistence Program, some areas, some regions
27 would not even tolerate this discussion about not
28 having Federal subsistence priority on Federal public
29 lands, some other areas -- you know, 100 percent share,
30 you know, we'll do just do what we've been managed, you
31 know it's hand in hand with the State and everybody has
32 the same regulations, same limits, there's just a
33 variety of options here so we're not trying to force
34 anything on you. And the rod and reel issue keeps
35 popping up because under State regulations rod and reel
36 is not legal methods and means for subsistence, and it
37 has been put forth in front of the Board of Fish many,
38 many times over the years, all over the state and there
39 are places that rod and reel is allowed, but a lot of
40 places that are not, and Kodiak's one of them, and
41 that's a differentiation between, you know, fishing in
42 the marine waters, not off Afognak, that is -- I mean
43 that is another story because there is Federal
44 subsistence jurisdiction, but say 500 yards from the
45 mouth of a river in Cold Bay, you know that's not
46 Federal subsistence jurisdiction, that'd be State
47 jurisdiction as I understand so where the Federal
48 subsistence jurisdiction would take place is mean high
49 water in the fresh water of a creek and if someone
50

0048

1 doesn't have a boat or a net and wanted to use a rod
2 and reel to grab some food without a sportfishing
3 license, and they're Federally-qualified it would be
4 legal.

5
6 So there's different perspectives on
7 this. Establishing a Federal subsistence fishery, you
8 know, in the headwaters of a stream on Afognak within
9 the Refuge, is anybody can participate in it, is there
10 a need for it, I can't say, I'm not the local
11 individual to make that decision.

12
13 Example in Chignik. They wanted a
14 Federal subsistence less than -- or equal to the sport
15 bag limit per day, no license, no reporting, no permit,
16 if somebody's camping and they wanted to get a fish,
17 you know, they want to get two fish, three fish and
18 they're out in hunting camp, what have you, there's
19 different ideas to go with and different views.

20
21 So I understand exactly what you're
22 saying. We will provide the information, we will dig
23 deep and get all the information we can to you to
24 review and we will follow your lead from there, follow
25 your recommendations.

26
27 Thank you, Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.....

30
31 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is.....

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:George.

34
35 MS. SKINNER:this is Rebecca, I
36 have another question.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
39 Rebecca.

40
41 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. So I'm not
42 sure if this question is for Robbin or for George, so
43 my understanding and please correct me if I'm wrong,
44 but my understanding is that these closure reviews are
45 going to happen, that they are now required under the
46 new process or policy, I think Robbin referred to that
47 at the beginning of her presentation, and so the
48 Federal Subsistence Board is going to conduct these
49 closure reviews whether -- whether we want them to or
50

0049

1 not, I mean we can ask them to defer the decision, but
2 either way this is going to be on the Federal
3 Subsistence Board's agenda in January of 2023; is my
4 understanding of that correct?

5

6 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair, this is
7 Robbin.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Robbin.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Yes. Yes, you are
12 correct. So this is -- we conduct -- we have a new
13 closure review policy that addresses wildlife closures
14 and fisheries and shellfish closures. Some of these
15 closures, especially in fisheries have been in place,
16 as I said, for 20 to 30 years, these are closures that --
17 some of these systems are closed to subsistence but
18 open to other uses, which is a bit of a distance for
19 the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and the
20 Program's priority, prioritizing subsistence
21 opportunity before others. So, yeah, these are -- this
22 is part of our system to make sure that nothing goes
23 under our radar and really we're interested in what is
24 going to best serve the local people in this regard.
25 Remember that this is an opportunity to identify
26 Federally-qualified subsistence users and the priority
27 for access, should an entire system need to close. And
28 if an entire system needs to close for all uses, then
29 that's good, but if there is an opportunity to close to
30 most uses, all other uses but subsistence modifying
31 these closures or allowing subsistence harvest in those
32 cases is an option that is created through this review
33 process. If we leave it in place we don't have the
34 ability to prioritize among Federally-qualified
35 subsistence users because there would be no Federal
36 fishery there. And I'll have a better -- I'll have a
37 better explanation for this when we dive a little
38 deeper in the fall.

39

40 Thank you, Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
43 Robbin. If I may make a comment. I realize this is
44 complicated. I realize we all represent, in my case,
45 subsistence users, as we all work, whether you
46 represent guiding or sports or commercial, we all live
47 with this whole realm of all this and it's complicated.
48 When I sit here in King Cove and what I get all the
49 time, trust me, ever since I've been on this Council I
50

0050

1 get this, is why do people in Cold Bay get to take more
2 fish on a daily basis in the name of subsistence than
3 we can -- if I got on the ferry and went over and got
4 fish, so there are issues now that are of concern that--
5 there's not a lot of fish there as there have been in
6 the past, I've been told that Mortensens has not gotten
7 their escapement. I don't know what -- you know, I'll
8 wait until all of the reports come up to find out where
9 we're at with some of these issues but the one thing I
10 also note is when you look at the different areas, like
11 the AYK and a lot of these places do have a subsistence
12 policy in place for various time on different issues.
13 The concern I'm hearing now, and it's going to happen
14 if there's a shortage of a resource, that what do we do
15 if this happens. Robbin kind of brought that up just a
16 big ago, you know, what's first, is it subsistence, and
17 I know that the State works, you know, works with us,
18 everybody I think wants to do what's right but given
19 that, I think that I talked about this earlier because
20 even for me, I didn't realize that these were in place
21 and they hadn't even been reviewed for over 20 years
22 and how many other people in the communities don't
23 understand it.

24
25 So there's an educational process, I
26 think, and there's also, that we represent the public
27 and I think -- I feel strongly that we need to give the
28 public that information and help us, direct us as to
29 what our decisionmaking process should be as we go
30 forward. And, you know, if somebody thinks I'm wrong
31 or can add to that, I would appreciate it.

32
33 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca
34 again. No, I agree with you. I think that a big part
35 of our role on the RAC is to make sure that not only
36 are we collecting information, you know, we're a
37 conduit of information from the communities but we also
38 have a responsibility to be a conduit, or help the
39 communities understand some of these things, and these
40 closure reviews are complicated. I -- just the Afognak
41 Bay one, I think you could talk about for two days
42 straight, just that one because there's lots of
43 nuances. My understanding at this point is whether --
44 I guess it doesn't matter whether we agree with these
45 closure reviews or not, they are happening, so our
46 choice is to try to engage in the process in a
47 productive way, which I view as making sure the public
48 understands, one, that these closure reviews exist --
49 or the closures exist; 2, that the closure reviews are
50

0051

1 occurring; 3, what the recommendation -- I guess I view
2 the recommendations from OSM, I'm giving that some
3 weight so understanding what the recommendation from
4 OSM is, which is to end the closures, and at a high
5 level understand why are we even talking about this.

6
7 And I think we are going to get a lot
8 of feedback about State versus Federal, that's just
9 part of this process, and I think we need to try to do
10 our best to understand, I guess the facts or the
11 circumstances so that we can help people understand,
12 but also we can help make sure that helpful information
13 is put together that can then be shared with the
14 public. And I think that that process is going to be
15 really important. Because regardless of what we do,
16 this is going to be on the Federal Subsistence Board
17 agenda in January of 2023, and my preference is that,
18 as a RAC, one, we will have a recommendation for the
19 Federal Subsistence Board but bigger than that, that we
20 will have done enough outreach so that we've gotten
21 plenty of feedback from the community members that we --
22 that we represent.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
27 Rebecca. Anybody else have any comments at this time
28 in regard to this issue.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
33 moving forward do we -- we talked about creating some
34 sort of bullet-point, I think an outreach plan,
35 Rebecca, maybe, I wonder if -- if it's okay with the
36 rest of the Council members that Rebecca can draft
37 something maybe that we can look at before the meeting
38 closes and adopt something. But I think it's important
39 we continue working on it. And it may be we don't get
40 a lot of public input but at least we have the
41 knowledge if any of these issues come up, the issues
42 around jurisdiction also.

43
44 Pat, do you have any comments, I see
45 you on my screen with your phone to your ear.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Oh, well, I can't get the
48 rest of this interactive program to work so all I see
49 is my face and the only way I can hear is with the
50

0052

1 phone. And I can appreciate Rebecca's comments but I
2 think Mr. Pappas did point out that one of our options --
3 anyway I won't go into that but I guess the real key
4 thing is that we need to know, is, you know, has the
5 problem that's been outlined, has that happened. And I
6 know other parts of the state have great conflicts but
7 here we don't have them. And, you know, you could have
8 a policy -- anyway I think this will evolve well once
9 people get answers to the main questions, and then you
10 need to have those questions before you do outreach
11 because folks need to know, really, what the facts are,
12 and so those points that I raised earlier, I think need
13 to be addressed before, you know, we go into things
14 because just like Chris Price and I and Sam and other
15 folks that have been trying to do this, you say, okay,
16 well, here's one opinion, here's another opinion, and
17 they're asking our opinion based on not knowing what
18 the entire situation is. So we need to answer those
19 questions and then work on things. And I believe that
20 it should be the obligation of OSM to hold those
21 conferences with the tribes and do another series with
22 the Advisory Committees, but in my mind I still have
23 not been convinced why this is all necessary.

24
25 So, anyways, thank you very much and
26 sorry to go on, Madame Chair, and I'll kind of be
27 quiet.

28
29 Bye-bye.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
32 Maybe -- so, Pat, I'm assuming you're okay with
33 developing an outreach plan.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that'd be fine. But
36 I think the folks that should be taking the lead are
37 the folks that are raising the question.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 And we could have people from our
42 Council could be available to sit in on those meetings
43 and provide a perspective as to where we've gotten with
44 our Council.

45
46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47
48 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, it's Donald.

49
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
2 Go ahead, Donald.

3
4 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Madame
5 Chair. Yeah, it sounded like the Council has come to a
6 consensus of developing an outreach plan. We have OSM
7 Staff that can assist with that. And if the Council
8 wishes to have Rebecca as part of the outreach planning
9 team she can be included and we can set up a time to
10 start developing and outline what needs to be
11 presented.

12
13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14
15 MR. HOLMES: And, Madame Chair, I
16 think.....

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
19 Donald.

20
21 MR. HOLMES:that should be routed
22 through our whole Council. Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's do this,
25 if I may say. Are any Council members wanting to be a
26 part of this, I'm going to call it a committee, an
27 outreach committee with Rebecca and Robbin and George
28 and Jared or whoever else Staff we need, just let me
29 know and I think we can let Donald know your names,
30 because I know I would definitely like to be a part of
31 that process too to better understand all this.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair, Pat.
34 Yep, I'd like to.

35
36 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
37 Donald.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
40 Donald.

41
42 MR. MIKE: Yeah, if we could call it a
43 planning team or a working group on outreach effort, if
44 we use committee we need to get approval from the
45 Federal Subsistence Board to form a committee.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Well, a
50

0054

1 planning.....

2

3

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:team.

6

7

MR. HOLMES: I think Chris Price would want to be on that but I was talking to him last night and he said that he had two or three overlapping meetings today and it would be good to get, you know, someone from the Aleutians involved. Thank you.

12

13

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

14

15

MR. PRICE: Yeah, I'm here, guys. This is Chris. Yeah, I'd be willing to be on that.

17

18

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

19

20

MR. PRICE: Yes, I'll participate.

21

22

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Chris. Rick, you're farther out west, would you like to participate?

25

26

MR. KOSO: Well, I don't know, Della, it sounds like you got plenty of people on there. I can get the info from you guys after you get done. I think we'll -- I don't want to overpopulate that deal. So I'll just be on the sidelines and wait for your guys' results.

32

33

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Kodiak region, anybody else.

35

36

37

(No comments)

38

39

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, so it looks like we have Chris, Rebecca, Pat and myself with Staff, is that correct?

42

43

(No comments)

44

45

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I would like to recommend we take a 10 minute break, if we can, and when we come back if we -- under new business, request to have Rick with the ptarmigan for the State report, if everyone agrees.

49

50

0055

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Come back at
4 11:00, we'll take a break. Thank you.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (On record)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, everybody,
11 I think if we worked our way back here we could get
12 started again.

13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: Good morning, Della,
15 this is Coral on the line.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
18 Coral, glad to hear you.

19

20 MR. MIKE: Hey, Della, this is Donald,
21 if you're ready to go I can do a quick roll call of our
22 Council members just let me know when you're ready.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just go ahead
25 and do roll call.

26

27 MR. MIKE: Okay. We're reconvening
28 from our short recess.

29

30 Pat Holmes.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MR. MIKE: Pat are you with us.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. MIKE: Rick Koso.

39

40 MR. KOSO: Here.

41

42 MR. MIKE: Sam Rohrer.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MR. MIKE: Chris Price.

47

48 MR. PRICE: Yes, Chris is here.

49

50

0056

1 MR. MIKE: Okay. Coral Chernoff.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

4

5 MR. MIKE: Okay. Welcome, Coral.

6

7 Rebecca Skinner.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: Here.

10

11 MR. MIKE: Della's here.

12

13 Natasha Hayden.

14

15 MS. HAYDEN: I'm here.

16

17 MR. MIKE: Melissa Berns.

18

19 MS. BERNS: Here.

20

21 MR. MIKE: Pat Holmes, have you joined

22 us.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MR. MIKE: Pat, are you wish us.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MR. MIKE: How about Sam, Sam Rohrer.

31

32 MR. ROHRER: I am here. Sorry about

33 that, I missed my first call. Sorry.

34

35 MR. MIKE: Okay.

36

37 And we're just waiting on Pat Holmes,
38 Madame Chair, other than that we have a quorum.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I see Pat on the
41 screen, I think he's having trouble to get his phone to
42 unmute.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Okay. All right. So we
45 have everyone present online, Madame Chair. So before
46 we move on to new business we have individual C&T from
47 the National Park Service. I think they just want to
48 provide a quick update on what the Federal Subsistence
49 Board recently took action on.

50

0057

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
4 Donald. Yeah, I saw I missed that, and then we'll do
5 the ptarmigan report. Okay, go ahead.

6

7 MR. REAM: Good morning, Madame Chair
8 and members of the Council. My name is Joshua Ream.
9 My Tlingit name is Xixch'i Toowoo, and I am the
10 Regional Subsistence Program Manager for the National
11 Park Service based out of the Anchorage Regional
12 Office.

13

14 I'm here today to report on recent
15 decisions made by the Federal Subsistence Board in
16 January on the process that is used to make individual
17 customary and traditional use determinations.

18

19 To start, I just want to remind
20 everyone that individual customary and traditional use
21 determinations, or also known as individual C&Ts,
22 they're not a new thing but you might not be familiar
23 with them because they are very rare. In fact we've
24 had less than 10 people apply for them in the past 40
25 years.

26

27 The Federal Subsistence Board adopted a
28 revised version of the individual C&T process at their
29 January meeting. I will explain the adopted process to
30 you here but I did want to note that no action is
31 required on your end at this time, but if you do have
32 feedback on the process we can definitely deliver that
33 back to the Board.

34

35 You might recall that the Park Service
36 Staff offered a fairly lengthy presentation on this
37 issue at your fall meeting. Eligibility to hunt and
38 trap in National Parks and National Monuments is,
39 indeed, rather complex compared to some of the other
40 Federal public lands out there. Almost all customary
41 and traditional use determinations are for communities
42 or areas and not for individuals.

43

44 Last fall when we talked to all 10 of
45 the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and the
46 seven Park Subsistence Resource Commissions we asked
47 for feedback. We incorporated this feedback into our
48 proposed process and this is what was adopted by the
49 Board in January.

50

0058

1 The revised process includes two
2 critical recommendations that were made by the RACs and
3 the SRCs.

4
5 First, that there is no delegation of
6 authority to the Park Service. The Federal Subsistence
7 Board will retain the final decisionmaking authority
8 for individual customary and traditional use
9 determinations.

10
11 Second, the process now includes a
12 formal recommendation from both the affected Regional
13 Advisory Councils as well as from the affected Park
14 Subsistence Resource Commission.

15
16 Maybe the biggest change is that the
17 process is no longer tied to the lengthy biennial
18 regulatory proposal cycle, instead the application
19 window is open continuously and once the RACs and the
20 SRCs have weighed in the Board will take action on the
21 request at its next public meeting. This accomplishes
22 an important goal of being able to process applications
23 in a timely manner.

24
25 Many of the RACS and the SRCs voted to
26 defer action until they had more time to study this
27 issue, and while the Federal Subsistence Board already
28 did take action to help improve the process, the Board
29 still welcomes any feedback that you might have for
30 further improvement, either now or at any point in the
31 future. Ultimately, the National Park Service and the
32 Federal Subsistence Board just want this process to be
33 as streamlined and responsive as possible.

34
35 Thank you for your time. I'm happy to
36 answer any questions that you have. And if you do have
37 feedback for the Board I'm happy to deliver that too.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
42 Joshua. Any questions or comments.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. We'll
47 go ahead and move on to the report, is it Rick, with
48 the ptarmigan.

49
50

0059

1 MR. MERIZON: Hi, this is Rick Merizon
2 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the
3 Statewide Small Game Program Coordinator for the
4 Division of Wildlife Conservation within Fish and Game,
5 and very much appreciate the opportunity to chat with
6 the Council today. And I understand that the Council
7 may have some questions for me regarding ptarmigan in
8 Kodiak, and specifically the Aleutian Islands and
9 southern -- or the Alaska Peninsula. So I'm happy to
10 try to answer those questions as best I can at this
11 time.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just out of
14 curiosity -- this is Della. Was there a report. I was
15 looking through my emails to see if there was any kind
16 of numbers available on ptarmigan harvested?

17
18 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, thanks, Madame
19 Chair. We -- so just to give you a very brief
20 background. We have a very small program with very
21 limited Staff and sadly the Southern Alaska Peninsula
22 and Kodiak Archipelago is one area that we do not have
23 very good data on spring breeding or summer brood
24 survey information. We do get some information from
25 our annual wing collection program, it's a voluntary
26 program through hunter harvested wings and from that we
27 can estimate harvest composition. Sadly the Kodiak
28 area and Southern Alaska Peninsula is an area that we
29 struggle to get adequate sample sizes from and it's
30 difficult to make any inference as far as harvest
31 composition from that area. So our -- the data that we
32 have available to us is largely anecdotal through both
33 Federal and State wildlife biologists field
34 observations, hunter observations and that is largely
35 the best information that we can provide.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
38 Are there any comments from Council members.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Rick, I was
45 wondering, I'm too old to hunt ptarmigan anymore but
46 back when I was a kid in '59/60 pretty avid. But I've
47 followed ptarmigan management for a long time but in
48 places where you have small populations is it possible
49 to adjust harvest limits to increase the population or
50

0060

1 are they kind of like rabbits or voles and fox and vary
2 more with change in environment and interaction with
3 other critters rather than people. I'm just wondering.

4

5 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair.
6 Council Member Holmes, that's a really good question.
7 And, again, that's a question that we have a better
8 understanding on from other ptarmigan populations that
9 we have studied more intensely. For example, ptarmigan
10 populations up in the White Mountains and in the Alaska
11 Range, we're also even beginning a small pilot project
12 on the YK-Delta, but sadly, again, the information we
13 have specific to the ptarmigan population out in your
14 region is very, very limited.

15

16 What we do know from other areas of the
17 state is that ptarmigan move extensive distances and
18 it's a sexually segregated movement so males tend to
19 move considerably shorter distances than females but
20 we've documented in four separate ptarmigan research
21 projects that females can move in excess of 100 to 150
22 miles during the winter months. And as a hunter on the
23 landscape that could have profound impacts if that
24 scale of movement is also occurring in places like the
25 Southern Alaska Peninsula, that could have big impacts
26 on bird accessibility for hunters in that area.

27

28 So to answer your question, it is
29 complicated. Bird populations do fluctuate a great
30 deal. But then on top of natural fluctuations that are
31 largely driven by weather phenomenon, particularly late
32 spring, early summer weather phenomenon that affects
33 chicks, on top of that you've got these big sort of
34 movement patterns that are somewhat unique but we're
35 finding is that there are some similarities between all
36 these populations in Alaska. So my suspicion is,
37 again, unconfirmed, but my suspicion is that the
38 Southern Alaska Peninsula population likely exhibits
39 the movement patterns that we're seeing in other parts
40 of the state.

41

42 So that -- I'm not quite sure if that
43 gets to your question but, I guess, feel free to jump
44 back in if that doesn't answer your question, I
45 apologize.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: Well, thanks a lot, I
48 think that does, Rick. And we had a similar report
49 awhile back from Nate Svoboda when we had a question at
50

0061

1 Karluk because they noticed a big change in their
2 population there, and so I think that -- obviously
3 you're getting more data available now and that does
4 provide some explanation it's just too bad that with
5 the State budget cuts you don't have enough money to do
6 what you need to do.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,

13

14 Rebecca.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. Do we have
17 any harvest information on the ptarmigan, particularly
18 for the Peninsula.

19

20 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair.
21 Council Member Skinner, we do not have good harvest
22 information for your region. I'll just say that
23 flatly. Getting robust harvest information for small
24 game in Alaska has been a very big challenge for our
25 program. As you know, there's no mandatory harvest
26 reporting, we have attempted large statewide survey
27 efforts, mailout surveys, and even online surveys to
28 hunters in Alaska to try to get a sense, a scale of
29 harvest, but we have exceedingly poor returns on those
30 surveys, that, again, produces very poor estimates on
31 harvest. We are working on other mechanisms to
32 estimate harvest but it's a very, very challenging
33 component that our program is working very diligently
34 to overcome. But to answer your question, no, we do
35 not have harvest information for your region.

36

37 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Joshua [sic],
40 this is Della. I'm going to read something that a
41 resident in Cold Bay sent to me in regards to
42 ptarmigan, for the record.

43

44 Basically he said the ptarmigan numbers
45 have been suffering enough that their daily limit was
46 reduced to 10 ptarmigan per day from 20 ptarmigan per
47 day. This was a step in the right direction but non-
48 subsistence users still harvest most of the ptarmigan
49 in the surrounding area. It's gotten so bad that even
50 seeing a ptarmigan by October is rare. This should be

0062

1 reduced to two ptarmigan per day, four annually, for
2 non-subsistence users. By allowing the current trend I
3 feel it is a disservice to the people who need the
4 resource most, the subsistence user.

5

6 I'm not sure or clear at this point
7 where all this fits in. But I think it is a big enough
8 concern that we need to, No. 1., just go on record; and
9 No. 2, determine what the next and best steps will be.

10

11 MR. MERIZON: Madame Chair, may I have
12 the opportunity to reply to that. This is Rick, I'm
13 online.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, please do.

16

17 MR. MERIZON: Thank you. So back in
18 2018 the State Board of Game adopted a proposal that
19 was submitted -- I believe it was submitted by the
20 Department, by the area biologist out in King Salmon,
21 that reduced the daily bag limit from 20 per day to 10
22 per day as was just stated, and, more importantly, the
23 thing I wanted to highlight here is that the season
24 duration was shortened from April 30 to February 28th.
25 That's a key point that I wanted to express.

26

27 The one thing that I can very
28 comfortably and very affirmatively say that we've
29 learned through our research and a lot of our other,
30 the wing collection program, for example, is that the
31 later in the spring the harvest occurs, the more
32 additive effect that that has on the population. In
33 other words, if you were to look at a wild ptarmigan
34 population that has no human harvest whatsoever, the
35 greatest actual mortality occurs from the chick
36 hatches, as you might presume, through that late summer
37 into the fall. Natural mortality drops to very, very
38 low levels towards the end of our calendar year as we
39 move into the beginning of -- sort of the dead of the
40 winter, January, February. Typically birds that have
41 survived to January, February are likely -- very, very
42 likely going to move directly into the spring breeding
43 population. So by having very late season harvest,
44 especially those that occur after about February 15th
45 and I'll explain the significance of that date, from
46 about February 15th on and in many portions of the
47 state we have seasons that close late March, late
48 April, that's all additive mortality. In other
49 words, those birds are being removed from the
50

0063

1 population that would otherwise have gone directly into
2 the spring breeding season.

3
4 What we've noticed through our wing
5 collection data set, over almost 10 years now is that
6 late winter harvest begins to really ramp up about the
7 15th of February. We're finally getting longer days,
8 we're getting warmer days, people have cabin fever,
9 they want to get outside and go do something, ptarmigan
10 seasons are still open, there's great snow for
11 snowmachining and folks blast out on to the landscape
12 and harvest some birds. Sadly that harvest is having
13 potentially a very strong negative effect on our
14 breeding population and as a result been the potential
15 that that population has to produce chicks in the
16 spring and summer.

17
18 So that was one thing that on the State
19 side, the Board of Game -- I provided a report at the
20 Board of Game in February 2018 and they adopted that
21 regulation that shortened the season to February 28th.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
24 that. But maybe being more specific to Cold Bay, I get
25 the sense that this is more from the sporthunters. I
26 mean at one point, and Rick can help me out with this,
27 probably, that you can -- there's 52 species of birds
28 you can hunt on a daily -- on a take on a day, per day,
29 and that includes ptarmigans. Is that correct, Rick or
30 Pat -- Rick.

31
32 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della, I think so. I
33 think you're right on that. But on this ptarmigan, you
34 know, I've driven around Cold Bay for a lot, a lot of
35 years and in these past few years I'm lucky to see two
36 ptarmigan on the road system. But I have a question
37 for Rick.

38
39 You know I was told before that
40 ptarmigan, you know, they travel in -- well, I guess
41 they're seasonal and, you know, die-off in certain
42 years, I don't know if it's because of -- whatever it's
43 because, but I heard they travel in cycles, am I not
44 wrong on that or somebody's pulling my leg?

45
46 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair.
47 That's a good question. What we've noticed -- so the
48 thing that I have noticed studying ptarmigan now for
49 almost 10 years is I don't like to actually call it a
50

0064

1 population cycle because that signifies that it's a
2 predictable up and down cycle that we have some high
3 degree of confidence, we know it's going to come back
4 on a specific year, just like we can do that with
5 snowshoe hare in a lot of parts of the State.
6 Ptarmigan are much more eruptive and so one year you
7 may have very abundant ptarmigan populations and those
8 birds go into spring breeding season and produce a ton
9 of chicks and flood the landscape with chicks but if
10 you have very cold, rainy, wet weather for the two or
11 three weeks that immediately follow that chick hatch,
12 your population's going to absolutely implode to the
13 point where in the fall, despite seeing lots of birds
14 in the spring, you might go out in the early fall and
15 see very, very few birds because most of the birds in
16 the harvest are composed of young of the year.

17
18 So ptarmigan populations are much more
19 eruptive and very unpredictable. Unlike what a -- kind
20 of denoting it as a population cycle would imply.
21 They're very unpredictable in my opinion, and that's
22 why in other parts of the state that do receive a
23 significant portion of harvest, we -- or interest in
24 harvest, we spend a lot of time trying to monitor those
25 very erratic and often eruptive behaviors that we see
26 in ptarmigan.

27
28 MR. KOSO: Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
31 comments.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Della, with that in
34 mind I just think back 40 years ago that it seemed like
35 the weather out in your neck of the woods, once the
36 cold set in it stayed that way and wasn't -- is it
37 wetter now than it used to be and warmer, and might
38 that be a factor out in your neck of the woods?

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think for the
41 past four years, yes, but this last winter we've
42 actually had more cold and more snow than we've seen in
43 awhile. But I think more cold weather than anything, I
44 think. So I don't know what impact that has on the
45 ptarmigan. But any other comments.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess, I will
50

0065

1 try to get a hold of this person at lunch time to make
2 sure I'm clear on everything that he wanted said on
3 that. But I think it's something that we want to keep
4 on our radar here and I'm hopeful we can have a meeting
5 this fall in Cold Bay because I think it'll be helpful
6 on many levels.

7

8 So hearing no other comments, I think
9 at this point we thank you for your report, Rick.

10

11 MR. MERIZON: Thank you.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Della, one question on
14 ptarmigan.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering if the
19 Refuge out there, we've had such a turnover in
20 managers, but the ladies who are out there have been
21 out there a year or more now and it might be
22 interesting to see, you know, if their Staff have kept
23 any journals in the past comparing, you know, winters
24 in the past and, you know, if there's just any
25 anecdotal information on the ptarmigan population
26 because maybe having a cold, dry winter this year might
27 give them a real advantage coming up here on the hatch.
28 So anyway it might be worth asking the Refuge people at
29 Izembek if they've got any data or observations in the
30 general way.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. MERIZON: Madame Chair, this is
35 Rick Merizon again, if I might just be able to make one
36 brief comment.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

39

40 MR. MERIZON: Thank you. I'll try to
41 keep it brief. So over the years I've been closely
42 corresponding with our area biologist in King Salmon,
43 Dave Crowley, and I know this isn't in your region
44 specifically but it's fairly close in many respects,
45 and I know he does a lot of -- he spends a lot of time
46 in the air over the northern, centra, and to some
47 degree, the Southern Alaska Peninsula, and the last
48 four or five years, as you or another Council member
49 pointed out, we have had very largely snow free
50

0066

1 winters, or at least good portions of the winter and
2 that, we also have documented through other research
3 projects, but that has a very, very strong negative
4 effect on ptarmigan in two ways.

5
6 One, you obviously have a pretty
7 obvious color mismatch and it makes them more
8 susceptible to predation for obvious reasons.

9
10 But, two, when you do get cold weather
11 there's no snow to provide snow roosting opportunities
12 which have definitely been shown to increase survival
13 over the winter.

14
15 So, you know, it's very common for me
16 to get comments from people that say, gosh, it's been a
17 really cold, dark, snowy, windy winter, it must be
18 really bad for ptarmigan and actually those are the
19 ideal textbook perfect winters for ptarmigan. And
20 we've even noticed that birds going into a winter -- or
21 excuse me, birds coming out of a snow, cold, deep snow
22 winter are actually heavier coming out of the winter
23 than they were when they went in. So these very snow
24 free, warm and even potentially cold, but snow free
25 winters are very, very hard on ptarmigan populations.
26 And I know portions of your region have experienced
27 those over the last four or five years.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Thank
30 you, Rick. Yeah, our weather's been interesting.
31 Where we're headed the next year or two is going to be
32 interesting to watch. So thank you very much for your
33 report.

34
35 MR. MERIZON: Thank you. Thanks for
36 the time.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Donald, do
39 we want to go back to the -- since Coral is here, to
40 the election of the officers.

41
42 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Donald Mike.
43 If that's the wish of the Council we can get back to
44 the agenda of the election of officers. If that's your
45 wish, Madame Chair, and the Council.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
48 Donald.

49
50

0067

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. We
2 are on Agenda Item No. -- the election of officers. I
3 will now take -- open the nominations for the Chair for
4 the Regional Advisory Council for the Kodiak region.

5
6 Nominations are now open.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: Donald, Madame Chair, Pat.

9
10 MR. MIKE: Go ahead, Pat.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd like to repeat
13 my earlier thoughts, and I'd like to nominate Della
14 because she has a wide broad range of experience,
15 contacts throughout our region, probably more than
16 anybody on our Council and she's really got a good and
17 healthy way of running the meetings and she shuts me up
18 when I talk too much.

19
20 So I'd like to nominate Della.

21
22 MR. MIKE: Okay. There's a nomination
23 for Della Trumble for Chair. Any other nominations.

24
25 MS. BERNS: You need a second on that?

26
27 MR. MIKE: Oh, yes, please.

28
29 MS. BERNS: This is Melissa, I'll
30 second that nomination.

31
32 MR. MIKE: Okay, second by Melissa and
33 Pat Holmes nominated Della Trumble as Chair. Any other
34 nominations.

35
36 MR. KOSO: Call for the question.

37
38 MR. MIKE: Was that Mr. Koso?

39
40 MR. KOSO: Yes.

41
42 MR. MIKE: So you call the question, is
43 that also a motion to close nominations for the Chair?

44
45 MR. KOSO: Yes.

46
47 MR. MIKE: Okay. Mr. Koso moved to
48 close nominations for the Chair and call the question.
49 Okay, this will be roll call for the Chair, Della
50

0068

1 Trumble, was nominated.

2

3 Mr. Pat Holmes.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

6

7 MR. MIKE: Mr. Rick Koso.

8

9 MR. KOSO: Yes.

10

11 MR. MIKE: Mr. Sam Rohrer.

12

13 MR. ROHRER: Yes.

14

15 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chris Price.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. MIKE: Christopher Price.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MR. MIKE: Ms. Coral Chernoff.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. MIKE: Coral, are you muted?

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF: That's a yes for me --

30

sorry.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Ms. Rebecca Skinner.

33

34 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

35

36 MR. MIKE: And Ms. Natasha Hayden.

37

38 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

39

40 MR. MIKE: And Ms. Melissa Berns.

41

42 MS. BERNS: That's a yes.

43

44 MR. MIKE: And Della Trumble.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

0069

1 MR. MIKE: And, Madame Chair, we have
2 -- let's see 9 in favor and one absent. And if I can
3 get back to Coral -- Coral, are you with us.

4
5 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral voted --
8 Coral was on there Donald.

9
10 MR. MIKE: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
11 It's unanimous, Madame Chair, you have the floor.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks. Thank
14 you, everyone. And I appreciate it and I'm not sure
15 what to say except I appreciate it and will do the best
16 I can and continue to work with everybody. It's a
17 learning experience and I think that's part of one of
18 the reasons I like to be on here is you get to learn so
19 much from the various people and the region and all the
20 goings on. And as we're going through times that are
21 changing with our weather and climate change, I think
22 we all hold a heck of a lot more responsibility on our
23 shoulders, but glad to be here and glad to work with
24 all of you.

25
26 With that, I open the floor for Vice
27 Chair, do I hear any nominations.

28
29 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral. I will
30 renominate Rebecca for Vice Chair.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: I'll second, this is Pat.
33 I think it's good to have Becky available because she's
34 got that precise mindset that can tear (indiscernible)
35 to pieces and get to the point.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
40 other nominations for Vice Chair.

41
42 MR. KOSO: Call the question.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick made a
45 motion to close nominations and called for question.

46
47 MR. KOSO: Yes.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, all in
50

0070

1 favor signify by saying aye. I think we should have a
2 second on there on that for Rick though for that
3 motion.

4

5 MR. KOSO: There was a second.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All in
8 favor signify by saying aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
13 sign.

14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Rebecca, is
18 the Vice Chair, and yes Rebecca does a great job and
19 it's very important for a Council.

20

21 Secretary, I'll open nominations on the
22 floor for Secretary, do I hear any nominations.

23

24 MR. ROHRER: This is Sam Rohrer. I'll
25 nominate Melissa Berns for Secretary.

26

27 MR. KOSO: I'll second that.

28

29 MR. PRICE: I'll second that.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, so it
32 sounds like we got.....

33

34 MR. PRICE: That was Chris.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:a second by
37 Rick Koso and Chris. Any other nominations.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, a
42 motion to close motions.

43

44 MR. KOSO: Motion to close.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
47 Rick Koso, second.

48

49 MR. PRICE: Second, Chris.

50

0071

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
2 question.

3
4 MR. KOSO: Question.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
7 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
12 sign.

13
14 (No opposing votes)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
17 All right, thank you, Council.

18
19 MR. ROHRER: Della, this is Sam. You're
20 supposed to ask the nominees if they're willing to
21 serve.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good job, okay,
26 I guess that is a good point.

27
28 MR. ROHRER: I'm just kidding.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You need to let
31 us know, but understand we're not going to take any
32 different action.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, all right --
39 go ahead, Pat.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: Just a very brief
42 observation. When we had that joint meetings up in
43 Anchorage with the other RACs, and I had several guys
44 from some of the other ones saying, gee, you have so
45 many women on your Council and my response was, we need
46 them.

47
48 Anyway, thank you.

49
50

0072

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks, Pat.
2 That actually is funny. A couple years ago on our
3 statewide meeting that was brought up that we had an
4 all woman lead in our Council. I think we got a hand
5 for that one, ladies, so, yeah, good work everybody.

6
7 All right, we will move on.

8
9 Council charter review, is that where
10 we are Donald.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. Donald
13 Mike. The next agenda item is Council charter review
14 and you will find the existing Council charter
15 beginning on Page 104 through 108.

16
17 So, Madame Chair, and Council members,
18 the charter is renewed every two years and the Council
19 has the right to review and discuss any changes that
20 they would like to propose to the Federal Subsistence
21 Board and then the Board reviews the proposed changes
22 and if the Board agrees the request for proposed
23 changes is forwarded to the Secretary of Interior. And
24 a lot of the language in the current charter we have
25 are actually required by the Federal Advisory Committee
26 Act and it's implementing policy so those can't be
27 changed, the language, they can't be changed. But the
28 changes that you can request are changes to the name of
29 your Council or to the number of members on your
30 Council but you will need to have a reasonable
31 justification for it.

32
33 And the Council can also request
34 addition of language that specifies a desired
35 membership balance that, if achieved, would allow the
36 members of the Council to represent an entire region.

37
38 And also, with the delays to the
39 Council appointments experienced over the past few
40 years, the Council may want to consider requesting
41 adding a provision to its charter that allows a member
42 to serve after the expiration of his or her term until
43 a successor is appointed.

44
45 But -- and if the Council is satisfied
46 with the charter provisions as is and requests no
47 changes, then the Council can just simply move to vote
48 to forward the charter to the Federal Subsistence
49 Board.

50

0073

1 And as a reminder, during the last
2 charter review in 2019, the Secretary approved new
3 language which was suggested by the Council to their
4 charters that alternate members may be appointed to the
5 Council to fill vacancies if they occur out of cycle.
6 And the alternate member must be approved and appointed
7 by the Secretary before attending the meeting as a
8 representative.

9
10 And that's a quick overview of the
11 charter for this Council to consider, to make comments,
12 or suggested language to the charter.

13
14 Madame Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
17 Donald.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there any --
22 go ahead, Pat.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I would like to
25 entertain, maybe make a motion so we can discuss it,
26 would be that suggestion on allowing members who are
27 deleted to continue until there's a replacement if they
28 desire. I think that's a really good point. And then
29 I had a question to Donald on alternate members and I
30 just, you know, it seems like the lack of timing and
31 the replacement of Council members, we were fortunate,
32 but some of the folks in the Interior there really got
33 cut, and being those decisions aren't made by the
34 respective Councils as saying who is good to represent
35 them, it's made by some Secretary or something, Under
36 Secretary to the Under Secretary in Washington D.C.,
37 based on who knows what, and is there any way, Donald,
38 where we can have some influence or suggest people that
39 would be good as representatives in our region, because
40 it seems like we're just totally left out in the rain.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
45 Donald.

46
47 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. For
48 alternate members, you know, it's unfortunate that our
49 nominations process we take in nominations or
50

0074

1 applications during the nominations cycle and those go
2 through an interview process by InterAgency Staff
3 Committee Panel and those applicants are rated and
4 forwarded on to the Federal Subsistence Board to
5 consider and make its recommendations to the
6 Secretaries of the Interior, so that list will probably
7 include alternate members when the nomination package
8 goes forward. So for alternates to serve, those
9 alternate members must be approved by the Secretary of
10 Interior also, so it would be part of the whole
11 nomination package in addition to the primary
12 candidates to be considered for a seat on the Council.
13 So alternate members will have to be also approved by
14 the Secretary of Interior so that way when a member
15 resigns or can no longer serve, that alternate member
16 will be able to fill in the remainder of the term of
17 that vacant seat.

18

19 Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Pat,
22 did that answer your question.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, yeah, it does. I
25 guess it's we don't have any input on who's on our
26 Council. If that option is there, that Donald
27 mentioned earlier about allowing a member to continue
28 after he's dropped by whomever makes those decision, I
29 think that would be worthy of discussion from our
30 Council, and I'd like to propose that we do that.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
33 So maybe my question at this point, Pat, are you
34 entertaining a motion.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Then.....

39

40 MS. SKINNER: Della, can I ask a quick
41 question about alternates before we get a motion on the
42 floor.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sure, go ahead.

45

46 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thanks. This is
47 Rebecca. So Donald I heard what you just said about
48 alternates, I am still not clear how the process for
49 alternate applications and appointments work. So my
50

0075

1 first question is, do people apply to be alternates or
2 are alternates chosen out of the pool of people who
3 apply for a regular seat; that's one question. And
4 then my second question is, given that this concept of
5 alternates has been around, and was in our last charter
6 that was signed in 2019, I guess I expected to have
7 alternates appointed by this point in time and it
8 sounds like we don't have any alternates that were
9 appointed, that would be available to fill in. So I
10 guess my question is, is that correct? And then kind
11 of related question, when do we expect to see
12 alternates being approved and appointed.

13

14 Those are my questions, thanks.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 I'll address the first question first as far as
18 alternate members. Those applicants or nominations,
19 they go through the interview process and those names
20 are submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board and all
21 the applicants or nominations are ranked based on their
22 experience on some criteria, based on their knowledge
23 of subsistence, of course, and communication and
24 leadership and those are ranked accordingly to their
25 experience. However many seats are vacant, those
26 ranked nominations or applicants will be forwarded for
27 recommended appointments. And then the ranking list
28 that goes, we will select the alternate members to be
29 considered and the Secretary may approve those
30 alternates.

31

32 I think -- does that answer your
33 question, Rebecca, and can you repeat the second
34 question, again, please.

35

36 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I think that does
37 answer my question, and just to repeat back your
38 answer. The response was, there is not a separate
39 application to apply to be an alternate, so somebody
40 doesn't indicate in their application I would like to
41 be an alternate. What happens is people apply to be on
42 the RAC and they either make it to be -- they're
43 appointed to the RAC, is they're not appointed to the
44 RAC they remain on the list and then I think the top
45 ranked people could be chosen to be forwarded as
46 alternates. So it's not a choice that an applicant or
47 nominee makes, it's a result of the ranking process.
48 So, yes, you did answer that.

49

50

0076

1 My other question had to do with when
2 we might expect to have alternates appointed. I guess
3 I thought that the process of alternates had been
4 approved for awhile and I honestly thought that we
5 would have alternates by now but it sounds like we
6 don't. And so my question is, when might we expect to
7 see alternates approved for the KRAC.

8
9 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 Yes, unfortunately during these last two nomination
11 cycles we did not receive very much applications during
12 the nomination cycles and with the limited amount of
13 candidates to move forward, you know, there was no
14 opportunity for applicants to be considered as
15 alternates. So like I said these last two cycles we
16 did not receive very many applications, and in some
17 cases, you know, there was just two or three applicants
18 to fill three or four seats and so that didn't provide
19 an opportunity or window for alternate members to be
20 considered.

21
22 But for the nomination cycle this year,
23 our nominations application period has been extended to
24 March 12th.

25
26 Rebecca. Madame Chair, does that
27 answer your question.

28
29 MS. SKINNER: It does, thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
32 there any other questions or comments in regard to the
33 charter before we take action.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe just a
38 comment. I definitely would support this allowing
39 current members until the replacement is in place. Let
40 me go back to our statewide meeting, and Jack Reakoff
41 from the Eastern Interior [sic] spoke -- Jack has been
42 a part of this process for decades and none of their
43 Council had gotten reappointed or appointed at all,
44 somehow -- I'm not even sure what happened. But I
45 think when you lose people off your Council that
46 participate and are strong on your Council it's a sad
47 thing to see happen, No. 1, and, No. 2., it leaves, I
48 think a big gaping hole, I think, when you lose all
49 that time and ability to even hold meetings. So I
50

0077

1 think having this -- being able to remain on the
2 Council until the replacements are finalized, I think,
3 is very important.

4

5 So with that, I guess, Pat, if you want
6 to go ahead maybe with a motion.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to move to do
9 just what Della said. That people remain on the
10 Council as alternatives until their replacement is
11 available to attend the meetings. Is that reasonable.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So the motion is
14 to allow Council members to remain on the Council until
15 a replacement is authorized, or appointed.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Authorize -- yeah,
18 whichever.

19

20 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
21 Donald.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
24 Donald.

25

26 MR. MIKE: Yeah, if I can restate or
27 try to capture what Mr. Holmes' motion was. His motion
28 was to allow members to continue to serve on the
29 Council when their term ends until there's a seat that
30 has been filled by the Secretary's office, and the
31 other part of this motion was to have alternate members
32 be included and identified when an existing member
33 retires or is vacant.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair, that
38 would be perfectly acceptable wording. Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Do I
41 hear a second.

42

43 MR. KOSO: I'll second that, Della.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Rick.
46 I think maybe this would be appropriate, Donald, to
47 have a roll call vote on this.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0078

1 This is a roll call vote on Kodiak/Aleutians
2 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council charter.

3

4

5 The motion was to allow existing
6 members to continue to serve on the Council until their
7 seats are filled by the Secretary's office, and to
8 require -- or to include in the charter alternate
9 members be included as part of the nominations process
10 package.

10

11

Mr. Pat Holmes.

12

13

MR. HOLMES: Yes.

14

15

MR. MIKE: Mr. Rick Koso.

16

17

MR. KOSO: Yes.

18

19

MR. MIKE: Mr. Sam Rohrer.

20

21

MR. ROHRER: Yes.

22

23

MR. MIKE: Mr. Chris Price.

24

25

MR. PRICE: Yes.

26

27

MR. MIKE: Ms. Coral Chernoff.

28

29

MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

30

31

MR. MIKE: Ms. Rebecca Skinner.

32

33

MS. SKINNER: Yes.

34

35

MR. MIKE: Ms. Della Trumble.

36

37

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

38

39

MR. MIKE: Ms. Natasha Hayden.

40

41

MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

42

43

MR. MIKE: And Ms. Melissa Berns.

44

45

MS. BERNS: Yes.

46

47

48

MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, the motion
49 passes unanimously, thank you.

50

50

0079

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.....

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:Donald.

6

7 MS. SKINNER: Can I ask a question.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
10 Rebecca.

11

12 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, and I apologize I
13 should have asked this before voting. I just wanted to
14 clarify the second part of the motion that alternate
15 members be included, like in the package that goes to
16 the Secretary, is that just additional wording that
17 would appear in the paragraph at the top of Page 5 or
18 Page 108 of the packet, where it talks about alternate
19 members may be appointed to the Council. Was the
20 amendment just to clarify that we expect the alternate
21 members would be identified and appointed at the same
22 time that the regular Council members are identified?

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald.

25

26 MR. MIKE: Yes, sorry, Madame Chair, my
27 phone was on mute. So that was my understanding of the
28 Council action on the recommended changes to its
29 charter, to include that language on Page 108.

30

31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

34

35 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, this is
36 George Pappas. I have an update on the Council
37 appointments for other Councils and this came out last
38 night about 7:00 p.m.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
41 George.

42

43 MR. PAPPAS: So on March 8th, I got
44 this email from Katya at 7:11 last night, today the OSM
45 received the remaining Regional Advisory Council
46 appointments thus reducing the number of currently
47 vacant seats from 35 to 8. So glad to announce that as
48 of Monday we received copies of the additional 27
49 appointment letters with full sets of appointments for
50

0080

1 the Western Interior, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Southeast
2 Alaska, Eastern Interior, North Slope and Southcentral.
3 At this time there are only 8 vacant seats on all
4 Councils. So this is huge news. It took some time to
5 get through the Administration. Every time an
6 Administration switches, there's a stall, everything
7 gets frozen up so they can review what's going on, and
8 some how this was prioritized and executed, so that is
9 good news across the state.

10

11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
14 George. And I think that was also at the statewide
15 meeting, was to do anything they can to get those seats
16 appointed so that is definitely good news.

17

18 At this point in time it's just seven
19 minutes before noon, do you want to break for lunch and
20 come back at say 1:15 maybe and resume with the
21 meeting, or do you want to go ahead and do one more
22 item on the agenda. What is your wishes?

23

24 MS. SKINNER: Della, quick question.
25 Do we need to do a motion to approve the whole charter
26 or did we just approve an amendment to the charter and
27 do we now need to approve the whole charter or is that
28 not necessary.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, do you
31 want to answer that, are we just requesting to add to
32 our charter or amending it.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Yeah, it's just a request for
35 your input on your charter for the review, so the
36 Council does not need to vote on the whole charter,
37 just the input on the existing charter for additional
38 language or clarification.

39

40 Thank you, Madame Chair.

41

42 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

45

46 MR. PRICE: I would like to break for
47 lunch, Della.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We can

50

0081

1 break for lunch, is 1:15 good for everyone.

2

3 MR. PRICE: That's fine.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Yes. It's time for Chris
6 to go swim across the channel down there at Dutch.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. PRICE: It's a nice day here, it's
11 nice and sunny we could swim in the creek.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,
14 everyone, we'll break for lunch and resume at 1:15.

15

16 MR. ROHRER: Thank you.

17

18 (Off record)

19

20 (On record)

21

22 MR. MIKE: Okay, Della, this is Donald,
23 whenever you're ready to start I can start on the roll
24 call for the Council members. So just let me know.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, if you
27 would like, it's fine with me. Go ahead.

28

29 MR. MIKE: Okay. Welcome back everybody
30 from your lunch break and I understand it's nice
31 weather out on the Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak, so next
32 time we're meeting in Kodiak.

33

34 Okay, Mr. Pat Holmes.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Here.

37

38 MR. MIKE: Mr. Rick Koso.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MR. MIKE: Rick, you with us.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MR. MIKE: Mr. Sam Rohrer.

47

48 MR. ROHRER: I'm back.

49

50

0082

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chris Price.

2

3 MR. PRICE: Here.

4

5 MR. MIKE: Ms. Coral Chernoff.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MR. MIKE: Ms. Rebecca Skinner.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. MIKE: Della's here.

14

15 Natasha Hayden.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. MIKE: Melissa Berns.

20

21 MS. BERNS: I'm here.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Okay, Della, we got about
24 four available so we'll give another minute, okay.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sounds good.

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral, I'm here
29 also.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I think Sam
34 wanted to be excused from 2:00 to 2:30 so if he drops
35 off he'll be back on.

36

37 MR. ROHRER: Yep, thanks, Della. I can
38 email you when I'm back on if that's easiest, or just
39 announce or what would you prefer.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Either way is
42 good, whatever's good for you.

43

44 MR. ROHRER: If you're watching your
45 email I'll just shoot you a quick email.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sounds good.

48

49 MR. ROHRER: Thanks.

50

0083

1 MR. MIKE: Rick Koso are you with us.

2

3 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm here.

4

5 MR. MIKE: Okay.

6

7 Rebecca Skinner.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. MIKE: Natasha Hayden.

12

13 MS. HAYDEN: I'm here.

14

15 MR. MIKE: Okay. So we're waiting on
16 Rebecca.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just so
19 everybody knows the next item on the agenda will be
20 review and approve the FY2020 annual report on Page 109
21 in your booklet.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 REPORTER: So while we're at a little
26 pause right here, if everybody could take a moment and
27 make sure that you're muted, so we have typing, other
28 noises, and just before we start it's always a good
29 time to check. So look down at your device, make sure
30 you're muted with star six. Thank you, and it's
31 appreciated.

32

33 MR. MIKE: Thank you. Thank you, Tina.
34 I apologize I'm neglecting my other duties to remind
35 the public to mute their phones. Has Rebecca Skinner
36 joined us yet.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So maybe,
41 Donald, as we're waiting, are there any members of the
42 public that wish to testify or speak at this time, if
43 you're online.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, can you
48 call Rebecca and see if she's going to be here shortly
49 or should we go ahead and get started.

50

0084

1 (Pause)

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Hey, Della.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: She's texting me right
8 now. I think she's having a hard time getting on.
9 Let's see.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Go ahead,
12 Pat.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, KJ Orlof, she's the
15 CEO of the Native Village of Afognak was on earlier,
16 and I don't know if she'll be back but she was wanting
17 to listen in today so I just want to let you know she
18 was there. And I think you had Tom Lance and Matt Van
19 Daele were going to be calling in from the Sun'aq
20 Tribe.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, Pat, they
23 did call in earlier, so hopefully everybody gets back
24 online.

25

26 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, I think Rebecca's
27 having trouble hearing. She's texting me and asking me
28 if anyone's talking. So probably just give her a
29 minute and she'll probably call back in.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. What may
32 be happening, Coral, and I think I was online and then
33 all of a sudden got hit with a lot of static. This
34 time of the year we get sun spots and as they move
35 through I think it makes it hard for internet or phone
36 service, so that may be what's happening.

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 MR. MIKE: Hey, Della, this is Donald.
41 While we're waiting for Rebecca to sign in, I just want
42 to remind the Council members that a few weeks ago I
43 sent out additional supplemental material in the mail
44 and the top page states supplemental materials; A,
45 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge; B is Kodiak National
46 Wildlife Refuge and I had B1 ADF&G Sportfish, and D2 as
47 ADF&G Subsistence. And I got agency report from Alaska
48 Maritime Delahanty and I shared that with Council
49 members on email. But just FYI.

50

0085

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay, Della, Rebecca
4 says she's on so she might be able to hear us now.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

7

8 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Rebecca's on. I
9 dialed in but for some reason it didn't connect me so I
10 had to hang up and dial back but I'm on now, thanks.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. With
13 that I guess we'll move on to the review and approve
14 FY2020 annual report.

15

16 Donald.

17

18 MR. MIKE: Yes, thank you, Madame
19 Chair. This is Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. On
20 Page 108 begins the FY2020 annual report from the
21 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council.

22

23 At our fall meeting these issues were
24 brought up for discussion and approved for a draft
25 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board, and the
26 Council's identified eight issues.

27

28 1. Is Adak Island Caribou Management
29 Plan.

30

31 2. From the Izembek National Wildlife
32 Refuge, for further information.

33

34 3. Regional Advisory Council Alternate
35 Members.

36

37 4. Sea Otter, Endangered Species
38 Designation.

39

40 5. Fisheries Resource Monitoring
41 Program.

42

43 6. Food Security.

44

45 7. Closure Reviews.

46

47 8. Invasive Species.

48

49 So those are the eight issues that the

50

0086

1 Council identified for their annual report to be
2 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.

3

4 Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
7 Donald. Does anybody have any comments or additions or
8 corrections in regards to this report.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I've got a
11 couple small suggested adjustments.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Item 2 on Page 110. Oh, I
16 want to first say that Donald did a really bang up job
17 of putting this together considering all the talk that
18 went into it, so, attaboy Donald.

19

20 No. 2. first sentence, the Council
21 acknowledges hiring, I believe it should be more
22 appropriate to say, appreciates the hiring because we
23 lobbied quite a bit to get that position filled and I
24 know it was tough and we got some great folks out
25 there. So appreciate would be better on that sentence.

26

27 On Page 111 down at the bottom, second
28 to the last paragraph, there's a sentence that says
29 stock assessment and habitat assessment within the
30 Kodiak archipelago should be conducted to determine the
31 population is healthy. I believe they are doing those
32 assessments to some extent, and I wonder if evaluated
33 rather than conducted, or conducted/evaluated.

34

35 And then on the last sentence -- or in
36 the last paragraph, first sentence, the Council is
37 interested in participating in agency sponsored
38 meetings and other public forums, and then I would have
39 relating to its knowledge concerning sea otters.
40 Because and has knowledge -- I think having it say
41 relating to its knowledge would be a little more
42 precise on what we were discussing at the time.

43

44 Thank you, Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
47 Is there any other comments.

48

49 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Della, this is

50

0087

1 Rebecca.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead

4 Rebecca.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. I guess this is
7 a question, under No. 2, would it be appropriate to
8 include the new manager's name of Izembek, or I guess I
9 would recommend that we include the new manager's name,
10 I believe that's Maria Fosado; is that correct?

11

12 MR. MIKE: That is correct.

13

14 MS. FOSADO: Yes, that is correct.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Okay. If that's
17 appropriate, I would suggest adding the actual name in
18 there.

19

20 And on No. 7, the closure review, and
21 Donald I don't know if you would have done this anyway,
22 but the information that then -- Section 7 is a bit
23 dated, I guess we did defer all seven closure reviews
24 until our winter meeting, but then in the meantime the
25 Federal Subsistence Board also deferred those closure
26 reviews. Do you need specific direction to just update
27 No. 7 to include activities or things that happened
28 since this was drafted, or is that something that -- or
29 if we just say, hey, can you update that, is that
30 enough direction for you, Donald.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Council.
33 Yes, Ms. Skinner. I can update that section of the
34 paragraph and I'll share it with you for further
35 comments and I'll share it with the OSM Staff and make
36 sure we got it correct. It's noted on my notes to
37 update that.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And then,
42 Donald.....

43

44 MS. SKINNER: Okay. And then I guess
45 the only -- oh, I'm sorry -- the only new thing to add
46 to that was our discussion about having an outreach
47 plan, if it could just be mentioned somewhere, that we
48 are going to be working on that.

49

50

0088

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
4 that would be the outreach plan working group also.
5 Because there was kind of a group of names submitted
6 for that. Is that correct, Rebecca?

7

8 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, however much detail
9 is appropriate. I just thought we should note in there
10 that we are, you know, taking the initiative to try to
11 have input and give feedback on what level of outreach
12 we feel is appropriate on the closure reviews.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
17 other comments.

18

19 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
20 Donald.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
23 Donald.

24

25 MR. MIKE: Yes, on Issue No. 1, Adak
26 Island Caribou Management Plan. I'm currently working
27 on that process but I'll keep the Council members
28 updated as far as how it's progressing as we move along
29 on the management plan. We'll keep you posted.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Just
34 out of curiosity, Donald, I know that it was brought up
35 that Alaska Maritime would start with this process, do
36 you have -- has that started or should we just leave
37 that for Steve when he does his report?

38

39 MR. MIKE: My office -- or, yeah, my
40 Program, we helped sort of initiate the process to move
41 along and I'll be issuing -- or writing a
42 correspondence to those involved in the Adak
43 management, that includes ADF&G and Alaska Maritime and
44 those correspondence, I'll share with the Chair and
45 Council members affected by this and stay tuned and
46 we'll move on.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0089

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
2 Donald. Any other comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, is
7 it appropriate we move to approve the annual report as
8 amended.

9
10 MR. MIKE: Yes, that's appropriate,
11 Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do I hear a
14 motion.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Move to approve the
17 adjustment of our annual report. Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
20 Motion made by Pat Holmes, do I hear a second.

21
22 MS. BERNS: This is Melissa, I'll
23 second that motion.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa Berns
26 seconds. Discussion.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
31 question.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All in
40 favor signify by saying aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
45 sign.

46
47 MR. KOSO: Hello.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

0090

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

2

3 MR. KOSO: Hello, do you hear me Della.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I hear you
6 Rick.

7

8 MR. KOSO: Oh, okay, my phone got cut
9 off here so I don't know -- okay, I'm back on again.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. But I
12 don't know where you got dropped off but there was some
13 amendments made and then a motion was made to approve
14 the 2020 annual report as amended.

15

16 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I got most of that
17 Della, so that's good.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thanks.
20 So the next item on the agenda is Fishery Resource
21 Monitoring Program and update, OSM.

22

23 MR. STONE: All right, good afternoon,
24 Madame Chair and members of the Council. My name is
25 Jared Stone and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the
26 Office of Subsistence Management. And I am joined
27 today with my colleague, Robbin LaVine, who is a Staff
28 Anthropologist. I'm here today to give you a brief
29 update on the Council -- to the Council on the
30 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and the funding
31 opportunity that closes on Monday, March 15th. This is
32 not an action item for today.

33

34 We are currently seeking applications
35 for projects that address priority information needs
36 that you had developed at your last Council meeting and
37 that help to gather information to manage and conserve
38 subsistence fisheries in Federal public waters in
39 Alaska. The Monitoring Program is also directed at
40 supporting meaningful involvement in fisheries
41 management by Alaska Native and rural organizations and
42 promoting collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska
43 Native and local organizations.

44

45 For the 2022 funding cycle it is
46 anticipated that there will be about \$2.25 million
47 available for the first year of new projects. Anyone
48 wanting to apply can find information about the program
49 on the Federal Subsistence Management Program web page
50

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1 or by visiting www.grants.gov.

2

3

4 After the funding opportunity window
5 closes, applications will then be reviewed by the
6 Technical Review Committee. The results of that review
7 will be presented to you at your next meeting.

7

8

9 Again, this is not an action item. And
10 if there are any questions I would be happy to address
11 them now.

11

12

Thank you.

13

14

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Jared. Are there any questions or comments for Jared.

16

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Jared, Pat here. I
19 understand that the -- some of the cost that OSM would
20 normally have for meetings, that there's a possibility
21 that that might be rechanneled into the FRMP process;
22 is that possible or is it?

22

23

Thank you.

24

25

26 MR. STONE: Through the Chair and
27 Council Member Mr. Holmes, that's a great question.
28 The number that I provided today, the 2.25 million is
29 not a set in stone number, that number can fluctuate
30 given various things such as money savings through not
31 traveling Regional Advisory Council meetings. It is at
32 the directive of the Assistant Regional Director, Sue
33 Detwiler, to make the final call and to decide at what
34 level to fund down the list of projects that are deemed
35 fundable. And so that is a possibility but I am not at
36 liberty right now to say to what degree that that might
37 happen.

37

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Roger. Thank you. And I
40 had another question, one I always bring up. One time,
41 10 years or so back, we had a representative on that
42 Council that evaluated proposals and then we -- our
43 Council in the past, recent years, has commented
44 sometimes, particularly when we were trying to get
45 funding on McLees Lake, that it would have helped to
46 have had some input from our Council from some miss-
47 assumptions that were made by that review committee,
48 and just wondering if there would be potential that
49 we'd get back to where we were where we had a
50 representative or our Chair would sit in on that

50

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1 evaluation process, not necessarily to say who's best
2 but to say, clarifications on issues where there might
3 be some error in interpretation. And I hope that the
4 review committee will take our comments in our minutes
5 to heart if we aren't allowed to have a representative
6 on that committee.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, if I may.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Jared.

13

14 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
15 Chair, and to address Mr. Holmes question. That's a
16 great question and we've incorporated a way for us,
17 after the TRC has -- the Technical Review Committee,
18 after they have reviewed the project, we bring the list
19 of fundable projects to the Councils, and this will be,
20 I believe, next fall, so the fall of -- or I'm sorry,
21 this fall, so it'll be actually this fall, so it'll be
22 fall of 2021, and we'll bring the list of projects that
23 were deemed fundable by the Technical Review Committee
24 to the Regional Advisory Councils to gather your
25 recommendations or input regarding each of the
26 projects. And if there are discrepancies or things
27 that maybe were unclear during the time of review, the
28 Council does have a chance to help add clarification or
29 address any issues that might surface. And in the fall
30 meeting materials we'll be including what we call the
31 investigative plan reviews and that's the OSM reviews.
32 Staff analysts review each of these projects and offer
33 up their insight as to what they see are the, you know,
34 strengths of the projects and sometimes the
35 shortcomings, and so in your meeting materials for the
36 fall cycle you'll have a chance to view those materials
37 and then bring up any questions that you might have
38 regarding any of the specifics about a project.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thank you, good
41 response. And I just -- the reason I made that was
42 when we were discussing McLees Lake for three years in
43 a row, the assumption was made by the committee that
44 the State should be funding McLees Lake and so it went
45 without funding for a year and, you know, that would
46 have been really important information for the local
47 folks there on knowing the strength of that run because
48 I believe the returning fish that might have gone out --
49 anyway they had a significant decline and so it's just
50

0093

1 -- just hope that folks pay attention to the Councils
2 and their concerns and that's as important as to
3 whether or not all the I's are dotted in the proposal.
4

5 But thank you very much for what you do
6 and really appreciate your folks guidance when we were
7 working through those plans and I think that one that
8 we worked out, particularly working with Bristol Bay, I
9 think that will be beneficial for both parts of our
10 region.

11
12 Thank you, sir.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
15 other comments for Jared.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Jared, I
20 guess that covers that, thank you very much.

21
22 All right, next item on the agenda,
23 agency reports. We have Mortensens and Russell Creek
24 issues; is that correct, Donald, on ADF&G?
25

26 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
27 Donald. Yes, based on the issues we've heard in the
28 past week or so I thought it would be a good approach
29 to address these by agency, we can start off with the
30 Mortensens and Russell Creek issue and hear reports
31 from ADF&G Sportfish, and then if we have any
32 additional input from Federal in-season managers, and
33 we'll provide an opportunity for Kodiak Council to ask
34 questions, and, if needed, we can hear public comments
35 or testimony on the issues of subsistence on Mortensens
36 and Russell Creek.

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
41 Donald. Just out of curiosity, should I -- I'm not
42 sure what ADF&G has in regard to the issues that were
43 brought to my attention and that I did share with the
44 Council members, should I maybe read that into the
45 record, what I have, or what should be the best
46 process?
47

48 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Those
49 testimonies you received through email or telephone
50

0094

1 calls, you know, you can treat it as public comment and
2 if you wish, and benefit of the Council and public and
3 ADF&G and Federal Staff, I think it will serve as a
4 good starting point to have the discussion on how to
5 address these issues.

6

7

Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
10 Donald. I'm not sure that that answered that question.
11 But what I will do, just for the record, is there --
12 the letter that I received -- I received two actually
13 from Cold Bay, one by email and one by text and email.

14

15

16

17

But basically in reference to
Mortensens Lagoon -- well, let me just read this whole
thing and that way it's covered.

18

19

Just basically it says:

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Subsistence fishing in Russell Creek
needs to be allowed much before sportsfishing needs to
happen.

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I think we talked a little bit, you
know, on the issue around the ptarmigan, but the guided
waterfowl hunting was -- or has, by far, over pressured
the small area where subsistence users used to reliably
harvest the necessary birds required for winter.

0095

1 Hunting was so over pressured in the fall of 2020 that
2 clients of guided hunts complained it was too difficult
3 to harvest birds in a day at Izembek Lagoon when they
4 have nothing else to do but hunt morning until dark.
5 How difficult do you think it is for subsistence users
6 who must go to work all day and then try to find birds
7 in the evening.

8
9 ANILCA specifically states that
10 subsistence takes priority and we were able to get a
11 subsistence waterfowl hunt, this is a great stride for
12 subsistence users but the subsistence waterfowl season
13 of April to August, we get a very small chance to
14 harvest birds because they are not here during those
15 dates, it is believed that the season gives the
16 subsistence user the upper hand but it couldn't be more
17 wrong. If the season is so fair we should switch the
18 hunt dates with sports users. Sports takes April to
19 August and subsistence September to December. This
20 would bring an immediate conclusion that the
21 subsistence hunt dates we currently have do not work
22 well.

23
24 I feel it would be most beneficial to
25 extend the subsistence waterfowl season until at least
26 October 15th, and open the sports season October 16th,
27 or reduce a limit of waterfowl on two daily limits for
28 an annual limit for non-subsistence users.

29
30 I hit on the issues around the
31 ptarmigan earlier today, so those are the one comments,
32 and I need to find the other in my email, what the
33 other ones were. But that kind of hits on the issue
34 from a resident in Cold Bay and I'll find my other
35 email to read that other one into the record. That
36 kind of hits, number 1, as we start with the issue
37 around sportfish.

38
39 So I guess we could start there, those
40 are the issues on Mortensen and Russell. Russell, I
41 have to admit that's not the first time I've been asked
42 why there isn't a subsistence fishery there. I think --

43 I want to say four to five years ago when salmon was a
44 problem just about everywhere, I know definitely there
45 was no salmon, people are having a hard time just
46 getting a subsistence red salmon from Cold Bay. You
47 know it was -- I just -- I think -- I'm hopeful that,
48 you know, that these don't -- doesn't become a trend
49 but it is something that I think we need to start
50

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1 looking at.

2

3 So with that do we just move on to the
4 ADF&G sportfish agency report?

5

6 MR. POLUM: Madame Chair, this is Tyler
7 Polum, Kodiak Alaska Peninsula Aleutian Islands
8 Sportfish Biologist.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tyler.

11

12 MR. POLUM: Hi, Della. We -- I had
13 heard there was some sort of inquiry about this to the
14 RAC but didn't ever get anything -- any kind of the
15 background until just now when you read it. We can
16 provide what little information we have about the
17 sportfishery in Mortensens and Russell Creek. And I'm
18 sure Lisa and Tyler out of Sand Point and Cold Bay who
19 do the surveys could actually provide, you know,
20 information on the runs there.

21

22 Our agency report was actually supposed
23 to be about Buskin, not -- we didn't -- we don't have
24 an agency report prepared, so Kelly Krueger, our
25 fisheries biologist, was going to give a different
26 agency report not related to this. So if you guys have
27 questions about this, we'd be glad to answer them but
28 we don't have an agency report about this, we weren't --
29 that wasn't something we were asked to do.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And I
32 think i just basically read that as an issue and that's
33 probably appropriate for this time and then moving
34 forward with the other reports. But I think to bring
35 it to our attention, because I'm hopeful with being
36 able to start traveling again, I usually spend time
37 talking to people face to face in Cold Bay or visiting
38 with people and just getting a good sense of how things
39 are going and then being able to talk to the various
40 guides and just the community, in general, and I've
41 only done one trip since March last year. So I will
42 start traveling again and make that effort.

43

44 But I also think that now is a good
45 time to be looking at some of these issues and
46 hopefully that we have our meeting in Cold Bay this
47 fall and able to start getting a better grasp of the
48 situation between now and then and looking to what we
49 can do to address some of the issues in this fall.

50

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1 And I'll continue to work with people
2 on that and with Donald.

3
4 So with that.....

5
6 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:we'll go
9 ahead and -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

10
11 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I was just wondering
12 if the either Sportfish or CommFish was approached on
13 the problem in-season because I believe in other areas,
14 and cases where things have unexpectedly happened if
15 folks contacted the immediate managers that they
16 usually try to make some adjustment or go and check
17 things out, so I was wondering if the folks that
18 communicated with you, if they made any approaches or
19 contact with those folks.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to
24 technically say probably not at this point, and because
25 it was a more of issue of subsistence that they came to
26 me directly, and that's my guess. And I will -- on the
27 17th I will be going to Cold Bay and make an effort to
28 talk both these gentlemen and get a little better
29 grasp, I think face to face, of what some of the things
30 that are going on.

31
32 But I think the other concern had to do
33 with escapement in Mortensens. I've also been told,
34 you know, there's a concern with Thin Point and, you
35 know, just whether this is something that's going to
36 continue to happen or it's just happening this last
37 year, I just want to make sure we're all aware of it at
38 this point.

39
40 MR. KOSO: Hey Della.

41
42 MS. FOX: Madame Chair, this is Lisa
43 Fox with Fish and Game.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, is
46 that you, Lisa?

47
48 MS. FOX: Yeah, it's me, can you hear me
49 okay?

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I could hear you
2 fine, Lisa, go ahead.

3
4 MS. FOX: Okay, yeah, so we were
5 experiencing some lower escapements in Mortensens.
6 This last year was pretty bad and the last couple of
7 years before that weren't that great either for
8 escapement. Thin Point had okay escapement this year
9 but it has had a couple of bad years before that, and
10 it's just kind of this general trend for some of the
11 sockeye salmon populations on the south side of the
12 Alaska Peninsula. Orzinsky had really, really low
13 returns also, and McLees had low returns, even though
14 that's cycle's a little bit different than the other
15 sockeye systems.

16
17 So I think just the low escapement at
18 Mortensens probably triggered more of a concern as far
19 as how many fish there were to go around.

20
21 And we were approached by the people in
22 Cold Bay after the season was over, kind of with these
23 concerns, and, you know, there have been bad years in
24 the past where the sockeye come back after and without
25 much change in management, they've come back without
26 much issue. So we're hopeful that it's just this kind
27 of same trend that's going on in a lot of the other
28 sockeye systems where there's been two or three years
29 of not great concerns and that they'll rebound as they
30 have in the past but we also have made ourselves
31 available if there's any regulatory changes that
32 anybody would like to make, we can help with that as
33 well.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
36 Lisa. I'll make sure they're aware of that too. I
37 thought I heard one more person wanting to make a
38 comment.

39
40 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

43
44 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I think, you know, the
45 problem is probably -- and the sportfishing is
46 certainly not going to get any better since Alaska
47 Airlines started to fly into Cold Bay. I think you've
48 probably seen an influx into -- I would venture to say
49 around 50 percent more passengers coming to Cold Bay to
50

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1 do sportfishing and hunting, because it's accessible, a
2 lot better now than before. So I don't think
3 sportfishing's going to get any better there unless
4 there's some action taken.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
7 And I'm probably going to agree with that. When you
8 consider that we had an issue with Covid and people
9 traveling, they had a pretty busy season there with the
10 fish and the birds, wildlife.

11

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
And I'm probably going to agree with that. When you
consider that we had an issue with Covid and people
traveling, they had a pretty busy season there with the
fish and the birds, wildlife.

We need to -- I think -- I'm not sure
what the answer is right now, but to put this on our
radar and to keep a close watch on it and figure if
there's things we need to start looking at putting in
place, and, ironically, this kind of falls to some
degree into the subsistence with the 20 year -- on the
20 year that we've been looking at.

But, anyway, Lisa, I'll try -- well, I
think working with Donald and you and whatever we need
to do to try to figure something out. I do want to
make an effort so everybody's aware and we try to watch
this closely and be prepared to do whatever needs to be
done.

MR. POLUM: Della, this is Tyler with
Fish and Game again. Can I jump in here?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead,
Tyler.

MR. POLUM: I just wanted to offer up,
too, for any of the sportfishing issues or anything
that you guys would like to discuss, too, I'm glad to
work with you guys and Lisa, too. We don't -- as
you've probably heard me say many, many times, out
there we have very little information on sportfishing
because the populations are so small, but we'll be glad
to help in whatever we can and if there are folks that
want to work with the State process and the Board of
Fisheries process, local managers to adopt different
regulations for those areas, we'd be glad to talk to
them and help craft proposals and work within that
system as well.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, thank you,
Tyler. And one of the things, you know, that was
brought to my attention because I am the CEO for King

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1 Cove Corporation and as one of the major land owners
2 over there is the issue around the permit system, and
3 I've been getting more -- people have been -- some of
4 these guys have been going on corporation lands and
5 then on to crossing our lands to get to Russell with
6 the guides and I do have a call here yesterday from a
7 gentleman that wants to be able to use corporation
8 lands to go out and take his people on there for
9 sportsfish, and one of the comments that I received
10 actually from someone in Cold Bay was asking the King
11 Cove Corporation to cut people out from access.

12

13 The thing of it is, there's a couple
14 issues. Part of it is our fault on figuring out how to
15 enforce this when you don't have a Trooper or an
16 enforcement officer in Cold Bay and how do we address
17 this and it's something the Board -- we will be
18 discussing here in the next month or so and in all our
19 meetings that we're coming up on, how do we look at and
20 resolve this and there is a cost associated to having
21 to have some sort of enforcement of something over
22 there, or paying someone to watch but, you know, they
23 were asking us to not allow for permits, and then of
24 course we have had an issue where I've gotten actually
25 pictures of hunters -- or guides with people on our
26 lands and so that's something that I am going to take
27 up with our Board here in the next weekend at our
28 meeting coming up.

29

30 As a possibility, maybe Lisa and Tyler,
31 and Donald, is to maybe try to figure out if there's a
32 way we can hold some sort of a public forum just, not
33 necessarily a meeting kind of thing, but a way to get
34 more information and input from various people, if
35 they're willing to step forward and taking a look at
36 this issue. I don't know what the real answer is but I
37 think if there's a way we could do something along
38 those lines might be beneficial.

39

40 MR. POLUM: Della, this is Tyler. Does
41 the King Cove have an AC anymore for the State Board of
42 Fisheries, that might be a venue if they do?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: King Cove, yeah,
45 I've been working, not specifically with on this, well,
46 we started talking about it but then Grant's been
47 traveling for some medical issues and hopefully will be
48 back soon because I wanted to sit and talk with him a
49 little bit more. King Cove does, Cold Bay I've been

50

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1 talking to the Mayor, and I haven't talked to him
2 directly on some of these issues specifically, but I
3 hope to talk to him when I go through on the 17th.

4

5 MR. POLUM: Okay. And this is Tyler
6 again. You may be able to work with Taryn (ph), the AC
7 coordinator to maybe include Cold Bay residents in
8 those meetings because the proximity is so close there.
9 That's happened in other areas as well, like here in
10 Kodiak there's groups of communities, so that's just a
11 suggestion, that may be a venue.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
14 I'll take that to Grant as soon as he returns.

15

16 MS. HAYDEN: Della, this is Natasha.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
19 Natasha.

20

21 MS. HAYDEN: So a lot of the comments
22 that you've made resonate -- are very familiar to what
23 I deal with for my day job. I'm the land manager for
24 Afognak Native Corporation. And much of our lands are
25 adjacent, primarily to State property, so it's not
26 Federal subsistence issues but the trespass is
27 something that we deal with quite often and I don't
28 know if you are aware that ANC's got a -- we've got a
29 land security department -- land security team with
30 patrol, and so I'm very familiar with those land use
31 and abuse issues.

32

33 And also I just wanted to ask you about
34 and see if maybe Sam might have some knowledge about
35 this related to requirements for guides that are
36 conducting commercial guiding activity on private
37 property. We have the commercial hunting guides that
38 are conducting guiding operations on our private lands,
39 they have to provide us with what's called a -- they
40 make us additionally insured by their insurance
41 carriers and they have to request permission to conduct
42 those commercial guiding operations on our lands. And
43 so once they have fulfilled that requirement of listing
44 us as additionally insured then we have to give them --
45 we don't have to but we give them a letter saying that,
46 yes, indeed, they have permission from us as land
47 owners to conduct those operations on private lands.
48 And from what I understand is they have to present
49 those letters of permission to -- I'm not sure if they
50

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1 need to go to the Big Game Board or whoever it is that
2 administers their big game licensing, I believe they
3 have to have -- they have to have proof of that
4 permission for them to be in compliance with their
5 license.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, thank you,
8 Natasha. We do have that in place. We have maps and
9 need to update them, we have the posters. We have a
10 couple of big game guides that we've worked with the
11 past 30 years that have been awesome and they've worked
12 closely and very respectful. It's -- there seems to be
13 newer guides that are going into Cold Bay that we just
14 have to figure out how to make them understand that,
15 you know, they are trespassing. We do have a permit
16 system that allows people like a family in Cold Bay to
17 get one permit for \$100 a year to go on our lands. But
18 depending on the season, if it's bear season, then we
19 have the guides that have certain areas, and they
20 really don't want anybody else in there. We also have
21 a system that allows all of our shareholders to be able
22 to access their lands.

23

24 And Sam has helped me a little bit in
25 clarification on a couple of issues and I very much
26 appreciate that. So it's just something, I think, our
27 community, or King Cove Corporation will work closer
28 with Cold Bay and like I say, trying to get a little
29 bit more public process that we can kind of get some of
30 these issues on the table and be able to work together
31 is the goal.

32

33 So any comments or questions, or any
34 thoughts. You're more than welcome to email me,
35 anybody, I need to use all the help I can get.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Della.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was wondering if
42 perhaps a model that we used here in Kodiak over the
43 mountain goat access issues, I don't know, 15 years or
44 so, we kind of formed a study group with -- you know
45 that was land owners and guides and Advisory Committee
46 folks and then, you know, Council people -- we can't be
47 representing the Council but as individuals could
48 participate, and so, you know, we got together with the
49 Feds and the State and all the players and just sat
50

0103

1 down and said, well, how can we make this work to
2 assure that the local folks, particularly in the
3 villages have access to mountain goats for subsistence
4 and how do we keep the guide industry alive and, you
5 know, how do we protect the environment so it's not
6 over grazed and so that worked out pretty swell. And I
7 think Sam or his dad was on there originally and then
8 Sam, and so that little model seems to work pretty good
9 for Kodiak to get people to sit down and think about
10 things to make it work for everybody.

11

12 So hopefully you can maybe get
13 something like that going out there.

14

15 Thank you, ma'am.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
18 Yeah, we'll get something figured out and try to move
19 forward. Just it's important, I think, to all the
20 various groups to make this work.

21

22 So, anyway, I guess with that we'll
23 move on to the ADF&G SportFish agency report.

24

25 MS. KRUEGER: Hi everyone, can you hear
26 me, this is Kelly Krueger.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hi, Kelly, go
29 ahead.

30

31 MS. KRUEGER: Hi. All right, I am
32 going to try to share my screen and we'll see how this
33 works.

34

35 Okay, can everyone see my screen.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I can, yes.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, there it is, bingo.

40

41 MS. KRUEGER: Okay. All right, so --
42 all right, so I have the title slide up and I'm just
43 trying to make sure this is working -- is it not -- oh,
44 weird -- all right, one second, it's not working
45 correctly.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 MS. KRUEGER: So it came back on, okay,

50

0104

1 there we go. Okay. So, hi, everyone, my name's Kelly
2 Krueger. I work for the Alaska Department of Fish and
3 Game, SportFish in Kodiak. And today I'm going to be
4 giving an overview on the 2020 Buskin River sockeye
5 salmon stock assessment.

6
7 The primary objective for this study
8 are to census the sockeye salmon escapement estimate
9 age composition of escapement and harvest and summarize
10 sex and length data. And this written report was
11 submitted by Mark Witteveen can be found in B1 of the
12 supplemental materials.

13
14 All right, so this is a graph of the
15 escapement from the past -- from 2012 to 2020 and this
16 shows the average, which is in red, from 2015 to 2019,
17 average Buskin River escapement, and the escapement
18 goal is the dashed line which has the upper and lower
19 bounds of the escapement goal. For 2020 the counts for
20 sockeye salmon was 7,741 fish and this was a count
21 through September 22nd. So this was within the current
22 escapement goal range of 5,000 to 8,000 fish, however,
23 it was below the recent five year average for the State
24 of 9,759 fish. The weir was operational on May 18th
25 and then it was removed on August 3rd, and then we
26 installed the lower Buskin weir on August 1st and
27 sockeye salmon continued to be counted through
28 September 22nd.

29
30 We also had a second weir, the Buskin
31 -- or excuse me, the Lake Louise weir, which was
32 operational this year as well and the final weir count
33 for Lake Louise was 53 fish and this weir was counted
34 through September 11th. We don't have an annual
35 sockeye salmon escapement objective for Lake Louise,
36 however the 53 fish that were passed through the weir
37 was lower than the recent five year average of 157
38 fish. This weir was installed on June 1st and it was
39 removed on September 11th. Similar to other years the
40 majority of escapement occurs in pulses which is
41 usually associated with different rain events.

42
43 Okay. This is showing the daily counts
44 for 2020. So the dates on the X axis and the number of
45 salmon counted is on the Y. The 2020 run had similar
46 timing to the average of the past five years with very
47 few fish passing after July 31st, and the peak day was
48 on July 4th with 731 sockeye counted. And as I said
49 before the escapement was near the upper end of the
50

0105

1 escapement goal and we didn't have to issue any
2 emergency orders regarding salmon management in Buskin
3 during 2020.

4

5 This is a graph of the age 1/2 and age
6 1/3 sibling relationship from 2006 to 2020. So very
7 fairly strong positive correlation between age 1/2 fish
8 that return in a given year and age 1/3 fish that
9 return in the next year and this is what's referred to
10 as a sibling relationship. So in 2019 there was a very
11 large proportion of 1/2 fish that returned, and so we
12 expected a very large run in 2020 that would be
13 dominated by age 1/3 fish and the 2020 run was
14 dominated by age 1/3 fish, 74 percent of the run was
15 age 1/3 fish and we had few age 1/2 fish, 11.9 percent.
16 The run was modest, however, and was lower than
17 average.

18

19 So this also shows the forecasted value
20 for 2021, which is that red square on the bottom left
21 and based on this graph and our forecasting the outlook
22 for this year is modest. The predicted run size is
23 13,000 fish which is less than the average of 16,000
24 fish but it was better than this last year. So we
25 can't formalize, or I guess we can't estimate a formal
26 forecast because we don't have the subsistence and
27 sport harvest run data from last year, however, we
28 expect the run to be sufficient for subsistence and
29 sportfisheries. And from the sibling relationship the
30 forecasted value suggests that there is potentially a
31 reduction in the productivity of Buskin Lake sockeye
32 salmon in recent years, and because of this, this is
33 one of the reasons we are adding a scale measurement
34 component to our new FRMP proposal so we can better
35 forecast the Buskin sockeye salmon run, which I will
36 discuss next.

37

38 This is our 2022 to 2025 OSM Buskin
39 proposal, and we're in the process of finalizing and
40 submitting this proposal through.....

41

42 (Teleconference interference -
43 participants not muted - placed on hold)

44

45 REPORTER: Okay, hang on, if you could
46 just stop your report just a moment. This is Tina
47 the.....

48

49 MR. HOLMES: We got a bunch of music,

50

0106

1 can't hear.

2

3 REPORTER:court reporter. Hello,
4 I will call the operator to see if I can have the line
5 disconnected. Please don't put your phone on hold
6 while we're in the meeting because this is what we will
7 get.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 REPORTER: So unfortunately I'll just
12 have to wait for the operator to come on otherwise this
13 is where we'll be until the line gets disconnected. So
14 you might want to just pause for a few minutes.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 REPORTER: Okay, so before you
19 continue, folks online, if you're going to take a break
20 from the teleconference, please do not put your line on
21 hold because it disrupts the meeting and we have music,
22 so, therefore the meeting cannot continue on. So if we
23 can all remember to do that, just please hang up and
24 then redial back in if you need to take a short break.

25

26 All right, go ahead, thank you.

27

28 Yes, you can continue.

29

30 MS. KRUEGER: Can everybody hear me
31 again?

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can hear you,
36 go ahead.

37

38 MS. KRUEGER: Okay. All right. So our
39 2022 to 2025 Buskin OSM proposal, we discussed this
40 with the RAC during our fall presentation for our next
41 proposal we're going to remove subsistence sampling and
42 the Lake Louise weir from our proposal. Subsistence
43 sampling was originally incorporated into our project
44 due to concerns about age differences in the
45 subsistence harvest of sockeye versus sport harvest of
46 sockeye and from analysis of scales there wasn't any
47 significant differences in ages between the sport and
48 subsistence harvest of fish. In addition the Lake
49 Louise weir.....

50

0107

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3

4 MS. KRUEGER:the recent five year
5 average escapement from 2015 to 2019 for Lake Louise
6 was 110 fish and the run timing for Lake Louise.....

7

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10

11 REPORTER: So folks.....

12

13 MS. KRUEGER: It sounds like someone's
14 not on mute.

15

16 REPORTER:online.....

17

18 MR. MIKE: Public on teleconference
19 line please have your phones muted, please. Thank you.

20

21 REPORTER: That would be star six.
22 Please look at your device and make sure you're star
23 six and muted unless you are the one speaking.

24

25 Sorry, go ahead and continue.

26

27 MS. KRUEGER: All right, back to it.
28 So the run timing for Lake Louise tends to be later
29 than that of the Buskin Lake run and fish tend to push
30 during rain events. Habitat for sockeye spawning, and
31 rearing in Lake Catherine is very marginal compared to
32 Buskin Lake. A new objective within our FRMP proposal
33 is to measure sockeye salmon scales for fresh water and
34 salt water growth phases. This is an FRMP priority
35 information need that was listed for the Southwest
36 Alaska region. We're planning to measure fresh water
37 and salt water growth from digitized scales from the
38 most prominent Buskin River age salmon age classes and
39 correlations between growth measurement data and
40 climate and disease will be explored as well as the
41 relationship between ocean growth and the sibling
42 relationship. I talked about earlier, the proportion
43 of fish that return after two years in the ocean versus
44 those that return every four years (ph) and how to
45 better forecast the Buskin River sockeye salmon runs.
46 In addition the growth measurement data will be
47 explored to evaluate the relative health of the fresh
48 water resident time and fresh water growth is used as
49 an index for the productivity of the fresh water

50

0108

1 environment.

2

3 For this proposal there's a cost
4 savings of almost \$40,000 in this proposal compared to
5 our previous proposal.

6

7 I wanted to show everyone some sockeye
8 salmon scales so you can get an idea of what typical
9 growth looks like from Buskin and what growth looked
10 like this past year. So these yellow arrows are
11 pointing to the second and.....

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted - placed on hold)

15

16 MS. KRUEGER:on the scales and
17 salt water growth is proportional to fish body size,
18 and the scale on the left is a typical scale. You can
19 see the distance between this winter check and the
20 third winter check with the arrows, and then on the
21 right this is a scale from 2020 and there's a very
22 small amount of growth between that second and third
23 year. And so this is suggesting that within the last
24 year, when fish were in the ocean last winter, and
25 continuing to last summer, there was poor ocean.....

26

27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participants not muted - placed on hold)

29

30 MS. KRUEGER:meaning lower than
31 expected survival.

32

33 And our intern program, our intern
34 program continued in 2020, these were our two interns,
35 Jenny and Clara on the right, and this program annually
36 employs two top qualified students to work on the
37 Buskin project between June 1st and July 31st and the
38 interns gain knowledge of principles involved in
39 fisheries management and research while obtaining field
40 experience and fisheries data collection methods and
41 techniques. The intern program started in 2003 and
42 since that time 20 of 33 interns have returned to work
43 for Fish and Game at some point. We will be recruiting
44 soon, within the next couple of weeks, for two interns
45 for the upcoming field season.

46

47 In addition we partnered with Sun'ag
48 Tribe of Kodiak recently to provide Native youth
49 interns an opportunity to learn about fisheries
50

0109

1 management. The interns participate in a variety of
2 projects with sportfish. This project was suspended in
3 2020 due to Covid-19 concerns. In addition, Kodiak
4 Area Native Association, KANA, had plans to fund two
5 additional Native interns, however, no candidates were
6 available during the 2020 summer season, and we had
7 concerns about Covid as well.

8

9 With that, I'd like to thank OSM,
10 Fisheries Research Monitoring Program for funding the
11 project and we will take any questions.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
14 questions or comments.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm glad you
17 answered my question because usually I always poke Mark
18 at the end and say best guess and you gave us a best
19 guess for the upcoming season there that things should
20 be a little bit better, hopefully. I do have one
21 question -- a couple. One on the upper weir and the
22 timing of escapement. Is that, what, about five days
23 from the mouth for the fish, what do you figure on the
24 delay?

25

26 MS. KRUEGER: Probably just a couple
27 days, Pat. Through the Chair.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, okay, thank you.
30 That's very enumerating. And I think this last year I
31 didn't do that well because I'm still having problems
32 with my old motor on my new old skiff. But I think
33 probably wouldn't have got the escapement you did if we
34 hadn't had such a huge -- large incidence of seals and
35 sea lions at the mouth, and a lot of people I know went
36 out and fished and just gave up, or went up to Litnik
37 and -- so I hope those critters go somewhere else this
38 next season.

39

40 And thank you for your really splendid
41 report. I think you looking at the scale growth
42 analysis will, I think, definitely be insightful on
43 providing information for the future and understanding
44 what happens. We had a presentation from Sara [sic] --
45 and pardon me, Yamashhita [sic] from NOAA on
46 productivity of the ocean and those -- I think you're
47 right, those high ocean temperatures that we had a few
48 years back affected the three ocean return in the whole
49 Gulf of Alaska, so hopefully with this last year being
50

0110

1 cooler, maybe they'll get a little better chance to
2 fatten up before and have better survival getting home.

3

4

So thank you very much.

5

6

MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair.
7 Thanks, Pat. Yeah, we heard a lot of concerns about
8 sea lions and seals where people who were trying to
9 harvest their subsistence fish outside of Buskin, so
10 hopefully this year things are different and people can
11 get their fish out there.

12

13

14

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
other comments or questions.

15

16

17

MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair, this is
Coral. I have a question.

18

19

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, thank you. Thank
you, Kelly, for that report. And welcome to Fish and
Game. In this report here it talked about the female
sockeye salmon being slightly smaller than average as
well as the male. Because I'm not familiar so the --
the female's average size is 483 mms, is that.....

27

28

29

MS. KRUEGER: Yeah.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

MS. CHERNOFF:millimeters
compared to the average, so is that a pretty large
difference in size, actually. I don't know
comparative, like percentage-wise, is that a big
difference in size, and is that of any kind of concern
to biologists and, if so, what is that concern, are
they less healthy or they just happen to be everyone's
smaller?

38

39

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MR. WITTEVEEN: Madame Chair, this is
Mark Witteveen with Fish and Game. I think we did see
a pretty small size fish this year. As Kelly said,
most of the fish were age 1/3 fish, and the scales that
she showed showed real poor growth in that last winter
in the ocean. So since most of the fish were 1/3s and
most of the -- and they were smaller than the overall
size of -- the overall size of the run was smaller too,
and it was probably less catchable by gillnet in the
ocean as well, this is kind of a confusing graph but
this is a -- on the horizontal axis is the size of the

0111

1 fish and on the vertical access is the -- kind of the
2 frequency that that size occurs.

3

4

5 So last year, this is for 1/2 fish, you
6 see the big high peak of size, that was last year's
7 1/2 fish, and then kind of the take home message is
8 that they were similar in size, so the shape of the
9 curve is similar. So and in the next year -- so the
10 siblings to those fish would be this green bar and you
11 see that is shifted to the left from most of the other
12 ones. So what that tells us is that last year the fish
13 were normal size, this year those same siblings were
14 smaller so that does suggest that the third year in the
15 ocean was kind of the cause of these smaller fish. You
16 know if those conditions continue that probably
17 wouldn't be good for the size of fish, whether it's a
18 long-term concern or not I guess we'll keep looking at
19 that kind of stuff, scales and measuring scales if this
20 project is funded again would be helpful in kind of
21 tracking that and really dialing down the cause or the
22 timeframe that that change in size occurs.

22

23

Does that answer the question.

24

25

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Mark.

26

27

MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you.

28

29

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

30

31

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

32

33

34

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MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think that was
very insightful. I think that's what I've been
wondering about for awhile and that the -- just that
quick look at those two scales, while it's not any kind
of statistical thing but it really shows the difference
in ocean growth and that's been the question of where's
the problem on returning fish and so I think having a
better handle on that. With time, I think will
certainly help your best guesstimate on what the
returning strength of the fish will be and hopefully if
it gets cooler we'll see larger fish.

So I think that was really good of you
guys to do that for this presentation.

Thank you so much.

0112

1 MR. WITTEVEEN: Thanks, Pat, yeah,
2 we're trying to take a closer look at things and
3 certainly the scale measurement would help that.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
8 comments or questions.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
13 thank you Kelly and Mark. So with.....

14
15 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Go
18 ahead.

19
20 MR. LAWSON: This is Tyler Lawson with
21 the Department of Fish and Game CommFish. I'm not sure
22 if I made it on the agenda officially but I'd like to
23 provide an update on McLees and Unalaska if it's
24 possible.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Unless anybody
27 has a problem, I don't have a problem with it, go
28 ahead.

29
30 MR. LAWSON: Thank you. Madame Chair.
31 This past year ADF&G and the QTribe received OSM
32 funding to get the McLees Lake weir up and running
33 again after several years of dormancy due to a lack of
34 funding. The facilities at McLees were in pretty rough
35 shape upon arrival. The outhouse was demolished, the
36 cabin roof was leaking and there was lots of mold
37 inside and rats had eaten their way into and throughout
38 the cabin, and all of the nearby trails were pretty
39 much impassible due to vegetative growth.

40
41 Thanks, in large part, to additional
42 volunteers and materials from the QTribe we were able
43 to repair the cabin, build a new outhouse, reestablish
44 the trails and get that weir fully functional and fish
45 tight once again. I'd especially like to thank Chris
46 Price, Chandra Poe and Shayla Shaishnikoff for their
47 support in getting that project up and running again.

48
49 In 2020 the escapement at McLees was
50

0113

1 5,037 sockeye, the actual escapement was likely
2 somewhat higher than this as on the day the weir was
3 pulled there were several hundred more sockeye staging
4 down stream, and the run last year was about two weeks
5 later than it has been in previous years. So this,
6 combined, with an impending storm, caused us to pull
7 that weir a little bit earlier than would have been
8 ideal. Nonetheless, this was the lowest observed
9 escapement since the weir was first installed in 2001.
10 Since the weir was not in operation in 2018 or 2019, we
11 lacked the data to say if 2020 was an anomaly or part
12 of a longer trend.

13

14 Other sockeye salmon escapements that
15 we monitored in 2020 around the South Alaska Peninsula
16 were also very low. Because the escapement goal of
17 10,000 sockeye was not reached, ADF&G maintained a 500
18 yard closure for subsistence fishing around the
19 terminus of the McLees Lake outlet for the duration of
20 the sockeye run.

21

22 The McLees Lake is funded for the next
23 three years and we hope that the 2021 escapement will
24 be stronger than in 2020, and the hard work that we put
25 in last year will certainly help us a lot in getting
26 next year up and running again.

27

28 Elsewhere on Unalaska, 2020 marked the
29 third year that ADF&G worked together with Andy
30 Dietrick and Aleutian Aerial to conduct drone surveys
31 on salmon of Unalaska. And a memo containing full
32 results of those surveys was sent out yesterday to
33 local stakeholders and anybody else interested in
34 seeing that memo can feel free to reach out to me.
35 I'll provide a brief synopsis here.

36

37 In 2020 Unalaska Lake had an index
38 escapement of 800 sockeye which is several hundred
39 higher than the previous two years. Summer Bay Lake
40 had an indexed escapement of 4,500 sockeye, which was
41 one to 2,000 higher than the previous two years. And
42 Morris Cove had an escapement of 100 sockeye which was
43 approximately 200 less than previous years.

44

45 2020 was the first year that drone
46 surveys were performed at McLees Lake. The peak
47 indexed escapement from the drone survey was 2,400
48 sockeye, which, again, that's in comparison to the
49 escapement at the weir I mentioned before which was
50

0114

1 5,037. This discrepancy is not unheard of for aerial
2 surveys. Part of it is probably due to sockeye
3 spending time in deep drop offs where it's not possible
4 to see them and additionally McLees Lake has about
5 seven miles of tributary streams with some suitable
6 spawning habitat which were not really surveyed.

7
8 In 2021 we are hoping to survey those
9 tributaries better to get a better idea of how that
10 drone index will compare to the weir escapement, and
11 we're also going to hopefully get a mark/recapture
12 tagging project going at the weir to combine that with
13 a more established population estimate method with that
14 index to help get a better comparison between the weir
15 count and the drone count.

16
17 And as a couple of parting anecdotes
18 from even farther afield. We did receive some reports
19 in 2020 from subsistence fishers at Volcano Bay and
20 Adak that the sockeye runs there were strong and I'll
21 let Chris Price and Mr. Koso chime in to confirm or
22 deny that.

23
24 But with that being said, thank you
25 again to OSM for the funding and the QTribe for all of
26 their support on this project and I'll take any
27 questions at this time.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
30 Tyler. Are there any questions or comments for Tyler.
31 And this.....

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.....

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:was, you
36 know, this handout I think was emailed to us so if any
37 of you were looking for it, Donald had emailed it.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Tyler, this is Pat.
40 Question.

41
42 MR. LAWSON: Go ahead, Pat.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was wondering
45 there, particularly having tried to fly that area in
46 Grumman Goose through the clouds, any way you can get a
47 count, without barfing in your hip boots, is great.
48 What I'm wondering is, in the lapse of time there where
49 there wasn't a weir, if that had been in, was that
50

0115

1 potentially have been able to give you an idea on
2 looking at, you know, the growth patterns on the
3 scales, a year prior, or two year prior, been able to
4 give you at least a yellow flag on things being tighter
5 for this year.

6
7 MR. LAWSON: Pat, I want to make sure
8 that I understand your question. Are you asking if
9 those drone surveys would have helped us with the
10 growth in 2018 or 2019 when the weir was not in?

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Actually what I'm
13 wondering is just having the weir in, now, if it had
14 been in before, if you would have been able to have --
15 be able to give local folks a better head's up of a
16 coming problem if you saw reduced ocean growth in those
17 fish during the missing years, and I guess why I'm
18 asking this is because of the difficulties we had
19 getting funding for McLees.

20
21 MR. LAWSON: Yeah, gotcha. So we do --
22 we did take scales for ASL sampling last summer and
23 those will get analyzed here in the next two or three
24 weeks and we'll have a better idea of what was going on
25 this year and we'll also take a better look at -- we do
26 have some data from 2016 and 2017, the last year that
27 the weir was operational and we can take those numbers
28 and do a count to get a better idea of what might be
29 going on.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Right. And then if you
32 had had scales in '18 and '19 that could have given you
33 a better head's up for local folks and I guess that's
34 what I was looking for. And sure glad you're doing
35 that, and I think having the drones is so exciting, it
36 beats sitting up on top of the mountain with binoculars
37 waiting for the wind and rain to break and try to count
38 the fish around the lakes, that's a big step ahead.

39
40 Thank you folks for doing that.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
43 other comments or questions.

44
45 MR. PRICE: This is Chris from
46 Unalaska, I have a question or two.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.

49
50

0116

1 MR. PRICE: Okay. Well, Pat, mostly
2 asked my question on the drone surveys, I'm just
3 curious of how successful you really feel how they're
4 going. And then my second, you know, just comment was
5 we did seem to feel like we did have a low run,
6 locally, last year, and that it did make a pretty big
7 difference to the community not being able to get that
8 fish and we do -- but we are very conservative on that
9 run and we want to make sure it's protected. So I just
10 wanted to pass that on.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. LAWSON: Sure. Yes, so as far as
15 the drone success. Again, this is the third year that
16 we've been doing this project with Andy and I reviewed
17 that footage the last two years and I can tell you each
18 of those years it has improved from the prior year.
19 And also kind of, I guess the revelation, you could
20 say, that there are so many sockeye in that area
21 spawning in tributaries we're going to make an emphasis
22 next year to get those tributaries covered better and
23 that should improve that drone footage even better. I
24 guess there was a good way I could share that footage
25 with you guys because some of it's like really
26 incredible and what you can actually see is pretty
27 great so, I don't know, Chris, if you have a chance to
28 bump into Andy to check that footage out, you should
29 definitely do so to see, you know, what we're able to
30 see when we're doing these to make those counts.

31
32 Any kind of aerial survey, whether it's
33 fixed wing or with a drone is going to have more
34 variability in error than we'll have with the weir, but
35 it's certainly better than nothing and I can say that
36 over the last three years it's certainly improved to
37 give us at least some idea of what is going on in those
38 systems.

39
40 As far as the road system lakes go, I
41 was looking back at some of the old aerial surveys that
42 like Arnie Shawl, and maybe even Pat Holmes might have
43 done and, you know, some of those numbers are pretty
44 much in line with those past aerial surveys so they
45 kind of fall within that range.

46
47 And as far as your comments on the run
48 being low, you know, we certainly hear you there and
49 that's why we maintain that closure for fishing for the
50

0117

1 duration of that sockeye run and we'll certainly be
2 keeping an eye on that and, you know, we're kind of
3 hoping things will be better next year. And it's a
4 little bit of a mixed bag, you know, if you look at
5 those road system lakes they actually -- Summer Bay and
6 Unalaska faired better than they had the previous
7 couple years, so I mean those sockeye right there which
8 aren't too far off of McLees are actually doing a
9 little bit better. So, you know, unfortunately we have
10 to kind of wait and see until next summer to see how
11 things end up but we're certainly keeping an eye on it.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
14 other comments.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: One question -- or
17 comment, Madame -- Pat.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was quite struck
22 with your surveys in relation to, you know, what I used
23 to get and Arnie and everybody else that did some of
24 those flights, that's, I think, pretty much on. And I
25 think your comments on McLees, at least the few times I
26 was able to get in a survey there, certainly the main
27 tributary into the lake was probably the place where
28 most of the sockeye would end up by late August and,
29 you know, a few would be shore spawning near the mouth
30 but -- so I think you're probably getting a pretty good
31 index.

32

33 One thing I think would be interesting
34 for the Council would be if you could give them what a
35 really grand year escapement would be for McLees Lake
36 because it's really outstanding for such a lake like
37 that.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think
42 that covers that report for Tyler.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Maybe,
47 Donald, if can kind of get a little bit of a point of
48 clarification on the agenda. We went from the ADF&G
49 Sportfish to agency report, and then it's got Federal

50

0118

1 -- and then Tyler needed to do his report. We did do
2 the -- or the ptarmigan report, I guess, we did under
3 ADF&G, but if I look at this agenda we kind of jumped
4 from No. 12 agency reports down to D, Department of
5 Fish and Game.

6
7 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Donald. Yes,
8 the format and the flow of the -- my purpose, or our
9 purpose was kind of issues that were brought forward to
10 your attention, so I think we got Mortensen and Russell
11 Creek issues discussed and we can move on to the next
12 item, Migratory Bird agency report, and that was
13 another topic that was issue driven so that's the
14 reason how this format -- the formatted agenda is. Was
15 that clear or do we need to.....

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, it was
18 clear, and I recall us having that discussion, and it
19 just got -- when I was looking at this and marking off
20 reports that were done, but if we go back up to 12 and
21 under that it had Federal in-season input and Kodiak
22 Regional questions and answer comments, I think we've
23 covered that.

24
25 MR. MIKE: Yes, we did. So unless
26 there's an in-season manager that wishes to discuss
27 Mortensen and Russell Creek issues, but, otherwise we
28 can move on.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
33 then just we'll go ahead and move on to the Migratory
34 Bird Agency report.

35
36 MR. SVOBODA: Excuse me, Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

39
40 MR. SVOBODA: Hi, this is Nate Svoboda,
41 I work as the area biologist for Fish and Game here in
42 Kodiak. I do have a report if you guys are interested,
43 I can give you an update on the wildlife or I'm happy
44 to wait until later in the meeting as well.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Nate, I actually
47 have you.....

48
49 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

50

0119

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead --
2 well, Nate, we actually have you farther down in the
3 agenda under the.....

4
5 MR. SVOBODA: Okay.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:Department
8 of Fish and Game. We kind of got this a little bit out
9 of order, and I think there might have been some
10 confusion here.

11
12 MR. SVOBODA: No worries, I can wait
13 until later if that works for you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, if that's
16 -- yeah, if you don't mind, or if you have to leave and
17 can't stay then.....

18
19 MR. SVOBODA: No.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:we can move
22 you ahead, but if we could try to go back to our agenda
23 it would be better. It just got a little confusing.

24
25 MR. SVOBODA: Yeah, no -- no problem,
26 thank you, Madame Chair.

27
28 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Madame Chair,
29 thank.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Nate.

32
33 MR. MIKE:you -- yeah, thank you,
34 Madame Chair. These agenda changes were issue driven
35 so I just want to accommodate the Council and those
36 concerns that were submitted by the public so we can
37 address those issues. But, again, I apologize for the
38 confusion for agency Staff, but these were issue driven
39 and I thought they were a priority to be addressed by
40 the Council.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
45 Donald. And then just for the record Sam is back
46 online too, so he's here. Okay, so we'll go ahead and
47 move to Migratory Bird Agency report.

48
49 (No comments)
50

0120

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Donald, is
2 there someone available to do that?

3

4 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, I believe that
5 was Leandy -- Leanda, ADF&G, research.

6

7 MS. NAVES: Can you hear me?

8

9 MR. MIKE: Yes, we can hear you, go
10 ahead.

11

12 MS. NAVES: Oh, hi. Good afternoon. I
13 was not sure that I was to lead the -- this is kind of
14 -- this is new for me. Thank you for the opportunity
15 to participate on this meeting. My name is Lillian
16 Naves. I work for the Division of Subsistence of Fish
17 and Game in Anchorage and I coordinate the harvest
18 assessment program of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
19 Management Council. And as I understand the
20 information that's -- please go ahead -- as I
21 understand the information that I was asked to share
22 today here at this meeting was a brief overview of bird
23 harvest for Kodiak and the Aleutian region, and I put
24 some tables together and I will ask to share my screen
25 here so everyone can see it.

26

27 Can you see my screen?

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, it's there.

30

31 MS. NAVES: Thank you. To make this
32 bigger -- so there is bird and egg harvest data for the
33 Kodiak and the Aleutians region. The Alaska Migratory
34 Bird Co-Management Council does an annual survey in
35 some regions of Alaska. We annually survey five
36 regions that together represent about 90 percent of the
37 total bird harvest. This does not include the Kodiak
38 and Aleutian areas. So those two areas are out of the
39 area that the AMBCC usually does harvest surveys.
40 There's some surveys that were conducted in previous
41 years and that's the data that I have here today.
42 There are other data that come from harvest surveys
43 conducted by the Division of Subsistence and by other
44 organizations that do research, Native organizations or
45 University. The AMBCC survey is a big picture
46 perspective, usually don't report data at the community
47 level, usually work at the region level. And the
48 Division of Subsistence and other people that work with
49 the harvest survey, they often report that at the
50

0121

1 community level. So when doing compilations you try to
2 bring everything to the same geographic scale to have
3 an understanding of what is going on.

4
5 Now, with -- since 2017 with the
6 opening of harvest of emperor goose there has been need
7 and interest in harvest data, especially more now so
8 and the Division of Subsistence submitted a grant and
9 do have a PR grant to do some work related to emperor
10 goose harvest management, and in the context of this
11 project we are getting ready to conduct bird harvest
12 surveys in some communities in the Kodiak and Aleutian
13 areas. The surveys had been planned to be done as in-
14 person surveys but due to Covid we're going to do the
15 surveys remotely with research assistants dropping
16 survey packages at doorknobs of households. And the
17 communities that we are planning to launch the survey
18 here in short-term, in March/April is Kodiak City,
19 Naval Kodiak Station, Womens Bay, Old Harbor, Port
20 Lions, Sand Point, (Indiscernible) Akutan, and
21 Unalaska. We have been working with tribal councils
22 since last year in getting villages consent. In fact,
23 Unalaska is another project, the leader for that
24 project, Jackie Keating, she has materials on this
25 meeting too, and there is a comprehensive survey
26 including all subsistence resources, not only birds.

27
28 So I'll move down to the table here.
29 There are a lot of species there so the print is going
30 to be fine. So these harvest estimates for the years
31 that are available for Aleutian and Pribilof Islands.
32 It is separated by villages and by Unalaska. Those are
33 the regions that the AMBCC uses to work in the past.
34 So harvest data is available for 2005, 2007, 2008 for
35 the -- for the villages, and '95, 2008 for Unalaska.
36 So the total harvest of all these species varies
37 between years for the villages between 7,400 birds and
38 almost 17,000 birds within the range of about 10,000
39 birds per year in the Aleutian villages and similar
40 dynamics for Unalaska within the range of 1,500 for per
41 year in Unalaska.

42
43 And if you have specific questions
44 about individual species I can look more in the fine
45 grain of the table. The idea is to show you what data
46 is available at this point.

47
48 There is a similar table for the Kodiak
49 Archipelago, divided also in villages and the city and
50

0122

1 road-connected for the Kodiak villages data available,
2 2006, 2010 and for Kodiak city and road-connected in
3 '91 and 2010. For the villages -- I'll scroll down to
4 the bottom of the table there, data range of harvest is
5 about 3,800 birds a year and for the Kodiak city and
6 road-connected is about 5,800 birds a year.

7

8 I think that my intent was just to give
9 a big picture perspective and if you have specific
10 questions I can try to answer.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Lillian. Are there any questions for her in regard to
16 her report.

17

18 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
21 Rebecca.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: So -- and I have a sense
24 that this question is -- this is probably not the right
25 place to ask this question so background statement; I
26 know I was interested in seeing data on the waterfowl
27 harvest because of the concerns that we heard about in
28 Cold Bay. So in Cold Bay there was concerns with
29 subsistence access to fish, to ptarmigan and to
30 waterfowl, and so I particularly wanted to get a better
31 understanding of what the harvest levels were.

32

33 So I think that after listening to this
34 report and looking at this data, I guess maybe it's
35 more of a statement, that I think the kind of data that
36 I was thinking we were going to get was more harvest
37 levels -- harvest level in the sense that specific
38 numbers of birds harvested in specific locations,
39 whereas this data is almost, I think, as it was stated,
40 is specifically kind of generalized across bigger areas
41 so that it's not very specific. So I don't know if
42 that's a statement or a question.

43

44 And then my -- I guess my observation
45 is I didn't even see Cold Bay listed as a community on
46 here. So maybe I'll start with that question, does --
47 is there any data that comes from Cold Bay that makes
48 it's way into this data summary?

49

50

0123

1 MS. NAVES: Cold Bay would be included
2 with the Aleutian Pribilof villages. And if specific
3 about Cold Bay, the Division of Subsistence conducted a
4 harvest survey there in 2016. It was not clear for me
5 which kind of data you were expecting to see, so I
6 don't have that data at the tip of my fingers right
7 now. But there was one harvest survey that was
8 conducted at Cold Bay at the community level in 2016.

9
10 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So looking at the
11 first page of the presentation, I -- there's a
12 reference there to harvest surveys conducted by Fish
13 and Game, Division of Subsistence and there is a
14 listing of specific communities that, I guess, where
15 those harvest surveys are being conducted, but what you
16 said about Cold Bay, Cold Bay would fall into the
17 bullet point above that for the Aleutian/Pribilof
18 Islands -- okay, so I guess I'm confused, because when
19 I read the bullet points, the AMBCC survey sampling
20 area does not include the Aleutian Pribilof Islands,
21 which maybe that doesn't include -- I mean Cold Bay is
22 maybe not in that category at all, and then Cold Bay
23 also was not listed with the other cities. So when I
24 first read this I was not sure, one, if Cold Bay was
25 included, which now you've said it was, and then where
26 it would fall into these different sets of data. But I
27 think that you now have addressed that.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MS. NAVES: So the AMBCC, the Alaska
32 Migratory Birds Co-Management Council conducts annual
33 bird harvest surveys and the AMBCC survey does not
34 cover Aleutian and Kodiak. This project that is
35 conducting bird harvest surveys in some villages this
36 year is a separate project being conducted by the
37 Division of Subsistence. And it's a one year shot,
38 while the AMBCC surveys are recurring surveys.

39
40 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
41 Donald.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
44 Donald.

45
46 MR. MIKE: Yes, just trying to keep
47 things on track here. I requested through our liaison
48 and requested that ADF&G sport -- mig bird report, and
49 I can't find the person's name but they also work with
50

0124

1 AMBCC on subsistence reports, so AMBCC and Alaska
2 Department of Fish and Game are part of the Alaska
3 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, so I'm trying to
4 find who that person -- or individual was to give us a
5 report on sporthunting for migratory birds on the
6 Alaska Peninsula. But I'll keep looking, thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
9 there any more questions or comments.

10

11 MR. SCHAMBER: Madame Chair, this is
12 Jason Schamber with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Jason.

15

16 MR. SCHAMBER: Hi. I work with the
17 Waterfowl Program here at Alaska Department of Fish and
18 Game, and it sounded like Mr. Mike had mentioned
19 wanting a report from our program regarding the
20 fall/winter hunt in Cold Bay. And those data generally
21 are collected at a nationwide scale through what's
22 called the Harvest Information Program and that's
23 conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And
24 the Department of Fish and Game manages the licensing
25 program and the Duck Stamp Program which registers
26 hunters in the state in the Harvest Information
27 Program. And that program is designed to survey
28 hunters from across the U.S., including the state of
29 Alaska to assess level of harvest for species as well
30 as hunter activity in the fall/winter period. Those
31 data are not at a scale of the Cold Bay area
32 necessarily. They're more designed for the -- to
33 assess the level of harvest at the nation-wide scale
34 but it can be stepped down to the statewide scale in
35 general but those data are less meaningful when you get
36 down to the statewide scale, and then even finer than
37 that.

38

39 So I don't have specific data to report
40 for the Cold Bay area.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
43 Jason. Are there any other comments or questions.

44

45 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, Della, this is
46 Coral Chernoff.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

49

50

0125

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I was looking at
2 -- I know when we -- we looked at getting information
3 for people purchasing duck stamps for -- and I thought
4 you could locate that by area. And then also as far as
5 I think you can get information and Sam might know a
6 little more about this, or Jason, I believe that if you
7 -- there's a license for guiding for birds, so you
8 would also be able to get that, they have to fill out
9 data, I think, at the end of a hunt and send it in, so
10 there's definitely that data, and I would imagine that
11 would have specific areas attached to it.

12
13 So those are like two points of data
14 that you might be able to access if we're looking at
15 guided bird hunts and sporthunts, that you can look at.

16
17 MR. SCHAMBER: Yeah, this is Jason
18 Schamber again. Thanks, Coral. The duck stamp
19 information, you're correct, we do have information at
20 the smaller scale of say Kodiak Island, or, you know,
21 even the western region, the Bristol Bay area, for
22 hunters that register in the HIP program through the
23 duck stamp. We do have a listing of individual hunters
24 that register for.....

25
26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted - static)

28
29 (Off record - Line dropped)

30
31 MR. ROHRER: Hey, this is Sam here, I
32 just got kicked off line and joined back in. I'm not
33 sure -- it said there was 30 people on.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks, Sam. I
36 think that's probably what happened, we've kind of lost
37 some people here.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Yeah, we had some people off
40 line. So I just want to check if Mr. Safine is online
41 land if he's muted or not, but if you have additional
42 information for the Council.

43
44 REPORTER: Okay, this is Tina, so I was
45 dumped as well but we can go ahead, Della, unless you
46 want to break.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, let's
49 take a 10, 15 minute break and give people time to get
50

0126

1 back online.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: So when do you want us
6 back online.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's go to a 10
9 minute break, to 3:15.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, are you
16 online?

17

18 MR. MIKE: I'm here and standing by,
19 Della.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I'm ready
22 to go whenever everybody else is ready.

23

24 MR. MIKE: Okay, I'm ready to go too.

25

26 So, Pat, are you with us -- Pat Holmes.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MR. MIKE: Rick Koso.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MR. MIKE: Sam Rohrer.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. MIKE: Chris Price.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MR. MIKE: Coral Chernoff.

43

44 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm here.

45

46 MR. MIKE: Rebecca Skinner.

47

48 MS. SKINNER: Roger.

49

50

0127

1

MR. MIKE: Della's here.

2

3

Natasha Hayden.

4

5

MS. HAYDEN: I'm here.

6

7

MR. MIKE: Melissa Berns.

8

9

MS. BERNS: I'm here.

10

11

MR. MIKE: Okay, Pat Holmes, are you

12

with us.

13

14

(No comments)

15

16

MR. MIKE: Rick Koso.

17

18

(No comments)

19

20

MR. MIKE: Sam Rohrer.

21

22

(No comments)

23

24

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, I think
Pat's trying to figure out the phone to answer you.

25

26

27

MR. MIKE: Okay.

28

29

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I could see him
on the.....

30

31

MR. MIKE: Okay, he's here.

32

33

Chris Price.

34

35

(No comments)

36

37

MR. MIKE: So Mr. Koso, Rohrer and
Price are still unavailable.

38

39

40

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: How you doing
Pat, can you hear everybody.

41

42

43

MR. ROHRER: I can hear you Della.

44

45

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: There's Sam.

46

47

MR. MIKE: Sam's on, okay.

48

49

50

0128

1 Rick, are you with us, Rick Koso.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. MIKE: Chris Price, are you with
6 us.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MR. MIKE: And Pat Holmes, can you hear
11 me?

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm back, roger
14 that, got you solid.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you Pat.

17

18 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm back too, this is
19 Rick Koso.

20

21 MR. MIKE: Okay, Rick.

22

23 So Chris Price, are you with us?

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. MIKE: Della, everybody's here
28 except for Mr. Price.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Let's go
31 ahead and just move on then. We have David Safine was
32 getting ready to give a report.

33

34 MR. SAFINE: Hi, Madame Chairman, it's
35 Dave Safine, I work with Migratory Bird Management for
36 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based out of
37 Anchorage. And we did not prepare a formal report
38 today. I think generally we were going to be present to
39 answer any questions about the spring/summer
40 subsistence harvest of migratory birds in Alaska. And
41 then I know Jason Schamber's on the line also to answer
42 questions about the fall/winter harvest period.

43

44 So when I'm talking about those two
45 hunt periods I'm referring to one of them is generally
46 what we call the spring/summer subsistence hunt which
47 would occur between April 2nd and August 31st of each
48 year and then from September 1st through, you know, it
49 could be December, it could be January, depends on
50

0129

1 where you are in the state, that would be our
2 fall/winter hunt, but it can't go any later than March
3 10th. So those are kind of the two periods when we
4 have migratory bird hunts.

5

6 So if folks have questions about the
7 regulations or either of those two periods we could
8 answer those. We tend to give our status reports at
9 the end regional and statewide AMBCC meetings so
10 Migratory Birds will prepare status reports for those.
11 And so when the Aleutians, Pribilofs Islands regions
12 holds their regional report we would provide a status
13 update there. And Peter Devine is the representative
14 for that region. So, anyway, I'm here today to answer
15 any questions folks have.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 David. Is there any questions or comments for David.

19

20 MS. HAYDEN: Della, this is Natasha.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
23 Natasha.

24

25 MS. HAYDEN: My question is where is --
26 is there like a one stop shop to find the regulations,
27 rules and restrictions for migratory bird harvesting in
28 Alaska?

29

30 MR. SAFINE: Okay, that's a good
31 question, and unfortunately at least through my
32 knowledge I would say there's not a one stop shop
33 because the hunts are managed by different entities.
34 And so you may find on -- and I can give you some
35 information on that, or pass those through to Donald
36 Mike to send out to everybody, but what you would find
37 on the Fish and Wildlife Service, we have an AMBCC
38 website and from there you could get the regulations
39 for that spring/summer hunt, and then of course the
40 Alaska Department of Fish and Game maintains the
41 primary regulations for the fall/winter hunt. So
42 basically through the Alaska Department of Fish and
43 Game or the Fish and Wildlife Service websites you
44 could get information on those two hunts. But they're
45 generally not all on the same page.

46

47 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Okay, thank you.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is

50

0130

1 Donald.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
4 Donald.

5

6 MR. MIKE: Yes, I was wondering, Dave
7 Safine, if you're part of the AMBCC, right?

8

9 MR. SAFINE: That's correct. So,
10 right, the Fish and Wildlife Service is one of the
11 entities on the AMBCC.

12

13 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you. And, yeah,
14 I requested AMBCC to provide a subsistence report on
15 migratory birds but I think you took care of that. So
16 just a note to the Council, this amended agenda item
17 format is to address the current issues that came
18 about, this is how I developed the agenda which the
19 Council adopted to address the issues we had. So --
20 but this was meant to be -- to provide all the
21 information gathered before the Council so they could
22 discuss the issues, was the strategy.

23

24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
27 Donald. I guess then we'll go ahead and move on to the
28 Izembek Concession permit system and then I guess we're
29 doing the Kodiak/Aleutian question and answer.

30

31 Izembek.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
34 David, and just standby.

35

36 MR. SAFINE: Will do, thank you, Madame
37 Chair.

38

39 MS. FOSADO: Hi, good afternoon, Madame
40 Chair, and members of the Council. I'm sorry, I didn't
41 quite catch that, are you prepared for our report?

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm -- we're
44 under Migratory Bird Agency Reports, and we did the
45 ADF& Sports, Lillian did the Subsistence Division, and
46 the AMBCC did a subsistence report and we are looking
47 for an Izembek concession permit system report.

48

49 MS. FOSADO: Okay. So, again, good

50

0131

1 afternoon. Thank you. Thank you for clarifying.
2 Izembek currently has three permitted commercial
3 waterfowl guides that submit a special use permit
4 application and for that special use permit application
5 there's certain information that's requested from the
6 commercial guides prior to issuance. A couple of those
7 items that are required, are their, Alaska business
8 license, their hunting licenses, and then their
9 commercial guiding licenses. Once those permits are
10 issued, at the end of the season the commercial guides
11 are required to submit what is called client use days.
12 So they keep track throughout the season of how many
13 hunters they guide under the special use permit. At
14 the end of the season they report those out.

15

16 For 2020 for the three commercial
17 guides that are permitted guides through the Fish and
18 Wildlife Service special use permit process, the total
19 client use days for 2020 were 347 client use days
20 reported out by the three commercial permitted guides.

21

22 I do not have a breakdown of the
23 harvest by species.

24

25 Are there any additional questions?

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: An you -- did
28 you state your name?

29

30 MS. FOSADO: Oh, I'm sorry, yes, this
31 is Maria Fosado, the Refuge Manager for Izembek.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
34 Maria. Are there any questions for Maria from.....

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair, Pat.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Maria. I was
41 wondering if you might have quick access there, I was
42 wondering if we had a person complain about
43 difficulties getting their subsistence because of
44 increased amount of people that were being guided; do
45 you have any data on the number of hunters that were
46 guided in previous years, like in '19/20, '19, '20,
47 '18, has there been a big increase?

48

49 MS. FOSADO: Council Member Holmes,

50

0132

1 thank you for the question. I do have -- the last few
2 years I was able to pull. So for the year 2019 we had
3 the same three permitted guides for a total number --
4 or a total of 282 client use days. So from 2019 to
5 2020 the number went from 282 to 347. Having said
6 that, I pulled information back to 2016 and for 2016
7 the total client use days were 288. So over the last
8 few years it has ebbed and flowed. In 2017 the total
9 client use days, for again, the same three permitted
10 guides totalled 315.

11

12 So we fluctuated the last few years
13 from the high 200s to the middle 300s for client use
14 days. And it's, again, the same three permitted
15 guides.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Roger that, thank you so
18 much.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maria when
21 you're -- this is Della, when you're stating use dates,
22 and you have three guides and you say 347, so just
23 throwing the idea out there, it's like 111 days per
24 guide, is that kind of how that works?

25

26 MS. FOSADO: So it varies per guide.
27 One guide reported 54 client use days in 2020. One
28 guide reported 265 client use days. And one guide
29 reported 28. And so it depends on their clients, and,
30 frankly, this past year it really depended on Covid.
31 Some commercial guides were here for a very short
32 season and some guided the entire season. So our
33 permits do not require equal client use days, our
34 permits are issued to allow them to do the commercial
35 guiding and then they run their business and their
36 operations separate.

37

38 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
41 Rebecca.

42

43 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. Thank you. I
44 just had a question to make sure I'm not making some
45 incorrect assumptions about the permitted guides. When
46 you say that there were three permitted guides, does
47 that mean that there are three individual people that
48 have permits, and so when you've described the various
49 number of days across those three permitted guides, the
50

0133

1 54 days, the 265 days and the 28 days, what that means
2 is that one specific individual that has the permit had
3 the client use days of those amounts or I -- I want to
4 make sure that this isn't a situation where there's a
5 general guide permit and then they have like five
6 different guides working under them.

7
8 MS. FOSADO: Thank you for the
9 question. So through the Chair and members of the
10 Council. Every -- every commercial guide who submits a
11 special use permit application, if they have folks
12 operating, so guides operating under their business, we
13 require all those names to be listed on the special use
14 permit application and then we require the same
15 documentation as far as the commercial -- the State
16 commercial license, as well as their hunting license.
17 So should that change, the commercial special use
18 permit holder needs to contact our office and make a
19 modification to their application. So we should, in
20 theory, at all times know who's operating and anybody
21 that's commercial guiding and is checked, we should be
22 able to essentially cross reference them to the
23 appropriate special use permit.

24
25 And I guess I should also add that our
26 special use permits for commercial waterfowl guiding
27 are not limited, so anybody that applies and goes
28 through the proper process can be issued a special use
29 permit.

30
31 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, that's really
32 helpful. So to be a permit holder, do -- is this
33 limited to persons or is it -- can a corporation or an
34 LLC be a permit holder and then just to make sure I
35 understood you correctly, a permit holder can have
36 multiple individuals who are guides working for them.
37 So if I was a permit holder, I could have 10 guides
38 that were all taking out clients and each of those
39 guides would be accruing, you know, different numbers
40 of client use days; is that correct?

41
42 MS. FOSADO: Yes, that is correct.
43 Having said that all those client use days are reported
44 under the special use permit for the main operator.

45
46 MS. SKINNER: Right. Okay, and then to
47 be a permit holder, do you have to be an individual
48 person or can an LLC or a corporation be a permit
49 holder?
50

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1 MS. FOSADO: You would need to provide
2 an Alaska business license and then your hunting
3 license, and then there's additional requirements if
4 you're operating boats, you would need to provide a
5 Coast Guard license, general liability insurance, we
6 require a list of documents, and then anyone that is
7 able to provide proof of all those documents and go
8 through the proper special use permit application
9 process can be issued a special use permit.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
14 just kind of following along and so I understand --
15 this is Della -- what Rebecca's asking, because I know
16 I've asked this before is you've issued three permits
17 and so you got three permits, but under those three
18 permits how many, I'm going to call it subcontractors,
19 or hunters, are under those permits, do you have a
20 number?

21

22 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair, I would need
23 to pull the special use permit applications to give you
24 a concrete number of how many guides they had operating
25 under one special use permit. But I do want to
26 emphasize that the 347 client use days is all
27 encompassing.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della
30 again, I would really like to look at those numbers.
31 The other question I have is the Federal -- the permits
32 are given out by Izembek, the three permits, are there
33 permits for guiding also given out by the State?

34

35 MS. FOSADO: I would defer that
36 question to the State. There is a commercial State
37 license, but outside of that I would defer that to a
38 representative of the State that can speak to that.

39

40 MR. SCHAMBER: Madame Chair, this is
41 Jason Schamber with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
42 I can answer that question. Yes, there is regulation
43 that requires migratory game bird guides to register
44 with the State. So we collect personal information and
45 intent to guide in specific locations and issue them a
46 permit to guide in a given year.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And just so I
49 understand the process better, do you work with the, in
50

0135

1 this case the City of Cold Bay, is there anything that
2 determines the amount of guiding that can happen in one
3 place or what is the process there?

4
5 MR. SCHAMBER: No, the State does not
6 regulate guide activity in the sense that we do not
7 stipulate where guides can and cannot guide within the
8 state nor how many guides can operate in a specific
9 location.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
12 there any other questions or comments or.....

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, a question back to
15 Maria, this is Pat, Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was wondering, on
20 the permits that you issue, if you could have a
21 footnote in the future that could provide more data
22 for, you know, management of everything, by asking them
23 the take of their hunters by species, and then you
24 would have a really much more precise idea of what is
25 being harvested by that particular sector, particularly
26 in comparison to, let's say a subsistence survey by the
27 State, and that would be a bit of data that I would
28 think would be positive for everybody because the
29 guides could say, oh, gee, well, here's what we're
30 doing, we're doing great, and then you would know
31 what's being taken.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair and Council
36 Member Holmes. Great question and comment. And our
37 guides do report harvest data however some report it in
38 greater detail than others, and do break it down by
39 species. The template that has been used historically
40 and this, my understanding has been, when we do require
41 additional information outside of the client use days,
42 which is required for our permitting process, but any
43 additional information that we require, my
44 understanding is, manager discretion and having said
45 that, we try and limit it to key pieces of information.
46 For example, the emperor goose harvest would be a
47 perfect example of something that we could require
48 harvest information on. The current template that we
49 use breaks it down by brant, ducks, Canada geese, and
50

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1 that breaks that down between species harvested and
2 species crippled. And then on that same form they
3 report out the client use days and they do provide
4 their client, essentially the name of their client, the
5 day they hunted and the hours that they hunted.

6
7 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other.....

10
11 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:questions
14 or comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess we can
19 move on to -- well, any other questions or comments in
20 regards to this.

21
22 MR. MIKE: Della, this is Donald.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
25 Donald.

26
27 MR. MIKE: Yes, when this issue popped
28 up I got the speakers, or representatives lined up and
29 I requested the AMBCC to provide some information.
30 When the subsistence harvest regulations were
31 developed, promulgated under the amended Migratory Bird
32 Treaty Act, they had some spring season hunts so if I
33 can ask Ms. Patty Schwalenberg to brief the Council on
34 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act on spring bird hunting
35 and how difficult it will be to request changes to the
36 seasons.

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Donald.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
43 Donald.

44
45 MS. SCHWALENBERG: This is Patty
46 Schwalenberg. And I hope Dave is still on the line, he
47 can jump in, Dave Safine, where I'm falling short in my
48 discussion.

49
50

1 But the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was
2 amended in 1997 to allow for the spring/summer harvest
3 of migratory birds as you know. In order for that to
4 happen, the dates for the harvest were set between
5 April 2nd and August 31st. That was put into the
6 amendment for the Migratory -- into the Migratory Bird
7 Treaty Act and then it was also listed in the language
8 of the protocol and the associated legislation that
9 ended up allowing this to happen. So after August 31st
10 a subsistence hunter basically is going to go from
11 hunting under the subsistence regs to switching to the
12 winter/fall -- or fall/winter regs. This has been a
13 long time issue at the AMBCC. We received at least two
14 proposals over the years requesting to -- by various
15 regions, requesting to be able to harvest migratory
16 birds in the -- after August 31st and sometime prior to
17 April 2nd. And because this language, the specific
18 language of how many days the season is and the dates
19 of April 2nd to August 31st, are in the amendment, it
20 would take another amendment to the Treaty or some kind
21 of Congressional Legislation to allow for our
22 subsistence regulations to take effect during the
23 fall/winter harvest season.

24
25 So we have a committee at the AMBCC
26 level to work on this, although we haven't come up with
27 a solution and it takes a lot of legal assistance, too,
28 which we really don't have the funds to support, but
29 we've taken a look at all the treaties that are
30 associated with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, you
31 know, with Russia, Japan, Canada and Mexico and trying
32 to look for ways to make this happen. But the more I
33 look at it, I least, I really think it's going to take
34 some legislation or a major push to try to amend the
35 Migratory Bird Treaty Act again.

36
37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
40 Patty. Any other comments.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
45 everyone. I'm not sure where this leaves us. I think,
46 Maria, I've got way more questions than I have answers
47 so if I get to Cold Bay I need to spend some time with
48 you.

49
50

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1 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair. Any time
2 you stop by Cold Bay, please stop by, I would love to
3 have a conversation with you and meet you in person.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's true.
6 I've got my vaccinations so you need to get yours so
7 you can get to King Cove.

8
9 MS. FOSADO: Thank you. Madame Chair,
10 we are lucky here in Cold Bay, most folks have had a
11 chance to be vaccinated so we're on the right path and
12 hopefully we'll be able to start operating face to
13 face. I guess we'll be able to operate face to face
14 soon, hopefully.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
17 I would really appreciate getting those numbers of the
18 amount of hunters, or guides that are happening under
19 the three permits. I think that would be helpful to
20 know. And thank you, everyone, for the reports. And,
21 thank you, Donald, for setting this up this way, I
22 think it -- it's good to have a good picture, I just
23 think there's a lot to this whole process, I think, and
24 how it all works together, so thank you everyone.

25
26 With that, are there -- is there
27 anybody in the public, by chance, that has joined us
28 that would like to testify.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
33 we'll.....

34
35 MR. SAFINE: Madame Chair, can I just
36 make one comment, this is Dave Safine with the Fish and
37 Wildlife Service.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead,
40 Dave.

41
42 MR. SAFINE: Yeah, I just want to note
43 that, you know, what Patty, talked about and the
44 process for trying to request that particular change is
45 obviously a bit more challenging. But folks from the
46 public can submit request for regulatory changes to
47 either the AMBCC for the spring/summer harvest, or
48 through the Board of Game process for the fall/winter
49 harvest process. So I mean there is a process out
50

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1 there for both the spring/summer and fall/winter
2 hunting periods where members of the public or
3 interested parties can submit, you know, regulatory
4 changes. So for AMBCC that would occur typically late
5 in the year, November/December, this year, we bumped
6 the deadline, I believe into January so that's the
7 period. And your primary contact there would be Patty
8 Schwallenberg if people are interested in submitting a
9 proposal for change. And then for the fall/winter
10 hunt, the timing, I'm not exactly sure, Jason can
11 answer that better, but it would be submitting a
12 regulatory change request to the Alaska Board of Game.
13 I'm sure Jason could say when those deadlines tend to
14 be. I don't know, Jason, do you want to touch on that.

15

16 MR. SCHAMBER: Sure. This is Jason
17 Schamber at Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The
18 Board of Game cycle is on a three year rotation and
19 because the State is so large it's broken up into
20 regions and so there are statewide regulations as well
21 as regional regulations that are considered in each of
22 the three cycles. And I'm not sure where we're at in
23 terms of the Bristol Bay region at this point, Region
24 4, I think maybe those proposals will be considered at
25 a meeting next year and the proposals have been
26 accepted at this point and so any future proposals for
27 that region would be considered in the next cycle,
28 which would be two years from 2022, I believe. And it
29 looks like Ryan Scott is on and he can correct me if
30 I'm not offering correct information here.

31

32 Thank you, Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

35

36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38

39 MR. SCOTT: Madame Chair, this is Ryan
40 Scott with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

41

42 REPORTER: Okay, hold on Ryan. Could
43 you hold, please, just one minute.

44

45 If I could have people look down and
46 check their device and see if they're muted, that would
47 be star six. We're having some background conversation
48 over the speakers. So please check your device, star
49 six to mute unless you are speaking right now.

50

0140

1 Go ahead, Ryan.

2

3 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, ma'am. Thank
4 you, Madame Chairman. Just to add a little bit to what
5 Mr. Schamber had to say and thanks for the opportunity
6 to be able to talk with you folks today.

7

8 The Region 4 proposals are scheduled
9 for January of 2022 at a Board of Game meeting. Next
10 week the Alaska Board of Game will have a short meeting
11 to discuss some required regulatory changes we have to
12 do annually. One of the topics, they are going to
13 discuss, though, is whether or not they'll reopen the
14 call for proposals for the meetings that have been
15 postponed for a year. So if they do that then the
16 opportunity actually to submit regulatory changes
17 through the Board of Game may come back up for the
18 Kodiak/Aleutian regions. So it's just something to
19 maybe keep an eye on the calendar, and that Board of
20 Game meeting is March 18th and we'll know what the
21 Board wants to do as far as proposals go after that.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
26 thanks for the information. All right, any other
27 comments or questions.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Again, thank you
32 all for all the information, it's very helpful to
33 understand this process.

34

35 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

38

39 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I just wanted to
40 mention in case you or anyone else might be interested
41 and maybe Patty could correct me if I'm wrong, but I
42 believe that there is -- is our -- maybe Patty could
43 give us when our next statewide AMBCC meeting is, I
44 thought I had the date here Patty, but is Patty still
45 on?

46

47 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. Yes, I'm here.
48 It's scheduled for April 5th and 6th, and so we have
49 the first day, Monday, April 5th to go from 8:30 to
50

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1 4:30 and then Day 2, April 6th, we have scheduled 8:30
2 to noon. So we'll be done when we get done, I just
3 wanted to make sure we had enough time for all the
4 items on the agenda. So April 5th to 6th. The meeting
5 announcement is on the website,
6 www.alaskamigratorybirds.com, and we'll be posting the
7 agenda here within the next couple of weeks.

8

9 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, so hopefully,
10 Della, you could call in or get your local
11 representative, make sure he's calling in, and also
12 it's open to the public so others can call in also.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
15 I'll look for that. All right, thank you everyone. I
16 guess we'll move on. At this point we have tribal
17 governments. I don't have a list. I know I had a list
18 this morning for people that were online, so if you
19 have a report you're more than welcome.

20

21 MS. POE: Madame Chair, this is.....

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, did we
24 -- go ahead. Go ahead.

25

26 MS. POE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 This is Chandra Poe calling from Qawalangin Tribe of
28 Unalaska.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good to hear you
31 Chandra, go ahead.

32

33 MS. POE: Thank you. Yeah, I know
34 Chris was able to give everyone a little update this
35 morning but I just wanted to share a few points.

36

37 Since our last meeting in the fall time
38 we've briefly talked the situation, PSP, in Unalaska
39 and the unfortunate death last summer, and I just
40 wanted to give an update on that work. I have been
41 able to work and get funding through NOAA Event
42 Response and we've been able to keep collecting mussels
43 and also was able to work with tribal Staff in King
44 Cove and Sand Point and they are also collecting both
45 mussels and butter clams, we were able to get those
46 shipped to Anchorage and I've been coordinating getting
47 those to the Environmental Health Lab so we have been
48 able to keep going with that and try to keep an eye on
49 things actually throughout the winter, and then we're
50

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1 picking up and going back to weekly sampling again as
2 we're coming into spring and we anticipate that the
3 numbers will start to rise again, and we are trying to
4 keep that information updated online on our Tribe
5 website. But we have found really just astounding
6 differences in our lab results from one week to the
7 next and I think it's a good visual, it's a good
8 reminder to people of the importance of testing and how
9 quickly things can change. So we're hoping to be able
10 to continue, not only the testing, I mean everyone is
11 aware of the logistical challenges of getting results
12 in any sort of a timely fashion, it's really difficult.
13 So for now we're doing what we can to keep the
14 monitoring going and we are trying to increase our
15 outreach for the community members, currently working
16 with Staff at the clinic and hope to have a session
17 with them to share information about kind of the time
18 of year and species where PSP might occur and what the
19 symptoms might be, just to give everyone a little
20 refresher. So work there is continuing.

21
22 You know, ultimately, in the long-term
23 we are still trying to work with others and investigate
24 if we can figure out a way to be more timely and
25 provide people results. We don't have the local
26 capacity for that kind of analysis but we are
27 continuing our outreach and continuing to do the work,
28 and research and try to find more funding.

29
30 And I would just let everybody know
31 that Knik Tribe has funded another year of sampling,
32 not only in our region but other coastal areas as well.
33 And this year that is also going to extend beyond
34 shellfish and will include additional samples of
35 urchins, bidarkis and some salmon organs and such. So
36 I think that's an encouraging addition to that work as
37 we all know the importance doesn't stop with
38 (indiscernible) we need to be aware of the entire food
39 chain, with the importance of the marine mammals and
40 other species that do consume those shellfish even if
41 we aren't directly consuming them.

42
43 Additionally, other things I wanted to
44 bring to your attention, we are getting ready for
45 another season out at the weir at McLees. We're really
46 looking forward to continuing that partnership. Tyler
47 gave us all a great update earlier. Despite the
48 really, really low run, it was, for us, a really
49 successful season in the sense that we felt really good
50

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1 about that partnership and we're really looking forward
2 to continuing it for the next three years and beyond.
3 We're certainly not planning to stop. And we're
4 excited to see the pairing of the drone data with the
5 escapement and continuing to explore that methodology
6 so we're definitely looking forward to that and have
7 begun talking with Tyler about the season. So that's
8 underway. And we're all hoping for more fish, of
9 course, and another successful season of keeping that
10 weir in place.

11

12 We are hoping that we are going to have
13 a intern through the ANSEP program this year. We're
14 still waiting to see what sort of applications come in.
15 Working with Karen Hyer and others at OSM on that and
16 also the ANSEP Program directly so excited for that. I
17 think that if that happens it'll be a really great
18 opportunity to build our capacity.

19

20 Let's see I'm checking my list.

21

22 We're also currently working with
23 Jackie Keating on the subsistence harvest survey. It
24 did come out to our residents towards the end of
25 January, it's a mail survey. Of course they had to
26 change methodologies due to Covid considerations and so
27 those were mailed out. I think Jackie will probably
28 give you an update as well. But we have been, again,
29 very pleased with that partnership and the
30 collaboration there and hoping we can get a little -- a
31 few more surveys sent back in and really looking
32 forward to seeing those results and having an updated
33 data set that we can reference.

34

35 And the final thing that's on my list
36 is an update -- we had mentioned previously our intent
37 to hold a Coastal Communities Forum, originally that
38 was supposed to be in September of 2020 and for obvious
39 reasons it did not occur so we chose to get an
40 extension and delay in the hopes that we could still do
41 an in-person event but given all the uncertainties and
42 despite increasing vaccinations, we are going to figure
43 out a virtual event. My hope is that we can provide
44 support to the tribes along the Aleutians and other
45 coastal areas and enable them to come and make a
46 successful event despite all of the communication
47 challenges that we are all so well aware of, internet,
48 et cetera. I know we are all more experienced than we
49 ever wanted to be with these remote sessions and I know

50

0144

1 I am also ready for them to be done. But we feel like
2 with the uncertainties and the amount of lead time that
3 we're going to need to plan a really quality event, we
4 are going to move for -- just an update there.
5 Whenever I have any additional information about dates
6 and everything, I will be sure to share that through
7 Chris or Donald and make sure that this body knows kind
8 of our updates there.

9

10 I think that is everything that was on
11 my list and I'm happy to answer any questions.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
16 Chandra. Is there any comments or questions for
17 Chandra.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hello. Does
22 anybody have any comments or questions for Chandra.

23

24 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, George
25 Pappas. I have an odd example to provide about the
26 shellfish issue.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
29 George.

30

31 MR. PAPPAS: So two years, as everybody
32 is probably aware, Chignik has had some challenges with
33 their salmon returns. They called a meeting. They
34 wanted Federal Subsistence Board subsistence OSM Staff
35 to come out to town, we did, Orville Lind was with us.
36 He went out clam digging on the ocean beach there and
37 they got a mess of clams, and they sent them in to be
38 tested. And we sent half of them in to be tested.
39 Just like you're supposed to do for sampling protocol,
40 you send it all in, it came back, ate one clam and
41 killed 42 people or something, it was incredible.

42

43 So we tried Plan B. We got the other
44 half and we scrubbed them down, just had the mussel and
45 we tried to clean it up, get rid of the viscera, get
46 rid of all the other filtration material, so this was
47 pure clean skinned meat went in and we thought, well,
48 maybe we'll see if we can see if the lab would come up
49 with. Well, it came back much better, but one clam had

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0145

1 only killed like 14 people.

2

3

(Laughter)

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MR. PAPPAS: So just to give you a head's up the idea of cleaning up, or the guts or parts or what have you, it's all or nothing when it comes to the poisoning. And it was unfortunate because we had a very successful day.

So, thank you, Madame Chair. That's just new information that I'm not certain I've said to this RAC, the Regional Advisory Council before.

MS. POE: Madame Chair, if I may. Thank you. Thank you for that. Yeah, I think that's really interesting. Actually -- and I'm really bad at pronouncing her name, (Indiscernible) with SeaGrant in Kodiak, they've recently completed and shared a study of this exact issue, where they tried some different methods of cleaning. I believe they were using clams, but same thing, yeah, like you say, you can reduce the amount of toxins present, maybe by a certain amount, but I think it's part of the very important message that cleaning them does not fix the issue if the toxins are there, neither does cooking nor freezing. So I think all of those are really important points.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Chandra. Any comments for Chandra at this point.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'd just like to comment, thank you for your good report. And I know we're thrilled in King Cove that this testing has continued because we harvest a lot of clams here, the people do. In fact, they send clams to Akutan on the ferry or guys that are coming in here fishing from Sand Point, load up five gallon buckets of clams and take them to Sand Point and share with everybody, or we share them over in False Pass and Cold Bay, so it is a high valued subsistence item for us and we appreciate the fact that this testing has continued.

MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi. So I'd like to
4 share my story, I think it's a funnier story -- well,
5 not actually funny.

6

7 So we eat clams, and I love clams. So
8 we got some clams recently and we ate them and then we
9 sent some in, and then we ate some more, and then we
10 invited some people over and ate some more, and then we
11 invited some other people over the next day, so four
12 days in a row we ate clams and then we got our test
13 back and the test was -- I think it's like 80 parts per
14 million or something is the safe level, ours were --
15 ours had tested 289.

16

17 So I'm just concerned and have always
18 been concerned, and I've talked to -- I've been to
19 several PSP talks here in town, I've talked to Julie
20 Matweyou with the PSP testing and Nalcana is doing PSP
21 testing, but I sort of long talked about testing
22 levels, seeing if there's other ways we can test,
23 because I've heard of other stories, too, where people
24 have eaten clams and then they're like, okay, well, we
25 have this program, let's get them tested and they come
26 back and they're high. So I think we don't really know
27 the level. I'm always concerned when we have these
28 systems that create food scares for subsistence users.
29 I know there's lots of people who still eat clams
30 regardless of testing.

31

32 But, myself, while I think the testing
33 is a great idea, I think we need to test differently.

34

35 I know also when we've tested here in
36 town, and I don't know if Kelly's still on, but I think
37 I talked to her with Sun'ag and then Julie Matweyou
38 when they're digging clams as well as some people one
39 time at Port Lions, where they go out and they're
40 testing clams but they're not testing clams where
41 people are digging, A, I think you need to go where
42 people actually dig, and test those clams. That would
43 seem to give you some really good feedback. Also the
44 thing about cleaning the parts, I think it's been shown
45 in PSP testing that you clean the dark parts and that
46 lowers the levels of testing.

47

48 So I guess my point is, while I think
49 the PSP testing is great, I would love, as a -- well, I

50

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1 just as myself, on the Subsistence Board, I don't know
2 as part of this subsistence committee, like I think
3 that -- I feel like I haven't been heard in trying to
4 get my point across about looking at testing in a
5 different way. Testing in a way that has significance,
6 not just testing at the lowest level that will kill a
7 lab rat or however they've tested that, or lab mice --
8 lab mice -- I think we -- I just think we need to -- I
9 don't know how to get heard about testing in a
10 different way. I realize that we don't want to be
11 irresponsible and, you know, say, yeah, go ahead and
12 dig or whatever and I realize that this is a good
13 start, but we're learning this, but I think that
14 there's not enough consultation, maybe, with people who
15 are actually -- consultation and cooperation with
16 people who are actually digging clams and eating clams
17 and testing in areas where people are actually digging
18 and eating clams. Maybe this is the start of that
19 conversation now that there seems to be more funding
20 for testing. Maybe we could have, I don't know,
21 suggest to whichever entities we should suggest to,
22 where there's consultation, tribal consultation and not
23 just essentially classroom testing going on where
24 people who don't dig and just go to any old beach and
25 dig any old clams and in some any old place, to me
26 that's not effective at all.

27

28 So I guess just was sharing that.

29

30 I've tried to share stories of eating
31 clams and where to go dig them to test them and I've
32 tried to have input into how these things are designed.

33

34 I also think it would be a good
35 procedure, or a good idea to maybe have a procedure
36 where I know someone a couple years ago ended up in the
37 hospital from here, and I think maybe having a
38 procedure from when somebody goes to the hospital, you
39 know, can you go and collect those clams, test the
40 levels in those clams, I think none of that's
41 happening, but I think that would be valuable
42 information also.

43

44 So, yeah, I think I'm just interested
45 in -- and I don't know if anybody else has any input
46 but I've been long interested in figuring out how we
47 cannot scare people about eating their traditional
48 foods. I think on this same level is up north where
49 they've done all the seal oil testing so people could
50

0148

1 have their seal oil because of Federal regulations, you
2 know, we can order all kinds of food that's not food,
3 and order it frozen and feed it to people, but we can't
4 feed them traditional foods because our traditional
5 foods are so scary and full of toxins and mercury and
6 botulism and whatever else we use to be afraid of our
7 food, swine flu, bird flu.

8
9 So I guess I just wanted to share my
10 story and maybe talk about -- I think this is a good
11 place to kind of put a -- to maybe think about not
12 participating in conversations where -- like we make
13 our traditional foods super scary to gather and eat.

14
15 And that's it, thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 Coral. Are there any other tribal governments online
19 that would like to speak, and thank you Chandra that
20 was a good report.

21
22 MS. POE: Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing
25 none, we'll move on to Native organizations. Do we
26 have people that would like to speak.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Did we have --
31 didn't we have people from Sun'aq online earlier this
32 morning, are they still online.

33
34 MR. VAN DAELE: Hi, Madame Chair, this
35 is Matt Van Daele with Sun'aq Tribe. We don't have a
36 report at this time but have been very appreciative
37 listening to all the other presentations.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
42 What are the wishes of the Council. We seem to be
43 moving along pretty good. Do we want to call it a day
44 today and start with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
45 the morning, or do you just want to keep going.

46
47 MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca.
48 Certainly I'll do what the group wants, but I feel like
49 I may have reached my limit of virtual meeting for the
50

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1 day so I wouldn't mind recessing for the day and
2 picking up the rest tomorrow.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I agree with you
5 to be honest. Yeah, there's some things I need to take
6 care of before 5:00 o'clock. So if we can -- if it's
7 okay with everybody we'll recess and start at -- is it
8 at 8:30 tomorrow morning, Donald, or 9:00 o'clock?

9

10 MR. MIKE: Yes, ma'am. If I can offer
11 a suggestion, you know, we can recess for the rest of
12 the day and reconvene tomorrow morning. If you wish to
13 recess -- or reconvene at 8:30, 9:00, or 10:00 o'clock,
14 I'm open. That'll give -- you know it's up to the
15 Council how soon they want to meet in the morning.

16

17 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
18 Natasha.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
21 Natasha.

22

23 MS. HAYDEN: At my job we have a
24 standing weekly Staff meeting at 8:30 so if we could
25 start at 9:00 o'clock or a little after that would be
26 my preference.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Anyone --
29 9:00 works for me, how about everybody else, Rick or
30 Chris.

31

32 MR. PRICE: Yeah, 9:00 works for me,
33 too.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

36

37 Sam.

38

39 MR. ROHRER: I'll make anything work.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Pat,
42 you're good for 9:00.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Yep, that's fine, uh-huh.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, let's go
47 ahead.....

48

49 MR. HOLMES: I'd rather have you be

50

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1 happy.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm happy,
4 8:30's good too but 9:00 is even better.

5

6 MR. ROHRER: That's how I feel, Pat,
7 just want Della happy.

8

9 (Dog barking)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, the
12 dog says yes too, so let's reconvene tomorrow at 9:00
13 o'clock everyone, thank you so much.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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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 02 through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I electronically on the 9th day of March 2021;

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 4th day of April 2021.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22