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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Community Center  
Cold Bay, Alaska  
September 21, 2022  
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Della Trumble, Chair
- Coral Chernoff
- Natasha Hayden
- Patrick Holmes
- Richard Koso
- Christopher Price
- Rebecca Skinner

Regional Council Coordinator, Lisa Hutchinson-  
Scarborough

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Cold Bay, Alaska - 9/21/2022)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. It's going to be a bit of a test run because it's been a few years since we met in person. So looking forward to this meeting and it's nice to actually see faces, it's been a while. And to be in Cold Bay and we just witnessed one of the most beautiful sunrises in a while and that was a treat in itself. So at this point we'll call the meeting to order.

I just would like to make sure that everybody knows that if you have public comments they're welcome for each agenda items for regional concerns not included on the agenda. We appreciate hearing your concerns and knowledge and there are forms to fill out if you would like to testify. And the Kodiak/Aleutians has always made it a practice that if you are available and would like to testify that we do make that time and try to work with people.

And as many times the agenda is subject to change so contact Lisa I think if you want something on the agenda or would like to -- something to change.

So we'll call the meeting to order. Before we start, Pat, if you can do the invocation, please.

MS. HAYDEN: Della.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead.

MS. HAYDEN: Della, can you hear me?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I can hear you. Hello, can you hear us?

MS. HAYDEN: Not at -- not hardly at all. Do you have a microphone that you're trying to speak into?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Can you

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1 hear now, Natasha?

2

3 MS. HAYDEN: Just a tiny bit better.  
4 It's really just utterly faint.

5

6 MR. KOSO: That's the same with me,  
7 Della, I can barely hear you on this here.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Let's do  
10 the invocation since everybody's standing and then  
11 maybe we'll try to figure out a better way to get this  
12 to work. So let's go ahead and do the invocation.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madame Chair.  
15 Usually at this point I bring up a carving I did on  
16 yellow cedar of Liam Sua who is an ultimate omniscient  
17 deity of the Alutiiq people. And just to have folks  
18 focus on that and bear in mind that our duty here is to  
19 the folks that live in our region to provide -- make  
20 sure that they are able to have adequate food and  
21 maintain their cultures.

22

23 And so with that little brief  
24 announcement we'll all join together in the Lord's  
25 Prayer.

26

27 (Invocation)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
30 Just a question besides Natasha and Rick can anyone  
31 else let us know how you're hearing us on the  
32 conference call?

33

34 MR. POLUM: Hey, Della, this is Tyler  
35 at Fish and Game in Kodiak and it's very quiet for all  
36 of us here too. We can just barely hear you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I'm going  
39 to have the recorder and we'll see what we can figure  
40 out here. So kind of break here for a little while and  
41 maybe figure out a solution.

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (On record)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll call the  
48 meeting back to order. We will continue though if we  
49 can get a speaker phone just in case you run into a  
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1 problem again with that, we have that capability,  
2 conference phone.

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So again we'll call the meeting back to order. We did the invocation, we'd like to welcome everybody to the Kodiak/Aleutian meeting and it's the first time we've met person to person in quite a -- couple of years actually and it's nice to actually put faces to names. So we will do a roll call to establish a quorum.

Lisa.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,  
Madame Chair.

Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard  
Koso.

MR. KOSO: I'm here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Sam Rohrer.

(No comments)

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher  
Price.

MR. PRICE: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral  
Chernoff.

MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca  
Skinner.

MS. SKINNER: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della  
Trumble.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Here.

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1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha  
2 Hayden.

3  
4 MS. HAYDEN: Here.

5  
6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.  
7 Madame Chair, there's six out of seven sitting members  
8 available so we have a quorum.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. At  
11 this time -- we've pretty much done the welcome and we  
12 will do the introductions.

13  
14 So, Coral, I think if we start on your  
15 side we'll do the Council and then we'll do members of  
16 the -- that are sitting in the room and then I will  
17 call online for names by agencies or as we go through  
18 the process.

19  
20 So, Coral, would you like to get  
21 started, please.

22  
23 MS. CHERNOFF: Good morning, everyone.  
24 My name is Coral Chernoff and I am a representative  
25 from Kodiak region.

26  
27 MS. SKINNER: Good morning. Rebecca  
28 Skinner, RAC member from the Kodiak region.

29  
30 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Good  
31 morning. This is Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough. I'm the  
32 Council Coordinator.

33  
34 MR. PRICE: Good morning. Chris Price  
35 from Unalaska. I'm the Unalaska representative on the  
36 KRAC.

37  
38 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes from Kodiak. I  
39 guess I'm the token geezer and pretty much worked and  
40 lived almost everywhere from Douglas -- Cape Douglas to  
41 Attu and Pribilofs and feeling real privileged to have  
42 worked out on the Peninsula and the Aleutians a fair  
43 amount of my past time. And I think this is such an  
44 important role for us as representatives of our  
45 community and of our region to try to find the most  
46 equitable way for folks to get their food.

47  
48 Thank you, Madame Chair.

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
2 Rick and Natasha.

3  
4 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Rick Koso. I -- I'm  
5 from Adak and been in Sea Cove, Cold Bay, fished out of  
6 both places and the Aleutian Islands, but I represent  
7 Adak right now.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.  
10 Natasha.

11  
12 MS. HAYDEN: Hi, good morning. Natasha  
13 Hayden. I am born and raised in Kodiak, lived in the  
14 Kodiak region most of my life.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And  
19 we'll go ahead and start in the room.

20  
21 Glenn.

22  
23 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Madame Chair and  
24 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen, I'm the  
25 Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian  
26 Affairs. Always a pleasure to attend your meetings and  
27 to see all of you in person.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 MR. KOLLER: Good morning, members of  
32 the Council, Madame Chair. My name is Justin Koller.  
33 I'm a Fish Biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
34 Management.

35  
36 MR. STONE: Good morning, Madame Chair,  
37 members of the Council. My name is Jarred Stone. I'm  
38 a Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
39 Management.

40  
41 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Madame  
42 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Katya  
43 Wessels and I'm the Council Coordination Division  
44 Supervisor with OSM. I'm happy to welcome you here in  
45 person and I'm happy that we're able to keep all the  
46 2022 Council meeting cycle with meeting in person.

47  
48 Thank you.

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1 MR. AYERS: Good morning, Madame Chair  
2 and members of the Council. This is Scott Ayers. I'm  
3 the OSM Fisheries Division Supervisor. I too am  
4 pleased to see everyone in person. It's wonderful to  
5 be back to Cold Bay and I hope we have a productive  
6 meeting today.

7  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning, Madame  
11 Chair, members of the Council. I'm Jason Roberts,  
12 Anthropologist with OSM.

13  
14 MS. FOSADO: Good morning, Madame  
15 Chair, members of the Council. Welcome to Cold Bay,  
16 we're excited to have you here. I'm Maria Fosado and  
17 I'm the Izembek Refuge Manager.

18  
19 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Madame  
20 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Alison  
21 Williams and I'm a Wildlife Biologist for Izembek  
22 Refuge.

23  
24 MR. LAWSON: Good morning, Madame  
25 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Tyler Lawson  
26 with the Department of Fish and Game and I'm the  
27 Assistant Area Management Biologist based here in Cold  
28 Bay.

29  
30 MR. KEYSE: Hi. Good morning, Madame  
31 Chair. My name is Matt Keyse. I'm with the Alaska  
32 Department of Fish and Game, Assistant Area Management  
33 Biologist based out of Sand Point.

34  
35 MS. MELENDEZ: Good morning, Madame  
36 Chair and the RAC Council members. Welcome back to  
37 Cold Bay, I'm glad to see you all in person. And hello  
38 and good morning to all those who are in attendance.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
41 everyone. Leticia. Yeah, this is the City of Cold  
42 Bay.

43  
44 And I have to say something before we  
45 start online. Maria, I for some reason and this is how  
46 out of touch we've been with this covid thing and not  
47 seeing people face to face, but for some reason I  
48 thought you were a lot older than you are.

49  
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1 (Laughter)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm telling you  
4 all that when you said your name I'm like oh, my god, I  
5 feel silly.

6

7 All right. We'll go online. For those  
8 of you online we'll start with Fish and Wildlife Staff.

9

10 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill  
11 Klein. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator for  
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based out of the  
13 Anchorage regional office.

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. This is  
16 Jeff Williams, Deputy Refuge Manager for the Alaska  
17 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Good morning,  
18 everyone.

19

20 MR. GERKEN: Good morning. This is  
21 John Gerken with the Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm  
22 the Federal In-Season Manager for Bristol Bay, the  
23 Aleutians and Chignik. Good morning.

24

25 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. This is  
26 Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist with the Office of  
27 Subsistence Management.

28

29 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. George  
30 Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management, State  
31 Subsistence Liaison.

32

33 MR. VICKERS: Good morning. This is  
34 Brent Vickers, Office of Subsistence Management,  
35 Supervisor for the Anthropology Division.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MS. LaVINE: Good morning. This is  
40 Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator with the  
41 Office of Subsistence Management. Good to hear you  
42 all. Sorry we can't there -- all of us can't be there  
43 in person.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's continue  
46 on to ADF&G Staff, the State.

47

48 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch with the  
49 Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

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1 MR. DUNKER: Good morning, Madame  
2 Chair, members of the Council. My name's Bill Dunker,  
3 I'm calling in from the Kodiak Fish and Game office  
4 with the Division of Wildlife Conservation.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 MS. KEATING: I'm Jackie Keating,  
9 Division of Subsistence in Anchorage.

10  
11 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. This is  
12 Kelly Krueger and Mark Lavine with Fish and Game Sport  
13 Fish in Kodiak.

14  
15 MR. POLUM: Good morning. This is  
16 Tyler Polum with Fish and Game Sport Fish in Kodiak as  
17 well.

18  
19 MS. KLOCK: Good morning, Madame Chair.  
20 This is Susan Klock. I'm the Commercial and  
21 Subsistence Fisheries Manager for the South Alaska  
22 Peninsula and Aleutian Islands.

23  
24 MR. WILCOX: Good morning, Madame  
25 Chair. This is Chance Wilcox with the Division of  
26 Subsistence in Anchorage.

27  
28 MR. WADLE: Good morning, Madame Chair.  
29 This is Jeff Wadle, Regional Management Biologist for  
30 Western Region, Fish and Game.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If we could stop  
33 for a second. The person before Jeff, can you restate  
34 your name, please.

35  
36 MR. WILCOX: Yeah, sorry. This is  
37 Chance Wilcox with the Division of Subsistence in  
38 Anchorage.

39  
40 MR. JACKSON: Good morning, Madame  
41 Chair. This is James Jackson, Kodiak Commercial and  
42 Subsistence Area Management Biologist.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think  
45 we've saved the most important for last. Do we have  
46 people from the communities that represent.

47  
48 Vince, I did hear you online.

49  
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1 MR. TUTIAKOFF: This is Vince  
2 Tutiakoff. I won't be with you the whole day, but I  
3 will be -- I would like to be able to testify possibly  
4 tomorrow in regards to the subsistence issues that  
5 we're dealing with here in Unalaska.

6  
7 Thank you very much and have a great  
8 meeting.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
11 Vince. We'll make sure that we get you online.

12  
13 Anybody else online from the  
14 communities?

15  
16 MR. VAN DAELE: Good morning. This is  
17 Matt Van Daele with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

18  
19 MS. PETERSON: Good morning, Madame  
20 Chair and Council members. This is Amy Peterson,  
21 Koniag Community Affairs Liaison.

22  
23 MR. SMITH: Good morning. This is  
24 Daniel Smith, Tribal Biologist with the Sun'aq Tribe of  
25 Kodiak.

26  
27 MS. JONES: Good morning, Madame Chair  
28 and members of the Council. This is Tami Jones with  
29 the Native Village of Ouzinkie.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Is there  
32 anybody else online that we may have missed?

33  
34 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning, Madame Chair  
35 and members of the Council. This is Kim Jochum, I'm  
36 with the National Park Service, Regional Subsistence  
37 Program and ISC member.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm sorry, can  
40 you repeat that, please?

41  
42 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning. I can speak  
43 up a little bit. My name is Kim Jochum, I'm with the  
44 National Park Service, Regional Subsistence Program and  
45 an ISC member. Looking forward to this meeting.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
48 Anyone else online?

49  
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1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Hearing  
4 none, good morning and welcome, everyone. Thank you  
5 for being patient. We had a little bit of -- some  
6 complications getting started here.

7

8 So I'll move on to review and adopt  
9 agenda.

10

11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame  
12 Chair, I would like to note that what is in the Council  
13 books, we've amended the agenda. The agenda has been  
14 posted -- the updated agenda has been posted online and  
15 is available here in the room. If you would like that  
16 the -- the changes that were made were on items --  
17 under item 11B, the Federal proposals and Federal  
18 closure reviews. What we did is we moved the first two  
19 items down to the -- in a different sequence so FP 23-  
20 06a and FCR 23-15 and FP 23-06b and FCR 21-16 were just  
21 moved down to the 8 and 9 on the agenda.

22

23 In addition we added under 11 -- added  
24 under 11I, we just want to have an announcement for the  
25 Board of Fisheries meeting that is coming up and we'd  
26 like to add -- Coral had indicated that she would like  
27 to have a couple of the proposals added to the  
28 discussion.

29

30 Coral, would you like to discuss the  
31 items you wanted added, please.

32

33 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. I thought that  
34 since we were in Cold Bay and these were in reference  
35 to Cold Bay maybe we could bring up Proposal 98 and I  
36 think that was submitted by Fish and Game and Proposal  
37 103, submitted by Candace Nielson.

38

39 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.  
40 We'll add that to the agenda. And then under the  
41 agency reports under the Alaska Department of Fish and  
42 Game there was one other report presentation that will  
43 be under the Kodiak Area Wildlife Conservation Office  
44 with Bill Dunker.

45

46 Madame Chair, that's the only changes  
47 to the agenda.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Pat

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1 Holmes, did you have an item that you wanted added?

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4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I made some  
5 notes of things that hadn't shown up in our -- we  
6 talked about in our prior -- previous meeting in  
7 relation to the various closure reviews and a lot of  
8 them on Unalaska and our Coordinator will be making a  
9 copy of that so it makes it in the record. We've  
10 talked about those items on this list before, but they  
11 never made the minutes. So I think it would be good to  
12 get those in the minutes. And so when we get them  
13 copied everybody will get a copy of those particular  
14 points that might need to have a little more  
15 elaboration or discussion.

15

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Thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
Maybe we can add those poss -- yeah, on the review and  
approve previous minutes, Pat's list.

Any other items?

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If not, do we  
have a -- hear a motion to approve the agenda as  
amended.

MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca Skinner.  
I'll move to approve the agenda as amended.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a  
second.

MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Coral.  
All right. Discussion.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for  
question. All in favor signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same  
sign.

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1 (No opposing votes)

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Moving on. We will now move on to Council member reports. And maybe we'll go ahead and start with you, Pat, on your side of the table.

MR. HOLMES: Me. Yeah, I need to have Chris give me a poke because I had some serious surgery on my ears in May and it kind of knocked my socks off for a couple of months. And so my hearing is not that good and so if people hear me -- my phone beeping or talking to me and I don't respond, I just flat didn't hear you.

But that physical thing kind of messed up my whole subsistence season. I did get out and do some tide pooling and got some sea urchins. And berries around our house, the salmonberries were good, but the ones that were in the direct wind were pretty well short on berries. And we went up to look for lingonberries and they seemed to be kind of sparse up on Pillar Mountain. And that seems in my mind to happen when we have a real dry July every 10 years is that the berries don't seem to be quite as productive.

The Buskin River was closed quite early for a weak run, it didn't open until late in the season and folks that I know that went out later in the season had trouble with the sea lions and seals. And folks I talked to that went deer hunting got some nice deer, but -- last fall, but they're still in the recovery phase.

So that's my report, Madame Chair. Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat. Chris.

MR. KOSO: Did you call on me, Della.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. You can go ahead, Rick. Go ahead.

MR. KOSO: I'm not hearing too good on this phone here, you're still kind of -- kind of quiet once in a while there. So anyway I'm from Adak there and Adak so far subsistence wise is doing fairly well.

0014

1 I mean, we had the meeting a while back on the caribou  
2 with -- we had quite a few Committee people attend and  
3 some of the guides were in attendance. So the caribou  
4 itself is thriving fairly well, I don't see any problem  
5 as far as extinction of the caribou unless they go out  
6 and get some sort of an influx of people that come in  
7 and just kill them off. But right now we're sitting  
8 fairly well in Adak. I know that the Feds don't have  
9 the money or the staffing to do a survey. I was hoping  
10 we could get that done. But anyway overall Adak is  
11 doing -- is doing pretty well. I know the ptarmigan is  
12 kind of in a bad situation there, but a lot of the  
13 guides are not shooting them and stuff and they elected  
14 to stand down on that. So that was great.

15

16 But overall most of the people are  
17 together in Adak and I think Adak is doing really well  
18 as far as subsistence goes. But we still have to watch  
19 the caribou herd real well, real good because I think  
20 the Feds would like to see us down to 150 population on  
21 our island to me which is crazy because that -- you  
22 know, for food and essential need for the community  
23 would be devastated if that was the case.

24

25 So anyway that's all I had. Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.  
28 Natasha, do you want to go ahead.

29

30 MS. HAYDEN: Sure. Good morning.  
31 Thanks. I don't have a lot different to report other  
32 than what Pat already stated. The Buskin was closed.  
33 I was able to get some subsistence sockeye from the  
34 Pasagshak, in July I got a few. When I was out there I  
35 didn't see a lot of gillnetters, the -- I think I was  
36 out there two or three times. And I think that they  
37 got the escapement that they were looking for, but it  
38 wasn't -- I don't think there was a lot of surplus. I  
39 don't know how many fish were taken rod and reel and it  
40 also look like there were a huge number of sport  
41 fishers out there at that time. I think the return  
42 over at Port Lions was really good or adequate.

43

44 Similarly with the deer I've heard a  
45 couple people who have taken bucks here and there so  
46 far after August 1st just started, but hadn't seen a  
47 huge amount of them. But I agree that it does seem  
48 like they're still in the rebound phase, but better  
49 than last year for sure.

50

0015

1 I think there was a lot of blueberries.  
2 It seemed to me they were riper a lot earlier than  
3 normal, like I would still be going out and getting  
4 berries that are just getting to seeming to be ripe  
5 about this time of the year, closer to the end of  
6 September and the leaves are already falling, it does  
7 seem early to me. And also with the lingonberries, I  
8 haven't started my lingonberry hunt yet in earnest, but  
9 I did see a few up on Pillar and the salmonberries as  
10 well. It's interesting about the salmonberries because  
11 I did see and maybe somebody else knows what the cause  
12 of this is, but there was a lot of dead salmonberry  
13 branches from -- even from the beginning of the season  
14 when the salmonberries started to bloom, it seemed like  
15 there was a lot of dead stalks sticking up above the  
16 ones that were leafing up and putting out blossoms.

17  
18 Let's see. Well, I think that's it for  
19 me for now. I'm looking forward to hearing some of the  
20 reports on the bird populations and harvests.

21  
22 Thank you, Della.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
25 Natasha. Chris.

26  
27 MR. PRICE: Hi. Good morning. Thank  
28 you, Della. Again it's a real honor to be a part of  
29 this process and working in partnership with the  
30 communities that we have is a important part of what we  
31 do so I look forward to these meetings this week and  
32 working on these issues that we've been given to take a  
33 look at here representing our communities.

34  
35 As far as subsistence goes in the  
36 communities in Unalaska this summer we did have a  
37 successful start up on the McLees Lake getting the weir  
38 set up. And again that's why I bring up the  
39 partnerships, we needed a lot of help this year getting  
40 mobilized and we had Tyler with Fish and Game was a big  
41 part of that, Kenesha, Jenny and Emily. And then we  
42 had OC, the village corporation and OCCP, our power  
43 generation company helped to provide a landing craft  
44 for us to help us get supplies and materials out there  
45 at the beginning of the season which was a -- weather  
46 wasn't great and we needed a bigger boat.

47  
48 But as far as the fishing this summer  
49 weather wasn't great and at the beginning of the season  
50

0016

1 we didn't have much fish to catch. So the season --  
2 you know, we just didn't have any fish showing up until  
3 almost mid July. And once the fish started showing up  
4 we did have some people get out there, but we lost some  
5 nets, we had some boats get swamped and it's a -- it  
6 can be a very dangerous place if you're not aware of  
7 what you're doing out there. So we got through that,  
8 but for the most part we struggled to get enough food  
9 for the local community, for the elders and for the  
10 tribal members. So we ended up buying fish boxes from  
11 Chignik this year for all our tribal member households.  
12 So we're fortunate we were able to get those fish boxes  
13 sent down and they got out to the community.

14  
15 I just didn't hear a lot of great  
16 things as far as people getting a chance to fish this  
17 year. Vince will be on the line, he can -- he'll be  
18 very in tune with what was able -- you know, what  
19 happened in that regard. There's -- some fish were  
20 caught, but in general, you know, our local economy,  
21 we're very concerned about the reductions in the king  
22 crab and the opilio crab fisheries. We're concerned  
23 about the general ocean conditions in the Bering Sea,  
24 we're concerned about how that's going to affect  
25 commercial fisheries in our community.

26  
27 And on the Front Beach as far as  
28 subsistence goes, you know, we've got some families  
29 that traditionally fish on the Front Beach and they hit  
30 and miss. Some people seem to be taking more than  
31 their fair share. And I think we might want to look at  
32 additional reductions on the catch levels until  
33 Unalaska Lake and the Iliuliuk River start to recover  
34 as far as the red salmon are concerned. We are seeing  
35 some concerns with the return of the red salmon in  
36 Unalaska Lake.

37  
38 And so I'll leave it at that. Thank  
39 you guys for having this meeting. Appreciate it.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
42 Chris. Rebecca.

43  
44 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. So there have  
45 already been several reports from Kodiak and I won't  
46 repeat all of that information. I think at a high  
47 level in Kodiak which I realize is one of the bigger  
48 communities in this region, but I've noticed at -- when  
49 I go to the grocery store we've definitely had less  
50

0017

1 stuff in the grocery store, depending on when the ship  
2 comes in and then when the barge does come in we still  
3 don't have a lot of the store which is really I think  
4 emphasize the importance of food security and the  
5 ability to harvest the local resources through  
6 subsistence.

7  
8 I also just got an email notice that  
9 there's a coho closure that starts tomorrow at Buskin.  
10 So for -- you've already heard about salmon was not  
11 great in Kodiak, we had sockeye closure early in the  
12 year, we have a coho closure now. And it just drives  
13 home the concern about food security. And so when  
14 we're sitting at this table I know we're all very  
15 focused on ensuring that people in our communities and  
16 our region have access to food and to subsistence  
17 resources.

18  
19 From a commercial fishing perspective  
20 which impacts our communities it's also a source of  
21 some of the subsistence food that we eat. So if you  
22 take home pack home from your commercial fishing it has  
23 an impact. So I wanted to comment that from a salmon  
24 perspective this year I think Prince William Sound was  
25 not great. I've already spoken to Kodiak I think was  
26 not great and Bristol Bay had a banner year. And I  
27 think previously I've spoken about the cod stock being  
28 down, that seems to be improving somewhat. And then we  
29 heard Chris speak about the crab fishery closure that's  
30 having a huge impact out in Unalaska.

31  
32 So all of that is -- really points to  
33 the importance of the changing ocean conditions and how  
34 that's impacting the stocks, the access to subsistence  
35 foods and then also what's happening with the  
36 commercial fisheries. And all the communities in our  
37 region or a lot of them have a very strong connection  
38 to commercial fishery so when the commercial fisheries  
39 are down it really does impact the community.

40  
41 And then other than that in Kodiak we  
42 had some warm weather early on at the beginning of the  
43 summer, but primarily it seemed like it was a cold,  
44 rainy summer. But I think that's because that happened  
45 most recently.

46  
47 That's all I had. Thanks.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
50

0018

1 Rebecca. Coral.

2

3

MS. CHERNOFF: Good morning. Yeah,  
4 I'll just mention probably everything other people have  
5 mentioned for the Kodiak area. The weather was  
6 actually really warm for me in June. In June we set  
7 four records for high temperatures for the day so  
8 that's quite amazing. Usually we -- I mean, we can go  
9 years without setting a new high temperature. So I  
10 think that probably had a lot of effect on our plants.  
11 I noticed the salmonberry crops, like they just started  
12 our really big, really huge, I could put four of them  
13 in my hand and then they just went away. And I also  
14 noticed like Natasha did just a lot of like dead  
15 looking plants and sticks. So while we usually have  
16 kind of a long crop of salmonberries we had a very --  
17 in my experience and when I was out there, just a  
18 really short, early burst of salmonberries.

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As they talked about Buskin River  
closed fairly early, but it also reopened again fairly  
early. It seemed like we had -- the fish were very  
slow coming in and then right before it reopened on  
July 2nd, like on the 29th, escapement was like 4,500  
or something like that. And I had been out there at  
one time and it was like escapement for the day or  
going past the weir was like zero and zero and zero for  
like six or seven days. So they just came in in kind  
of a big burst. So it's just been a weird salmon year.

Recently I went to the other side of  
the Island to get silvers, I went -- I figured 20  
silvers, no big deal. I got zero and the reports were  
that commercial fishing was shut -- shutting down on  
the other side of the Island, silver salmon were coming  
in small. And there hadn't been any, we went to two  
rivers and there was no silvers up the one river. And  
then there were a few up the other. Clients for --  
fishing clients coming from out of state are not  
limiting out from what I've been hearing from four  
lodges out on the other side of -- western side of the  
Island. Pretty slow.

As for other crops, I do a lot of -- I  
do plant gathering. It seemed like other plants were  
just phenomenal. We have -- we've been around fireweed  
that's like eight feet tall, like seemed just extra  
tall this year. The nettles, I was out on the other  
side of the Island, the nettles are just -- I've never

0019

1 seen them like just so thick together and tall. So the  
2 nettles are doing good. I've seen plantain which I  
3 normally see, you know, leaf size, like smaller than my  
4 hand, I've seen plantain leaves like this big, they're  
5 like -- everything looks like prehistoric large. So  
6 whatever the weather was doing I think it was great for  
7 a lot of the plants. The highbush cranberries seem to  
8 be doing really well right now.

9  
10 Crayfish in the Buskin. This year  
11 people were going out and gathering and kind of, you  
12 know, trying to help to get rid of some of the  
13 crayfish, but that was stopped this year so people can  
14 no longer take crayfish out of the Buskin. And so  
15 hopefully here -- we'll hear -- we haven't heard in a  
16 couple years from Sun'ag about their studies that they  
17 did to see what the crayfish are eating, so hopefully  
18 we'll hear from them this year or next year about  
19 what's happening there.

20  
21 For crab, we have crab pots in the  
22 water and fish a lot of crab. Crab seem to be pretty  
23 scarce this year. Mostly we get opilios. The last two  
24 years with some iffy situations down in -- with the  
25 crab, commercial fishing down in Oregon's been kind of  
26 weird and off and on. We have a lot of pressure from  
27 fishermen coming up and so we've had thousands of more  
28 dungeness pots put into our waters around Kodiak and I  
29 think when we go out to subsist for crab that really  
30 shows. We haven't got a king crab in our pot in five  
31 or six years. And this year I think we caught maybe  
32 one or two dungeness and mostly opilios -- I mean  
33 tanners. So it seems like the commercial fisheries for  
34 crab are putting a lot of pressure on our crab stocks.

35  
36 So I am the representative for Kodiak  
37 for the AMBCC for our region. We've got a State  
38 meeting coming up. We had a management plan for  
39 emperor geese and that has expired. So for the last  
40 six months we started working on the new management  
41 plan for both sport and -- well, we talk about sport  
42 and subsistence together. So we're working on that  
43 now, I think we're expecting that to take about a year.  
44 In our management plan -- so in our management plan we  
45 have a harvest strategy and we've made three ranges.  
46 So every year we check the population -- we look at the  
47 population surveys and that's how we decide what  
48 harvest is going to be. So last year -- no, last year  
49 there was no harvest survey. The year before I think  
50

0020

1 it was down and so we were in a restrictive phase. So  
2 when it's in the green we are open to harvest a  
3 thousand -- a thousand birds throughout the State. And  
4 then so we just kind of decided and divided up the  
5 State so the Aleutians we've given them more because,  
6 you know, there's more birds in the fall through Kodiak  
7 and the Aleutians than there are up north. So during  
8 good population times we have a harvest of a thousand.  
9 When it's -- when the population goes down which it did  
10 a couple years ago then we went into kind of a  
11 restrictive stage and we've reduced that hunt to 500  
12 birds. And then the YKDelta voted to not have an egg  
13 take so there was no egg take and birds were restricted  
14 during the fall hunt to 500. This year the population  
15 status was up again so we're up into the green and  
16 we're talking right now in our upcoming meeting about  
17 because the population is sort of right on that line of  
18 sort of, you know, going in and out of the ranges we're  
19 talking about just what we're going to do this year.  
20 Our emperors seem to be healthy populations coming in  
21 for the fall, they're coming in on time.

22

23 And then lastly in the Kodiak area I'll  
24 just talk about we've had our road system -- we had a  
25 road system hunt close so you had to be 500 feet  
26 offshore in order to hunt for the springtime. So two  
27 years ago we just -- we got -- no, last year, this was  
28 out second year, we had a road system hunt open. So  
29 you have to get a permit, we wanted to track harvest so  
30 we're in a -- we have a three year plan where we -- the  
31 harvesters have to come in and get a permit and then  
32 they have to report their harvest. We've had roughly  
33 plus or minus 40 people get permits for the spring  
34 hunt, not a lot of birds have been taken. And emperors  
35 are close on the road system, the terns are closed on  
36 the road systems and they said because mew, mew gulls  
37 hang out next to the emperors those were also closed.  
38 So no eggging or birding for mew, tern and emperors. So  
39 that's gone well and we haven't had the immense  
40 pressure that was feared I think. So next year we'll  
41 look at getting rid of that permitting system. We kind  
42 of put it in place so we could track what was  
43 happening.

44

45 And I think that's all I have. Thank  
46 you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
49 Coral. So I'll go ahead and do my report. I think the  
50

0021

1 fish it seemed like June may have been fairly decent  
2 for everybody, but July and August seemed really slow.  
3 The silvers were definitely not there like they were  
4 last year. It's kind of interesting to see.

5

6 Berry wise I think we've fortunately  
7 with the salmonberries, there were a lot of  
8 salmonberries, but with the rain and they didn't last  
9 long, but there were a lot of salmonberries. And some  
10 people are getting blueberries now and of course the  
11 mossberries, but not so much as -- I think the  
12 mossberries is in the past.

13

14

15 Crab has definitely had an impact as  
16 Chris said on our communities not having the crab  
17 seasons and it's definitely had a big impact on our  
18 communities and hopefully that rights itself out sooner  
19 than later.

19

20

21 Bird populations, I haven't really been  
22 tracking any of this. I'm kind of interested to see  
23 what these reports are when we look at Izembek and  
24 what's moving, coming in and what you guys have  
25 observed.

25

26

27 I think as Rebecca stated clearly the  
28 impact on the various species and the temperatures  
29 warming and what that means for communities and the  
30 importance of subsistence I think is really clear. And  
31 I think you probably will hear that Statewide anymore  
32 and what that means for all of us. And we look  
33 recently with the big storms up at north and the  
34 impacts that will have on the various streams and in  
35 the near future is something I think we should closely  
36 watch also. But it is a big concern, there's a lot  
37 happening and what that means to us and how we adjust  
38 and go forward is going to be -- it's going to take a  
39 lot of effort on all of parts Statewide to try to work  
40 together to figure this out and not work against each  
41 other. That's going to be the tough part of it all.

41

42

43 But with that I think that's basically  
44 all I have for my report right now.

44

45

46 Oh, and then I'll just add, I know I  
47 did talk to someone from Sand Point yesterday and he  
48 did say that his salmon season wasn't good at all. So,  
49 yeah. It's interesting -- it'll be interesting to hear  
50 what Lisa's report will have to say.

50

0022

1 I'll go ahead and move on to my Chair's  
2 report. I did attend the -- two days in a Statewide  
3 meeting -- I'm sorry.

4  
5 Pat, did you have a question.

6  
7 MR. HOLMES: I just had a footnote to  
8 Coral and Becky's comments on tribal help and personal  
9 use history as sources for folks getting things  
10 straight out for their own subsistence, myself  
11 included, not getting fish. I find that more of the  
12 commercial fishermen are sharing a home pack both here  
13 and on the Alaska Peninsula. And so that's been a  
14 great help to have people giving me fish when I can't  
15 get out.

16  
17 And also I wanted to point out that the  
18 Sun'ag Tribe has developed a really important program  
19 with their small, little fish processing plant where  
20 they put up home pack and meal size portions for the  
21 elders. And so some of the folks that I normally would  
22 bring fish to said well, that they're covered by the  
23 tribe helping them out much like Chris was talking  
24 about out at Adak. So I think our communities, whether  
25 it's commercial fishing, everything supports local  
26 people for their sustainable food.

27  
28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
31 And that's a good reminder too because Chris didn't  
32 bring enough of the home packs I think that the tribes  
33 have done. They have also -- it's part of their covid  
34 money that they received because we last year and this  
35 year did receive a case of salmon filets from Peter Pan  
36 Seafoods. And that helps a lot to have that for your  
37 winter supply. So it's basically a gift.

38  
39 Okay. Any other comments in regards to  
40 Council member reports before we move on.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I do have one  
45 for Coral though. I'm curious on the migratory bird  
46 you mentioned the various things that you're looking at  
47 I think and on the emperor geese and it would be nice  
48 to try to get some information on how or where they're  
49 at. I know there was a point when they first -- before  
50

0023

1 we first started even having the hunts on looking at  
2 changing the way the surveys were being done and  
3 whether those numbers needed to be changed in the areas  
4 that were being surveyed and also of course updating  
5 and changing those regulations. So any kind of  
6 information I think me as a Council member that I can --  
7 that can be shared with us to get -- maybe get to Lisa  
8 and then she can share that with us would be very  
9 beneficial.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, Lisa would  
12 definitely know who to get in touch with about the  
13 surveys, any questions about the surveys. And then  
14 what was your other question?

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The process of  
17 changing the regulations.....

18

19 MS. CHERNOFF: Oh.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....keeping us  
22 informed.

23

24 MS. CHERNOFF: Oh. Okay. Yeah, next  
25 meeting and I'll send Lisa the process of -- it's just  
26 like anything else, like submitting a proposal, if you  
27 have proposals or if you're having issues of harassment  
28 then you call enforcement. Enforcement if you think  
29 there's -- you know, because there are hunter issues  
30 sometimes of harassment or being on land they're not  
31 supposed to be on, you know. hunting on lands. Yeah,  
32 just deal with enforcement through enforcement and then  
33 the surveys there are -- is it -- yeah, I don't know  
34 who's doing the surveys now, but she'll get you in  
35 touch with them.

36

37 But you can always come at anytime and  
38 I'll start sending out lists of our -- we have two  
39 State meetings a year and I'll start letting everyone  
40 know, make sure that you all know when the AMBCC  
41 meetings are and you can comment there at anytime.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I  
44 may talk a little bit more about this as we go in the  
45 next couple days, but right now I'm just not quite  
46 ready.

47

48 So as far as Chair's report I did like  
49 I said did attend the last meeting by conference call.

50

0024

1 You do have a letter I think that references the  
2 actions taken for Kodiak/Aleutians proposals, but it  
3 was a long two days of proposals basically. But other  
4 than that really I think it's going to be nice to be  
5 able to attend the next one face to face because you  
6 get more impact and just being able to talk to people  
7 and question people when they're there has a lot more  
8 effect I think than in trying to do things by  
9 conference call on that large of a level.

10

11 I was also notified by that.....

12

13 MS. HAYDEN: Della.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, it -- I'm  
16 having a hard time hearing you again.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. I'll  
19 try to get closer to the mic.

20

21 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The other thing  
24 I think for purposes I did miss the approval of the  
25 minutes of the previous meeting.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Move to approve.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by  
30 Pat.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Coral.  
35 Discussion.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, do you  
40 have a comment.

41

42 MR. PRICE. No, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Call for  
45 question.

46

47 MS. CHERNOFF: Question.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All those in  
50

0025

1 favor of approving the minutes signify by saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same  
6 sign.

7

8 (No negative votes)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

11

12 (Teleconference interference -  
13 participants not muted).

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: For housekeeping  
16 please mute your phone. I'm not sure if somebody was  
17 trying to talk or not, if you can go ahead and repeat  
18 that.

19

20 Rick, was that you?

21

22 MR. KOSO: Della, I -- you get real  
23 quiet once in a while there too, it's hard for me to  
24 hear once in a while, but most of the time I can hear  
25 you and understand you, but that could be old age too,  
26 getting to where I can't hear so good.

27

28 But anyway I just wanted to bring a  
29 couple more items up on Adak that I left out on my  
30 opening statement there, if it's okay?

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead,  
33 Rick.

34

35 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Well, in Adak there  
36 we do have -- we're facing a problem with the Navy out  
37 there when they clean their unexploded ordinance and  
38 their clean up. You know, they -- the entrance to the  
39 creek to Lake Andy has been blocked off and that's  
40 where we get a substantial amount of reds that come up  
41 through that creek. The last few years people have  
42 been gone out on the north side there and harvesting  
43 their reds there for subsistence and other uses. And  
44 it's been blocked off and we're afraid that because  
45 it's been blocked off for the last couple years we're  
46 going to lose our red salmon returns. And I don't know  
47 how much -- how long it's going to take now for that --  
48 you know, because we lost a couple years there already  
49 and we've been with the Adak Community Development  
50

0026

1 Corporation we had John Moller to talk to the Governor  
2 and the people in Juneau to see if we can't get the  
3 Navy to open that up, but with no avail, we weren't  
4 able to. So I've been meaning to Lisa and talk to her  
5 on that, but I figured that was a done for this year so  
6 I'll have plenty of time to do that with her a little  
7 later, get some -- maybe get some answers to that.  
8 But's it a big concern for everybody because Lake Andy  
9 is a very safe lake for people to go and get  
10 subsistence salmon. It's accessible by road and it's  
11 just a lot safer for a lot of people to be able to get  
12 their subsistence there. So it's a big concern to the  
13 community of Adak and I forgot to bring that up when I  
14 was yapping there.

15

16 So that's all I have.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

19

20 Coral.

21

22 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. I had a  
23 question. So with that is it the road access to the  
24 creek to Lake Andy, is that, Rick, what is blocked?

25

26 MR. KOSO: Yeah. We have -- we do have  
27 a road that goes out. Yeah, I think you're inquiring  
28 if we had road access, right?

29

30 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. You said that  
31 entrance to the creek has been blocked and so that's  
32 what I was wondering, it's road access to previous.....

33

34 MR. KOSO: Yeah, we do have road access  
35 out there, but the Navy had blocked it off due to the  
36 unexploded ordinance and clean up that they're doing  
37 out there. They don't let anybody past a certain mark  
38 so we're unable to get out there right now. We're  
39 hoping to change that and eventually get out there so  
40 we can get that cleared out there, let the fish come.  
41 And I think we're a little later for this year for  
42 doing that now because I think the fish have already  
43 either spawned out in the ocean or disappeared now. So  
44 I'm not sure on the exact stuff on that, I'll have to  
45 get a report maybe from Lisa when she comes on that can  
46 give us a better update on that.

47

48 So yeah, that's about it.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Coral,

0027

1 are you good?

2

3

MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

6

7

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Yeah, Lake Andrew there is on the north side of the island so it's open to storms and when the creek gets blocked and the salmon can't get up to spawn the ones that are left in the lake and they become kokanee which are little, tiny red salmon that might get to 18 inches long. And so when that stream gets blocked it messes things up for five or 10 years. And so I think it's so important for them to be able to get that stream opened up and get normal escapement in there. And I wish you well, Rick, on your politics there to get that cleaned out before next June so that you can keep that most important red run on Adak Island going.

19

20

21

Thank you, Madame Chair.

22

23

24

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
Rick, are you good?

25

26

27

MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm good, Della.

28

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31

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anybody else.

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MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.  
MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.  
MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Della. Yeah, I guess I just have a question with, Rick, is there anything that you are asking us to do or that can we do or can we write a letter, submit a letter, I don't know what would be the process, but I guess I'm asking if there's anything that you're asking for us to do or if there's anything that we can do to help that process?

MR. KOSO: You know, I think right now because of the timing of this whole thing, I think it's a little late for this year, I mean, the reds have pretty much come and gone now. And so we have until next June I'm hoping to get something done there. I'm not sure how long the Navy's going to be there, I think they're about ready to wrap up their -- you know, their clean up out there. I think it might be this year if

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1 I'm not mistaken, but Adak Community Development  
2 Corporation which I've been a member of for the past 15  
3 years, we've been working through -- you know, with the  
4 Juneau and with our representatives to try and see if  
5 they can get some folks to get the Navy to open that up  
6 and have the contractor that's working there do it.  
7 But to no avail, we were not able to do that and we  
8 went through all the doors that we can get through.  
9 And like I say we're too late this year, but we're  
10 hoping to get it rectified by next year so we don't  
11 completely lose our salmon returns.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: I think Coral raised a  
18 good point and I think being as we are a Federal  
19 Subsistence Committee I think it would behoove us to  
20 write a letter and I'd be willing to work with Rick on  
21 that to go to whatever respective agencies and to the  
22 State and the Governor, Fish and Game, Fish and  
23 Wildlife Service, we can probably get a list from our  
24 Coordinator as to who we could contact and just tell  
25 them that's -- the importance of that system and ask  
26 them that as part of their work that they make sure  
27 that the stream is open before next June. I think a  
28 little bit of politics on our help -- on our side would  
29 help out the folks at Adak quite a bit.

30

31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
34 And I think it also raises -- this is Della. It raises  
35 the question on jurisdiction. Because I'm not familiar  
36 with it is this Federal lands and State waters or what  
37 exactly are we dealing with. And the reason I bring  
38 this up, Rick, is because in the past we had -- this  
39 Regional Council had sent letters in regard to the  
40 issues with caribou that went to the main Board to try  
41 to have assistance and try to rectify that situation  
42 and it was a process that was long, but it did happen.  
43 And if we need to have that assistance besides getting  
44 the letter to whom -- to be able to do that I think it  
45 may be worth looking at before this meeting is over.

46

47 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della, I think that  
48 there's the Alaska Maritime Refuge in that area. But  
49 right now I think the Navy has control over that area  
50

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1 for the clean up on the unexploded ordinances that  
2 they're doing out there. I think they're contracted  
3 out to do that. And they do contract other people to  
4 go out and do a lot of work. So we've been working to  
5 try to get the Navy to do it, but like I said we're not  
6 -- we weren't successful on doing that. So I think the  
7 letter from the Subsistence Board, I'm not exactly sure  
8 until I get to talk to Lisa, ask about it, maybe she  
9 could, you know, give us a little better answer as far  
10 as steps we should take on that and the steps that they  
11 could take on that. So I think we need a little more  
12 information on that and I think we do have time, I'd  
13 like to try to get this done before the next summer  
14 season.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Rick, I have  
17 one more question. This is Della. You're basically  
18 asking them not to block it, but you're not -- it's not  
19 for harvest purposes and I'm saying this because the  
20 question is unexploded ordinances and the clean up.  
21 But you're mainly asking for it to be open for  
22 escapement; is that correct?

23  
24 MR. KOSO: Yes, that's all. We're just  
25 asking for the creek to get open to -- from the ocean  
26 to the lake there. It's not a very long creek that  
27 goes from the ocean to the lake there. So it wouldn't  
28 take much, it's just that we need to get at that to be  
29 able to do that. I think we could get some people  
30 locally to open that up if we could get the permission,  
31 but so far we weren't able to get the permission.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think  
34 we can kind of think this through a little bit.....

35  
36 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, Della.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....before our  
39 meeting's over and try to come up with some sort of  
40 solution or direction.

41  
42 Natasha, is that you.

43  
44 MS. HAYDEN: Yeah, thanks, Della. Just  
45 housekeeping again. Somebody needs to mute their  
46 phone. There's a lot of background noise coming  
47 through on the phone.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
2 Coral.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think  
7 we're ready to move on. There's -- the list Pat's  
8 provided, questions and answer from prior meetings that  
9 he had requested and I know he has asked this probably  
10 in the last three meetings to -- these items to be  
11 added. And if it's appropriate I think I'd like to --  
12 I don't know if we need a motion for this or just a  
13 Council consensus that these items be added to the  
14 minutes because he would like them to go on record. I  
15 don't know if there's an issue of process that we need  
16 to follow and if somebody can help us with that.

17  
18 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

21  
22 MS. SKINNER: Thanks, Della. Yeah, I  
23 read through these questions and I don't recall these  
24 questions coming up at our winter or spring meeting.  
25 So I know that these questions have come up in various  
26 discussions about the closure reviews. I don't think I  
27 agree that they should be part of the minutes for the  
28 winter meeting. That being said, I think that all of  
29 these questions very -- they're very relevant to the  
30 closure reviews and I expect that we're going to touch  
31 on every single one of them during our discussion about  
32 the closure reviews. But as far as adding these to the  
33 minutes I do not think -- as I recall I don't think  
34 that these were actually brought up during discussion.  
35 And we didn't have a lot of specific discussion about  
36 the closure reviews at our last meeting.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, do you want  
41 to address that, please.

42  
43 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I put those  
44 in there because those -- not the whole discussions,  
45 but the major points on there were points that I raised  
46 and that I feel that they should be discussed for each  
47 system, particularly for Unalaska. The length of the  
48 streams, the quality of the escapement, those things  
49 were never discussed, I mentioned them, but we didn't  
50

0031

1 get a response. An so I think that should be part of  
2 the whole review process and I think we could -- if you  
3 don't agree with me, Becky, we could ask for the  
4 recorded thing because they can give it to us verbatim,  
5 but they were discussed and I would like to have my  
6 questions that were raised and other people raised, I'd  
7 like to have those in the minutes of our meeting today.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, so I agree, I can  
12 go back and look through the transcript of the last  
13 meeting. If the question is adding these to the  
14 minutes of today's meeting I don't have a problem with  
15 that because obviously they have been handed out, we're  
16 talking about them. I just -- I don't recall this  
17 level of specifics being discussed at our last meeting  
18 of which we have minutes in our packet. But I will go  
19 back and look at the transcript and I would suggest  
20 maybe we table this until later in the meeting.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
23 Rebecca. Chris.

24

25 MR. PRICE: I have a question on who  
26 does transcribe the minutes and what's their thought on  
27 what Pat's saying here, did -- are they in there or did  
28 we just -- did we miss them, what happened. I'm trying  
29 to understand what happened.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think, Chris,  
32 I do recall Pat bringing these up in the last two  
33 meetings and I know that he has, I do recall it. I  
34 guess my question though at this particular point if  
35 they're wanting to have this on the record, but also  
36 his point of these questions not being answered. And  
37 some of these I think if they're shared with a larger  
38 group and in particular looking at Fish and Wildlife  
39 and ADF&G, if they're able to pull some of this  
40 information together, answer some of these questions,  
41 when they give the agency reports it might be  
42 worthwhile to share this list with them if we're able  
43 to and that I think would help the process. As far as  
44 in the minutes like Rebecca said we can maybe add this  
45 to our meeting as we go, but some of this I think can  
46 possibly be answered through the course of the next day  
47 or two if it -- and then at the end of the meeting  
48 maybe we can decide what should -- if we need to go any  
49 further, take any further action with this list is what

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1 I'd recommend.

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MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

6

7

MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I think that makes sense. And I just -- I guess for people who are listening to this discussion to remind everyone that various members of the Council participated in numerous calls about the closure reviews and not all of those calls were meetings of the Council. So what we're talking about or what I understand the request is to add these questions to the minutes of our winter meeting and that's where I disagree that the level of detail and the question was discussed at our winter meeting. I do agree that the substance of this came up during the multiple phone calls we had during the closure reviews, but those are not the minutes that we're talking about today. But I do have the transcript from our last meeting open, I'll look through it and if I, you know, find that there is a public detail I'll be happy to withdraw my objection to it. I just don't think that that's the meeting where we had this detailed discussion.

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And again we -- I fully expect we are going to get to every one of these questions and issues during our discussion of the closure reviews today and tomorrow because these are valid and relevant points.

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Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rebecca. Lisa.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you, Madame Chair. I would like to ask Katya Wessels to answer the question that Chris had regarding who -- how we do our minutes of the winter minutes.

41

42

43

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Thank you.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Katya Wessels for the record. I just -- yeah, I wanted to address the question that you had, Chris. It's usually Council Coordinator who summarizes the transcripts for the minutes. The sole purpose of the minutes is actually it's a requirement by the Federal Advisory Committee

0033

1 Act because all the Councils including your Council  
2 have been chartered under the Federal Advisory  
3 Committee Act that requires us to have the minutes  
4 prepared. But minutes contain just the outline of your  
5 meetings, the main points made. And I do know the real  
6 -- if you want to know the real substance they're in  
7 the transcripts. That's why all the meetings are  
8 transcribed. And if Pat wants to get the answers to  
9 his questions by putting them in the minutes doesn't --  
10 will not get the answers. You know, it's better to  
11 discuss these questions during the meeting and, you  
12 know, hopefully the right people will provide the  
13 answers. But we'll raise them and, you know, Council  
14 can even put a specific request to an agency to get the  
15 questions answered. But just adding this list to the  
16 last meeting minutes will not do anything really.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
21 Katya. Lisa.

22

23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah, to  
24 everybody listening and I just want to remind you if  
25 you -- to mute your phones, please, somebody -- we've  
26 got some interference. So you can mute it -- if you  
27 can't mute it on your phone then try star, six.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
32 Katya. I just lost my train of thought. Oh, yeah. I  
33 think the other piece of this with our minutes with our  
34 minutes is for a while we had the same Coordinator.  
35 And then the last couple years we've had multiple  
36 Coordinators. So having a Coordinator that's familiar  
37 to working with us as a Council helps a lot when  
38 they're putting these minutes together and what we kind  
39 of expect to have in them. So as we move forward  
40 hopefully Lisa is going to be able to pot that load.

41

42 Thank you. We will address this again  
43 toward the end of the meeting, but maybe we can get  
44 this list out to various agencies. That would be  
45 great.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

50

0034

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We have  
2 somebody -- your phone needs to be muted. I know you  
3 probably don't want us listening to whatever you're  
4 doing. So please mute your phone.

5  
6 All right. We're going to go ahead and  
7 move on here. Oh, I'm sorry.

8  
9 Scott.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, do you have  
14 anymore comments.

15  
16 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I didn't  
17 mean to imply any negligence on the part of OSM, it was  
18 I think and oversight because in recent years they've  
19 gone to more of a action minutes rather than addressing  
20 all the topics specifically. My intent is just that we  
21 discuss those points as we're going through the closure  
22 reviews. And that's it, no offense implied.

23  
24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
27 And those reviews are on the agenda. So we will move  
28 on. So the next item on the agenda we can do really  
29 fast is service awards.

30  
31 I'll turn it over to Lisa.

32  
33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Please mute  
34 your phone. Yeah, so the OSM, Office of Subsistence  
35 Management, our Federal Subsistence Program and the  
36 Regional Advisory Council, we every five years of your  
37 service we like to acknowledge our thanks and  
38 appreciation for all of your hard work. And so we have  
39 one of -- Pat Holmes was honored the last time, but he  
40 didn't receive a certificate so we would like to give  
41 that to him today. And then also Della Trumble is  
42 receiving her 25 year award.

43  
44 (Applause)

45  
46 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And that's  
47 remarkable and we hope you continue another 25 years.  
48 Okay.

49  
50

0035

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And Chris Price  
4 five years. So thank you for being on the Council.

5

6 (Applause)

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Be we would  
9 like to ask Glenn Chen as we have the honor of having  
10 him here today and we would like you, Glenn, to present  
11 the awards.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. CHEN: Good morning again, Madame  
16 Chair and Council members. Yes, I have the distinct  
17 honor and pleasure to present these awards to these  
18 outstanding Council members. As a side note many of  
19 you know that our Regional Director, Gene Peltola,  
20 retired at the end of July. And one of his final acts  
21 as BIA Regional Director was to designate me as the  
22 Federal Subsistence Board member for BIA, as an acting  
23 member until we get a new Regional Director. So today  
24 I'm here actually as a member of the Federal  
25 Subsistence Board to present these awards starting with  
26 Ms. Trumble. And I have a prepared statement to read  
27 if that's okay.

28

29 So you've served since 1997, that's  
30 amazing. Della Trumble has served on the  
31 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Advisory Council since its  
32 inception with a few brief intermissions between her  
33 appointments. This amounts to 25 years of which 23  
34 you've been the Chair. You're from King Cove, an  
35 amalgam and descendent of your amalgam ancestors that  
36 have lived in the Aleutian Alaska coastal region for  
37 thousands of years. Her family has and continues to  
38 harvest resources from the land in commercial fisheries  
39 for generations. She was taught the way to do things  
40 by her family and continues to pass that knowledge to  
41 her family and to others that want to learn. Della is  
42 currently the CEO of the King Cove Corporation and she  
43 has served also as a Financial Manager since 2008.  
44 Since the 1970s she has been on many Boards and  
45 Councils related to fish and wildlife issues. She has  
46 always been concerned about protecting the local  
47 resources and keeping people informed. Over her career  
48 she has made countless contributions to strengthen and  
49 fight for betterment, safety and sustainability of her  
50

0036

1 community. Through her actions Della recognizes the  
2 value of forming partnerships to local governments, her  
3 community, Native corporation, local tribes and State  
4 and Federal agencies and recognized by Senators who  
5 represent us from all walks of government.

6  
7 Very remarkable, Della. How  
8 remarkable, 25 years of service on this Council. The  
9 Federal Subsistence Program and the Council would like  
10 to acknowledge and hardily thank Ms. Trumble for 25  
11 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the  
12 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council.

13  
14 So I will walk up and present you.

15  
16 (Applause)

17  
18 (Taking pictures)

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Glen.  
21 And just I didn't realize this was 25 years and my how  
22 time flies. I think I recall standing up here with  
23 Melissa Berns five years ago which is probably the last  
24 meeting we had in Cold Bay getting a 20 year  
25 recognition. So I thank everybody and I have to kind  
26 of chuckle when I watch Glenn hobble up here with his  
27 knee and I'm hobbling around with my knees and my how  
28 we've aged, but we're still here. But thank you, I do  
29 appreciate the honor and I -- just the honor serving  
30 and helping the people in Kodiak/Aleutians. I think  
31 it's something we should all teach our kids to be  
32 mindful of, our environment.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Before we  
37 continue if whoever's -- mute the phone because we have  
38 interference if you can hear us, please. That's star,  
39 six or mute your phone, please.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Glenn.

42  
43  
44 MR. CHEN: All right. The next person  
45 we'd like to recognize is Mr. Christopher Price who's  
46 been on the Council since 2017.

47  
48 We would like to heartily acknowledge  
49 and thank you for five years of service on the  
50

0037

1 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council. You were  
2 appointed in 2017 as I mentioned and you were elected  
3 Secretary of the Council last winter. He's a resident  
4 of Unalaska and serves as Executive Director of the  
5 Qawalangin Tribe and has been a key contributor to the  
6 tribal group of the Qawalangin Tribe, Unalaska  
7 Corporation and the CEO of Unalaska over the last three  
8 years working with the Mayor and the OC Board  
9 altogether for the benefit of the community. He has  
10 been a tireless supporter and voice and advocate for  
11 the Qawalangin community and natural resources of the  
12 Unalaska region. There's hardly any aspect of  
13 fisheries research in management including fish  
14 guiding, weir operator, subsistence fisher,  
15 contaminants, ethnographic and climate research that  
16 Chris has not been involved with nor a Federal or State  
17 or international organization that Chris has not worked  
18 with.

19

20 We thank you again for the rich  
21 knowledge that you bring to the RAC through your life  
22 experience and your passion for the community and its  
23 resources.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 (Applause)

28

29 MR. PETERSON: Five years goes by  
30 really fast.

31

32 (Taking pictures)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: May I continue?

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Glenn.

37

38 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Madame Chair. As  
39 mentioned earlier Mr. Pat Holmes, you were recognized  
40 on September 27, 2021 for 20 years of service starting  
41 in 2001, but you didn't receive your certificate  
42 because of the situation with covid and our inability  
43 to meet as a Council. So we'd like to remedy that.

44

45 The Federal Subsistence Program and the  
46 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
47 thank you for your dedicated 20 years of service and  
48 the Federal program and the Kodiak/Aleutians Council  
49 look forward to your continuing valuable service as a  
50

0038

1 Council member.

2

3 Thank you, Pat.

4

5 (Applause)

6

7 (Taking pictures)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.  
10 Thank you, Glenn. Much appreciated.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

15

16 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Glenn, for  
17 that and for the recognition. And I guess during this  
18 time I'd like to just recognize Rebecca and I who have  
19 been here seven or eight years now and we've seen  
20 people get several recognition awards. We'll be  
21 expecting ours next time.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: With a song and  
26 dance. Well deserved. If somebody would like to ask  
27 for a recess I've got a phone call I need to make so if  
28 we can take 10 minutes I would appreciate it.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, troopers,  
37 if we can work our way back to our seats we can  
38 reconvene.

39

40 (Off record)

41

42 (On record)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And again for  
45 the record please mute your phone. And just a reminder  
46 that if you are the public and would like to speak,  
47 please fill out a blue card or let us know if you're  
48 online. And at this time we'll.....

49

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0039

1 MR. KOSO: I'm here, Della.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank  
4 you. Natasha, are you back online?

5

6 MS. HAYDEN: Yes, Della, I'm here.  
7 Thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
10 We'll move on to public and tribal comment on nonagenda  
11 items. Is there anybody that would like to speak at  
12 this time.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Hearing  
17 none, we can come back to that if need be. Under old  
18 business, 10A.....

19

20 MR. VAN DAELE: Sorry, Della. Can we  
21 still do a tribal comment?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. Go ahead.

24

25 MR. VAN DAELE: Yeah, sorry about that,  
26 I was trying to find the unmute here. This is Matt Van  
27 Daele, the Natural Resources Director for Sun'aq Tribe  
28 of Kodiak. And we'll have just a quick update for you  
29 today and we're looking forward to hearing the outcome  
30 of fisheries closures because we stand in favor of  
31 protecting access to subsistence activities and  
32 especially wise management and conservation of  
33 subsistence resources.

34

35 And along those lines we remain gravely  
36 concerned with the Buskin sockeye situation. We feels  
37 it's imperative for the Council to seriously consider  
38 adding sockeye smelt enumeration and evaluation to your  
39 priority needs list. We at Sun'aq intend to apply for  
40 that FRMP grant year to begin a smelt enumeration  
41 project on the Buskin. And if you would consider  
42 placing Buskin sockeye smelt research on your priority  
43 list it would definitely help our grant writing  
44 efforts.

45

46 And we have -- it's unfortunate, but  
47 some Council members don't realize that we have been  
48 getting crayfish reports over the last several years  
49 and we've been doing a significant amount of work with  
50

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1 crayfish. And for more details about our efforts I'll  
2 turn it over to Daniel Smith, our Tribal Biologist.

3

4 MR. SMITH: Yeah, thanks, Matt. Here  
5 again, Daniel Smith, Tribal Biologist with the Sun'aq  
6 Tribe. Yeah, as Matt had said, Matt and I are with the  
7 Sun'aq Natural Resource Department, are currently  
8 researching invasive signal crayfish population  
9 dynamics within the Buskin River watershed and are  
10 worried just how much the crayfish are affecting the  
11 sockeye salmon rearing environment within the lake and  
12 the upper Buskin. These ongoing studies include  
13 investigating seasonal and biannual crayfish movement  
14 patterns through an acoustic tagging study, a  
15 population abundance estimate through a mark and  
16 recapture study and a crayfish dietary analysis study  
17 through stable isotope testing. Based on recent  
18 findings we have observed areas with high crayfish  
19 density which is largely over opting with sockeye, pink  
20 and coho salmon spawning grounds at the far side of the  
21 lake where sockeye salmon spawn and within the upper  
22 Buskin River where the pink and coho largely spawn.  
23 And given that signal crayfish have an omnivorous and  
24 opportunistic diet it is likely that these crayfish  
25 utilize food resources including salmon eggs in such  
26 areas. Lastly we have also seen salmon fry and salmon  
27 smelt predation by signal crayfish and foraging on  
28 salmon carcasses.

29

30 Our current crayfish research with the  
31 stabilized isotope analysis study will likely find out  
32 the extent of such egg, fry and smelt predation during  
33 different points of the year.

34

35 Unfortunately the crayfish are here to  
36 stay within this drainage, but our hope is to bring  
37 down the population to manageable levels where they can  
38 coexist with the Buskin salmon. This year the  
39 community of Kodiak is fully onboard to help us with  
40 our research efforts where outreach events and crayfish  
41 derby days were a bright spot for us. Just to mention  
42 one of them, at the main crayfish derby day in early  
43 August 86 volunteers showed up to capture crayfish and  
44 1,021 total crayfish were removed from the lake during  
45 a four hour period. These were eaten at a boil that we  
46 had on site. And unfortunately as Coral had mentioned  
47 we were limited in our capture of crayfish this year  
48 due to the new ADF&G regulation prohibiting public  
49 harvest, but we have still managed to capture 5,500

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1 plus crayfish so far this year through our suppression  
2 efforts and community involvement where members of the  
3 public an sign on as volunteers. And this is done  
4 underneath an aquatic resource permit that we applied  
5 for through Fish and Game Sport Fish. The 5,500 plus  
6 crayfish is significantly higher than last year's total  
7 of those that we had removed from the lake of 2,821.

8

9 And so overall this year has been great  
10 for us with just catching many crayfish. Our removal  
11 efforts, sample collection for our stabilized isotope  
12 study to analyze crayfish dietary make up and crayfish  
13 population dynamics will continue into next year  
14 through the winter months.

15

16 And that's all that I have regarding  
17 the crayfish update today. Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We have a  
20 question here from Rebecca if you can hold on.

21

22 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks for the  
23 report. I wasn't aware that the Council received an  
24 update on the what crayfish are eating study. It's  
25 something that we heard about and I know I was waiting  
26 to hear the outcome of that study. So I just wanted to  
27 make sure I understood what you just reported. So you  
28 found that the crayfish are eating did you say eggs and  
29 sockeye eggs and smelt; is that correct?

30

31 MR. SMITH: So we haven't specifically  
32 seen egg predation, but due to the crayfish life  
33 history and just how opportunistic they are with more  
34 activity through different points of the year they're  
35 going to be foraging a lot higher during those periods  
36 of time and so it is very likely just because of how  
37 opportunistic crayfish are and the presence of crayfish  
38 in these spawning grounds on the upper Buskin as well  
39 as in the sockeye salmon locations, that they're going  
40 to be utilizing these food resources and inside these  
41 reds.

42

43 But.....

44

45 MS. SKINNER: Okay. And then -- sorry,  
46 go ahead.

47

48 MR. SMITH: .....part to your other --  
49 oh, yeah, in part to your other question, I've  
50

0042

1 specifically seen this year and last year live fry that  
2 were being eaten by signal crayfish.

3

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Thanks. And then  
6 can you elaborate on the scope of that problem, do the  
7 crayfish eat a lot of fry or is this a little bit of  
8 predation or do you not have a sense of that just yet?

8

9

10 MR. SMITH: Yeah, that's right on  
11 point. You're absolutely right about we don't have a  
12 full on sense of how much predation these crayfish are  
13 doing to the salmon, but as part of my grad school  
14 study through the University of Alaska Fairbanks that I  
15 just started I'm doing a thesis related to this same  
16 exact thing with stabilized isotope analysis which is  
17 basically a way that you can determine likely the  
18 extent of the predation through analyzing carbon and  
19 nitrogen within crayfish samples and then plot that  
20 against potential food sources analyzing carbon and  
21 nitrogen of potential food sources such as salmon eggs,  
22 salmon fry and salmon smolt, salmon carcasses and then  
23 as well as other plant resources that crayfish likely  
24 utilize. And so this research that we're doing with  
25 collecting samples throughout the entire course of the  
26 year, we want to really key in if they are utilizing  
27 salmon eggs and more of a carnivorous diet to see  
28 whether there's a shift in what they're eating, what  
29 the carbon and nitrogen values from let's say the  
30 spring throughout the summer where red salmon spawn and  
31 then into the fall where coho salmon spawn. And so  
32 this will give us a really good snapshot of, you know,  
33 what the crayfish are eating during different times of  
34 the year.

34

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35 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Thanks. That was  
36 really helpful.

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38 MR. VAN DAELE: And to add on to what  
39 Daniel was saying there too, the stabilized isotopes  
40 are going to give us basically the proportion of diet  
41 of meat versus vegetable. We're not sure if it's going  
42 to give us an actual amount, it probably would not  
43 based on kind of a limitation of stabilized isotopes,  
44 but if we were to add something else on, like mercury,  
45 and to be able to look at actual mercury concentration,  
46 that would probably give us a better idea about  
47 potential amounts versus just proportions.

48

49

50

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I

0043

1 have a question. You wrote a comment in part of your  
2 report to in the process of bringing down the crayfish  
3 to manageable numbers, you said ADF&G prohibited public  
4 harvest, was that -- what exactly was that of the  
5 crayfish or salmon?

6  
7 MR. SMITH: Yeah. So this is public  
8 harvest of crayfish and so late last year and when the  
9 regulation got passed earlier this year, Fish and Game  
10 was worried that public -- the public would potentially  
11 whether accidental or intentional, move crayfish to  
12 other waterbodies. And so currently under this  
13 regulation the public could only harvest crayfish with  
14 either Matt or I on scene and eat them through, you  
15 know, such as like a crayfish boil at the lake.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

18  
19 MR. VAN DAELE: And -- yeah, we were  
20 not informed more concisely whatsoever when this  
21 regulation was coming down. That was very unfortunate,  
22 but we have since submitted an agenda change request to  
23 the Board of Fisheries in August and we are requesting  
24 that public capture of crayfish be resumed in the  
25 Buskin and only the Buskin because this is a -- this is  
26 now considered a bad invasive species and fortunately  
27 they're only in the Buskin right now and we want to  
28 keep it that way too. We do agree with Fish and Game  
29 with that. But we're hopeful that this ACR is going to  
30 be taken up at the upcoming Board of Fish meeting in  
31 February. So hopefully next year we will be able to  
32 have managed public harvest resume of signal crayfish  
33 because realistically that's the most and probably only  
34 effective means that we have to reduce this population.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
39 Coral.

40  
41 MR. POLUM: Mrs. Chair, this is Tyler  
42 with Fish and Game in Kodiak.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tyler.

45  
46 MR. POLUM: Okay. Hey -- sorry to  
47 interrupt, I realize this is tribal comments, but I  
48 just wanted to if crayfish comes up later in the  
49 meeting, I just wanted to give a little bit of  
50

0044

1 background in addition to Matt and Daniel's comments  
2 there. Just so folks know in addition to what Matt and  
3 Daniel said there is a Fish and Game proposal to change  
4 the way those regulations that Matt referenced are  
5 written. They don't -- they don't just deal with  
6 crayfish, they deal with a whole suite of invasive  
7 species Statewide. And so if the -- there is a  
8 provision in there that would allow for harvest of some  
9 invasive species, one of which would be signal  
10 crayfish. And so that -- that's in addition to what  
11 Matt and Daniel have said. And that's coming up. This  
12 is a -- as Matt said was an unfortunate byproduct of  
13 some regulation changes, but there's several different  
14 things in the works that will come up as -- in addition  
15 and that's on a Statewide level too so not just with  
16 signal crayfish, but several other Statewide invasive  
17 species issues too.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
20 Coral.

21  
22 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Della. Thank  
23 you, Daniel and Matt for reporting on the crayfish. I  
24 have a few reproductive cycle questions. I was just  
25 wondering one, how old are the signal crayfish when  
26 they can start reproducing and another, I know they can  
27 carry quite a few eggs, if there's sort of a rough  
28 number about how each -- how many eggs each female can  
29 carry if you know those things.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 MR. SMITH: Yeah, related to the  
34 reproduction of signal crayfish, we don't have an exact  
35 number of, you know, related to the age of these signal  
36 crayfish to when they start being sexually mature. We  
37 have more so of a idea of carapace size at which they  
38 are sexually mature. And that's kind of the point of  
39 when they're transitioning from juvenile to adults is  
40 usually around the 30 to 31 millimeter carapace length.  
41 And Matt might know a little bit more about an  
42 estimating on age of sexually mature crayfish.

43  
44 But in response to your second question  
45 about the fecundity of signal crayfish and you're  
46 definitely right about how crayfish produce a lot of  
47 eggs throughout the year, but maybe not as much as  
48 you'd think. There's definitely around 300 to 400 eggs  
49 on a typical female signal crayfish. And sometimes  
50

0045

1 that number varies obviously depending on the -- how  
2 large of a crayfish it is. Obviously the larger that  
3 the female is the more it's going to produce, but  
4 usually it's around that two or 300 to 400 eggs, but  
5 obviously that number could change by eggs being  
6 stripped off of the crayfish, but just recently we are  
7 seeing since the crayfish are now starting to egg lay,  
8 that number's going to be a whole lot higher right now.  
9 And what Matt and I are going to do this winter is  
10 really characterize the fecundity of these crayfish.  
11 We're doing lab work to estimate how much eggs are on a  
12 typical female.

13

14 MR. VAN DAELE: Yeah, and to Daniel's  
15 point some of the things we're seeing in the Buskin are  
16 very different from what has been written in literature  
17 about signal crayfish elsewhere around the world. And  
18 what the literature suggests is probably about three to  
19 four years old they reach sexual maturity, but unless  
20 we have a means of growing some in a lab and really  
21 being able to mimic wild conditions in the lab we're  
22 not really sure we're going to be able to estimate the  
23 age. But what we can do is through all of our captures  
24 and through mark recapture potentially build a  
25 population model just like crab biologists do to start  
26 forecasting out crab cohort that are coming up during  
27 the years. And that's something that we're kind of  
28 hoping to do to help better understand the population  
29 as a whole. And again it was mentioned too that the  
30 literature suggests about 200 to 400 eggs per female  
31 crayfish that on bearing eggs. We are going to be  
32 counting some of these females this winter in the lab  
33 and then so we can just start getting kind of a spot  
34 estimate just by being able to look at a female and  
35 estimating how many eggs she's got.

36

37 And one of the other really interesting  
38 things that we found a couple times this year a female  
39 crayfish with juvenile markings and the juvenile  
40 markings are more cryptic, they're more camouflaged  
41 versus kind of a -- the uniform rusty red/orange,  
42 brownish/orange color of an adult, but we found a  
43 couple of juveniles or crayfish with juvenile markings  
44 that actually had eggs on them which is very strange.  
45 And also just a couple days ago we managed to catch our  
46 first female crayfish with brand new, fresh eggs  
47 because this is the time of year that they start  
48 breeding and then they extrude their eggs and attach  
49 them to their swimmerets and carry them throughout the  
50

0046

1 winter and throughout the next summer to hatch in July  
2 and August. So now with that capture of that one  
3 female we can capture the complete life cycle of signal  
4 crayfish in the Buskin watershed. So that was pretty  
5 interesting from a biology standpoint.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Coral.

10  
11 MS. CHERNOFF: That you, Matt. I just  
12 have one more question. Are you guys -- do you study  
13 and capture in the lake only or are you guys looking  
14 throughout the river for crayfish and if you are have  
15 you noticed any increasing populations throughout the  
16 river?

17  
18 MR. SMITH: Yeah. So a lot of our  
19 efforts have focused mainly on the lake the last two  
20 seasons earlier in the year due to just increased  
21 activity of fishermen on the river for sockeye and pink  
22 salmon. And so a lot of our efforts early on in the  
23 season have focused on the lake where there's the high  
24 density areas in the bouldery substrates along the  
25 southern coastline of the lake. But last year and this  
26 year in August when the upper weir is removed from the  
27 upper Buskin for enumerating their sockeye salmon we  
28 really focus on the upper Buskin River. And that area  
29 all the way down to about a half a mile downstream from  
30 the outlet of the lake has an abundant population of  
31 crayfish. They're virtually, you know, under every  
32 rock. And these are a dull crayfish. I couldn't tell  
33 you exactly whether or not we have seen an increasing  
34 population within the river, but I know last fall after  
35 a major flooding event that there was a crayfish that  
36 had been washed up in Fish and Game's lower weir site  
37 near bridge two as well as a crayfish that had been  
38 seen at the Lake Louise weir site and that was last  
39 year as well.

40  
41 MR. VAN DAELE: And to tag onto what --  
42 to Daniel's points too, it's -- we have a -- I mean,  
43 it's a very impressive number of the amount of crayfish  
44 that we caught this year, but I think it really comes  
45 down to three main factors and it's not necessarily the  
46 population is increasing because it's not like we've  
47 seen a lot more juveniles or anything, I think the main  
48 things are we're spending more time out there doing  
49 this, we're getting better at doing this because we're  
50

0047

1 spending so much time and there's also no more public  
2 harvest. So there's probably kind of a surplus  
3 abundance of crayfish right now for us to capture. I  
4 think those are the main three things of why we have  
5 such an impressive capture number this year.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank you  
10 for your report. Any other comments or questions.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
15 Okay. Moving on, number 10, old business. Under A,  
16 805(c) report summary.

17  
18 Lisa.

19  
20 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, Madame  
21 Chair, members of the Council. Again just for the  
22 record my name is Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough, I'm the  
23 new regional Council Coordinator for this Council and  
24 the designated Federal officer for the meeting. The  
25 Council members -- okay, if you could look in your  
26 meeting book on page 15 it is the letter and the  
27 enclosure.....

28  
29 (Teleconference interference -  
30 participants not muted).

31  
32 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: .....it is  
33 the letter and enclosure from the Federal Subsistence  
34 Board.

35  
36 Could I remind somebody to please mute  
37 their phone.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, it sounds  
40 like you. Can you mute your phone.

41  
42 MS. LaVINE: To those of you listening  
43 online, this is Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy  
44 Coordinator with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
45 Some of those -- some of you who are participating in  
46 the conference online have your phone unmuted and when  
47 we hear you we cannot hear the people in the room. So  
48 we are requesting people to mute your phones unless you  
49 are speaking. And if you don't have a mute feature on  
50

0048

1 your phone, I believe you believe you press -- could  
2 you guys in the room remind us what we press?

3

4 Thanks.

5

6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, thank  
7 you, Robbin. It is star, six to mute your phone and if  
8 you need to speak then it is star, six again.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 Okay. So anyway on page 15 is a letter  
13 and the enclosure from the Federal Subsistence Board  
14 known as the 805(c) report. This report provides the  
15 action taken by the Board on proposals affecting  
16 residents of the Kodiak and Aleutian regions. I  
17 believe the Chair has already provided a summary of the  
18 Board meeting and actions taken, however I will provide  
19 a brief summary. This is not an action item. Again  
20 it's on page 15 if you want to follow along.

21

22 So section 805(c) of the Alaska  
23 National Interest Lands Conservation Act provides that  
24 the Board will accept the recommendation of a Council  
25 regarding take unless one, the recommendation is not  
26 supported by substantial evidence; two, the  
27 recommendation violates recognized principles of fish  
28 and wildlife management; or three, adopting the  
29 recommendation would be detrimental to the satisfaction  
30 of subsistence needs. When the Council's  
31 recommendation is not adopted the Board is required to  
32 provide the reasons and facts for their decision to the  
33 Council. And these are provided in the annual 805(c)  
34 report.

35

36 As you can see from the 805(c) cover  
37 letter this year, the Board acted on 59 proposals and  
38 16 closure reviews for the 2022 to '24 wildlife  
39 regulatory cycle. The Board agreed with the  
40 recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils in  
41 whole or with modifications on 50 of the 59 proposals.  
42 The Board accepted the recommendations of the Regional  
43 Advisory Councils on 15 of 16 wildlife closure reviews,  
44 voting to maintain status quo on 14 of them.

45

46 As you know the Board uses a consensus  
47 agenda on those proposals where there is an agreement  
48 among the affected Council, a majority of the ISC and  
49 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The consensus  
50

0049

1 agenda contains three proposals affecting the  
2 Kodiak/Aleutians region, adopting WP 22-37 with the OSM  
3 modifications to recognize customary and traditional  
4 uses of ptarmigan by all residents of unit 9D. WP 22-  
5 38a which recognizes the customary and traditional uses  
6 of caribou in unit 10, Unimak Island for residents of  
7 Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon. And WP 22-38b with the OSM  
8 and Council's modification to remove the caribou  
9 closure from the unit 10 regulations and delegate  
10 authority to the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge  
11 Manager.

12  
13 There were also three proposals  
14 affecting the Kodiak/Aleutian region on the  
15 nonconsensus agenda. Of the three proposals the Board  
16 took action consistent with the Council's  
17 recommendation on two. The Board adopted a Statewide  
18 proposal, WP 22-01, which clarified who is and who is  
19 not a participant in a community harvest system and how  
20 that affects the community and individual harvest  
21 limits Statewide. And the Statewide proposal WP 22-02  
22 which removed the language from the designated hunting  
23 regulations prohibiting the use of a designated hunter  
24 permit by a member of a community operating under a  
25 community harvest system.

26  
27  
28 The Board's action differed from the  
29 Kodiak/Aleutian Council recommendation on one proposal  
30 on the nonconsensus agenda which was WP 22-39. As you  
31 will see recommendations from three Councils differed.  
32 The Board actions on this proposal are explained in  
33 detail in the enclosed report.

34  
35 So this is just a formal opportunity to  
36 bring your attention to the Board's action in document  
37 form. This is for your information only and again this  
38 is not an action item for the Council.

39  
40 Thank you, Madame Chair, members of the  
41 Council, for your attention. I am ready to answer  
42 questions.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any comments or  
45 questions.

46  
47 MR. PRICE: Madame Chair.

48  
49 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

50

0050

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris and then  
2 Pat.

3  
4 MR. HOLMES: Where can we find that WP  
5 22-39?

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Page 18.

8  
9 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, do you  
12 have a comment.

13  
14 MR. PRICE: Yes, on WP 22-01. Where do  
15 I find that?

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: These were all  
18 in the last round of proposals that went to the  
19 Council, the big Board meeting in I want to say  
20 February, March. We can pull them up, Katya.

21  
22 MR. PRICE: I mean, this is the  
23 discussion we had this morning about this issue and I  
24 would like to know more about this as we move through  
25 the meeting this week. That would be interesting,  
26 Della.

27  
28 MR. WESSELS: This is Katya. You can  
29 find it online actually in the Board meeting material.  
30 You can find the full analysis on our website and if  
31 during the break you want my help I'll help you to find  
32 it.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I guess that  
35 raises a question though, Christ, what specifically are  
36 you referring to in regard to the designated hunting  
37 regulation, is there something specific?

38  
39 MR. PRICE: Just in terms of who is and  
40 who is not participating in community harvest system  
41 under the Federal regulations versus the State.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So his question  
44 is who is not a part of the customary and traditional  
45 under Federal and State, traditional use.

46  
47 MS. WESSELS: We should have Wildlife  
48 Division member online with us now so they will be able  
49 to answer this question.

50

0051

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Kendra, are you  
2 on the phone with us.

3  
4 MR. VICKERS: Katya, hello. This is  
5 Brent Vickers, Division Supervisor for OSM. If Katya  
6 -- oh, is that Lisa there. I was going to say I'm  
7 happy to try and answer questions unless Lisa.....

8  
9 MS. HOLMAN: Brent, it's Kendra. I'm  
10 on the line. I'm really having a hard time hearing the  
11 question. Can it be restated.

12  
13 MS. WESSELS: Can you restate your  
14 question.

15  
16 MR. PRICE: Okay. Sorry. I'll talk  
17 louder into the mic here, my apology. Proposal --  
18 Board adopted Statewide proposal WP 22-01 which  
19 clarifies who is and who is not a participant in a  
20 community harvest system. And I would like to find out  
21 more information on that between the definition of, is  
22 that the -- I'm assuming that's a Federal subsistence  
23 rule and not a State. So in our community when we have  
24 a State fishery, subsistence fishery, is this -- you  
25 know, how will the definition of who is a participant  
26 in a community harvest system, how will that be  
27 interpreted. That's what I'm trying to understand.

28  
29  
30 MR. VICKERS: Kendra, would you like me  
31 to take this?

32  
33 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, please, Brent. Or  
34 Lisa's online, she could answer this one a little  
35 better than I can, either one of you.

36  
37 MR. VICKERS: I'll start since I  
38 already introduced myself. Again this Brent Vickers,  
39 Division of Anthropology Supervisor for OSM. And this  
40 is -- you're right, this is regarding Federal  
41 harvesting, Federal regulations only on Federal lands  
42 and a community hunt is something that can be  
43 established for a community in regulations or having a  
44 framework in regulation in which those who are  
45 participants of this community hunt system are able  
46 basically to have a bag limit for the community-wide  
47 rather than per individual. And so that enables a lot  
48 of flexibility within communities and who is doing the  
49 majority of the harvesting and distributing the meat to  
50

0052

1 other participants in a community hunt. Now before and  
2 this is -- to have a community hunt you have to go  
3 through a process of establishing one through our  
4 regulations. As far as I know there's not actually  
5 many, if any, community hunts in this area, but  
6 nonetheless prior to this regulation which you're  
7 speaking of, who is and who is not a participant of the  
8 community hunt, the regulations basically said that all  
9 members of the community were participants whether they  
10 really wanted to be or not. And it came to our  
11 attention that there was actually community members  
12 living in communities particularly in -- along the  
13 southcentral area, the eastern interior, that members  
14 of these communities that have an established community  
15 hunt didn't want to participate in it, they wanted to  
16 be able to have their own individual limit rather than  
17 have a community wide one, they wanted to be able to  
18 have -- it should be to people outside of the community  
19 hunt which they weren't able to do. And so what this  
20 regulation does it gave people living in communities  
21 the capacity to not participate in a community hunt if  
22 they're living in that community. So now it just  
23 basically makes it easier, gives people flexibility if  
24 they have a community hunt in their community, they can  
25 participate in it and if they don't want to be part of  
26 that community hunt they can choose not to participate  
27 and therefore retain their own individual bag limit.

28  
29 Does that help answer your question and  
30 if Lisa wanted to add anything go ahead, but hopefully  
31 that answers your question.

32  
33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. Madam Chair,  
34 this is Lisa. If I could just add a little bit to  
35 that.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Lisa.

38  
39 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, for the record  
40 this is Lisa Grediagin. I'm the Wildlife Division  
41 Supervisor at OSM. And WP 22-01 only applies to  
42 Federal community harvest systems so it has absolutely  
43 no affect on any State community hunt or fishery.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
48 Okay. Thank you. Hearing no other questions we will  
49 go ahead and move on to the Federal Subsistence Board  
50

0053

1 FY 2021 annual report replies.

2

3

Lisa.

4

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MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you, Madame Chair. And this is Lisa, Council Coordinator. So if you look on page 19 of your Council book. I'm going to present you with a brief summary of the Federal Subsistence Board's FY '22 annual report reply to what the Council submitted this July. The materials for this agenda item again on starting on page 19 of your meeting book. This is not an action item.

The Board appreciates your effort to communicate through your annual report to the Board on issues outside of the regulatory process that affects subsistence users in your region. In FY '21 there were six topics of concern on the Council's annual report.

Topic one was in regard to staffing levels at the regional Refuges, the Kodiak, Izembek and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuges and at the Office of Subsistence Management. The Board acknowledges staffing challenges across the Federal agencies and recognizes the importance of adequate staffing at remote Refuges like Izembek, Kodiak and Maritime. They acknowledge the number of critical vacancies that interfere with important functions and research, particularly caribou populations annual survey completion. The Board appreciates the Council's support of communications between the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and the villages and agrees that this improves community outreach and was pleased to confirm that there was a hire of several critical Staff in the three different Refuges as well as within the Office of Subsistence Management.

Topic two was in regard to the lack of applicants for the Council vacancies within their region -- within your region. The Council requested that OSM provides the Council with feedback during the Council's application process which would help the Council to conduct outreach in their communities. The Board understands and shares the Council's concerns regarding the vacant seats on the Council. The Board through OSM will continue conducting comprehensive application outreach throughout the region and the targeted outreach by your -- by me, you new Council Coordinator. The Board appreciates all efforts from

0054

1 the Council members to conduct outreach in their  
2 communities and encourages other residents to apply to  
3 seats of the Council and hopeful that in 2022  
4 appointment year will result in a fully seated Council.  
5 Right now we have two vacancies.

6  
7 Topic three was in regard to food  
8 security and how covid-19 pandemic restrictions have  
9 worsened food security primarily through the disruption  
10 of the food supply. The Board recognizes that covid-19  
11 is continuing to highlight food insecurities -- food  
12 securities in Alaska and they share the Council's  
13 concern with this problem. The Board will continue to  
14 be flexible and responsive to its efforts to help  
15 Alaskans meet their subsistence needs through the  
16 regulatory process. Many persistent changes to the  
17 seasonality and availability of resources due to issue  
18 like climate change can also be accommodated through  
19 the submission of proposals as part of the normal  
20 regulatory process and special action request.

21  
22 Topic four was in regard to the  
23 Council's concerns over invasive species of crayfish on  
24 the Buskin River which we were able to have a good  
25 discussion on that here short -- a little bit ago. The  
26 Board recognizes the ambitious work by the Sun'aq Tribe  
27 of Kodiak to better understand the complex  
28 interrelationships between salmon and the non-Native  
29 signal crayfish in the Buskin River drainage. The  
30 Board noted that in 2021 the State of Alaska adopted  
31 new regulations that reclassified the signal crayfish  
32 as a banned invasive species. This regulation  
33 prohibits a person from possessing, importing,  
34 propagating, transferring, releasing, purchasing or  
35 selling within the State any life stage of organism  
36 listed under this classification. The Board encourages  
37 rural residents to be vigilant in their early detection  
38 of invasive species and recommends reporting any  
39 suspicious sightings to Fish and Game invasive species  
40 hotline which is 1-877-468-2748.

41  
42 Topic five was in regard to Council's  
43 desire to see that the Fisheries Research Management  
44 Program or FRMP projects also support an eradication of  
45 invasive species that can affect or compete with --  
46 compete with the wild resources utilized for  
47 subsistence. The mission of the Federal -- the  
48 Fisheries Research Monitoring Program is to identify  
49 and provide information needed to sustain subsistence  
50

0055

1 fisheries on Federal public lands for rural Alaskans  
2 throughout a multidisciplinary collaborative program.  
3 Eradication is not considered information gathering and  
4 therefore cannot be funded through the Monitoring  
5 Program. The Board recognizes the importance of  
6 studying and mitigating the impacts of invasive species  
7 and refers to the ambitious project by the Sun'aq Tribe  
8 of Kodiak that we just had a report on by Daniel and  
9 Matt. And they also encourage that there's further  
10 research into this topic by all organizations within  
11 the capacity -- their capacity to help to ensure the  
12 resiliency of subsistence resources.

13

14 Topic six was in regard to the  
15 Council's appreciation for the support of Staff shown  
16 relating to the Unimak caribou and sea otter issues.  
17 The Board relayed your appreciation to the U.S. Fish  
18 and Wildlife Service and Office of Subsistence  
19 Management Staff and Paul Schuette of the U.S. Fish and  
20 Wildlife Marine Mammal Division mentioned -- and he  
21 also mentioned that he would be glad to discuss with  
22 the Council any questions you might have in the future.

23

24

25 And the Board thanks the Council  
26 members for representing the concerns of the  
27 Kodiak/Aleutians region throughout your annual report.

28

29 This concludes my report, Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Lisa.  
32 Any comments or questions.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe just one  
37 comment in regard to staffing and then I know we as a  
38 Council did have multiple coordinators over the last  
39 few years. So, Lisa, we're glad to see you working  
40 with us and welcome you and hopefully you will be here  
41 longer than six months.

42

43 Any other comments.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Correct me if I'm wrong,

50

0056

1 but I think we were -- were we going to have a report  
2 from these Yetta folks and they had to cancel out?

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is correct,  
5 Pat. I think they will report at the winter meeting in  
6 Kodiak is what I understand.

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame  
9 Chair, this is Lisa. Yes, he was scheduled to present  
10 when the -- we had to adjust the meeting dates because  
11 of our transportation issues, he was not available, but  
12 he said he'd be happy to present in the winter meeting  
13 or if you have any questions before that to please let  
14 him know.

15

16 Thank you.

17 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I just had a  
22 comment and I don't know if -- so in the Board's  
23 response to the crayfish and Alaska Department of Fish  
24 and Game adopting the regulation prohibiting the person  
25 from possessing important -- you know, the whole thing  
26 to do with the crayfish. I'm a little disappointed  
27 that they didn't mention that this did not travel the  
28 regular route that regulations do for the Department of  
29 Fish and Game. And I think for the purposes of our  
30 meeting here I would just like to note that, that there  
31 wasn't consultation with local entities and this did  
32 not travel the regular route that Fish and Game  
33 regulations travel, by going to the Advisory Committees  
34 and getting public comment. So I would just like to  
35 note that that was left out of that part of the report.  
36 But I think it's important because nobody was  
37 consulted.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Coral, I  
44 feel the same way you do, but I may be in correct, but  
45 I believe that basic statute is already on the books  
46 and the fact that it was raised, that they came back  
47 and said well, this applies for Kodiak and you really  
48 shouldn't be messing with any invasive species. I know  
49 there's quite a bit -- I've heard arguments that some  
50

0057

1 of the State biologists are trying to get them to do a  
2 different interpretation on that and there may even be  
3 a proposal before the Board to discuss an exception for  
4 Buskin. But I do appreciate your frustrations because  
5 it came right out of the blue and surprised a lot of  
6 folks, but I think it might have been on the regs.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there anybody  
9 online from ADF&G that can comment to the -- Coral and  
10 Pat's comments they just made.

11

12 MR. POLUM: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is  
13 Tyler Polum, Fish and Game Kodiak. I heard -- it's  
14 still pretty quiet so hopefully I didn't mishear  
15 anybody, correct me if I'm wrong. But the current --  
16 the regulations regarding crayfish in the Buskin, you  
17 know, were not solely intended for Buskin crayfish,  
18 they were an attempt by the State of Alaska to and in  
19 part due to the request that tribal entities like  
20 Sun'ag specifically, some of the comments that RACs  
21 around the State have made and ACs around the State  
22 have made in regards to getting the State to recognize  
23 invasive species in a regulatory way. The State  
24 crafted a set of Statewide regulations aimed at  
25 encompassing invasive species, you know, a whole list  
26 of invasive species that we deal with and potential new  
27 invasive species to try to put some teeth to those  
28 regulations in terms of moving those species around the  
29 State or importing them or possessing them. So  
30 hopefully that makes sense.

31

32 So in essence what happened though was  
33 and a consequence of that and probably unintentional  
34 consequence of that was that it made it illegal to  
35 harvest Buskin crayfish which is hopefully going to be  
36 remedied at the upcoming Board of Fish meet --  
37 Statewide Board of Fish meeting in March where there's  
38 a new proposal to change the previous regulations that  
39 I just mentioned to create a new set that encompasses  
40 different tiers essentially. So there's some that we  
41 don't want people to possess in any way, shape or form  
42 because they're harmful and then there's some that can  
43 allow some harvest like Buskin crayfish. So that's  
44 coming up and that's a current proposal.

45

46 And so just like the current  
47 regulations we have it will go through the normal Board  
48 of Fisheries process and the Kodiak AC and other ACs  
49 have the option to take those proposals up at anytime

50

0058

1 in their regular meetings. It -- you know, they can  
2 take up whatever proposal they want so if at an AC  
3 meeting somebody wanted to take that up then they would  
4 need to put it on the agenda and so forth. So that all  
5 is in the works just like it was for the previous one.  
6 Yes, it's an unfortunate situation we're in currently,  
7 but hopefully it'll be remedied very shortly.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank  
10 you. Just a housekeeping rule for anybody that's  
11 speaking on the microphones. We do understand that  
12 you're only in some cases only hearing half of what is  
13 being said so if you're speaking try to get closer to  
14 the mic. Appreciate it. And hopefully during lunch we  
15 might try to figure out another solution to what's  
16 going on with the -- this problem. I don't know,  
17 Leticia, if you were able to find a conference phone at  
18 the City or something that we might be able to use.

19

20 MS. MELENDEZ: No, she does not have  
21 one, she couldn't find it.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All  
24 right. Well, we'll try to figure something out here at  
25 lunchtime.

26

27 All right. Thank you, for your  
28 comments. And, Pat, do you have another comment?

29

30 MR. HOLMES: I was just wondering if it  
31 would be appropriate for our Council to send a letter  
32 to the Alaska Board of Fish or is that out of  
33 jurisdiction. I think it might be worth something to  
34 support getting a more specific regulation to allow  
35 harvest.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, I think --  
38 go ahead. Hold on.

39

40 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, I just wanted  
41 to let you know -- this is Scott Ayers for the record.  
42 Sorry about that, I'll try to speak up. That you do  
43 have that on your agenda already to speak to the Board  
44 of Fish proposals if you'd like, but I wanted  
45 specifically to note that this is proposal 169 related  
46 to the invasive species topic.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
49 That's basically what I was going to add, but that's

50

0059

1 more specific. So, Pat, we will be able to, we can  
2 pull that when we get to that part of the agenda.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.  
7 Let's go ahead and move on to item number 11 and that's  
8 agency reports, applicable information for Council  
9 consideration addressing Federal fisheries proposals  
10 and closures review. So the first one under that is  
11 Alaska Peninsula and Unalaska escapement and  
12 subsistence harvest. And that's basically Alaska  
13 Department of Fish and Game.

14

15 Tyler, you're up next.

16

17 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Hello, this is Vince.  
18 Sorry, I had to leave for a minute, but what's the  
19 schedule look like?

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Vince, we  
22 are -- right now we are on the agency reports and the  
23 State is up to discuss the Alaska Peninsula/Unalaska  
24 escapement and subsistence harvest reports. So you're  
25 just in time. Perfect.

26

27 MR. LAWSON: Good morning, Madame Chair  
28 and members of the Council. My name is Tyler Lawson  
29 and I'm the Assistant Area Management Biologist for the  
30 south Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands. Della  
31 just announced the title here of what I'll be talking  
32 about and if you're following along this is the  
33 supplemental pad item number 1 which is posted online.

34

35 So as the title shows here we're going  
36 to be talking about some of the updated harvest, we'll  
37 be talking about our most recent subsistence harvest  
38 numbers and escapement numbers for Adak, other Aleutian  
39 Islands and over to the Alaska Peninsula. We'll be  
40 focusing on a lot of these FCR proposals that have been  
41 talked about today and in the past and we'll also be  
42 talking about some of the other important subsistence  
43 systems in this region which have come up at recent RAC  
44 meetings.

45

46 For the escapement data that I will be  
47 discussing we'll be going back several decades in some  
48 instances so they'll be a combination here of fixed  
49 wing aerial surveys, some foot surveys, some fixed  
50

0060

1 weirs and also more recently we're doing some drone  
2 surveys in certain locations. So I'll try to kind of  
3 point out which of those survey methods were used for  
4 the various escapement numbers that I'll be discussing  
5 here.

6  
7 So to get you kind of adjusted, we have  
8 a pretty big region here that we'll be talking about so  
9 the sockeye salmon that you see there kind of indicate  
10 those general spots. I'll be starting way our West in  
11 Adak to talk about the -- what's going on out there as  
12 far as we know, moving over to the Aleutians Islands  
13 primarily to talk about Unalaska and then finally  
14 moving over to south Peninsula area to talk about some  
15 of the things going on with Russell Creek, Trout Creek  
16 and some of the other important subsistence systems  
17 here.

18  
19 So first off FCR 23-12 is for Adak and  
20 Kagalaska waters. So if you're looking at our map here  
21 I added a star and a couple of labels here which you  
22 might not see if you're following at home, but the --  
23 kind of the town of Adak is that black star there, kind  
24 of the northcentral nook and cranny a little bit to the  
25 east there, so that's where the runway and most of the  
26 old Navy buildings and current existing buildings such  
27 are and there's a road system near that area which  
28 heads up to Lake Andrew. I think Rick referred to it  
29 as Lake Andy. And the FCR mentions Hidden Bay, Galas  
30 Point and Quail Bay with Hidden Bay being down in the  
31 southcentral stream there. Galas Point is on Kagalaska  
32 Island to the right there and it's on the west side of  
33 the Island. And Quail Bay is down in kind of the  
34 southeast corner.

35  
36 Because Adak is so far away it's not  
37 feasible for us to get out there to do any surveys for  
38 escapement unfortunately. So I reached out to the  
39 primary family out there that does engage in  
40 subsistence fishing just to kind of ask them what that  
41 run's looking like and what they know and I'm sure Rick  
42 Koso could also chime in with his personal experience,  
43 but based on what he said the best run is down in Quail  
44 Bay. For sockeye escapement Galas Point has a good  
45 run, but it's very challenging to fish due to the rocks  
46 that are there and I guess the seals will just get  
47 right into the nets and start plucking fish as soon as  
48 the net is out if they try. And Hidden Bay's a small  
49 run. And he also said that Lake Andrew or Lake Andy is  
50

0061

1 also a very strong run and that's where a lot of their  
2 recent subsistence harvest is coming from. So it  
3 sounds like at least in recent times that's the most  
4 important spot there for catching their salmon.

5  
6 And this is the photo that was added  
7 in, this is the photo that that user sent showing the  
8 south side of Adak. So it might be over in that Hidden  
9 Bay area. So just a little quick visual of Adak there.

10  
11 And the next -- these are data from our  
12 area management report. And it's in graphical format  
13 here to look at some historical Adak subsistence salmon  
14 harvest. This is going from 2000 until 2020. And for  
15 this chart and all of the other subsistence data that  
16 I'm going to talk to you about today, we have finalized  
17 numbers through 2020. Our data lagged behind a little  
18 bit because it just kind of takes some time for all of  
19 those permits to finally trickle in. And so at some  
20 point in the next few months here we'll get around to  
21 finalizing those 2021 numbers and those will be  
22 published in our area management report here and we can  
23 provide an update on those numbers at the next RAC  
24 meeting, but you'll just be seeing subsistence harvest  
25 numbers primarily through 2020 here today.

26  
27 So that being said we kind of start to  
28 work through this here. Over on our Y axis we can see  
29 the number of salmon harvested and as far as our  
30 different species represented there, red of course is  
31 for sockeye and you can see far and away that the  
32 primary species that are harvested out there in Adak  
33 are sockeye with much lesser amounts of pink and the  
34 occasional coho out there. If you follow that black  
35 dotted line, that is the number of subsistence permits  
36 that the Department has issued and so you can see it  
37 kind of bounces around quite a bit out there in Adak.  
38 If we were to go back into the '90s I think there used  
39 to be maybe 40 to 60 permit holders. And for that  
40 dotted line, I'll point you over to the right Y axis,  
41 that shows you the number of permits issued if you're  
42 trying to see that number. So for example back around  
43 2000 and 2001 there's approximately 15 to 16 permit  
44 holders. Again if you went back further when the  
45 military base on Adak was active there was a lot more  
46 whereas in the last five years here there's really just  
47 been a couple of people at most that are getting  
48 permits to fish out there. You can see though for the  
49 last few years that those few people who do go and fish  
50

0062

1 they can get out there and they can find a decent  
2 number of sockeye when they do go out there to look for  
3 those fish and there's that red dotted line which is  
4 showing the 2015 to 2019 sockeye salmon average for a  
5 comparison just to give you an idea for kind of the  
6 recent average of what is reported for out there.

7  
8 So moving over to Unalaska Island. So  
9 some of the primary systems here which I'll be  
10 discussing. So we kind of start towards the middle  
11 there, that black star shows Dutch Harbor and so as you  
12 kind of work your way around there is a road system out  
13 there which will run down along to Unalaska Lake,  
14 Summer Bay Lake and all the way out to Morris Cove. So  
15 those are all spots that people in town can fairly  
16 easily access to get to for fishing whether it be for  
17 sport or subsistence. If you go from Dutch Harbor  
18 about a 30 to 50 if not longer minute skiff ride  
19 depending on your weather and boat and other variables,  
20 up around the corner there you get to McLees Lake which  
21 I'll be discussing here briefly and we'll have a  
22 separate, longer presentation about it and the weir  
23 that's out there. I'm guessing that'll be tomorrow.  
24 And that tends to be the primary subsistence fishing  
25 spot out there. And I'll also mention it's not a FCR,  
26 but another really important spot on Unalaska Island is  
27 a spot called Volcano Bay. And that's one where it  
28 takes several hours to get all the way up and around  
29 and down and around to get to, but people who have the  
30 right boat or the right weather do oftentimes in more  
31 recent times get down there to get some reds where it  
32 seems to have a pretty good sockeye salmon return.

33  
34 So looking at our subsistence harvest  
35 for Unalaska for 2000 to 2020, kind of the same story  
36 as what I went through for Adak as far as how this  
37 chart is setup to show number of salmon harvested on  
38 the left Y axis versus number of permits issued over  
39 towards the right there. So we tend to see  
40 approximately a couple hundred households out there  
41 with permits. I'll point out here that it looks like  
42 it picked up in 2020, but I think in reality that  
43 number actually went down, it's actually more of an  
44 artifact of how we mailed out and auto renewed permits  
45 due to covid. And I think based on that and what we  
46 saw for kind of missing return permits that year, that  
47 year is actually probably more of a part of a decline  
48 that we see there for the number of people who are  
49 actually fishing in the last five years or so. And  
50

0063

1 Chris Price might be able to kind of chime in on if he  
2 agrees and what he's seen out there and such, but if we  
3 kind of look at some of the species breakdowns here,  
4 again sockeye are far and away the most important  
5 species for harvest on Unalaska Island with much lesser  
6 amounts of coho, pink and a very occasional chum and  
7 even more occasional chinook out that way. So the 2015  
8 to 2019 average of approximately 3,000 sockeye and the  
9 last few years that we have finalized data for are a  
10 little bit below that recent average there.

11

12 And so here this is kind of breaking  
13 down some of those more specific areas on Unalaska  
14 Island and focused on the sockeye harvest since again  
15 that is far and away the most important species out  
16 there for harvest. And so if you look at this year,  
17 typically what we see in most years Reese Bay or Wislow  
18 Bay, and these are the saltwaters which are right next  
19 to McLees Lake so it's a little bit confusing there,  
20 McLees Lake is the freshwater for the lake where the  
21 salmon escape to and just outside there is Reese Bay  
22 also known as Wislow Bay. And that is where most  
23 subsistence fishing occurs -- that's where all the  
24 fishing occurs actually is in those waters right there.  
25 And in most years that's the dominant run on the  
26 Island. I think 2020 was the only exception where the  
27 McLees run didn't do very good and we'll talk more  
28 about that later. And probably as a result of that a  
29 lot of people went down and around to Volcano Bay so  
30 Volcano Bay actually was the dominant spot for harvest  
31 in that particular year. So you see that Reese  
32 Bay/Wislow is really important there, Volcano Bay at  
33 times can be also important and then if you look  
34 elsewhere around the Island there's much lesser amounts  
35 of harvest being reported from Broad Bay, Wide Bay and  
36 the Unalaska Lake vicinity is kind of in third place  
37 which is that orange one there. The purple one I kind  
38 of mentioned is largely inclusive of Volcano Bay so  
39 that's other locations and that's where we lumped  
40 together Volcano Bay, some of the other Unalaska Bay  
41 systems, Summer Bay and then just other really small  
42 systems that might just report one or two sockeye here  
43 and there.

44

45 As far as escapement goes, so looking  
46 over at Morris Cove which I believe is FCR 21-09, is a  
47 general kind of catch all for escapement if we're  
48 looking out to the Aleutians and to a lesser extent  
49 even here on the Alaska Peninsula, our ability to get  
50

0064

1 out there and survey depends on weather conditions and  
2 what we have going on for our fisheries here in the  
3 Alaska Peninsula that give us the time to get out there  
4 and actually do those surveys. So you'll see that we  
5 have data for some years and not for others and then  
6 also we tend to focus more on systems which are a  
7 little bit bigger and have bigger runs. And I mention  
8 that because for Morris Cove you'll see kind of a lot  
9 of missing spots here where we haven't done surveys.  
10 And that's largely because Morris Cove is a pretty tiny  
11 system which can be overlooked at time. But  
12 nonetheless we do have survey data for this system  
13 going back to at least 1977 and in particular we see  
14 that we can have quite a few pink salmon that show up  
15 in the system, there's that really big outlier in 1983  
16 and I was able to find the survey notes and corroborate  
17 that. That was done by a very experienced biologist  
18 during times where he had excellent visibility so that  
19 outlier seems to be reality and that was just a really  
20 good year for the pink salmon in that system. And then  
21 elsewhere you can see some lower numbers there.

22  
23 If we fast forward to the right side  
24 there, 2018 until 2021, I have a little drone above  
25 those lines there signifying that this is a system  
26 where we've been doing some drone surveys. And so on  
27 Unalaska Island the Department of Fish and Game has  
28 been working with a local contractor who has acquired  
29 funding from several of the entities that are on  
30 Unalaska, they pay him to conduct the surveys and then  
31 he will send that video into us and we'll review the  
32 footage to estimate escapement. And we've got quite a  
33 bit of footage, we tend to get three to four individual  
34 surveys of that system and it's increasingly great  
35 quality and we're really kind of starting to dial it  
36 in. So I think those are pretty good numbers as far as  
37 aerial survey numbers go. You know, in general aerial  
38 surveys can be tricky based on your weather and wind  
39 conditions. Even if it's good enough to fly, you know,  
40 it could be a cloudy day where it's hard to see in the  
41 water, the water itself could be kind of turbid or kind  
42 of windy on top so you can have some variations. So  
43 when we fly fixed wing surveys we're lucky as you can  
44 see here if we get out to Dutch Harbor once every year,  
45 if not every two or three years. So the ability to get  
46 three or four surveys in in the summertime with this  
47 method has been really helpful to get some better  
48 escapement numbers. So I think those are pretty good  
49 data there for 2018 to 2021. So you can see Morris  
50

0065

1 Cove, pretty small system, at most a few hundred  
2 sockeye and pink salmon the last few years and I think  
3 last year was only like maybe 54 or so sockeye were  
4 seen in that system.

5

6 If you head over to Summer Bay, that's  
7 a bigger lake, bigger system, bigger runs. Kind of a  
8 similar story as far as how often we've been able to  
9 get out there to do fixed wing surveys. I think  
10 there's an occasional foot survey or two here, Pat  
11 Holmes might have done one of these back in the day  
12 possibly.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Three of them.

15

16 MR. LAWSON: And -- three of them.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. HOLMES: George Pappas as well.

21

22 MR. LAWSON: Yeah. So in addition to  
23 the aerial surveys and foot surveys for 1998 to 2001,  
24 we have the asterisks there, there was actually a weir  
25 in operation. It's my understanding that there's some  
26 sort of an oil spill outside of Summer Bay there and  
27 there was funding provided to have a weir there to  
28 monitor how the salmon run return at that time. So  
29 those data are pretty precise and a good representation  
30 of what that run looks like for that time. And then in  
31 turn you can kind of compare that to the 2000s and  
32 2010s there would be what aerial surveys and foot  
33 surveys we could do and then again 2018 through 2021  
34 would be our more recent drone surveys which we've been  
35 doing. And so those give you a pretty good  
36 representation there of the number of pink salmon and  
37 sockeye salmon that we see there so your pink salmon  
38 ranging from about 4,000 to 7,500 or so and the sockeye  
39 kind of bounce around there between maybe 4,500 to I  
40 think maybe just 1,500 last year and a little bit less  
41 amount of coho. The drone surveys typically aren't  
42 done late enough in the fall to really capture the peak  
43 of the coho run so we're just really kind of starting  
44 to see some of the first ones that are poking in during  
45 these drone surveys.

46

47 We'll head over to Unalaska Lake proper  
48 also called, hopefully I won't butcher this, Iliuliuk  
49 Lake. We had escapement data for this going back to  
50

0066

1 1970 and I've broken this chart down, I'm going to have  
2 a separate chart for sockeye and pink salmon to talk  
3 about it. Pat Holmes already brought this one up  
4 before. It's developed from past RAC meetings and from  
5 other members of the community that have contacted us  
6 talking about some of the habitat degradation issues  
7 out there. And a lot of the comments that we have  
8 received are saying that if you look back there used to  
9 be like this incredible sockeye run in this particular  
10 lake. And so this is the data that we have for that  
11 system, again it's a combination of aerial surveys, a  
12 couple of foot surveys and then the more recent drone  
13 surveys since 2018. In this case you'll see an outlier  
14 there for 2004. In that particular instance that was a  
15 foot survey done with very poor water quality  
16 conditions by an inexperienced biologist and I'm a  
17 little more skeptical of that because they said in  
18 their notes that they had some trouble differentiating  
19 sockeye from pink salmon and I'll show you pink salmon  
20 here in a second and you'll see what I'm getting at  
21 here. But and I think if we look at some of these  
22 numbers here that historic average for sockeye, if you  
23 look at all the numbers it's just below 500 and our  
24 most precise recent data from these drone surveys for  
25 the past few years are kind of bouncing just above and  
26 below that historic average. So I'm sure that there  
27 certainly is some habitat issues going on in some parts  
28 of the lake where you have different operations and  
29 different buildings and different things going on. I'm  
30 not sure how much it could possibly help the sockeye  
31 based on what we know here of these most recent numbers  
32 and it's also possible if you go back further in time  
33 which data we don't have unfortunately that when the  
34 military was first out there they probably had some  
35 other impacts early on. I did find a -- I had a  
36 article sent to me by a colleague in Dutch Harbor  
37 talking about them putting blue stone, like copper  
38 sulfate basically in the waters around World War II  
39 because one of the lieutenant's wife or something like  
40 that hated the smell of dead salmon. So they killed  
41 the salmon to get rid of it. So yeah, luckily that was  
42 a long time ago and not a recent thing that I'm aware  
43 of, but that could possibly kind of play a role in why  
44 people have this perspective that that sockeye run used  
45 to be much better.

46  
47 With that in mind though go to the next  
48 slide here. So same system here, Unalaska Lake, my  
49 guess is that maybe people are confusing that really  
50

1 great salmon run there in general with what has  
2 happened with the pink salmon run in the system. So if  
3 we look at the pink salmon here, that historic average,  
4 about 6,000 or so in 2004. Prior to that we see some  
5 really big numbers of maybe 20 to 30,000 pink salmon  
6 escaping whereas in recent years just a fraction of  
7 that. So I think it's very likely that some of those  
8 habitat issues that have occurred there certainly have  
9 had an impact on the pink salmon. So I guess the  
10 question is how much of a priority is it for those pink  
11 salmon seeing that they're not sought after for  
12 subsistence and other uses out there. So I think --  
13 I'm sure Pat and Chris will have something to say about  
14 that we can try to sort through, but these are the data  
15 that we have to the best of my knowledge and the best  
16 representation of what we know about the history of  
17 this particular system and what's going on there.

18

19 So again if you go for a big, long  
20 skiff ride and hopefully you have south winds for a  
21 couple of days to knock down the Bering Sea in your  
22 favor, you can make it out to McLees Lake. And so  
23 we're looking at this picture here, we're actually  
24 looking in the saltwaters of Reese Bay also known as  
25 Wislow Bay with some people subsistence gillnetting  
26 there for sockeye salmon. And kind of just over this  
27 beach would be the freshwaters of McLees Lake. And  
28 this is a lake where we do have a weir in operation  
29 thanks to OSM funding which we'll be talking about in a  
30 lot more detail here.

31

32 So looking at McLees Lake sockeye  
33 escapement and harvest. And again this is typically  
34 the most important system on Unalaska Island. I'll  
35 show you a very similar chart here later on, probably  
36 tomorrow when we give our separate talk about the  
37 McLees Lake weir and I'll get more into the escapement.  
38 For right now I'll just say for this past year we did  
39 hit our escapement goal and exceeded it by a decent  
40 little amount, but the run was very late. And then  
41 otherwise I'll kind of focus more on talking about the  
42 number of subsistence users out there again with the  
43 black dotted line and those numbers are represented by  
44 that right Y axis there. So we can see that there has  
45 been a bit of a decline in the number of people that  
46 have been heading out to McLees Lake over the past  
47 several years. And where the blue part of the bar is  
48 showing the escapement coming from the weir out there  
49 in this case. Stacked on top of that, that gray bar is

50

0068

1 going to be the reported subsistence sockeye salmon  
2 harvest so it gives you an idea of the total run which  
3 is going on out there. And again for -- we only have  
4 that subsistence harvest through 2020 as we do for all  
5 the systems and we're lacking the escapement data for  
6 2018 and 2019 unfortunately because there was no  
7 funding for the weir and the weir was not in place  
8 during that time. And I think as far as a general  
9 range here you can see that for escapement again we  
10 reached our goal the last couple of years, we did not  
11 in 2020 and I'll probably save other parts of the  
12 discussion here for later on when we give our separate  
13 talk talking about McLees Lake.

14

15 So moving over to the Alaska Peninsula  
16 part of the region and looking at our subsistence  
17 salmon harvest should be the same format and setup here  
18 as those charts I showed you for Adak and Unalaska  
19 Island. So again far and away the most important  
20 species out this way is sockeye salmon with much lesser  
21 amounts of coho, pink salmon and chum salmon. If you  
22 look at the number of permit users there in the black  
23 dotted line again seeing kind of a general decline in  
24 the number of those permits which have been issued so  
25 the number of people that have been fishing under a  
26 permit in this region and with the sockeye being  
27 typically our most important species, we have the red  
28 dotted line there showing you the 2015 to 2019 average  
29 of approximately 8,000 sockeye being harvested and you  
30 can see for the last few years where we have finalized  
31 data those run sizes are a little bit below the  
32 historic average.

33

34 And so here we have a map looking at  
35 Cold Bay proper here and try to kind of work your way  
36 around here to some of the systems that I'll be  
37 discussing. So if we kind of head down towards where  
38 it says 284-34.01 just south of Cold Bay and the  
39 airport there, that would be Mortensen's Lagoon which  
40 is historically a very important if not the most  
41 important subsistence area for sockeye in Cold Bay and  
42 for King Cove residents as well. And as we head up  
43 north to 284-34.02, that is Russell Creek where we had  
44 a couple of our Council members and OSM Staff got out  
45 on the creek last night to kind of see some of the  
46 spots where sport fishing often occurs there. Moving  
47 up to 284-34.03 just north of town here and the airport  
48 is Trout Creek where there is also sport fishing  
49 primarily for coho that goes on. Just above that is a  
50

0069

1 red circle and that signifies Swan Lake and Swan Creek  
2 which in the past several years has kind of shifted and  
3 become the most dominant spot for subsistence sockeye  
4 fishing for locals in this area. And we'll keep on  
5 going, just one more stop up is Kinzarof Lagoon and  
6 there's three different systems there that we've lumped  
7 together, that 34.05, 34.06 and 34.07, I'll present  
8 those altogether, talk about the escapement into the  
9 lagoon up there.

10

11 And here we're taking a closer look at  
12 the sockeye harvest, again deemed the most important  
13 species for this area and broken it down by color by  
14 some of these important areas so we can see that if you  
15 go back a few years you see a lot more harvest coming  
16 out of Mortensen's Lagoon. And then as far as the same  
17 point in Old Man Lagoon, it kind of varies year to year  
18 based on the weather and if people have boats and want  
19 to head out that way to get down there and do some  
20 fishing. And we've lumped together the north Cold Bay  
21 total. Historically when people have reported harvest  
22 on their subsistence permits they'll just put Cold Bay  
23 and they haven't really signified if they're going to  
24 Swan Creek or Trout Creek or Kinzarof Lagoon so that's  
25 why those numbers are all kind of lumped together  
26 there. So I signify that as the north Cold Bay total.  
27 And you can see that for 2020, our most recent  
28 finalized data, a really big jump and shift there for  
29 the north Cold Bay waters and the amount of sockeye  
30 salmon that were harvested. And just kind of a  
31 reminder as a regional perspective during 2020 most  
32 other spots in the region had run failures for sockeye.  
33 And so it's a little bit of a surprise to us to see  
34 that there was so many sockeye being harvested in this  
35 region, it could be just kind of an anomaly and those  
36 little systems have their own little quirks going on  
37 and they're doing fine if not better than elsewhere in  
38 the region. But we were a little bit concerned and it  
39 kind of lead to some of the more recent education and  
40 outreach that we've done with users about existing  
41 regulations for SwanCreek and elsewhere with come up --  
42 came up at the last couple of RAC meetings. So this  
43 is just a graphical representation for why we  
44 prioritized more outreach and education with users  
45 about those existing regulations just based on what we  
46 saw here and a little bit -- just kind of concerned  
47 about a sudden big uptick in harvest in these spots  
48 where otherwise there weren't a lot of sockeye around.

49  
50

0070

1                   This is a chart which the Division of  
2 Sport Fish provided.

3

4                   Am I too close to the mic?

5

6                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, no. I'm  
7 just -- as you're going through this are you wanting us  
8 to ask questions after you're done or when you're maybe  
9 going from one specific area to the other like Adak,  
10 Unalaska. And I have questions for this one and I  
11 don't know if any -- Rick or anybody had questions on  
12 Adak and Vince is on the line, I know he's got limited  
13 time when he's going to be with us, whether he had  
14 questions on the Unalaska. So maybe as a suggestion if  
15 it's okay with you that we are allowed to ask maybe  
16 some questions for more specific detail on what you're  
17 presenting.

18

19                   MR. LAWSON: Yeah, I'm happy to do  
20 whatever you would prefer. I think there's just a few  
21 slides left and then I promise I'm done, I know it's a  
22 very comprehensive update here, but I'll do whatever  
23 you guys prefer to do.

24

25                   MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

26

27                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
28 Rebecca.

29

30                   MS. SKINNER: Thanks. And are you also  
31 going to be available when the Council discusses the  
32 closure reviews because you've covered a fair number of  
33 different areas and I suspect that when we get into  
34 them we may have specific questions about your  
35 presentation here?

36

37                   MR. LAWSON: Yes, I plan to be here in  
38 person in attendance.

39

40                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I guess given  
41 that, Tyler -- Rick, did you have any questions in  
42 regard to what was presented for Adak at this point.

43

44                   (No comments)

45

46                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Vince, have you  
47 any comments -- is anybody still online?

48

49                   MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, I'm here. It's

50

0071

1 Vince. I don't know if Rick heard you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, Rick, are  
4 you still online.

5

6 MR. KOSO: Can you hear me now, Della?

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We hear  
9 you now.

10

11 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm here, do you hear  
12 me?

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I hear  
15 you. Do you have any comments in regard to what  
16 was.....

17

18 MR. KOSO: Yes.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....presented  
21 for Adak? I think we're talking at the same time.

22

23 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Okay. Della, yeah, I  
24 do have a question for Tyler there. I was just kind of  
25 curious on that Lake Andrew if they were -- did any  
26 surveys on that, you know, the past couple of years  
27 since the closure of the streams to get -- the red to  
28 get in there and if they can give me kind of an idea of  
29 what the future is planned on with them not being able  
30 to get in there and if they did contact the -- you  
31 know, the Navy and the contractors that are doing the  
32 work out there to try to get that open?

33

34 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. Yeah,  
35 again unfortunately Adak is so far away we can't really  
36 get out there to do any surveys ourselves  
37 unfortunately. The last survey that I'm aware of is I  
38 think 1 1983 survey from Pat Holmes along the Aleutian  
39 Islands. So, I mean, we do have that that we can share  
40 with you, I'm not sure how relevant it is to what you  
41 have going on there right now with the Navy. I mean,  
42 we're happy to help out, to kind of talk to people and  
43 make connections. I know Jeanette Alas with our  
44 Habitat Division does a lot of work kind of similar to  
45 that and she might have contacts with the Navy that  
46 could possibly help you out and I'm happy to kind of  
47 help you with meeting with her to get that going if I  
48 can be of any assistance.

49

50

0072

1 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Okay. Thanks. I  
2 would sure like to see that pursued a little bit  
3 because I think it's going to totally kill that run off  
4 that's gone into the lake there if we don't do  
5 something real quick.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank  
8 you, Rick. Any other questions, Rick.

9  
10 MR. KOSO: No, that -- that's all I had  
11 there, Della.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
14 Vince, do you have any comments or questions in regard  
15 to Unalaska.

16  
17 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Thank you, Della, and  
18 thanks for the opportunity to speak on the issues, some  
19 of the issues of Unalaska. My biggest concern here is  
20 enforcement of these lakes and streams, I mean, I'm  
21 totally frustrated with the issue of permits being  
22 issued and allowing people to have a permit doesn't  
23 give them any more authority to take whatever they want  
24 regardless of the amount and nobody's enforcing it. So  
25 really I'm really concerned about the lakes in  
26 Unalaska, Iliuliuk Lake. The main feeder for that lake  
27 is Front Beach. Several years ago I introduced the  
28 opportunity to drop that to 10 per permit and what's  
29 happened here is that we had several individuals with  
30 family members applying for permits and then, you know,  
31 you get over 50, 60 and in some cases a hundred fish.  
32 But I know of very -- in some cases of people who have  
33 taken advantage of that and catching I suppose more  
34 than 10 permit for one person in the boat and they've  
35 got 25, 30 reds and their excuse is I'm fishing for  
36 another permit holder. Well, that's all well and good,  
37 that permit states you have to be present, that's not  
38 happening for Unalaska Lake. That's causing a big  
39 concern for me on the reds and the silvers, the silvers  
40 especially.

41  
42 They had a bad run in reds this year,  
43 as far as I'm concerned they're getting -- a lot of  
44 people didn't make it to get the reds, they were late.  
45 And when they came in coincided with a good two days or  
46 rain and they went right up. So opportunity lost with  
47 the reds. The silvers are a different issue. They --  
48 they're late also, they're big fish from what I've seen  
49 and I've caught myself from -- on the Front Beach and  
50

0073

1 over in Broad Bay and over in Nateeken they're being  
2 decimated by illegal vessels, we're calling them the  
3 jetboats, the small ski-doo's or whatever you want to  
4 call them. More people have those than what I've ever  
5 seen before and they're going right up the river and  
6 they're going well past a lot of areas that you could  
7 reach by walking and loading up. I'm concerned about  
8 that.

9

10 Wislow not so much this time of year  
11 for silvers, it's not a very good time to be out there  
12 in any case to fish for halibut or anything else, it's  
13 pretty nasty out there.

14

15 I really don't know what's happening in  
16 McLees other than I did have a man tell me that they  
17 got over 90, 90 silvers in one day. And that really  
18 concerns me that one individual can do that. I'm not  
19 aware of others, you know, that tell me about it. But  
20 there again it's enforcement. Getting a permit is all  
21 well and good, it's good for recording if you're  
22 recording properly. For us to attest Natives in this  
23 community that we have more non-Natives than we do  
24 anything else that are breaking the law. This is  
25 concerning.

26

27 I'm a member of the Qawalangin Tribe  
28 and a subsistence user all my life, this is the worst  
29 cases that I've seen in this community ever and it's  
30 getting worse. I know that the Fish and Game and the  
31 State Troopers are assigned to other places like  
32 Bristol Bay and other areas for commercial about the  
33 same time we're doing subsistence. I think I brought  
34 this up several times when I was on the Council several  
35 years ago, when I was living in Adak and I'm back here  
36 to Unalaska now. And I'm concerned about that. I know  
37 that the counts have gone down, I work with the Tribe  
38 and the City who sponsors the drone surveys on three  
39 different estuaries, a lake and over the years I've  
40 seen a drastic drop in these species of reds and  
41 silvers.

42

43 The sport fishing entities are lined at  
44 up -- as everyone knows in this community line up at  
45 Summer Bay and it's like combat fishing over there.  
46 And that's concerning that there's -- people are not  
47 taking their quota share, they're taking more, in some  
48 cases they're just going for the eggs and leaving the --  
49 mostly the pink on the beaches. Well, it's just a  
50

0074

1 mess right now and I'm really concerned. I think the  
2 proposals that are before us -- before you that are  
3 coming up is -- my understanding is to open the lakes  
4 to sports fishing which I would oppose based on the  
5 history of those sports fishing that does go on and not  
6 open to any of them. In fact we should be looking at  
7 closing them for a couple of years to gillnetting  
8 within -- move that boundary out off the Unalaska Beach  
9 and move it over towards the City road going out to  
10 Summer Bay somewhere and just give our fish a chance,  
11 the silvers and the reds. Not so much the pinks, we're  
12 loaded with -- our rivers right now with so many pinks,  
13 they're not making it up the river some of them and  
14 that's been the case for the last couple of years  
15 regarding pinks.

16  
17 So I -- you know, and what's happening  
18 in Adak in regards to Lake Andy, we did have a working  
19 relationship with the Navy when they were there in '96,  
20 '97, '98, up to 2000, that they would work to -- with  
21 their contractors on -- to keep that lake open on the  
22 north side there. It's a very rocky and boulders beach  
23 similar to what is at the Wislow or McLees Lake.  
24 There's not a sandy beach there, it's big boulders and  
25 you've got -- you got to basically get down with some  
26 equipment and move the boulders apart so they can get  
27 the fish to run up the stream. So I understand what  
28 Rick was saying, if we don't do something soon they're  
29 going to lose the whole lake. We've had a couple of  
30 times contractors go out on their own and help the  
31 situation by moving a couple of boulders so they can  
32 have some sort of a stream to get up. And that's all  
33 we're asking. I agree with Rick if they don't do it  
34 we're going to lose it.

35  
36 Any questions from the Council about  
37 anything that I said I'm willing to answer as best I  
38 can. I appreciate the time.

39  
40 Thanks.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
43 Vince, that was very informative information. Does the  
44 Council have any questions or comments at this time.

45  
46 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

49  
50

0075

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Vince, were you on  
2 the AC back there in the late '90s or when the State  
3 restricted the fishing in freshwater for reds, it  
4 seemed to me that folks out there were really strong on  
5 not allowing that because they had seen, you know, such  
6 a decline particularly in Unalaska Lake, do folks still  
7 feel that way?

8  
9 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Excuse me.....

10  
11 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me, let me do it  
12 again, get my face near the mic. I was wondering were  
13 you on the AC back in the '90s there when the  
14 restrictions were made not to fish reds in the streams  
15 along the road system there and I recall talking quite  
16 a bit with the AC and folks in town and they just felt  
17 that they should not be allowing any fishing in  
18 freshwater for those species and that they need to be  
19 real careful with the silvers, but do folks still feel  
20 the same out there about that?

21  
22 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yes, I would say the  
23 majority of those users that associated with, you know,  
24 that still support no fishing inside of any freshwater  
25 for sports fishing or subsistence otherwise, and that  
26 they stay outside the boundaries that have been  
27 designated. But there is -- there are people that --  
28 who take advantage, there's no enforcement and go  
29 inside these lakes actually with ski doos and small,  
30 little engines with the skiffs to go out in the lakes  
31 and fish, sports fish, being in there several times.  
32 No action has been taken on it even noting it for the  
33 record and that doesn't help our fish population.

34  
35 So thanks for that question, Pat.

36  
37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Vince, and I saw  
38 that your comments on violations and lack of  
39 enforcement because when I was out there we had -- I  
40 think there were two Troopers, there was myself, some  
41 of the folks that worked crab when crab wasn't going  
42 on, and the City Police all worked on enforcement, but  
43 we had problems then and I couldn't say absolutely, but  
44 locals were reporting to me that the processing crews  
45 were lying on their resident licenses for sport fishing  
46 and I don't won't if some of that might happen on the  
47 gillnetting and also the not reporting and semi-  
48 commercial. There was one guy that Barastoff told me  
49 about that was working at a processor that was going  
50

0076

1 out and gillnetting and smoking them and shipping them  
2 out to Seattle, but I never caught him. It's just  
3 appalling to me to learn that things are even getting  
4 worse out there. So my heart goes out to all your  
5 folks.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If I can.....

8  
9 MR. TUTIAKOFF: In some cases it's  
10 still happening and it's unfortunate because they  
11 actually brag about it because they know that nothing's  
12 going to happen. And it's very frustrating that we  
13 that live out here and have lived our life out here,  
14 the person wants to be hauled in when there is  
15 enforcement and that's kind of -- you know, people are  
16 afraid to talk or even go fishing at some point because  
17 they always feel like they're going to be suspects for  
18 getting the fish. I provide as an elder to the other  
19 elders that can't get out anymore, that used to go with  
20 me even are house -- have to stay at home and can't get  
21 out in the boat anymore. And to get their 10 or 12  
22 fish is all they ask. And I put that on my permit  
23 whenever I do this. So I'm frustrated with this whole  
24 process right now. I'm concerned about the future for  
25 any big runs at all.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
28 Vince. Just for -- I didn't realize how late it was.  
29 We have Mary having lunch ready for us at 12:00 and we  
30 probably need to break until maybe 1:30 so we can run  
31 and eat.

32  
33 Are you comfortable at this time,  
34 Vince, with what you have said or do you need to add to  
35 your comments.

36  
37 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yes, Della. I'll be  
38 available whenever, if somebody gives me a call on my  
39 cell I'll come back online and answer any questions. I  
40 appreciate what you guys are doing, I know what it is  
41 and I -- sometimes hard decisions have to be made.

42  
43 Thank you very much.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
46 Vince. And thank you, I appreciated what you said  
47 because I believe that's not only in Unalaska that this  
48 is happening. When we come into things like food  
49 security which is going to be a huge issue as we move  
50

0077

1 forward I think these next few years. These items are  
2 important to try to come to some consensus on and make  
3 some good decisions.

4

5 Tyler, you had maybe a comment, you did  
6 raise your hand and then Katya before we break here at  
7 12:30.

8

9 MR. LAWSON: Yes, through the Chair.  
10 Just a reply here to Vince while he's still on the  
11 line. Vince, I just want to say that the Department of  
12 Fish and Game does share your frustration with the  
13 enforcement issues out there. We know that we're  
14 stretched very thin and it's frustrating to us as well  
15 when we hear about all these violations and we're not  
16 able to investigate them as quickly and efficiently as  
17 all of us would like. We are using what limited  
18 resources that we do have to investigate some of the  
19 more recent things that are going on out there, kind of  
20 all I can say about that right now. And there is a new  
21 Trooper that's supposed to be heading out to Dutch  
22 Harbor some time in the next few months last I heard  
23 and I'm hoping that he'll kind of get onboard to help  
24 out. And just also want to say that the State is aware  
25 that the locals out there have been really proactive  
26 and reenforce the regulations on those freshwaters that  
27 are in effect and I did plan to raise that later on  
28 when we're talking about the specific systems and the  
29 Department is opposed or in support of those various  
30 things. So I just wanted to let you know our  
31 viewpoints on those things.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Did you tell  
36 her, Katya?

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

39

40 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Thank you, Della, and  
41 I'll be available anytime. Thanks.

42

43 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
44 I just wanted to mention to everyone who is on the  
45 phone line that Tyler's presentation or any other  
46 presentations that we'll have is -- are also posted on  
47 our website under the region section in  
48 Kodiak/Aleutians meeting materials. So if you don't  
49 have a copy of it, the hard copy, you can always look  
50

0078

1 at these slides there online.

2

3

4 And another thing I just wanted to  
5 extend the official apology to Coral and Rebecca from  
6 our program that you guys were due for five years award  
7 in 2019 and it definitely was an oversight on our part.  
8 We will correct it. We really value all of you Council  
9 members who've been on this Council, for volunteering,  
10 for giving your time on behalf of the users in your  
11 region. So we want to recognize your length of service  
12 and we want to present you with a service award. If  
13 it's any consolation for you, you both are featured on  
14 the cover of the application packet this year. So  
15 there's a picture of it.

15

16 (Applause)

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And  
21 at this time I think we'll break for lunch and be back  
22 here at 1:30.

23

24 Thank you, everybody.

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (On record)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And also Rick  
31 Koso and Natasha, are you online?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We're  
36 going to go ahead and continue on with the meeting, but  
37 can I ask again, Rick Koso or Natasha, are you online?

38

39 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm on here, Della.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Perfect.  
42 Thank you, Rick.

43

44 Natasha.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And just  
49 a bit of housekeeping before we continue on. The court  
50

0079

1 reporter has -- recorder has asked us to be sure and  
2 mute our phones if we are not online. There was a lot  
3 of feedback this morning and it's hard to people to  
4 hear what the speakers are saying.

5

6 With that we will continue on with  
7 Tyler on our agenda.

8

9 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
10 Again for the record Tyler Lawson here with the  
11 Department of Fish and Game, Assistant Area Management  
12 Biologist for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands.  
13 And we left off here, we just got over to the Cold Bay  
14 area and that previous slide was showing some of the  
15 subsistence harvest for the primary sockeye spots  
16 around this part. And this slide here was provided by  
17 our Division of Sport Fish during the last RAC meeting  
18 and it's kind of put here to give it a comparison to  
19 those numbers. Their methodology is a little bit  
20 different than what we do for subsistence so Tyler  
21 Polum can maybe speak to it more if you guys have any  
22 specific questions about it. But this kind of gives  
23 you a rough idea of some of the sockeye and coho  
24 harvest for Cold Bay waters and I believe they would  
25 encapsulate everything from Mortensen's all the way up  
26 to Kinzarof Lagoon. Most of that sport fish harvest  
27 will kind of happen from Mortensen's up to probably  
28 Trout Creek and a little bit -- oh, that's Long Creek.  
29 Just really kind of a very rough comparison.  
30 Approximately 4 to 20 percent of your total salmon  
31 harvest in Cold Bay waters is due to these sport  
32 fishery numbers so you can kind of take those number  
33 and interpret them as you'd like and we can talk more  
34 about them later. But you just kind of see some of the  
35 changes that we've had there in recent years with the  
36 number of coho salmon that have been taken and a little  
37 bit of an uptick the last couple of years for some of  
38 the sockeye salmon that have been taken. I'm providing  
39 this because at the last RAC meeting there was some  
40 concern shared about some of the conflict between the  
41 sport and subsistence harvest for Cold Bay waters.

42

43 So for the Cold Bay area we'll start  
44 down south again at Mortensen's Lagoon so it's a quick  
45 photo showing you the lagoon there and that photo on  
46 the top right is of the old weir that was in operation  
47 I believe from 2001 to approximately 2005 or '6. And  
48 that was actually a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service weir  
49 which fish and game kind of helped out on with some  
50

0080

1 assistance.

2

3

4 And so this is the data for Mortensen's  
5 for escapement and so it's 2001 to 2006, the little  
6 asterisk is when that weir is in operation. So kind of  
7 nice precise numbers there bracketed by that other  
8 estimates of escapement from aerial surveys which are  
9 done on Mortensen's. So I got the other side will be  
10 sockeye and then I believe the next slide you're  
11 looking at coho escapement for Mortensen's because  
12 there is sport fishing that goes down there as well.  
13 Whereas for sockeye a lot of that harvest is going to  
14 be for subsistence fishing, people putting out gillnets  
15 down there.

15

16

17 Historically we can see there is a lot  
18 more harvest going at Mortensen's so just format  
19 similar to previous slides where that black, dotted  
20 line is the number of permit holders who went down  
21 there to put out a gillnet for subsistence fishing. So  
22 we can see a general decline for Mortensen's in the  
23 last 10 years and in general for the harvest of sockeye  
24 with the blue bar there -- or sorry, the gray there,  
25 those numbers are going down. If you look at the blue  
26 bar which is for the escapement kind of a few things to  
27 sort out here so don't necessarily conclude that the  
28 run has declined. There probably is some indication  
29 that that has happened, but what also happens at  
30 Mortensen's is the water there is very turbid and it's  
31 really challenging for us to get a good survey of it  
32 until the fish have really moved into really shallow  
33 waters to spawn and they're colored up. And along the  
34 same lines it's a really late run and we don't really  
35 see them push up into a place where we can actually  
36 survey them until kind of early September at the  
37 earliest. And you can see especially that 2018 through  
38 the 2021 numbers the latest survey we were able to get  
39 in was somewhat near the end of August so we basically  
40 weren't able to do a good survey when those fish are  
41 moved up and we can get a good view of them.

41

42

43 In more recent years our budget is kind  
44 of limited how long biologists and our pilots are out  
45 here on the Peninsula. We get a pay upgrade and  
46 basically a COLA when we're out here so it's kind of  
47 forced us to cut some of those surveys a little bit  
48 shorter for seasonal length whereas if you go back to  
49 the 2000s and '90s, we were able to get some later  
50 season surveys in. And so some of those numbers will

50

0081

1 give you kind of a better idea of those numbers  
2 compared to the more recent ones, but we do have a  
3 lower bound and upper bound sustainable escapement goal  
4 for Mortensen's which is from 3,200 to 6,400. And even  
5 though we didn't hit those goals for 2018 to 2021,  
6 again probably in large part because we weren't able to  
7 survey at the best time. We did complete a survey  
8 Labor Day and so if you look at 2022, if you're looking  
9 at home you're not going to see the updated value, I  
10 have it here in person in the presentation. We did see  
11 approximately 3,900 sockeye in Mortensen's which does  
12 put it above that lower bound CG goal. So this year we  
13 were able to do a good survey at the right time and we  
14 also lucked out and had really nice conditions down  
15 there so we were able to see and it did hit its  
16 escapement goal for sockeye this year.

17  
18 And the coho salmon, they're kind of  
19 similar story only more so than that, you know, their  
20 run is a little bit later in the year and so just kind  
21 of compounds the problem that we often have with having  
22 biologists and pilots out here to do a good survey of  
23 them. So we had some really good numbers for when the  
24 weir was in operation and they kept in place a little  
25 bit longer to try to capture some of that coho run. We  
26 did see a few hundred coho when we did that Labor Day  
27 survey, but unfortunately we're probably not going to  
28 have a chance to get down there and do another survey  
29 to have an idea of how that coho run is doing.  
30 Anecdotal points from some of the fishermen I've talked  
31 to said that they're doing just fine catching coho down  
32 there. So take that for what it is, but if you look at  
33 those historic numbers from when the weir was in place  
34 you can kind of see a run between, you know, a thousand  
35 upwards to sometimes eight or 9,000 sometimes. And  
36 that subsistence harvest you can see there. The permit  
37 users are the same that we saw for the sockeye so a  
38 general decline over the last decade and we saw a  
39 little bit of a harvest here and there, but again coho  
40 are quite -- they lie quite a bit behind sockeye when  
41 it comes to subsistence harvest in the waters around  
42 here.

43  
44 Moving up to Russell Creek. Again kind  
45 of similar story for our aerial surveys we're not  
46 always out here late enough to do a survey of the coho  
47 around here so we have a couple of missing data points.  
48 If you go back a few years when we were able to do some  
49 better surveys kind of a range between about 2,000 to  
50

0082

1 seven or 8,000 coho is about what you're looking at for  
2 Russell Creek coho run. We did our September 5th  
3 survey, we did see some coho escaping into Russell  
4 Creek, about 3,800 or so, 3,700 I believe is what we  
5 saw there is our most recent number. And we did do a  
6 drone survey actually yesterday before all you guys  
7 showed up here. We didn't see a whole lot so I don't  
8 think it's going to move the needle very much from what  
9 we have right there. I think there's probably another  
10 push waiting out there for the next rainfall event and  
11 the higher tides that would come in next week, they'll  
12 probably be some fresh coho coming in, but a little bit  
13 sparse yesterday so it's probably the best that we're  
14 going to see for this year, but, you know, that value  
15 of, you know, approximately 3,800 does kind of fall  
16 somewhere in between those more historic values where  
17 we were getting some good surveys and.....

18

19 MS. SKINNER: Can I ask a question.

20

21 MR. LAWSON: Yeah, sure.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: I just wanted to make  
24 sure in the meeting packet -- sorry for this slide for  
25 2022 it shows something like 400 fish, but this is the  
26 updated number so I can go ahead and move the dot up on  
27 here, it's like almost 4,000?

28

29 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. Yes,  
30 that's correct. So we had to have this presentation  
31 turned in by August 31st and we conducted quite a few  
32 surveys Labor Day, September 5th, and a couple of  
33 surveys since then as well, so we do have a few spots  
34 here for 2022 where we have more recent data and I'll  
35 try to keep pointing those out for you to follow while  
36 we're -- as we go here.

37

38 So moving up, FCR 21-13 is for Nurse  
39 Lagoon. And Nurse Lagoon actually has a couple of  
40 different openings, one of them is actually going into  
41 the mouth of Russell Creek and another one just out  
42 into Cold Bay proper. And that's probably kind of a  
43 femoral thing that can change each year based on what  
44 the beaches and, you know, the tides and the winds and  
45 waves are doing to that general area. That being said  
46 we don't see a whole lot of fish there, it's not a  
47 place that we generally survey. We looked at all the  
48 old survey notes for Russell Creek and didn't really  
49 see any mention of Nurse Lagoon. Last year I was down  
50

0083

1 there walking around for some bird hunting and saw one  
2 ratty looking chum salmon. We've done basically three  
3 surveys the last couple of weeks and we saw one carcass  
4 on our drone survey yesterday, I didn't see much bear  
5 sign or any other carcasses on previous aerial or drone  
6 surveys so there's just not really much going on there  
7 as far as salmon go, and I'm not really sure exactly  
8 why there was any sort of a regulation for Nurse  
9 Lagoon. My best guess is if I went back a few decades  
10 to when there was more people here in Cold Bay, more  
11 fishing, perhaps that system was a little bit different  
12 based on, you know, where the waters were and maybe  
13 salmon were moving in there and there was something  
14 different going on which triggered those regulations,  
15 but in the modern day when I spoke to some of the main  
16 users around here they don't know anybody that's fished  
17 there, they never fish there and they're not really  
18 sure where it's coming from as well. So that's  
19 basically what we know about Nurse Lagoon in a  
20 nutshell.

21

22 Moving up just north of town talking  
23 about Trout Creek and the escapement. So we got some  
24 good survey data going back to about 1990. Kind of the  
25 same thing here where we have some years especially  
26 early on where we have some good surveys especially for  
27 the coho whereas we have a little bit of a gap there  
28 for more recent years. So there is a little run of  
29 sockeye that goes in there, we've seen perhaps a  
30 thousand sockeye in some years make it into there. And  
31 that would be the reason why there is a closure in the  
32 saltwaters out there for subsistence, to keep people  
33 from round hauling at the mouth and getting what few  
34 sockeye do go into there. And it's one of the most  
35 important sport fishing locations for coho in the area,  
36 it's really easy to access right down the road here  
37 from town and a lot of sport fishing occurs there. If  
38 you look at some of their historical surveys for coho  
39 surveys there, kind of a range of anywhere from 500 to  
40 maybe 1,800 or so. The data -- the new data that I  
41 have here is from September 5th and we saw  
42 approximately 300 sockeye and 400 coho and we did do a  
43 drone survey of this system two days ago, I haven't had  
44 a chance to do a formal review of that footage, but I  
45 think that footage will probably bump up the coho  
46 numbers to possibly like 500 to 1,000 coho. So best  
47 guess sitting here is that this year the escapement is  
48 going to be pretty similar to those historical years  
49 and averages.

50



0085

1 talking about Swan Lake. This is one that has come up  
2 at the most recent RAC meetings because a lot of our  
3 fishing pressure has shifted over to this system. As I  
4 was saying before it's a very quirky system in that  
5 that outlet is often only a couple inches deep and the  
6 salmon can only get up it at the highest tides of the  
7 month, maybe just three to five days a month they can  
8 actually get up there which means at a lower high tide  
9 you can several hundred if not a thousand fish all just  
10 sitting there at the mouth and it's super easy to  
11 harvest them. So it's one that we've been kind of  
12 working with here the last couple of years to try to  
13 figure out the best strategy to allow people to get the  
14 fish there without overharvesting them. My first year  
15 out here I wasn't quite aware of the existing  
16 regulations for it and we basically had people round  
17 hauling right here at the creek mouth and getting  
18 several hundred salmon at a time. Based on what we  
19 know of this system and the escapement that's a lot.  
20 So it's another system which is really hard for us to  
21 survey because it's very turbid waters nearby. I  
22 actually just finally saw a dolph in the lake system a  
23 couple days ago when we did a drone survey. So it's  
24 difficult for us to actually know what's going on there  
25 escapement wise which is why we've been a little bit  
26 kind of conservative and again the education and  
27 outreach to people to have them at least 500 yards away  
28 from this mouth to allow some of those fish to escape.  
29 And based on the feedback that we receive from the  
30 users here, we actually reduced that 500 yard closure  
31 to 100 yards this past year to allow for more  
32 opportunity for people on the beach to get in there and  
33 get a fair number of fish without getting too many fish  
34 and still allowing some of them to escape.

35  
36 I'm just kind of quickly showing that  
37 map I showed before of the north side of Cold Bay. I'm  
38 just going to point out that last we'll talk about  
39 Kinzarof Lagoon. There's at least several systems here  
40 that get salmon, there's probably a couple more small  
41 ones, but these are the ones that we routinely survey  
42 for escapement via aerial surveys. And if you lump  
43 together all three of those systems we can see of our  
44 escapement data here so kind of ranges anywhere from  
45 500 to a thousand at the lower end up to 42 or 4,300  
46 would have been the peak back there in 1995. It's  
47 another difficult one to survey, it's very narrow with  
48 little channels of very cyanic water with lots of  
49 vegetation overhanging them. So we have to have pretty  
50

0086

1 good conditions in the water and with the water to  
2 actually get a good visual, but we did complete a  
3 survey September 5th. I think this was a newer data  
4 point and I believe I saw 900 sockeye in the system  
5 that had escaped. So kind of similar to that lower  
6 bound of what we tend to see for the historical numbers  
7 there for Kinzarof and it's a little bit harder to get  
8 up there, but people do go up there on four-wheelers to  
9 fish in the lagoon for subsistence sockeye.

10

11 And it's kind of bringing things to  
12 conclusion here and I want to point out some of the  
13 recent actions which Fish and Game has taken in the  
14 region to try to help subsistence users. First as I  
15 just mentioned after receiving feedback from user after  
16 we initially started that outreach to remind them of  
17 what the regulations are supposed to be for Swan Lake  
18 and that they're supposed to be 500 yards away, we got  
19 a little bit of feedback that it was too far and people  
20 weren't able to get nearly enough fish and after  
21 spending some time down there we agreed with them and  
22 decided to try out 100 yards as a closure this past  
23 summer. I think that worked a lot better as far as  
24 again allowing them to get fish, but not get too many  
25 fish.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tyler, can I ask  
28 a question before we move on to.....

29

30 MR. LAWSON: Sure.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....from this.  
33 We're talking subsistence fishers; is that correct?

34

35 MR. LAWSON: So for the -- this closure  
36 right here for the 500 to 100 yards, yes, that is for  
37 subsistence fishing with a gillnet that I'm referring  
38 to there.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And with the  
41 gillnet this is from people from Cold Bay and what is  
42 that daily take or what is the regulation on that for  
43 subsistence fish?

44

45 MR. LAWSON: Yeah. So this would be in  
46 State waters so any Alaskan resident who comes here can  
47 get that subsistence permit and then put out a gillnet  
48 or a seine to fish there. And as far as the limit for  
49 the Alaska Peninsula it is 250 salmon per household.

50

0087

1                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's what I  
2 was after. And this is basically do you have numbers  
3 where the residency is coming from when -- on your  
4 numbers of what's harvested?

5  
6                   MR. LAWSON: Yeah, I don't have them  
7 here on me now. If we delved into some of our  
8 subsistence data I think I could parse out local  
9 residents versus nonlocal. We had some similar numbers  
10 in our area management report so it's something I could  
11 get for you later on if you're interested in seeing it.

12  
13                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I would really  
14 -- I would appreciate that very much. I'll bring up my  
15 reason why later, but I think it's good information to  
16 have.

17  
18                   And before I ask any more questions I'm  
19 going to go ahead and ask the Council if they have any  
20 comments or questions for you in regard to what your  
21 report is for the Alaska Peninsula.

22  
23                   MR. LAWSON: And, Della, I just have  
24 three more points and then I'm done.

25  
26                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, you're done.

27  
28                   (Laughter)

29  
30                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

31  
32                   MR. LAWSON: Okay. Yeah, so the new  
33 Board of Fish proposals were brought up earlier. One  
34 of them is a proposal which is going to remove the link  
35 between noncommercial fishermen and subsistence users  
36 in order to permanently open more waters for  
37 subsistence harvest. This is proposal 98. What this  
38 is getting at is specifically for Kinzarof Lagoon.  
39 When we have commercial fishing openers there's a  
40 closure there which includes subsistence users. And  
41 it's a little bit complex and confusing to our  
42 subsistence users and they have to look at our  
43 commercial schedule or call me to see if there's an  
44 opening in order to know whether or not they can fish  
45 there. So the Department submitted this proposal to  
46 remove that link so that would only affect commercial  
47 fishing permit holders. So any subsistence user who is  
48 not a commercial fishing permit holder would not be  
49 affected, they have those areas open all the time. So  
50

0088

1 it would help to allow them more access throughout the  
2 duration of the salmon run.

3

4

5 At the last RAC meeting we offered up  
6 that we're happy to help anybody with drafting a  
7 regulation to submit to the State Board of Fish. We  
8 only had one individual take us up on that offer and  
9 they submitted proposal 103. So we just provided  
10 regulatory framework for them and that proposal which I  
11 think we'll discuss further and kind of read into the  
12 record essentially is looking to decrease the bag limit  
13 for sockeye and coho in Cold Bay waters from five fish  
14 per day to two fish per day.

14

15

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: For sport?

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If you're interested in those State proposals, I'm sure we'll talk about them later, but the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands and Chignik fish meeting, Board of Fish meeting is going to be February 20th and 25th. And if you want to submit

0089

1 comments to that, whether it be as a RAC or as an  
2 individual, the comment due date is January 30th and  
3 you're welcome to reach out to us so we can let you  
4 know where those things are at, how to make those  
5 comments and the whole nine yards and we can kind of  
6 help you through that process. And that meeting will  
7 be in person in Anchorage if you would like to attend  
8 in person.

9

10 So that's it in a nutshell. Again I'll  
11 be here throughout all those FCRs and right now as well  
12 to take any questions that you happen to have. I tried  
13 to be kind of forthright with you about what we know  
14 and what we don't know and the resources we have and  
15 how we're stretched thin, but Fish and Game does have  
16 boots on the ground here and we have eyes in the sky  
17 and we have a long history of working with our  
18 subsistence users to take what they have to say to us.  
19 And as far as the government goes I think we're pretty  
20 quick and efficient at taking those things and trying  
21 to find remedies as quickly as we can to make it easier  
22 for them to put fish in their smokehouse and their  
23 freezer.

24

25 And if you have any other questions I'm  
26 happy to take them now.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you very  
29 much, Tyler. First of all I'd like to thank you for  
30 the great report. These -- I think it's unfortunate we  
31 didn't have these years ago. I think it would help us  
32 in many different aspects of this process.

33

34 Do the Council members have any  
35 questions before me getting started, I have.....

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Just a brief comment,  
42 Tyler. I think that's the best report we've ever  
43 gotten on fisheries and fisheries for this neck of the  
44 woods. It's excellent and it points out some of the  
45 touchy thing, particularly out in Unalaska as far as  
46 the vulnerability of these small systems and  
47 understanding potential impacts on them that could  
48 result from our chewing on things. And I think on your  
49 late season silver surveys I don't wonder if you're  
50

0090

1 short, I bet you could get Glenn Chen to volunteer  
2 because he's as passionate about silvers out here as  
3 anybody in the whole State. So he could be your man on  
4 the grounds.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
9 Any other comments.

10

11 Rick, do you have any comments. Are  
12 you online.

13

14 MR. KOSO: Yes, Della, I do. Yeah.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

17

18 MR. KOSO: Tyler, I've got a question.  
19 I guess it's more -- a lot of it is a clarification  
20 too. I think last year you closed down the Swan Lake  
21 area although it was 500 yards, but you closed it down  
22 last year to subsistence fishing if I'm not mistaken  
23 and you left it open to rod and reel, sport fishing.  
24 But I understand that you also allowed rod and reel to  
25 harvest the subsistence fish. I guess I'm a little  
26 confused on this because I read here that I -- I always  
27 thought that this -- oh, the permit came from ADF&G,  
28 but I see here that, you know, the Department of Fish  
29 and Game and also the Feds issue subsistence -- the  
30 Subsistence Board issues also these permits. So I'm a  
31 little confused on that, maybe you can clarify that.

32

33 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. Yeah,  
34 Rick, there's a bit to unpack there so I'll kind of  
35 work through it here with you. So previously to go  
36 back a couple of years again we started to advise  
37 people in the community that you have to be 500 yards  
38 away from Swan Creek if you are engaged in subsistence.  
39 And that's again a regulation that was always there, we  
40 just didn't make it a point to point it out to people  
41 because the harvest down there was so low that it  
42 wasn't on our radar. For the reasons that I pointed  
43 out earlier in the presentation it was on our radar and  
44 it became a concern so we've been spending more time  
45 there and kind of grappling with this to try to dial it  
46 in, to try to find the right place to have it, for what  
47 you can and can't have. And that's to allow for the  
48 right amount of harvest without exploiting that run.

49

50

0091

1                   As far as the rod and reel, again we  
2 dialed it back this past year so that gillnets are  
3 allowed within 100 yards of the mouth of the creek. At  
4 the same time sport fishing via rod and reel is still  
5 allowed within 100 yards of that. I think there's some  
6 confusion and maybe a little bit of disagreement  
7 between the Department and some users about calling it  
8 a closure. We kind of view it as having a different  
9 type of gear type which is more liberal or not. So as  
10 a general principle for, you know, looking at salmon  
11 management as you head out in the ocean and you move  
12 your way towards a creek your salmon are going to get  
13 more condensed and it's easier to harvest them and  
14 exploit them. So the farther away you are from that  
15 mouth, the more liberal the gear type. So if you're  
16 farther away from the mouth in our eyes it's okay to  
17 have that gillnet which allows you to harvest a lot of  
18 fish relatively easily whereas if you have that gillnet  
19 right at the mouth you're going to harvest too many  
20 fish in a small system such as the Swan Creek one.  
21 Whereas if you have a rod and reel and you can only get  
22 five fish that's going to drastically reduce the impact  
23 that you can have on possibly overharvesting that.

24  
25                   I do want to say I think if we looked  
26 at who is fishing via rod and reel there is a mix there  
27 of out of state and out of town people who are coming  
28 in to visit for sport fishing and there's also quite a  
29 few what we call Federally-qualified user people from  
30 Cold Bay and there's a couple from King Cove as well  
31 who come over to snag there in the saltwaters. So  
32 there is kind of a mixture to kind of take into  
33 consideration as well when you're looking at  
34 subsistence there versus the rod and reel fishing which  
35 is occurring right there.

36  
37                   The State at this point we do not offer  
38 rod and reel subsistence in this region. I did offer  
39 at the last meeting that if somebody was interested in  
40 that we could help you to craft a proposal to the Board  
41 of Fish to do that, but as it stands right now the  
42 State in this region does not have rod and reel  
43 subsistence fishing.

44  
45                   So, Rick, does that answer all your  
46 questions there?

47  
48                   MR. KOSO: Yeah. Thank you, Tyler.  
49 That was very good and thanks again for your report, it  
50

0092

1 was really good.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha, do you  
4 have any questions at this time.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Tyler, can  
9 we go back to the 2013-2020 subsistence sockeye  
10 harvested near Cold Bay.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, can I just ask  
13 one short question in regards to what.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Go ahead.  
16 Go ahead, Coral.

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. So in this  
19 system when -- were you saying State subsistence was  
20 closed and rod and reel sport was open?

21

22 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. So we  
23 would never term it as a closure for that system. So  
24 there's just a certain yardage marker where that  
25 gillnet gear can and cannot be deployed and it has to  
26 be a certain distance away from the mouth. So we view  
27 it as the salmon of that Swan Lake system, they're  
28 still open subsistence, but your more liberal types  
29 have to be further away from the stream mouth. And  
30 once you come inland near the mouth, you can't use a  
31 gillnet, but whether you're sport or -- sorry, if you  
32 are a sport user -- if you're subsistence you can also  
33 fish with a rod and reel near the mouth, but near the  
34 mouth you cannot fish with a gillnet. Does that make  
35 sense?

36

37 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

38

39 MR. LAWSON: Okay.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So that's the  
42 hundred feet and the 500 feet?

43

44 MR. LAWSON: Yards.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yards. Sorry.  
47 Okay. Any other questions.

48

49 MS. CHERNOFF: We.....

50

0093

1 MR. PRICE: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Coral and  
4 then.....

5

6 MR. KOSO: Della, one more quick  
7 clarification if I might of Tyler.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Go ahead,  
10 Rick. And then Coral and then Chris.

11

12 MR. KOSO: Okay. Yeah, on the section  
13 that says you may use a rod and reel to fish within the  
14 sub -- within a subsistence fishing permit. The  
15 harvest limits applicable to the use of rod and reel  
16 take for subsistence use shall be as follows. It'll be  
17 under the same statute or, you know, you got 250 fish  
18 under the subsistence and you allowed rod and reel then  
19 you're allowed to catch up to 250 fish with that as far  
20 as I understand it with the subsistence permit.

21

22 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. So,  
23 Rick, I think you're looking at some of the Federal  
24 regulations which apply specifically to Federal lands.  
25 So that's something that I'd have to refer you to one  
26 of the OSM biologists to explain in more detail. I  
27 manage the State subsistence fishing in the State  
28 waters and in the State waters there is no subsistence  
29 fishing for rod and reel. And historically in our  
30 region there are no users who are following the Federal  
31 regulations when it comes to subsistence salmon  
32 fishing, all users in our region have historically  
33 followed the State regulations for subsistence salmon  
34 fishing.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Coral.

37

38 MR. KOSO: Thanks for clearing that up.  
39 I was just reading in the book there, it's quite  
40 confusing to me, but, you know, I'm not too sharp  
41 either I guess.

42

43 So thanks again.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good question  
46 though, Rick. Okay.

47

48 Coral, Chris, then Rebecca.

49

50

0094

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. So I wanted to  
2 clarify it could be opened -- Swan Lake can be open for  
3 -- it's a Federal subsistence qualifying area is what  
4 you're saying?

5  
6 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. I am  
7 unsure of the jurisdiction there. I can tell you that  
8 most of the fishing occurs in saltwaters and that's  
9 definitely State waters. There is no fishing that's  
10 ever occurred that I'm aware of in the freshwaters  
11 there. Again that outlet is likely to have two inches  
12 of water so, I mean, you can literally run up and grab  
13 by hand if you want to go down there when the high tide  
14 is, and that lake is not feasible to get into fish  
15 based on the morphology and the surrounding area there.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris.

18  
19 MR. PRICE: Thanks, Tyler.

20  
21 MR. KOSO: What's that?

22  
23 MR. PRICE. Thanks, Tyler, for your  
24 report. And I do want to thank you for helping us out  
25 in Unalaska with the -- just helping communicate and  
26 working with the tribe and the local community to solve  
27 some of our problems that we have with a very  
28 challenging fishery. And so we appreciate that very  
29 much. We know that the issues we've talked about with  
30 enforcement and with, you know, the local Fish and Game  
31 office are things that we want to continue to work on  
32 and try to come up with real good solutions for the  
33 community. And I did want to thank you again for  
34 working the charter issue to allow boats or people to  
35 get out to the location that might not otherwise be  
36 able to without a bigger boat. So that was an  
37 excellent opportunity to work with Fish and Game to  
38 solve that local problem. Unfortunately we just didn't  
39 have too many fishing opportunities last summer to take  
40 advantage of that, maybe next year we can do that.

41  
42 And also I wanted to just bring up that  
43 our local Fish and Game Advisory Board is getting ready  
44 to start back up. It would be nice if you could have  
45 some input with those folks when we do get started back  
46 up.

47  
48 So thank you for your report.

49  
50

0095

1 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. Thank  
2 you, Chris, and I'm always happy to be at the AC  
3 meetings when you have them. So hopefully you guys can  
4 get a quorum and get some stuff going, but I definitely  
5 plan on being there.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
8 Rebecca.

9  
10 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, and I think we're  
11 just looking for absolutely clarification that Swan  
12 Lake which is what you were just talking about is  
13 State, there's no Federal jurisdiction there  
14 whatsoever? And I -- now I'm looking behind you at the  
15 Federal people.

16  
17 MR. LAWSON: Yeah. So again I can tell  
18 you that in the saltwaters that's where all the fishing  
19 occurs and those are State waters. If you want to look  
20 at those freshwaters in the lake I think that's Refuge  
21 land, but I would defer that to OSM here, Izembek or  
22 somebody else to confirm who has jurisdiction. And I  
23 think even still there's some questions between the  
24 State and the Federal government about jurisdiction. I  
25 know -- if Mark Burch or Ben Mulligan knows anything, I  
26 know they've been working on that a little bit more and  
27 they might be able to chime in about some of the  
28 jurisdictional questions.....

29  
30 MS. SKINNER: Okay.

31  
32 MR. LAWSON: .....in the region.

33  
34 MS. SKINNER: All right. So just to  
35 chime in, I don't want to get in to the jurisdictional  
36 argument, I just want to make sure that Swan Lake is  
37 not something we're talking about today for either  
38 closure reviews or regulatory proposals on the Federal  
39 side.

40  
41 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. There  
42 is no FCR for Swan Lake. I only mentioned it because  
43 now it is the most important subsistence system for the  
44 area.

45  
46 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: State?

49  
50

0096

1 MR. LAWSON: State subsistence,  
2 correct.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Pat.

5  
6 MR. HOLMES: Point of clarification.  
7 You were talking about Nurse Lagoon before we went back  
8 to Swan Lake and I believe that OSM and correct me  
9 folks, has backed off on that on Nurse Lagoon and  
10 Afognak Island with the exception of the Afognak Refuge  
11 that exists there. But the Native lands and such  
12 around there, they've kind of let it go for now. So I  
13 just want to clarify that Nurse Lagoon wasn't in that  
14 discussion I believe, but I don't know.

15  
16 MR. KOLLER: Through the Chair. This  
17 is Justin Koller for the record, OSM. I was just  
18 looking for an answer to the Swan Lake question. If  
19 you could repeat your question I can answer it for you.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I'm sorry. I just had  
24 heard that the -- you folks had backed off on Federal  
25 jurisdiction for the lands around -- waters around  
26 Afognak Island with the exception of what is part of  
27 the Kodiak Refuge on the northwest side and that you no  
28 longer -- that Nurse Lagoon is State turf. I know I  
29 need some clarification.

30  
31 MR. KOLLER: Yeah. Through the Chair.  
32 Once again this is Justin Koller with OSM. The issue  
33 of Nurse Lagoon, yes. It turns out that it is not  
34 under Federal jurisdiction as of about 2005 or 2006  
35 when the Secretary of Agriculture and Interior  
36 determined that. So yes, we are -- there is no Federal  
37 jurisdiction in Nurse Lagoon.

38  
39 MR. HOLMES: Thank you for that  
40 clarification.

41  
42 MR. KOLLER: You're welcome.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Did you have any  
45 comments prior to Pat's questions?

46  
47 MR. KOLLER: Yeah, thank you. I just  
48 was thinking about the Swan Lake question. And I.....

49  
50

0097

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Can we bring up the maps  
2 of the Swan Lake area because I guess now I'm confused  
3 about where that 100 yards/500 yards is while we're  
4 talking about it.

5

6 MR. KOLLER: So while we get the map  
7 up, I believe Swan Lake proper is within the exterior  
8 boundaries of the Refuge in which case Federal  
9 regulations would apply. The closure area that Tyler  
10 referred to is in the marine waters directly around the  
11 mouth of Swan Lake.

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: And that's Federal?

14

15 MR. KOLLER: That is State.

16

17 MS. CHERNOFF: State.

18

19 MR. KOLLER: That would be considered  
20 Cold Bay. Yeah, that would be considered Cold Bay and  
21 that's Federal or State jurisdiction.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I don't  
24 think we have any Federal fisheries, most all is under  
25 State regulation, subsistence regulations.

26

27 MR. LAWSON: So through the Chair. If  
28 you're listening at home we have a map back up of Cold  
29 Bay and we're looking towards the northwest corner.  
30 And so you see Blinn Lake on the map there or  
31 (indiscernible - distortion) which is 284-34.03, kind  
32 of just a little bit up from that, hard to see on this  
33 map, but there's that little lake just to the right of  
34 Blinn Lake and that would be Swan Lake and where it  
35 empties out into there would be where all the fishing  
36 is occurring and that is where now those 100 yard  
37 markers are up as a closure for subsistence  
38 gillnetting. So outside of 100 yards you can gillnet,  
39 and within 100 yards of that mouth you cannot gillnet  
40 for salmon.

41

42 MR. PRICE: Can they point to it on the  
43 map?

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Can you point --  
46 somebody, yeah, point it up on the map.

47

48 So, Tyler, based on your report and  
49 going into various systems on the escapement and  
50

0098

1 harvest levels and I'm getting a sense over the last  
2 couple of years and, Rick, you can correct me if I'm  
3 reading any of this wrong, and I get this also from  
4 being the CEO for King Cove Corporation a lot of  
5 requests for people and/or sports guide to go on King  
6 Cove Corporation lands more so and able to harvest --  
7 people there -- their people to be able to harvest  
8 their salmon then historically that they've been going  
9 to. And when I say this, I say this with a concern  
10 that we -- based on levels of escapement or the fish  
11 not being there, those populations are not being there,  
12 so I get a sense people are moving around. And more --  
13 and you just kind of gave a good example of the fact  
14 that there's more pressure on Swan lake at this point.  
15 When I go back and I look, I take that into  
16 consideration and then I go back and look at your chart  
17 that you presented that showed -- I wish there were  
18 page numbers on this, I'll find it. Oh, right here.  
19 There's the one that says the 2013-2020 subsistence  
20 sockeye harvested near Cold Bay. Under the 2020 in the  
21 blue, north Cold Bay total, how high that graph shows  
22 and when I question how much of this is -- is this all  
23 subsistence users and where are those subsistence users  
24 coming from when I know a population of Cold Bay is 40  
25 to 60 people.

26  
27 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. And at  
28 home again we're looking at this 2013 to 2020  
29 subsistence sockeye harvested near Cold Bay chart.  
30 This is all subsistence catch that is being reported  
31 right here. And so this is all Alaskan residents who  
32 have subsistence permits to catch these fish. And to  
33 kind of go with that, you know, you requested before  
34 about knowing about local users versus nonlocal and I  
35 said that was something I could maybe look up for you.  
36 I don't have it at this time. I think you also kind of  
37 included the sport fishing via rod and reel, the -- in  
38 your question. That's partially shown on the following  
39 slide here. And again at Swan Lake we don't have like  
40 a real survey or anything, but it's a mix of local  
41 users and a few kind of out of state people who are  
42 with guides that go down there. And, you know, also  
43 kind of for an anecdote here that the people that are  
44 usually most successful with actually fishing down  
45 there are the local people. I've watched people from  
46 the lower 48 come up to stand down there and there's  
47 more an art to it than you would think and they're not  
48 always as successful. Other times when there might be  
49 four people who go down and all get their bag limit of  
50

0099

1 five absolutely, but are there times when they go down  
2 there and get zero or one or two, yeah, and it's  
3 probably somewhere in between most of the time.  
4 So.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So when you're  
7 looking at this graph in the 2020 and you look at the  
8 -- technically the number harvested and you're looking  
9 to about close to 2,500 fish; is that correct?

10

11 MR. LAWSON: Yes.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let me explain  
14 to you why I'm asking this. It isn't anything -- well,  
15 I'll be honest. I'm -- I can tell you I always tell  
16 people I'm upfront and honest, if I'm wrong, correct  
17 me. But I will also tell you that I hear from people  
18 from King Cove a lot that there's a difference between --  
19 I know I can get a permit for 250 fish as a resident  
20 of King Cove for subsistence and I actually have a  
21 couple of times in my lifetime. But I also -- and then  
22 you -- if you get -- if you live in Cold Bay as a  
23 resident you can have -- is it a take of 50 fish per  
24 day, what is the regulation if you're a resident of  
25 Cold Bay?

26

27 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. The  
28 default regulation for all of the Alaska Peninsula is  
29 250. You might be referring to Mortensen's Lagoon and  
30 that specifically has a limit of 50 for that system.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: For anybody or  
33 just.....

34

35 MR. LAWSON: For subsistence there's a  
36 limit of 50 per household for Mortensen's Lagoon.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So if I'm from  
39 King Cove and I need to be clear, I can come over here  
40 and go to Mortensen's and I can get 50 fish?

41

42 MR. LAWSON: Correct.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And the reason I  
45 bring that up, Tyler, is I've been told in the past by  
46 people that came over here to do that, they weren't  
47 allowed. And so I'm going to put pressure on you with  
48 the fact that the next time you come to King Cove to do  
49 your scales please call me because I'm dragging you to  
50

0100

1 the boat harbor and to people and we're going to -- I  
2 really want them to tell you what they perceived so  
3 you'd know and then I -- you know, at some point it  
4 would be nice to -- if there is an issue then it gets  
5 clarified or if there's a misunderstanding that we know  
6 what that is.

7  
8 But above and beyond that I am  
9 concerned when you look at these various places that  
10 people have been getting fish in and some of the fish  
11 not really being there as it has in the past which is  
12 probably going on in a lot more places than here. And  
13 then how, you know, we watch that and make sure that  
14 there isn't an overharvesting issue so we don't have a  
15 problem because that's when we get into the user  
16 conflict issue. And trust me I've been in the user  
17 conflict issue as the Chair on the Board between Kodiak  
18 on the goats and sports and subsistence. And it's not--  
19 it can not be a good thing to have to go through.  
20 It's -- people do have strong feelings about what  
21 they're doing, rightfully so, but it's just -- I just  
22 hate to see us get into that situation.

23  
24 MR. LAWSON: Yeah, through the Chair to  
25 address a couple of your things. I know at Mortensen's  
26 we do have some of those closures and things of that  
27 nature. Maybe that's what some of the people at King  
28 Cove are referring to. So I think there's some things  
29 that we can look at, I mean, it's right on the back of  
30 their permit for those Mortensen's regulations that  
31 we're talking about and we can look at that later and I  
32 can kind of talk you through it and, I mean, if  
33 anybody's telling them they can't fish there, I mean,  
34 it would be me or my predecessor, I've never told  
35 anybody from King Cove they can't fish there. So I  
36 just encourage you to have them call the office or stop  
37 by and it's my job to talk to them, I'm happy to do  
38 that to kind of -- to kind of clarify that.

39  
40 And with your other point talking about  
41 the harvest year and kind of the local versus nonlocal.  
42 You know, again we do have it kind of ciphered out and  
43 I can look at it again later, but for the people that  
44 are coming from out of town I just want to point out  
45 that a lot of them are close relatives or close friends  
46 with people who do live here and a lot of them are  
47 people who maybe lived here for 10 or 20 years and then  
48 moved away. So just kind of something to keep in mind  
49 as well for some of those people that are coming up  
50

0101

1 here to do some of their harvesting, they're the  
2 friends and family of people who've lived here a long  
3 time, I know it's not the same as being a local user,  
4 but for some of the people here it's important that  
5 their friends and family are able to get some of that  
6 take as well.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And that  
9 basically refers to Alaska residents from the  
10 State.....

11

12 MR. LAWSON: Correct.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....the whole  
15 State?

16

17 MR. LAWSON: Yeah.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: See I think  
20 that's not really clear to people. I think I'll  
21 probably have more questions for you as we go through,  
22 but I'll let you get off the hot seat for a little bit  
23 here. But thank you very much for this report, it's  
24 very beneficial.

25

26 MR. LAWSON: Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So we'll kind of  
29 move on to preliminary subsistence harvest data for  
30 Kodiak.

31

32 Jackie Keating.

33

34 MS. KEATING: Good afternoon, Madame  
35 Chair. Can everybody hear me okay?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Loud and clear.

38

39 MS. KEATING: Fantastic. Well, again  
40 for the record my name is Jackie Keating, I'm the  
41 research lead for the Division of Subsistence,  
42 Southcentral Region, Anchorage and Kodiak. I'm here  
43 today to present the preliminary findings for the  
44 comprehensive household harvest surveys that we  
45 conducted between February and April of 2022 for the  
46 2021 harvest year. And if you're following along  
47 online this presentation can be found in tab two of  
48 your supplemental materials.

49

50

1 I first want to acknowledge our project  
2 partners. This work was funded by the Fisheries  
3 Resource Monitoring Program and it's a collaboration  
4 with the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak and Kodiak National  
5 Wildlife Refuge. So Mat Van Daele and Mike Brady and  
6 Amy Peterson among others were incredibly helpful in  
7 helping us pull this off, a project of this size still  
8 navigating the pandemic last year so a big thanks to  
9 all of them.

10

11 Also I want to emphasize that these are  
12 preliminary findings. As most of you know this  
13 research updated comprehensive harvest data for the  
14 Kodiak road system for the first time since 1993 and  
15 for Kodiak Station it was 1991. So because this fills  
16 a 30 year data gap we expedited the analysis of these  
17 data, we conducted a preliminary internal data review  
18 and then we shared the draft findings with our partners  
19 at the Sun'aq Tribe and it's with the Tribe's  
20 permission that we're sharing these draft findings  
21 today as they pertain to Fisheries Proposal 23-05a  
22 which would modify the customary and traditional use  
23 determination for salmon in the Kodiak area to include  
24 residents of Kodiak Coast -- Coast Guard base in  
25 Kodiak. So again because these are preliminary data  
26 there may be some minor changes in the final report,  
27 but we do not anticipate anything substantial to  
28 change. And lastly before I get into it I do just want  
29 to share that we will be conducting the full public  
30 community data review meeting in Kodiak at the Kodiak  
31 Refuge Visitor's Center on Thursday, November 3rd, 6:30  
32 p.m. And after that point when all the data is  
33 finalized and approved I'd be happy to give a full  
34 presentation at your next winter meeting if that would  
35 be beneficial.

36

37 At this point we can move to slide  
38 number 2. So there's a lot of information in this  
39 table. It shows a sample achievement and I just wanted  
40 to highlight a couple different things. So for these  
41 surveys we used a geographically restratified sample  
42 and it's divided the road system into the Kodiak city  
43 and census designated place or CDP. The second  
44 category means road connected areas so that's  
45 everything from Nanoshka and out to Chiniak and  
46 Bathesha. And third the Kodiak Station census  
47 designated place. This includes residences both on and  
48 off base. In total we completed 269 comprehensive  
49 harvest surveys which is an enormous amount and we  
50

0103

1 couldn't have done it without the amazing local  
2 research assistants that were working with us. And you  
3 can see for Kodiak Station in the household survey one  
4 that we exceeded our minimum sampling goal for Kodiak  
5 Station. The goal was 30 households, we got 31. And  
6 out of those about a third were off base housing in the  
7 Lake Louise or Aviation Loop areas that are still Coast  
8 Guard housing just off base. The remaining two-thirds  
9 were households that were actually on base.

10

11 And when we look down at the next  
12 highlighted line, those are our refusal rates. So  
13 those are households that we contact and make contact  
14 with, but then they decline to participate in the  
15 survey. And Kodiak Station was actually our lowest for  
16 refusal rates at 8.8 percent when we look at the whole  
17 road system so all three combined we have a refusal  
18 rate of 19.9 percent. And both of these are actually  
19 right in line with what we normally see across the  
20 State for these types of projects. In smaller  
21 communities we usually have about a 10 percent refusal  
22 rate and larger ones are right around 20. So this is  
23 actually quite normal.

24

25 If we could go to slide three. This  
26 slide shows a summary of population characteristics for  
27 Kodiak Station. Again lots of information that we  
28 highlighted a few things to talk about today. The  
29 average household size is 3.6 which is just slightly  
30 higher than the other two stratas for the Kodiak city  
31 and the road system, they're all hovering right around  
32 three.

33

34 There are a couple defining  
35 characteristics of the Kodiak Coast Guard population  
36 compared to the other road connected areas. The first  
37 one to point out is that the average age is 21, that's  
38 significantly lower than the city which is 38 and the  
39 road system average is 37. And this makes a whole lot  
40 of sense when you look at the maximum age in the Coast  
41 Guard sample is 47 and again it just makes sense  
42 because of the age of active serving members living in  
43 the U.S. Coast Guard housing on base.

44

45 The other defining characteristics is  
46 the average total length of residency. So we asked  
47 folks the total amount of years they lived in Kodiak  
48 combined even if they moved away and they came back.  
49 For Kodiak Station that's 2.9 years, when we look at  
50

0104

1 Kodiak city it was about 20 years on the road system,  
2 remaining road was about 22. Again this makes sense  
3 because people are in and out.

4

5 And then finally the other thing to  
6 highlight here is the percent of Alaska Natives for  
7 Kodiak Station was 0 percent. This is consistent with  
8 what we saw in the 1991 survey of Kodiak Station. I do  
9 want to point out this doesn't mean that there's no  
10 Alaska Natives that are serving in the Coast Guard and  
11 living on base. There may be some, but it's a small  
12 number and we just didn't capture them in this  
13 particular study.

14

15 And we're on to slide four. This slide  
16 shows the percentage of Kodiak Station households using  
17 each different resource category that we asked about in  
18 comprehensive surveys. So resource use is in blue.  
19 The light orange is for the percentage of households  
20 attempting to harvest a resource category and then the  
21 dark orange is the percentage actually harvested. And  
22 if we look at salmon, that's the one all the way on the  
23 left side there, it's 87 percent of the households used  
24 salmon, 81 percent attempted to harvest it and then 71  
25 percent of the households actually harvested salmon in  
26 the 2021 study year. And then you can also see the  
27 difference between the percentage of households  
28 attempting to harvest and then actually harvesting, the  
29 biggest difference of the three stratas was for Kodiak  
30 Station, a 10 percent difference. And this makes sense  
31 because those people are likely Native fishing, but  
32 also are likely relying primarily on rod and reel  
33 harvest. So that discrepancy is pretty normal. One  
34 thing that was a bit surprising for us was to not see  
35 any marine invertebrates use for harvest for members of  
36 Kodiak Station. In 1991 65 percent of the households  
37 used. This could be attributed to a number of factors,  
38 it could be local declines, it could be concerns with  
39 PSP or simply just didn't capture the households that  
40 used that particular resource category. And the last  
41 thing to point out here is vegetation is second to  
42 salmon in the percentage of households using and again  
43 this makes a whole lot of sense because it's accessible  
44 for folks and a lot of people are able to harvest  
45 herring and things like that even if they're not active  
46 fisher -- fisherman or hunters and things like that.

47

48 And then I'll move on to slide number  
49 5. Slide five shows resource harvest and use

50

0105

1 characteristics for Kodiak Station. And again I'll  
2 present a couple things to point out. In that first  
3 line we're looking at the average number of resources  
4 used. So this is different types of resources. For  
5 Kodiak Station it's 5.8 and again this is a little bit  
6 lower. In Kodiak city households use an average of 7  
7 and a half different resources, for Kodiak road it was  
8 7.3

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Jackie, can I  
11 interrupt you for a minute please, this is Della.

12

13 MS. KEATING: And if we.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to ask  
16 if you can maybe speak closer to the mic and a little  
17 more slowly.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MS. KEATING: Absolutely. I can --  
22 does that come through any better for you?

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Thank you.

25

26 MS. KEATING: We'll try -- yeah, you  
27 bet, we'll try with that. So reemphasizing that for  
28 the number of resources used per household is 5.8 for  
29 Kodiak Station and then when we look at the Kodiak city  
30 it's a bit higher at 7.5, the road 7.8. And for this  
31 slide if you look at the bottom of that section  
32 grouping that's the per capita harvest, the total  
33 pounds in usable weight. For Kodiak Station that is 46  
34 pounds and this is lower than the city which was about  
35 74 and a half pounds. And then the remaining connected  
36 road was a bit higher than that, it was 87 pounds. And  
37 the last thing to point out on this one is the  
38 percentage of households using any resource which is  
39 the second to last line there. The Kodiak Station was  
40 100 percent of households. So that doesn't represent  
41 the volume of resources used, but it does show that  
42 using wild resources is something important to the  
43 residents of the Coast Guard Kodiak Station and a lot  
44 of people utilize some level of wild resources.

45

46 And on slide number 6, this is a pie  
47 chart and it shows the percentage of salmon harvest by  
48 species, again just for Kodiak Station households.  
49 When we look at the total harvest we're just above  
50

0106

1 28,000 pounds and if you break it down per person it's  
2 about 20 pounds of salmon per person for Kodiak  
3 Station. Just for comparison in 1991 it was a bit more  
4 at 30 pounds of salmon per household for Kodiak  
5 Station. And then going back to this study year, so  
6 2021, when we compare that to other road system  
7 residents, for the city they harvested a little over 33  
8 pounds per person and the remaining road was right  
9 about 30 pounds per person for salmon. And you'll  
10 notice that the composition for the Kodiak Station  
11 residents as you see coho makes up makes up over half  
12 of the salmon harvest usable weight which varies from  
13 Kodiak city and the road connected where sockeye salmon  
14 make up a much greater percentage of the total harvest.  
15 The other primary difference you see in looking at  
16 Kodiak Station is the ratio of pink salmon. It is  
17 significantly higher at 16 percent of the salmon  
18 harvest compared to 3 and 4 percent for Kodiak city and  
19 road respectively. And again this makes sense just due  
20 to access to these zones and the fact that a lot of  
21 Coast Guard families that we talked to were new to the  
22 area, new to fishing so harvesting pink salmon is maybe  
23 a bit more accessible and something that they can  
24 participate in.

25

26 Then if we could move to the final  
27 slide, that's slide number 7. This is a figure that  
28 shows the percentage of households using, attempting to  
29 harvest, harvesting, receiving and giving away salmon.  
30 And this figure actually looks at all three stratas so  
31 we see the Kodiak city strata in blue, the remaining  
32 road connected area is orange and Kodiak Station is  
33 yellow. Again this is not an expression of the volume  
34 of salmon harvested, but you can see for the percent of  
35 households using salmon, Kodiak Station is right with  
36 the (indiscernible - distortion) by Kodiak residents  
37 and household with over 80 percent of household using  
38 salmon. And when it comes to harvesting salmon Kodiak  
39 Station actually has the highest percentage of  
40 households harvesting, that's that middle bar, and like  
41 71 percent of households that were harvesting salmon.  
42 So again this doesn't express volume, it could be  
43 related to families trying the fish for the first time  
44 and just getting out there and harvesting a handful of  
45 fish. In other main (indiscernible - distortion)  
46 distance here is the percentage of households giving  
47 salmon away. That's the column all the way on the  
48 right. The lowest is the Kodiak Station so that's less  
49 than 20 percent of households are actually giving fish  
50

0107

1 away and again this could be related to possibly only  
2 catching one or two fish. So the (indiscernible -  
3 distortion) actively giving that particular resource  
4 away to other households.

5

6 So that's what we have for today and  
7 again I would just like to reiterate that these are the  
8 draft tables and they will be finalized after the full  
9 community data review in November, but I will be here  
10 through the duration of the meeting and I'm also happy  
11 to answer any questions.

12

13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
16 Jackie. Just so you know it's almost like someone  
17 waving the mic as you're talking and so you're like  
18 almost coming in and going out, but we did hear you.

19

20 So does anybody have any questions for  
21 Jackie.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I -- doesn't  
26 appear to be any questions, Jackie, so I guess we can  
27 continue to move on.

28

29 Thank you very much for your report.

30

31 MS. KEATING: Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's take a  
34 five, 10 minute break so they can switch here. We're  
35 going to move on to the regional fishery proposal and  
36 closure reviews. And we'll start with the Kodiak  
37 region.

38

39 And before we do that however, I  
40 apologize. Jeff Wasley, we can have you not -- maybe  
41 when we get back from a break we'll go ahead and have  
42 you speak to your request.

43

44 MR. WASLEY: Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

47 Sorry. I'm.....

48

49 (Off record)

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0108

1 (On record)

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....we can resume the meeting. Okay. Everybody, it's 3:00 o'clock we probably need to try and move on here. It's -- and, Glenn, we may have to come back after dinner because we are -- technically haven't made a dent in this agenda.

Okay. So the next item on the agenda, we do have a person requesting to speak and that's Jeff Wasley. I know he was just here.

MR. WALLEY: Yeah, hi, Madame Chair. This is Jeff Walley. I -- actually I didn't have a request to speak. I don't know, maybe -- I know there was another Jeff online.

(Laughter)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, it's Jeff Wasley. I'm sorry.

MR. WALLEY: Okay.

MR. WASLEY: Okay. Thank you guys for coming to Cold Bay and thanks for the chance to speak. I'll try to make it real brief. I have been in Cold Bay for about 20 years, local resident, business owner. I do guided sport fishing and guided duck and goose hunts.

I'm most interested in the proposal to reduce the sockeye and coho limits. I personally believe that the coho and sockeye should be managed separately. They're a separate resource and in my opinion we have pretty strong silver runs in Russell Creek, Trout, Mortensen's, Frosty Creek and other smaller creeks and lakes where the sockeye I think in 2017 or 2018 crashed kind of in Mortensen's and now we have a concern about that. And the overfishing in Swan Lake which I guess looking at that chart it showed just a subsistence take of 2,000 to 2,500. And, you know, looking at the household limit of 250 that could just be 10 houses here in Cold Bay. And I think it's definitely a concern and I don't know if that's sustainable to keep it at 250 per household on that little system, I don't know. But from a sport fishing standpoint we don't really target the sockeye, most

0109

1 people want to catch silvers and we fished one time on  
2 Swan Lake this year and that's it, you know. So I just  
3 kind of want to let folks know that the sport fishing  
4 and sport guided hunting are important to this  
5 community, there's several businesses that are just  
6 that and the other businesses rely on us, the airlines,  
7 the store, et cetera. So that's it on fishing.

8

9 I've read through some minutes of other  
10 meetings and I've read about concerns of the hunting  
11 client use day increase on Izembek. And I'd just like  
12 to point out that some of that is due to more people  
13 getting permits, but also myself and another permit  
14 holder, we do a lot of hunting in October, November and  
15 December when most local hunters are done. And we try  
16 to avoid conflict as much as we can. And like Della  
17 mentioned earlier, I think that if we can avoid  
18 conflict and work together I think it's best for everyone.

19

20 So that's all I got.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Jeff.  
23 Will you just hold up in case anybody has any  
24 questions.

25

26 MR. WASLEY: Sure.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And when you're  
29 done you can just go ahead and turn off your mic.

30

31 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca. Go  
34 ahead and turn your mic off, Jeff.

35

36 MS. SKINNER: Great. Thank you. I  
37 appreciate that you came to the meeting and gave  
38 comment. I think we don't hear a lot directly from the  
39 sport and sport users. I did want to ask a couple of  
40 clarifying questions. The proposal you are commenting  
41 on, that was the Board of Fish Proposal 103, is that  
42 the one you were commenting on?

43

44 MR. WASLEY: I'm sorry, I don't know it  
45 off the top of my head what number it is. The one to  
46 reduce the.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Bag limit.

49

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0110

1 MR. WASLEY: .....from five a day and  
2 no possession to two a day and two in possession.

3

4 MS. SKINNER: Okay. And then I just  
5 want to be clear, you did not agree with reducing those  
6 limits; is that correct?

7

8 MR. WASLEY: I would not agree with the  
9 lowering of the limit on the silvers. The sockeye, I  
10 think I'd leave that up to whoever is in charge. But I  
11 don't believe the silvers have nearly the amount of  
12 pressure that most systems have since we have four or  
13 five different systems that are -- some are barely  
14 fished at all.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Other questions.

17

18 MR. PRICE: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris.

21

22 MR. PRICE: So you mentioned that the  
23 subsistence total was 2,500, what.....

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Two hundred and fifty.

26

27 MR. PRICE: Well, per household and  
28 2,500 for the year. Is that -- was the number?

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, he said  
31 250 per household, 2,500 for the year.

32

33 MR. PRICE: Right. And you're a sport  
34 fishing guide. Why are you -- do you see a lot of the  
35 people come in from outside to fish the subsistence, I  
36 mean, what are you seeing?

37

38 MR. WASLEY: I -- most people that come  
39 in that want to sport fish want to fish for silvers.  
40 Certainly some do fish for sockeye here and there, but  
41 none of it would be with net, it's all hook and line so  
42 at most they're going to take five sockeye, you know, a  
43 day, but like we've done it one day this season and we  
44 fished for silvers almost every other day. So it's  
45 just they don't really want to snag fish, they want to  
46 catch them. And it's just also like I don't want to be  
47 in conflict with my local friends and like it's just  
48 not a good look for a business owner to take out of  
49 state people up there day after day snagging limits of  
50

0111

1 sockeye. So obviously it's a limited resource and it's  
2 important for the locals. So there's a lot more  
3 silvers than sockeye so we just choose to do that, you  
4 know.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Thanks for  
11 your comments there, that's very informative. I don't  
12 know that we're dealing particularly with that  
13 proposal, but we have gotten a fair amount of comments  
14 from long term local folks that they feel that there's  
15 too much competition and I think on silvers with folks  
16 that are coming into town from other places and I don't  
17 know how we're going to address that or whatever. But  
18 do you have any possible thoughts of solutions on that  
19 to where local folks wouldn't need to seek other  
20 reductions or changes, to where folks could kind of --  
21 I don't know, hard to share a fishing hole I know, but  
22 just wanted to see if you might have some thoughts on  
23 how to make it work without changing regulation.

24

25 MR. WASLEY: I guess I really don't  
26 have any good answer to that. It's -- you know, it's a  
27 public resource and people are going to want to come  
28 and fish in Alaska. It's -- a lot of people want to do  
29 that and I would like to remind Alaskans that a lot of  
30 people leave this State to go do stuff in other States  
31 and that's just kind of how it works. So reducing --  
32 you know, you could reduce the limit, they're still  
33 going to come fish like -- it's not going to reduce the  
34 competition. I don't know -- I don't know if there is  
35 a solution where you're going to have the creek like it  
36 was 30 years ago or something how they remember it.  
37 There's always going to be fishermen. In 20 years I've  
38 seen maybe there's more sport fishing now, but there's  
39 always been sport fishing.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

42

43 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

46

47 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Della. Yeah,  
48 I just want to say thank you for coming in and speaking  
49 on this. Can you tell me how many -- like what is your  
50

0112

1 fishing season and what's the maximum amount of  
2 clients?

3

4 MR. WASLEY: So we would start in the  
5 end of August and go through the end of September and  
6 we may not fish that much towards the end of September  
7 depending on the run. We could have up to eight, nine  
8 people in camp, sometimes five or six.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Jeff, maybe  
11 -- first of all yes, thanks for coming forward. I lost  
12 my train of thought. You -- so you said maybe eight,  
13 so that's five to eight people a day, is that what  
14 you're referring to as far as taking people out  
15 fishing?

16

17 MR. WASLEY: Yeah. And that would be  
18 the max. We get some groups that don't care about  
19 fishing at all and they might go one morning. So it's  
20 really -- to put an average on it, it's really hard to  
21 do. Some groups are really focused on the hunting,  
22 some people want to fish a lot more. But we're  
23 definitely more focused on hunting. I don't do just  
24 fishing only. So.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So looking back  
27 I think in the crash of technically the reds a few  
28 years ago and then now, you know, I know silver fishing  
29 over here has always been a big thing because I've done  
30 it on Russell myself, I love to do it. What are you  
31 seeing, I know we saw a lot less silvers this year  
32 compared -- if you compared it to last year there was a  
33 tremendous amount of silvers. And we were fishing  
34 silvers up into the end of November and they were  
35 there. Right now they're hardly around there, there's  
36 not that many silvers. What are you basically seeing  
37 here?

38

39 MR. WASLEY: I would say yeah, last  
40 year was phenomenal. This year it seemed they started  
41 a little late and then there was a lot of them and now  
42 they're still -- those fish are in the river, but  
43 they're tough to catch because they've been here for a  
44 while and we're hoping to get some more fresh ones  
45 showing up, but if that happens I don't know when and  
46 how many. But it's a little down from last year I  
47 would say, but still we had some really good weeks for  
48 fishing.

49

50

0113

1                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And  
2 then given you -- you mentioned you've been here for  
3 the last 20 years and what -- when you see from  
4 basically the last 10 years in looking at the various  
5 salmon species and fishing and I feel like people are  
6 looking for other areas now. And like I said we  
7 mentioned early in some degree the concern of possibly  
8 the resources starting to not necessarily be there in  
9 the numbers they used to and people are people are  
10 going to other areas. Do you feel like that's what's  
11 going on here in Cold Bay?

12  
13                   MR. WASLEY: Yeah, again with  
14 Mortensen's used to be like the place to go get sockeye  
15 and now it's really worth even going down there. I  
16 haven't been down there for years. But, you know,  
17 people are going to get their fish so it's really easy  
18 like Tyler had said, you know, it's very easy for  
19 people to get fish at Swan Lake and there was a lot of  
20 them there this year. And I think people are going to  
21 get their fish. So it -- that pressure I think is only  
22 going to get more on Swan Lake if Mortensen's doesn't  
23 come back.

24  
25                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I think  
26 maybe -- just so you understand from my perspective on  
27 this and the concern is, you know, that pressure being  
28 there and what the impact of that will be in the future  
29 as we go through these various systems and looking at  
30 the lack of fish that aren't so much there anymore that  
31 have been in the past. And that's kind of where --  
32 from my perspective I come from because it is a concern  
33 when you live out here year round and, you know, I  
34 don't how much -- if you're year round here in Cold  
35 Bay, but just on the resources and working together to  
36 maintain a renewable resource so that we're all able to  
37 use it. And that's basically where I come from.

38  
39                   MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

40  
41                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

42  
43                   MS. SKINNER: Thanks. I just had a  
44 follow-up question on -- relating to the level of your  
45 business. So I understand you said it's hard to  
46 average, but you indicated you might get eight to nine  
47 people at camp which I'm interpreting like eight a  
48 trip, so eight or nine people come in together. For  
49 this year, it's almost the end of September, so in the  
50

0114

1 last month how many camps did you have, was it like  
2 five camps or four camps or.....

3

4 MR. WASLEY: So we started the last  
5 week of August, like the transition week into September  
6 and like next week we'll probably fish a little, if  
7 there isn't more silvers showing up we'll probably just  
8 focus on hunting and other things.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della  
11 again. I -- and this kind of -- we asked this of Fish  
12 and Wildlife or Izembek I believe last year and maybe  
13 the year before on the number of permits that are given  
14 out to guides. And then I think at one point we were  
15 told that there were four permits, but under those  
16 permits there are subpermits that are -- people are  
17 utilizing under that main permit. So I -- how many --  
18 what, you're guiding under one permit from Fish and  
19 Wildlife or are you a subpermittee under somebody  
20 else's permit?

21

22 MR. WASLEY: I've always had my own  
23 permit and I get a permit for fishing, guided waterfowl  
24 hunting and filming. So there's three permits, but  
25 they're all in my name and we don't have anyone sub  
26 under us.

27

28 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair, members of  
29 the Council, maybe I can provide a little bit of  
30 clarity. The permit is issued to Jeff Wasley and --  
31 for flyaways, but he has guides. So he's not the only  
32 guide, he has guides listed on his permit. So that  
33 might be where the subcontractor confusion is coming  
34 in.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So -- excuse me,  
37 Maria, would you please state your name.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MS. FOSADO: I'm sorry. Yes, I'm Maria  
42 Fosado.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Izembek has  
45 how many permits that they've given out at this -- each  
46 year for the last couple years?

47

48 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair, members of  
49 the Council. Specifically for sport fishing we have

50

0115

1 five fishing permits. And those permits are for  
2 conducting sport fishing on Refuge lands. So it -- one  
3 of the stipulations to those permits is that they have  
4 to report client use days at the end of the season.  
5 Those client use days are only days which sport fishing  
6 occurred on Refuge land. So they don't report out on  
7 Russell Creek or State land or any other area. So  
8 that's client use days specific to activities that  
9 occurred on Refuge lands.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So  
12 that's part of it, Jeff, because I get -- sometimes  
13 hear from people locally that there's been a lot more  
14 sport hunter use. And just understand I bring this  
15 forward because people bring it to me and it's my job  
16 to put that out there, you know, and how we try to  
17 figure out if there's misconceptions and I'd like to  
18 know if there are so I can let people know. But yeah,  
19 I appreciate.....

20

21 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

24

25 MS. HAYDEN: Sorry. This is Natasha.  
26 I -- Rebecca or Council member Skinner had asked a  
27 question about the number of parties, the number of  
28 groups and I did not -- I wasn't able to hear the  
29 answer to that. I did hear I think he said the season  
30 begins the end of August. If you could just get him to  
31 reiterate the response would be helpful.

32

33 MR. WASLEY: For fishing it would be  
34 the end of August through the end of September. So and  
35 our people show up on the weekend and we switch out  
36 every Saturday so five groups.

37

38 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you for that. So  
39 that's five groups at nine participants per group; is  
40 that correct?

41

42 MR. WASLEY: Some were four, some were  
43 nine, some were eight. So I'd say an average of seven.

44

45 MS. HAYDEN: Great. And I've got a  
46 quick follow-up. They're targeting silver salmon and  
47 currently the limit is five, the bag limit is five per  
48 person per day, is that also -- do I understand that  
49 correctly?

50

0116

1 MR. WASLEY: That is correct.

2

3 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So  
6 any -- Chris.

7

8 MR. PRICE: On those bag limits, do you  
9 think you're going to keep those sustainable over time  
10 like five fish per day per client, probably catch and  
11 release or not everybody even wants fish, but are you  
12 -- is that -- is everybody trying to get five fish a  
13 day in their coolers or how's it going for you guys on  
14 the.....

15

16 MR. WASLEY: Cooler space is kind of an  
17 issue and getting this stuff home. So a lot of people  
18 if they get a cooler full of fish and birds that's  
19 enough. So with silvers you're probably looking at  
20 five pounds roughly each of meat with the two filets.  
21 So most guys are taking home -- or gals, they're taking  
22 four to six fish in a week and, you know, we will catch  
23 and release. There are some that will want to take two  
24 coolers of fish, but it's rare and there's some that  
25 won't take any. So we're not out to limit five fish  
26 every day.

27

28 MR. PRICE: Okay. Thank you.

29

30 MR. WASLEY: Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And to add to  
33 Jeff's comments, you're lucky to get a cooler out of  
34 here and get it -- catch your flight going to the lower  
35 48 because trust me, you're lucky to get your suitcase.  
36 So.....

37

38 Any other questions for Jeff?

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you very  
43 much for taking the time, appreciate it. And it helps  
44 us as we go through this process.

45

46 MR. WASLEY: Thank you, too.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And as -- just  
49 to reiterate if anybody has any public comments, if  
50

0117

1 you're online or -- you're more than welcome to let us  
2 know and we will work with our schedule -- agenda to  
3 allow you to speak.

4

5 All right. It is now 25 after 3:00 and  
6 we are going to start on 11B, regional fisheries  
7 proposals and closure reviews.

8

9 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So we're  
10 going to be taking up FP 28-05a. It starts on page 27  
11 of your Council books. And we're going to have Justin  
12 Koller, Jarred Stone and also Jason Roberts reporting.  
13 So we'll let you take over.

14

15 Thanks.

16

17 MR. KOLLER: Yeah. Thank you, Madame  
18 Chair, members of the Council. My name's Justin  
19 Koller. I am a Fisheries Biologist at the Office of  
20 Subsistence Management. During the fall of even  
21 numbered years the Regional Advisory Councils review  
22 analyses of fisheries regulatory proposals and closure  
23 reviews and make recommendations to the Federal  
24 Subsistence Board on each item. The Federal  
25 Subsistence Board will act on these proposals and  
26 closure reviews during their January, 2023 regulatory  
27 meeting. This region has four fisheries proposals and  
28 14 closure reviews which we will be presenting to you  
29 at this meeting. That'll be Jason Roberts is first up,  
30 then Jarred Stone and then me, Justin Koller, will be  
31 reporting out and presenting the Unalaska and Alaska  
32 Peninsula and Cold Bay closure reviews.

33

34 I wanted to remind those in attendance  
35 in person or on the phone that there will be an  
36 opportunity for oral public testimony on each item  
37 after presentation of the analysis. Those in person  
38 wishing to make comments must fill out a comment card  
39 and submit it to the Council Coordinator or a Staff  
40 member. Written comments will be accepted up until the  
41 beginning of the presentation of each analysis.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair, and does the  
44 Council have any questions before we begin the Staff  
45 analysis?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. KOLLER: Okay. Then I'll hand it

50

0118

1 over to Jason Roberts and that's for the Fisheries  
2 Proposal 23-05a.

3

4

5 MR. ROBERTS: All right. Hello, Madame  
6 Chair, members of the Council. I'm Jason Roberts, I'm  
7 a Cultural Anthropologist for OSM and I'll be giving a  
8 slightly summarized version of the analysis for  
9 Fisheries Proposal 23-05a. This analysis begins on  
10 page 27 of your meeting books and this is an action  
11 item.

11

12

13 So FP 23-05a was submitted by the  
14 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The proponents are  
15 requesting to add residents of the Kodiak Coast Guard  
16 base to the customary and traditional use determination  
17 for salmon in the Kodiak area. The proponents are also  
18 requesting to change the area descriptors for the  
19 customary and traditional use determination zones  
20 within the Kodiak Islands to clarify the areas under  
21 regulation and reduce administrative complexity.

21

22

23 In their request the proponents of FP  
24 23-05a note that it is inconsistent and unfair to  
25 exclude Kodiak Coast Guard base residents from  
26 customary and traditional use salmon harvest  
27 opportunities in the Kodiak area because active duty  
28 Coast Guard service members live both on and off base  
29 here. Currently Kodiak Coast Guard service members who  
30 reside off base can become eligible for Federal  
31 subsistence salmon harvest opportunities while Coast  
32 Guard service members who reside on base cannot. The  
33 proponents believe that members of the Coast Guard who  
34 meet the general eligibility requirements for Federal  
35 subsistence priority should not be excluded from the  
36 privileges granted to all other eligible rural  
37 residents of the Kodiak area. And it should also be  
38 noted just for consideration that in contrast to the  
39 situation surrounding Federal subsistence salmon  
40 harvest existing customary and traditional use  
41 determinations for the harvest of wildlife do not make  
42 a distinction between residents of the Kodiak Coast  
43 Guard base and the other residents of the Kodiak area.

43

44

45 And so for a brief discussion of the  
46 regulatory history involved, in 1988 the State of  
47 Alaska's Board of Fisheries met to determine the  
48 customary and traditional use salmon harvest status for  
49 resident of the Kodiak Management Area. At that time  
50 the State Board of Fisheries considered the existence

50

0119

1 of multi-generational kinship relations between local  
2 subsistence users to be a key criterion for  
3 establishing customary and traditional use in a given  
4 area. This was one of the key reasons why the Coast  
5 Guard base was excluded from the customary and  
6 traditional use determination for salmon in the Kodiak  
7 area at this time. The Board of Fisheries also noted  
8 during this initial determination that most of the  
9 population on the base was transient.

10

11 The Federal Subsistence Management  
12 Program assumed management of subsistence uses of fish  
13 and wildlife on Federal public lands in 1990. And the  
14 new Federal subsistence regulations incorporated many  
15 provisions from earlier State subsistence regulations.  
16 And so the customary and traditional use determination  
17 for salmon in the Kodiak area was brought into Federal  
18 regulation in this manner incorporating the previously  
19 existing exclusion of Coast Guard base residence.

20

21 In 1997 Payton versus State of Alaska  
22 found that a lack of multi-generational kinship  
23 relations within a given area was not sufficient bases  
24 for denying customary and traditional use status to  
25 residents of that area. The court also found that a  
26 relatively short average length of residency for recent  
27 residents of the area should not necessarily preclude a  
28 customary and traditional use determination as long as  
29 there is evidence of ongoing customary use of the  
30 resource through time. And so this ruling led to a  
31 change in the customary and traditional use  
32 determination for residents of the Yentna River area,  
33 but it does not appear that this ruling has been  
34 considered in relation to the status of residents of  
35 the Kodiak Coast Guard base.

36

37 And so FP 23-05a is the first proposal  
38 that specifically addresses the customary and  
39 traditional use status of the Kodiak Coast Guard base  
40 residents since this initial determination was made by  
41 the State in 1988 and then carried over into subsequent  
42 Federal subsistence regulations.

43

44 A 2010 wildlife regulatory decision in  
45 the eastern interior region may also have some  
46 relevance for deliberations on this proposal. In 2010  
47 the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council  
48 submitted Wildlife Proposal 10-89 requesting to remove  
49 residents of Fort Greely from the customary and  
50

0120

1 traditional use determination for caribou in units 20D  
2 and 20E and for moose in unit 20D. The ERAC requested  
3 the removal of Fort Greely residents from these  
4 customary and traditional use determinations because  
5 they felt that the temporary nature of their residence  
6 at Fort Greely did not allow for the establishment of a  
7 long term consistent pattern of use. The Federal  
8 Subsistence Board in this case however did not adopt FP  
9 10-89. The Board noted that removing residents of Fort  
10 Greely from the customary and traditional use  
11 determinations for caribou and moose in these areas  
12 would be detrimental to the subsistence of the  
13 Federally-qualified rural residents stationed at Fort  
14 Greely and that there was a long history -- there was a  
15 history that had been documented of residents at Fort  
16 Greely engaging in subsistence practices in the areas  
17 under question.

18

19 And so moving on to the next section  
20 about the eight factors for determining customary and  
21 traditional use. When conducting a customary and  
22 traditional use determination analysis eight factors  
23 are considered. And you can find these factors listed  
24 on page 36 of your meeting book. And please keep in  
25 mind that these factors are not used as a checklist.  
26 The Board makes customary and traditional use  
27 determinations based on a holistic application of these  
28 eight factors as well as the reports and  
29 recommendations of appropriate Regional Advisory  
30 Councils. And the Board makes customary and  
31 traditional use determinations for the sole purpose of  
32 recognizing the pool of users who generally exhibit the  
33 eight factors and not for resource management or for  
34 restricting harvest. If a conservation concern exists  
35 the Board addresses that concern through harvest  
36 limits, season restrictions or the section 804  
37 subsistence user prioritization process, not through  
38 customary and traditional use determinations.

39

40 So the Kodiak Coast Guard base as I'm  
41 sure you all know is located in the traditional  
42 territory of the Alutiiq. The base encompasses  
43 approximately 22,000 acres of land on the northeastern  
44 end of Kodiak Island. The area was originally  
45 developed in 1939 as a U.S. Navy base and Coast Guard  
46 service members have been resident here since the  
47 1940s. The military installation was turned over to  
48 the Coast Guard in 1972. The documented subsistence  
49 survey information we have to go on is a bit spotty,  
50

0121

1 but what we have currently available for Kodiak Coast  
2 Guard base residents shows a history of harvesting,  
3 using and sharing salmon taken from Kodiak fisheries  
4 that we can trace back to at least the early 1990s.  
5 This was the study that Jackie Keating mentioned a bit  
6 in her discussion earlier in this panel meeting. And  
7 I've got some more detailed tables with information on  
8 those studies and the larger analysis in your meeting  
9 book. Likewise Kodiak Coast Guard base residents also  
10 have a documented history of harvesting nonsalmon fish  
11 and seafood, deer and other wildlife and plants and  
12 berries for subsistence purposes. A study of the  
13 subsistence activities of Kodiak Island communities  
14 conducted by ADF&G in 1991 revealed that the salmon  
15 harvest use practices of the residents of the Kodiak  
16 Coast Guard base compared relatively favorably with  
17 those of other residents of road connected communities  
18 on Kodiak Island, however Kodiak Coast Guard base  
19 residents typically harvested and used significantly  
20 less salmon than communities located off the road  
21 system. And this trend has continued in the years  
22 where comparable data is available. The average Coast  
23 Guard household harvested 118 pounds of salmon during  
24 the 1991 study year. 97 percent of surveyed households  
25 reporting using salmon while 90 percent of base  
26 households reported harvesting salmon. Approximately  
27 55 percent of base households reported giving salmon to  
28 others while 45 percent reported receiving salmon. And  
29 so as Jackie Keating told you today, the average Coast  
30 Guard household reported harvesting about 166 pounds of  
31 salmon in 2021.

32  
33 Over time like I said the study data on  
34 Kodiak Coast Guard base households has been kind of  
35 spotty. And so in 1999 we have a report that said that  
36 Kodiak military households returned 43 subsistence  
37 permits for salmon, harvesting a total of 886 salmon.  
38 And again this harvest level per household was well  
39 below that reported for communities off the road system  
40 like Port Lions and Ouzinkie, but the average number of  
41 salmon harvested per military household was again  
42 similar to that reported for residents located along  
43 the road system like Kodiak city. This trend continued  
44 in 2001 when residents of the Kodiak Coast Guard base  
45 returned 74 subsistence permits, harvesting a reported  
46 total of 1,346 salmon. And so unfortunately 2001 was  
47 the last time we had specific documented information on  
48 subsistence salmon harvests by Kodiak Coast Guard base  
49 residents up until the preliminary data we just heard  
50

1 Jackie Keating talk about earlier today. So that kind  
2 of limits my analysis, however it may also be worth  
3 nothing that Federal subsistence priority is intended  
4 to extend to any rural resident of Alaska under the  
5 framework of ANILCA. And according to the code of  
6 Federal regulations an Alaskan resident is defined as  
7 any person who has his or her primary permanent home  
8 for the previous 12 months within Alaska and whenever  
9 absent from this primary permanent home had the  
10 intention of returning to it. A person's residence is  
11 considered rural when it occurs in a community or area  
12 of Alaska determined by the Board to qualify as such.  
13 The Kodiak Island Borough is recognized as a rural area  
14 by the Board. Therefore many Kodiak Coast Guard base  
15 residents would meet the qualification for Federal  
16 subsistence priority if not for the current exception  
17 in the Kodiak area customary and traditional use  
18 determination noted for salmon. Kodiak Coast Guard  
19 service members who happen to reside off base can  
20 already qualify for Federal subsistence salmon harvest  
21 opportunities after achieving Alaskan residency status.  
22 And nearly half of the military provided housing units  
23 for active duty Coast Guard Service members in Kodiak  
24 and support personnel are technically located off base.

25  
26 So the effects of this proposal if the  
27 Board adopts this proposal, members of the U.S. Coast  
28 Guard stationed at Kodiak base would gain the  
29 opportunity to harvest salmon under Federal subsistence  
30 management regulations on Federal public waters in the  
31 Kodiak area if they meet Alaskan residency requirements  
32 for Federal subsistence priority. If the Board does  
33 not adopt this proposal Coast Guard members residing on  
34 the Kodiak base will continue to be excluded from  
35 Federal subsistence salmon fisheries in the Kodiak  
36 area. Coast Guard members residing on base will  
37 continue to be able to harvest salmon in the Kodiak  
38 area according to the State of Alaska's subsistence or  
39 sport fishing regulations however.

40  
41 And so OSM's preliminary conclusion is  
42 to support proposal FP 23-05a with a modification to  
43 the proposed customary and traditional use area  
44 descriptors as shown on page 39 of your meeting book.  
45 And so in that modification we basically changed what  
46 the Refuge had suggested as calling Kodiak area  
47 remainder to Kodiak mainland district just because we  
48 thought that was clearer -- would be clearer to people  
49 trying to understand the regulation.

0123

1                   And so justification, removing the  
2 exclusion of residents of the Kodiak Coast Guard base  
3 from the customary and traditional use determination  
4 for salmon in the Kodiak area would provide greater  
5 access to subsistence opportunities for residents of  
6 the base who meet the Federal requirements for  
7 subsistence priority. It would also end the  
8 inconsistent practice of providing Federal subsistence  
9 salmon harvest opportunities to Coast Guard service  
10 members who reside off base while excluding Coast Guard  
11 members who reside on base from the same opportunities.  
12 The data available currently shows that Coast Guard  
13 base residents have a history of engaging in salmon  
14 fisheries and other subsistence practices in the Kodiak  
15 Islands since at least the early 1990s. Supporting  
16 this proposal is in keeping with the Board's stated  
17 goal from 2016 to recognize customary and traditional  
18 uses in the most inclusive manner possible. If  
19 necessary a section 804 subsistence user prioritization  
20 analysis could be conducted in the future in the event  
21 of salmon declines. And lastly changing the area  
22 descriptors we believe for the customary and  
23 traditional use determination zones within the Kodiak  
24 Island should clarify the areas under regulation both  
25 for the public and reduce administrative complexity.  
26 And we look forward to hearing your discussion and  
27 recommendation on this proposal.

28  
29                   And lastly there were no written public  
30 comments submitted for this proposal.

31  
32                   So this concludes my presentation and I  
33 and other members of OSM are available for any  
34 questions you may have.

35  
36                   MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

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

40  
41                   MS. SKINNER: Thanks. Can you speak a  
42 little bit more about the section 804 subsistence user  
43 prioritization analysis?

44  
45                   MR. ROBERTS: Yes. So that would be  
46 something in the event of declines in the resource  
47 where I believe the Council or any interested party  
48 would submit a proposal requesting an 804 analysis  
49 basically determining who requires the resource the  
50

0124

1 most, right, who needs the resource the most among the  
2 pool of customary and traditional use qualified users  
3 in the area.

4  
5 MS. SKINNER: And what are the  
6 allowable or recognized categories of users, so if  
7 you're prioritizing within users who have -- are  
8 subject to the C&T determination, what kinds of  
9 categories are you allowed to consider?

10  
11 MR. ROBERTS: It would be users who  
12 fall under the C&T and it would be based on kind of  
13 history of residence, right, who's been there, records --  
14 any records we have of harvest, right, who's using the  
15 resource more over time. This would be kind of how --  
16 I don't know if anyone wants to chime in.

17  
18 MS. SKINNER: Your phone a friend isn't  
19 working.

20  
21 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

28  
29 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Thank you  
30 for your report, that was very precise. I have a few  
31 questions. On the summary on page 27, this proposal  
32 submitted by the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, why  
33 is that, normally interactions with Coast Guard Base  
34 the Special Services Officer or someone like that would  
35 make a request like this. And I'm curious because the  
36 definition of the base or the station.....

37  
38 MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

39  
40 MR. HOLMES: .....the base is a small  
41 component that's active military, but the station also  
42 includes the Aviation Hill and then the -- oh, I  
43 forget, the Lake Louise group.

44  
45 MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

46  
47 MR. HOLMES: But also on that land is  
48 where the Fish and Wildlife Service people live at the  
49 Buskin because that's part of the State Coast Guard  
50

0125

1 land.

2

3

MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

4

5

6

MR. HOLMES: So is that part of the stimulus, I mean, why didn't this come from the Coast Guard?

7

8

9

10

11

12

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16

MR. ROBERTS: The original stimulus I believe for the Refuge submitting this is that they were having quite a hard time making distinctions between on base versus off base residents in determining who qualifies. And separating those people out in an effective and what they felt, you know, equitable manner.

17

18

19

MR. HOLMES: I guess that would be in terms of the Federal permits that's issued.....

20

21

22

23

24

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26

MR. HOLMES: .....because that's been a fairly recent occurrence for Kodiak is to have a Federal permit. And that evolved after the Fish and Game Advisory Committee, the State.....

27

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43

MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

MR. HOLMES: .....had changed things to not allow fishing overnight because a lot of fish were lost in the nets, people weren't doing that so they set the hours of 6:00 to 9:00. And my experience in Kodiak is almost everybody I know that's gotten the Federal permit they do that so they can get out on the grounds earlier and out compete the people that don't get out by 6:00 o'clock or they fish later at night to be able to fish on things when everybody else has got to stop. So it was done to help out folks, but yet I think there is some abuse on those things, but that's just feelings. You said 44 subsistence permits military were issued off station. Those are people that probably lived in town and not on the base, right?

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. ROBERTS: I'm sorry, I'm going to have to go back. That was 44 subsistence -- 43 subsistence permits, yeah. That report -- that was an ADF&G report and they're just talking about military households. So that could have been either on or off base, these are State subsistence reports or permits, I

0126

1 mean.

2

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Well, I know quite a few  
5 folks in the Coast Guard many, many years and, you  
6 know, the folks that live off base generally are ones  
7 that are planning on staying, they're ones that re-up  
8 two or three times to stay in Kodiak. And so they  
9 really have a strong commitment to the community and  
10 the community effort. And I know at Fish and Game if  
11 you live off base and you're a resident that's no  
12 problem.....

12

13

14

MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

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MR. HOLMES: .....but one does see down  
when people are launching their boats, folks putting in  
boats with Coast Guard station sticker on their bumper  
that's from another State.

MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

MR. HOLMES: And so there's just a  
little bit of finagling that would need to be cleaned  
up and really enforced. So that's of interest. Back  
in '88 when this was created there was great concern in  
the community, both with the Alutiiq people and the  
folks that lived in Kodiak about it because the crab  
was falling off to almost nothing and the salmon stocks  
were not very strong at that time and so they were  
quite concerned about increasing competition.....

MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

MR. HOLMES: .....and that plus the  
rumors of people finagling. And I think most Coast  
Guard people are great, you know, but that was the  
reason why that ended up being implemented. And part  
of the thing on crab is they used to have out on base  
they had one or two great big, huge stainless steel  
cookers. And so folks would go out in the skiff in  
Women's Bay, get a whole load of king crab, put them in  
there and they had steam lines running out of the  
powerhouse and then they would cook them, bag them up  
and freeze them. And folks in town were wondering how  
can -- I forget how many people lived on the base  
there, but maybe a thousand or 1,500 and maybe a  
quarter of them were doing this, how can they use that  
much crab and where's the crab going. So that was --  
that's why it got implemented was the question of

0127

1 increased competition and concerns about that.

2

3 So anyway thank you for your report.

4

5 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

8

9 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Della. Do we  
10 have a number and it's unfortunate, but no one's on the  
11 phone from the Refuge to talk about this. But do we  
12 know how many permits like say over the last three  
13 years each year how many permits on issued for Federal  
14 subsistence in the Kodiak waters there?

15

16 MR. ROBERTS: We during our trip a few  
17 ago to Kodiak Island we met with the Refuge and I don't  
18 really want to speak with them in exacting terms, but  
19 they were saying very few, a very minimal amount. Oh,  
20 got it right here. So this year there have been 17  
21 permits, Federal permits for Kodiak.

22

23 MS. CHERNOFF: So we don't know how  
24 many of those are Coast Guard?

25

26 MR. ROBERTS: No.

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: Do we know -- oh, I  
29 guess they'd all be resident?

30

31 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah. Yeah. So 2022,  
32 17; 2021, 18; 2020, 43; 2019, 40; 2018, 35; 2017, 55;  
33 2016, 42.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Coral. My  
36 guess is probably two-thirds of those people are folks  
37 that we know from town and they're doing it just to get  
38 a little leg up on fishing. And anyway that's just an  
39 emotional feeling.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, do you  
42 have any more comments.

43

44 MS. CHERNOFF: I do. So I guess I find  
45 it interesting that we define in order to get a permit  
46 it's all just based on residency. So I was quite  
47 surprised to look at these eight factors for  
48 determining customary and traditional use. And I guess  
49 I'm kind of wondering why they don't come into play  
50

1 myself, I guess that's kind of rhetorical, but I also  
2 just want to say in reading through these it seems like  
3 the Coast Guard, the people living on the Coast Guard  
4 base, and I would have to say I don't remember how long  
5 ago it was, but there are a lot of Coast Guard living  
6 off base now, but that's because they took down a whole  
7 bunch of housing they're going to rebuild so people had  
8 to find places to live in town. So that is one reason  
9 why there's so many Coast Guard living out and about.

10

11 But it just seems when I'm reading  
12 through these that being in the Coast Guard it seems  
13 like they just don't fit into a lot of these eight  
14 factors. One being long term consistent pattern of  
15 use. And you can say in general the Coast Guard as  
16 Coast Guard, but they're so transient so there is no  
17 real general pattern of use. I mean, I -- that's how I  
18 would interpret that.

19

20 A pattern of use recurring in specific  
21 seasons for many years. I don't think they demonstrate  
22 that being again transient. The methods and means,  
23 consistent harvest and use of fish and wildlife is  
24 related to past methods and means of taking. Once  
25 again that whole transiency, everyone who comes in is  
26 going to be using their own methods and means and  
27 finding, you know, where they're going to go.

28

29 Means of handling, preparing,  
30 preserving and storing fish or wildlife which has been  
31 traditionally used by past generations. And I find it  
32 interesting that we use a lot of words like  
33 traditional, indigenous, community, we use a lot of  
34 these to indicate I think sort of the original intent.  
35 So the original intent of this came through ANILCA  
36 which we say ANILCA, but what that stands for is Alaska  
37 Native Lands Claims. So while a lot of us realized  
38 that this came through, we seem to sort of twist and  
39 turn meanings with so many proposals moving forward  
40 that many of us who live in small communities and  
41 depend upon the resource, we just don't know what to  
42 say about it. It's like what's happening, we don't  
43 understand it.

44

45 Also pattern of use in which the  
46 harvest is shared or distributed with a definable  
47 community of persons. A pattern of use which relates  
48 to reliance, I think that's a big one, reliance upon a  
49 wide diversity of fish and wildlife resources of the  
50

0129

1 area and then on the page right above that it actually  
2 shows the median household income for the residents of  
3 Kodiak. Oh, wait, did it show the Coast Guard?

4  
5 MS. SKINNER: It's.....

6  
7 MR. HOLMES: She said yeah.

8  
9 MS. SKINNER: .....87.04 with.....

10  
11 MS. CHERNOFF: I.....

12  
13 MS. SKINNER: (Indiscernible - away  
14 from microphone).....

15  
16 MS. CHERNOFF: It seemed like there was  
17 quite a difference between there. The median household  
18 income for Kodiak service members was 87,000 during the  
19 five year period between 2016 and '20 and the median  
20 household income for the entire Kodiak Island Borough  
21 was 79,000 and residents off the road system was  
22 43,000. So, you know, there's quite a difference  
23 there. And also in that distance -- that difference in  
24 income, the Coast Guard has their own grocery store  
25 which is considerably less than what we pay for in  
26 town. Their fuel is considerably less, their housing  
27 is considerably less or worked into their income.  
28 There's many differences that I feel like do not work  
29 into this use of subsistence -- qualifying for Federal  
30 subsistence with the Coast Guard base. And if I had to  
31 go further and you go well, you know, what about the  
32 people that live off base, I would consider them just  
33 not to be -- I don't know.

34  
35 And I guess because this has been  
36 visited a few times too and it's continued to be in  
37 place, I think, you know, that's another consideration.

38  
39 I think that's it. Thank you.

40  
41 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Well, I mean, some  
42 of those are things I can't really answer for you,  
43 that's more for the Council to deliberate. But I think  
44 part of this is recognizing again it's differences in  
45 the way in which we're trying to recognize, use, right.  
46 We're looking at the Coast Guard base as a community  
47 and, you know, well, I mean, you could argue that, I  
48 could argue that you're twisting it the other way. But  
49 yes, so the members turnover, but are their traditions  
50

0130

1 being passed on at the Coast Guard base, I don't know.  
2 We don't -- we don't have the information to say that,  
3 but we do have the information showing that they're  
4 harvesting salmon, they're using salmon, they're  
5 sharing salmon, receiving salmon from other people in a  
6 manner quite similar to Kodiak city. And so there's  
7 the argument, right, is the Coast Guard base  
8 dramatically different than Kodiak city. I don't know.  
9 Again that's something to.....

10

11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Excuse me.  
12 We're just -- on the line everybody says they're  
13 getting a lot of static so maybe just not rub your  
14 shirt or something.

15

16 MR. ROBERTS: Okay.

17

18 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you.

19

20 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah.

21

22 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So I --  
23 that's another thing to deliberate which I don't have  
24 the answer to, I'm just pointing that out.

25

26 MR. ROBERTS: I feel like there's  
27 something else I was going to say, but I forgot it.

28

29 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Sorry.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Turn your mic  
32 off when you're done speaking.

33

34 Katya, did you have a comment.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: I just wanted to let the  
37 Council know, Madame Chair, that you earlier asked if  
38 there was anybody from the Refuge to answer questions.  
39 Mike Brady from Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge is  
40 online. He's just having a hard time hearing what's  
41 being said in the room, they still have hard time  
42 hearing everybody who's on the phone. If you have any  
43 questions for him he is online.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Mike,  
48 this is Della. Do you have -- from what you've heard  
49 at this point do you have any comments in regard to  
50

0131

1 some of the questions that were presented?

2

3

MR. BRADY: Sure. Hi, Madame Chair.  
4 Yeah, I'm having a hard time hearing folks. I can hear  
5 Coral real well. So I will say that we had a lot of  
6 problems giving out permits over the last few years,  
7 mostly because we can give out -- we hear that the  
8 State gives out subsistence permits and they wonder why  
9 they can't get the Federal subsistence permits. And  
10 then it's like you were saying, some households can,  
11 some households can't. So that part of the regulation  
12 we would like to clarify one way or the other is just  
13 to make our lives easier and then later on I guess 23-  
14 05b we'll talk about some of the revisions and some of  
15 the clarifications we'd like to see in that. But so  
16 there's just a little bit of inconsistency once they  
17 become able to get State subsistence permits why --  
18 yeah, I guess that's their discussion, their question  
19 is why would they be denied a Federal subsistence  
20 permit.

21

22

So that's all I have.

23

24

25

MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is  
Pippa Kenner.

26

27

28

29

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I heard  
somebody say Madame Chair, but I didn't quite get what  
was said. Can you repeat that, please.

30

31

32

33

MS. KENNER: Yes. Hi. This is Pippa  
Kenner with OSM. I'm backing up Jason for this  
meeting. Am I recognized?

34

35

36

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, you are,  
Pippa, go ahead.

37

38

39

40

41

42

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44

45

MS. KENNER: Okay. Thanks. Hey,  
Jason, I was just wondering if you might want to  
address the acronym ANILCA means because it's common  
for people to think the N means Native, but it actually  
-- I'll just say it, it's the Alaska National Interest  
Lands Act. That's what ANILCA stands for. The other  
Act is ANCSA. And ANCSA is the Alaska Native Claims  
Settlement.

46

47

48

Thank you.

49

50

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So ANCSA is

0132

1 Alaska Native Claims and ANILCA is Alaska National  
2 Lands.....

3  
4 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Interest  
5 Lands.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....Interest  
8 Lands.

9  
10 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: But the  
11 main difference is (indiscernible - away from  
12 microphone) issue.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, they ref  
15 -- and she -- they reference the same issue.

16  
17 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to  
20 kind of go back on this. Sometimes when you've been on  
21 this Council for 25 years. You know, I recall and,  
22 Pat, maybe help me, at one point in time when there was  
23 the determining a rural preference for  
24 communities and I recall Kodiak taking the Coast Guard  
25 out as for population purposes to determine rural and  
26 that's how they were able to get recognized as a rural  
27 community.

28  
29 Go ahead, you had a comment.

30  
31 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah. So I mentioned  
32 that in the longer analysis there that was one of the  
33 original issues or an earlier Chair was worried about  
34 that.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, exactly.  
37 Because I do recall the hearing being at the Statewide  
38 hearing for that at one point in time.

39  
40 The other things is what's hard to go  
41 through this and looking at the eight factors is as  
42 Coral brought up is the fact when you turn around and  
43 say well, you're classified as a rural resident if you  
44 live in a community for one year and if you can  
45 determine that I'm a Coast Guard member, but I lived in  
46 Kodiak for one year, then technically I'm a rural  
47 resident. So I would be eligible technically for a  
48 Federal permit. So it gets confusing and I can  
49 understand wanting to clarify and the purpose of this  
50

0133

1 may be clarification, but it does -- it still is  
2 confusing.

3

4 MR. ROBERTS: I'm sorry.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I guess I'm  
7 not sure where we're at with this, the next -- going to  
8 the next steps on public. So we have comments, we --  
9 agency comments. That's -- you said there was no  
10 public comments.

11

12 MR. ROBERTS: There are no written  
13 public comments.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Written public  
16 comments. So the question is is there any report on  
17 Board consultation with tribes or ANCSA corporations.

18

19 MR. ROBERTS: That would be I believe  
20 Orville. Orville would have.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Orville, are you  
23 online, I have -- I did not hear you.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame  
28 Chair, I believe -- well, I talked to Orville a couple  
29 days ago and he did say that there were none from the  
30 tribes or the.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank  
33 you, Lisa.

34

35 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: There could  
36 be someone that want to call in for today though.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there any --  
39 well, we do have public testimony on this farther down  
40 the agenda. So the next we'd moved to agency comments.

41

42 ADF&G, do you have any comments in  
43 regard to this proposal.

44

45 MS. KEATING: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
46 This is Jackie Keating with the Division of  
47 Subsistence. I can take a first stab at our public  
48 comments.

49

50

0134

1 First of all for the background, this  
2 mostly mirrors what OSM already covered, but just to  
3 restate that salmon are harvested in Kodiak waters for  
4 subsistence use under State regulations and Federal.  
5 In general the Federal regulations for salmon fishing  
6 mirror State subsistence regulations that are already  
7 in place for those waters. As you likely know the two  
8 exceptions are that rod and reel is recognized as a  
9 subsistence gear under Federal regulations and  
10 Federally-qualified users may fish 24 hours per day  
11 whereas State subsistence fisheries are open between  
12 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

13  
14 Our position at the Department of Fish  
15 and Game is neutral on these decisions. And we -- we  
16 are neutral on the proposal as to the requirement for  
17 participation in subsistence under ANILCA. We do  
18 recommend that the Federal Subsistence Board thoroughly  
19 and carefully review the data relative to the eight  
20 criteria for this community.

21  
22 And we're happy to answer further  
23 questions. And again just for the record the updated  
24 harvest data for Coast Guard base should be finalized  
25 sometime very early in 2023 following a full community  
26 data review.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
31 Chris, do you have a comment.

32  
33 MR. PRICE: I -- you mentioned like how  
34 many pounds they get per family, was it?

35  
36 MR. ROBERTS: Per household.

37  
38 MR. PRICE: Per household.

39  
40 MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

41  
42 MR. PRICE: How does it compare to the  
43 rest of Kodiak, the -- is it about the same?

44  
45 MR. ROBERTS: Let me look. No, it was  
46 similar to road connected communities, but less.

47  
48 MR. PRICE: A little less. Okay.

49  
50

0135

1 MR. ROBERTS: Well, no, it was less by  
2 quite a bit for non-road, communities located off the  
3 road. So you can see some of that on table 1. That's  
4 for 1991. Yeah, but the general pattern is it's  
5 similar to Kodiak city, but less than communities  
6 located off the road.

7

8 MR. PRICE: Okay. So.....

9

10 MS. KEATING: Madame Chair, this is  
11 Jackie Keating, Division of Subsistence.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
14 Jackie.

15

16 MS. KEATING: Thank you. If I could  
17 just further add to the response to that question with  
18 the updated data. When we look at the per capita  
19 harvest for 2021 it was 46 pounds for Kodiak Station  
20 and then residents of Kodiak city it was 74 and for the  
21 remaining Kodiak road it was 87.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Chris, you  
26 have another question or comment.

27

28 MR. PRICE: So these Coast Guard folks,  
29 they fish in the same place as everyone else does with  
30 the same type of gear?

31

32 MR. ROBERTS: They fish under State  
33 subsistence or sport regulations.

34

35 MR. PRICE: And so the main reason  
36 they're not being considered equally on this is because  
37 they don't have a customary and traditional definition  
38 because they live on the base?

39

40 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah, they were  
41 originally excluded because of living on the base.

42

43 MR. PRICE: Yeah.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Your mic.

46

47 MR. PRICE: Oh.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's what we

50

0136

1 talked about, Chris, earlier when they were first  
2 determining a rural preference for Kodiak because of  
3 the population they left the population of the Coast  
4 Guard out.

5

6 Okay. Any other.....

7

8 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: I just want to make a  
13 comment too when I was listening, you know, they have  
14 all their own facilities, they also -- which now kids  
15 from Bells Flat go to that school, but they've always  
16 had their own school too. They have an elementary  
17 school in addition to all their other kind of contained  
18 services. And I don't believe I read that in the  
19 report or anything about their grocery stores, the  
20 commissaries and all that.

21

22 MR. ROBERTS: There was mention of that  
23 briefly in the first part of the report. It was one of  
24 the original reasons that the Kodiak Chair objected to  
25 inclusion in 1994, that was part of the reason.

26

27 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

28

29 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca.

30

31 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I'm just going to  
32 make some brief comments now. When I was in elementary  
33 school I actually attended Peterson Elementary which is  
34 -- he's not sure if it's located on the Coast Guard  
35 base, but it's directly adjacent. So I went to  
36 elementary school, first grade through fifth grade,  
37 mostly with, you Coast Guard kids. My experience was  
38 they were generally there a couple of years and then  
39 they would transfer. A lot of them did not transfer  
40 into -- you know, when I had moved into middle school  
41 and had to get bussed to town, there weren't a lot of  
42 kids there that I went to school with because they had  
43 already left. And then just the -- my thinking back to  
44 my experience, the -- you know, the kind of experiences  
45 and the lifestyle that those kids had was very  
46 different from what I grew up with. And obviously none  
47 of that's in the report because that's not what you  
48 were, you know, looking at or focused on. But I do  
49 want to comment that there is a definite cultural  
50

0137

1 difference.

2

3

4 I also wanted to reiterate and Coral  
5 did mention the housing allowance that the Coast Guard  
6 families get, is substantial. And not only is it a  
7 benefit for the Coast Guard recipients who get it, it  
8 has an impact on everyone else who lives in Kodiak  
9 because it keeps the price of housing unusually high.  
10 So that's a financial benefit and as Coral says they --  
11 there's cheaper access to groceries, to fuel, flights  
12 off of the Island, recreational kinds of activities.  
13 So there's very definite things that the Coast Guard on  
14 base population and off base population has access to  
15 that other residents of the Kodiak area do not have  
16 access to.

16

17

Thank you.

18

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Yeah, that's all I have to say.

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MR. ROBERTS: Well, everything's  
currently happening under State regs for Coast Guard  
base residents.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So and just  
going back to that discussion and when you look at even  
the discussion and justification and substantial  
evidence such as biological and traditional ecological  
knowledge and that's what's being referenced strongly  
here, but I don't -- I could be wrong, but I don't --  
in the past whenever we had a proposal like this in  
front of us we had an archeologist or anthropologist  
giving a report that would substantiate and support in  
this case Kodiak Refuge's request to allow for a  
Federal permit for the base. Am I correct on this?

0138

1 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
2 I don't really have an answer to your question, but I  
3 just want to remind the Council that we need to go  
4 through the process in the right way. Because it  
5 appears to me that the Council started having a  
6 discussion, but we didn't hear for all these other  
7 entities that we have who might have commented, State  
8 and Federal agencies and the, you know, others. And I  
9 think that's up to that -- you know, you heard the  
10 presentation of the proposal and now we need to go  
11 through all these other steps. And after the motion --  
12 after the motion is on the floor then the Council can  
13 have a discussion. So I guess if you have some  
14 clarifying question for the presenter that perhaps we  
15 need to go through the other steps before the Council  
16 as a group discusses the proposal on the floor.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for  
21 that because we're running out of -- time is going by  
22 here too fast. So I guess at this point I'm under  
23 agency comments. Are we on Federal or tribal?

24  
25 So there weren't any comments listed in  
26 the book.

27  
28 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

31  
32 MR. HOLMES: Point of clarification. I  
33 believe we asked for Fish and Game comments and Jackie  
34 Keaton from Subsistence Division gave those to us.  
35 There was nobody from Comm Fish, they're the ones that  
36 do the management in issuing the permits for Fish and  
37 Game. There were no written public comments, no  
38 comments from the tribe. And I don't know that we've  
39 had a InterAgency Committee so I think we've gone  
40 through a lot of those steps, haven't we?

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think, Pat,  
43 maybe just for the record we'll call them out. So at  
44 this point the next group would be Advisory Groups  
45 comments, other Regional Advisory Councils.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game

50

0139

1 Advisory Committees.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence  
6 Resource Commissions.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm here.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are you wanting  
13 to speak to this proposal.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of  
18 written public comments.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: There wasn't  
23 any. Public testimony. would anybody like to speak to  
24 this Proposal FP 23-05a.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.  
29 Regional Council Recommendations.

30

31 MR. BRADY: This is Mike Brady again.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh.

34

35 MR. BRADY: I'd like to make one  
36 comment, Della, just for clarification is that's okay.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Go ahead,  
39 Mike.

40

41 MR. BRADY: I'll just say that this all  
42 came about because of Litnik, because the State has a  
43 time limit on their subsistence permit and Federal  
44 permit does not have a time limit. So that's -- when  
45 the Coast Guard folks figured out, that's when this all  
46 came to fruition that there's a time difference in when  
47 the specific permits are allowed, when you're allowed  
48 to actually fish.

49

50

0140

1 I just wanted to make that  
2 clarification and that's why this comes up and this is  
3 why it's become a little bit of a controversy.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mike.  
6 And, you know, I think it would have been nice to have  
7 people that are requesting this of the Refuge to make a  
8 proposals to speak to it and in support of it and the  
9 reasoning behind it. I think at this point we're --  
10 just as a comment.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

15

16 MS. CHERNOFF: (Indiscernible - away  
17 from microphone).....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So we are  
20 still on Regional Council recommendations. Motion to  
21 adopt.

22

23 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, George  
24 Pappas, OSM. I have one piece of information.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
27 George.

28

29 MR. PAPPAS: Good day, Madame Chair,  
30 and members of the Council. One of the reasons that  
31 folks get a Federal subsistence permit is because rod  
32 and reel is legal to use for Federal subsistence in  
33 marine waters. So that's where the permit started  
34 coming from and folks wanted permits to fish for  
35 Federal subsistence. They are looking -- most  
36 everybody uses a State subsistence permit, but the  
37 State subsistence permit cannot allow or does not  
38 authorize the use of rod and reel. So about 2012 came  
39 together and I think '13 was maybe the first year they  
40 started issuing rod and reel permits. That doesn't add  
41 much to your conversation, but there was a discussion  
42 about permits earlier.

43

44 Thank you, Madame Chair, appreciate it.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So given that  
47 description, George, we can request a rod and reel  
48 subsistence permit on Russell Creek or any of the  
49 waters around Cold Bay? You don't need to answer that  
50

0141

1 now.

2

3

4 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, I don't want  
5 to wade into, it's got errors and discussion points  
6 there, but I was just specifically recognizing the  
7 Kodiak area and why folks were getting permits from  
8 Kodiak. And if you want to expand a little bit, yes,  
9 if the State does not allow rod and reel in freshwaters  
10 and they are waters under the Federal subsistence  
11 fisheries jurisdiction, the RAC and the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board can put forth a regulation to allow  
13 rod and reel in those. And because of those --  
14 specifically for an example in Chignik, folks can use  
15 rod and reel, but you may not -- the State won't  
16 authorize a permit so if you had one you'd have to get  
17 one under the Federal program. So not to confuse you,  
18 just adding one piece of information to this.

18

19

Thank you, Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And  
it gets confusing sometimes because the Federal will  
change regulations to mirror the State and then  
sometimes now. So it -- it is a -- makes it all a  
little confusing.

All right. Moving on. Any other  
Regional Council recommendations.

MR. KOSO: Madame Chair, Rick here.  
Quick question.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

MR. KOSO: Yeah, I -- for George. I  
must of -- I've been confused by this for quite some  
time now and subsistence permitted by the State, the  
ADF&G permit. On the ADF&G permits through a sport  
fishing license, that's rod and reel for sport fishing  
license. So what's the difference in the Federal  
subsistence and ADF&G sport fishing?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, what was  
stated, Rick, is that you can't use a rod and reel for  
State subsistence.

MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair, Mr.  
Koso. The difference being in your region rod and  
reel's not allowed under State for subsistence methods

0142

1 and means. The Federal program has adopted it. And  
2 there are many places including Kodiak you're allowed  
3 to use rod and reel under Federal subsistence  
4 regulations in waters under Federal subsistence  
5 jurisdiction. That is not sport fishing, you do not  
6 need a State of Alaska sport fishing license to Federal  
7 subsistence fish. I'm uncertain I answered your  
8 question, but there's a clear line to us, I know it's  
9 not a clear line to you because we're talking about the  
10 same person in the same spot with the same gear chasing  
11 the same fish.

12

13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thanks, George.

16

17 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is  
18 Natasha.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Natasha.

21

22 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you. Are we on  
23 Committee comments now?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're on Council  
26 recommendations, motion to adopt.

27

28 MS. HAYDEN: Council recommendation --  
29 I'm sorry, I just want to make sure. Is it -- is this  
30 a good opportunity for me to provide my comments on the  
31 proposal?

32

33 MS. WESSELS: Somebody needs to make a  
34 motion so it can be discussed.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Natasha,  
37 I'm sorry I just missed that. Someone needs to make a  
38 motion and in most cases it needs to be in the  
39 affirmative. And then we can open it for discussion  
40 and then it needs to be voted up or down, approve or  
41 don't approve. In this particular case we may -- I'll  
42 recommend that we do it by roll call.

43

44 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Thank you, Madame  
45 Chair.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

50

0143

1 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, George's  
2 comment there, I think tickled the back of my brain  
3 because I had mentioned to some of the folks that  
4 our.....

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, we're  
7 making a motion in regard to the.....

8  
9 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I'm sorry. I'll be  
10 quiet.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, thank you.  
13 To adopt the recommendation for FP 23-05a. Do I hear a  
14 motion to approve.

15  
16 MS. WESSELS: I just want to also  
17 remind the Council that if anyone makes a motion it  
18 doesn't mean that you agree with that proposal. Making  
19 a motion just puts this -- opens an opportunity for you  
20 to discuss it. So if anybody is against this, you  
21 know, you still can make motion and it needs to be  
22 seconded and then you have a discussion.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That was my  
25 point. And then you vote it up or down. So I might --  
26 in this particular case it may recommended to do a per  
27 person vote, roll call vote.

28  
29 MR. HOLMES: Move to adopt.

30  
31 MS. SKINNER: Oh, I was just going to  
32 ask that we explain the other way if nobody makes a  
33 motion what happens?

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No action is  
36 taken.

37  
38 MS. WESSELS: So if you don't make a  
39 motion then you don't provide a recommendation to the  
40 Board and the Board is left to its devices deciding how  
41 they going to vote. So they're going to have a  
42 recommendation from the InterAgency Staff Committee,  
43 they going to have a recommendation from the State, but  
44 they won't have any recommendation from the Council.  
45 And the Board relies on the recommendations of the  
46 Councils. And they weigh heavily on the Council  
47 recommendation. Yes, they usually defer to the Council  
48 recommendation unless for the three things that are  
49 stated in ANILCA when they can disagree with the  
50

0144

1 Councils.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, one more  
4 comment and we do have.....

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....a motion on  
9 the floor.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. I just wanted to  
12 ask a question about that. Then do they just look at  
13 our recommendation or do they -- are all our comments  
14 provided to them?

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Oh, your recommendation  
17 will be, you know, to adopt or not adopt or take no  
18 action. Sometimes, you know when it's a crossover  
19 proposal you can defer to another Council, but this is  
20 not the case here. And then we provide justification  
21 why the Council voted these or that way and we develop  
22 a language for the justification based on you guys'  
23 discussion here. So that's about it.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Pat did make  
26 a motion to approve FP 23-05a. We need a second.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: I think it was Rick.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh.

31

32 MR. PRICE: No, he did.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It was Pat.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Oh, it was. Okay.

37

37 Sorry.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This was one --  
40 this whole thing has gone on a long time. So do we  
41 hear a second and then we can have discussion and then  
42 go for a roll call vote. Do I hear a second.

43

44 MR. PRICE: I'll second.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Chris.

47

48 MS. HAYDEN: Second. This is Natasha.

49

50

0145

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Given the first  
2 and second can we -- and now it's open basically for  
3 discussion.

4  
5 Chris.

6  
7 MR. PRICE: So.....

8  
9 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is  
10 Natasha.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha, just  
13 hold up here. We got Chris and then I can call on you.

14  
15 MR. PRICE: My question is right here.  
16 Will the recommendation be beneficial or detrimental to  
17 subsistence needs and uses. What was -- the evaluation  
18 you guys gave us on that?

19  
20 MR. ROBERTS: The preliminary  
21 evaluation is that this would provide more subsistence  
22 opportunity to residents of the Coast Guard base. It  
23 is currently unclear how many residents of the Coast  
24 Guard base would actually qualify as Alaskan residents.  
25 We don't have those numbers.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So that's part  
28 of what's confusing about all this, without those  
29 numbers and someone going and saying this is how many  
30 people on base basically say they'd utilize us. We  
31 have -- there's no numbers, you have no idea what the  
32 impact would be if this was passed in any resource, in  
33 this case fish. So that's where it gets a little --  
34 gets a little -- just doesn't feel like there's enough  
35 substance documentation especially when you go back to  
36 the customary and traditional use, the eight factors.  
37 And that's just my opinion, I couldn't -- maybe I'm  
38 wrong, but that's what.....

39  
40 MR. ROBERTS: You know, I would say  
41 yeah, I apologize that there's not as much information  
42 in this as I guess you typically find, this is the  
43 information I could find to give you.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there any  
46 other comments.

47  
48 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

49  
50

0146

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

2

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I think that  
5 we need to think also about where most of this takes  
6 place and that's at the Buskin. And we've had what,  
7 three years out of the last five that the fishery's  
8 been restricted. I might be wrong in that, but I know  
9 that the runs to the Buskin have become considerably  
10 more erratic. Myself I wouldn't decline folks that  
11 live off base, but I think that adding three or 400  
12 families into the subsistence for the Buskin could  
13 substantially increase competition for a limited  
14 resource.

14

15 Thank you, Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
18 Natasha, I apologize, I did forget to recognize you.

19

20

21 MS. HAYDEN: That's okay, Madame Chair.  
22 Out of sight, out of mind. My own fault. I really  
23 appreciate the discussion, I appreciate the  
24 presentation. I also really appreciate the additional  
25 information that has been presented by the agencies and  
26 my fellow Council members regarding the demographic or  
27 the composition of the people who both attended the  
28 school at Peterson and the difference between the  
29 residency of people who live on base versus Coast Guard  
30 personnel and support that live off of base. Having,  
31 you know, been born and raised here and spending my --  
32 most of my life here, being very familiar with the  
33 disparity, there is a disparity between the benefits  
34 and the access that Coast Guard personnel and depends  
35 have with the resources they have on base related to,  
36 you know, full grocery store and department store and  
37 fuel purchasing, but in addition to that they have also  
38 got a very robust -- it's called MWR, morale, welfare  
39 and recreation program that has everything anybody  
40 could possibly need or want to pursue fish and game for  
41 recreation and sport. And that includes boats, it  
42 includes they got a fish house where they've got  
43 processing facilities, they've got every -- all the  
44 supplies that people need to package up their take. I  
45 think they have, you know, four-wheelers for  
46 terrestrial pursuits. And I appreciate the comment Mr.  
47 Pappas made about the desire for -- of individuals to  
48 obtain a subsistence permit so that they could utilize  
49 rod and reel for subsistence in areas outside of the  
50 Buskin like Litnik which reminded again like Pat

50

0147

1 referenced the three out of five years where we'd had  
2 low abundance in the Buskin River in where I haven't  
3 been able to get my subsistence just using my State  
4 issued subsistence permit. And a couple of those years  
5 I've witnessed a huge amount of truck and trailer and  
6 boat launching traffic out at Antone Larson where  
7 people are able to launch their larger size vessels too  
8 with the intention of increased fishing activity over  
9 at Litnik, over by Ouzinkie, over at Port Lions. So  
10 people are able to go further to pursue more fish than  
11 they had in the past.

12

13 Thank you for your patience to my  
14 colleagues because I'm just trying to get everything in  
15 that has been kind of going through my mind. Earlier  
16 Coral had made reference to the Alaska Native Land  
17 Claim Act when -- I believe when she was -- she was  
18 referring to ANILCA which clarified that ANILCA is  
19 indeed Alaska National Interest Land whatever it is,  
20 ANILCA. And but I do want to just point out that  
21 originally ANILCA was intended in part to remedy some  
22 portions of resource access and management that were  
23 not included in ANCSA and what exists now as being  
24 quote, unquote, the rural preference, was intended to  
25 be indigenous Alaska Native preference. And, you know,  
26 because there was a severe backlash against it being  
27 discriminatory -- you know, potentially being  
28 discriminatory the final language is rural preference.  
29 And so and I think when I was reading through here and  
30 it says going back the -- you know, the history going  
31 back, history of usage of personnel on the Coast Guard  
32 base going back to the 1990s, it is -- you know, to me  
33 making a consideration of customary and traditional use  
34 for personnel who are not the same personnel that are  
35 sort of the revolving cohorts of personnel that are  
36 come -- you know, transferred in and out every three  
37 years roughly, in the same category of what I consider  
38 to be customary and traditional use is -- I think it's  
39 interesting. And I just want to highlight that I think  
40 I agree with or I agree with what I think that Coral  
41 was trying to get at with the ANILCA and Alaska Native  
42 Claims and traditional customary use by indigenous  
43 people as not being the same as what is being described  
44 here in my mind.

45

46 So yeah, again thank you for your  
47 patience. I would -- I'm not supportive of this  
48 because also in addition there isn't any household  
49 data, there isn't any information on the number of  
50

0148

1 individuals that would be eligible to participate in  
2 this if it were to be adopted. And there was one other  
3 thought that I had, but I -- it just kind of escaped me  
4 so I will stop there.

5

6 So thanks, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
9 Natasha. A point of clarification maybe. I keep  
10 hearing reference to the commissary and the stores and  
11 the different things that are available on the base.  
12 However if you look at the eight factors nothing in  
13 those eight factor address the -- any of those issues.  
14 They basically are looking at customary trade, use over  
15 time, the areas and the handling. So I -- it keeps  
16 coming up, but I think the point here is a  
17 determination of the C&T and I just from my perspective  
18 don't feel like that is strong enough to support  
19 approving this decision. Does that make sense?

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

24

25 MS. CHERNOFF: To me, it does reference  
26 it here. Number 8 says that it's determined by a  
27 pattern of use which relates to reliance which is why I  
28 brought that up, a reliance upon a wide diversity of  
29 fish and wildlife resources of the area and which  
30 provides substantial cultural, economic, social and  
31 nutritional elements to the community or area. And I  
32 think it's very relevant to that.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I don't  
35 know about anybody else, but I think maybe we're do to  
36 do a roll call vote.

37

38 MR. BRADY: Madame Chair, this is Mike  
39 again -- Mike Brady at Kodiak, I'd like to make one  
40 more comment.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mike.

43

44 MR. BRADY: So I'm just looking for  
45 clarification because people come to our door for these  
46 permits and if you look at the Federal subsistence  
47 harvest of wildlife it also doesn't say anything about  
48 the Coast Guard. So if we're going to stay with this  
49 line of -- we're just going to have to get both  
50

0149

1 booklets and make sure that they're similar because  
2 those are the kinds of questions we're going to get  
3 from folks that come to the door to get permits.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
6 Mike, I guess I'm curious when this was put together.  
7 When you look at the eight factors why weren't each of  
8 those eight factors taken individually in writing what  
9 determined or supported the factors under that item.  
10 And if you look at these that's I think where some of  
11 the confusion is also. It -- you know, if I were to  
12 read this and look at this, I hear you saying that the  
13 reason behind it is because they want the permit to be  
14 able to harvest subsistence on Federal lands after the  
15 State and that it's an issue of having to deal with the  
16 paperwork and the people because there is no -- there's  
17 nothing in place. And I may be getting tired, but  
18 that's kind of what I'm understanding here. And  
19 whether that's enough to support at this time, I don't  
20 know if we can -- if it's an issue that can be tabled  
21 and if you were going to really support pushing this  
22 through that a little more effort be put into those  
23 eight factors. And having people from the base  
24 actually testifying that hey, we would like this and  
25 this is why, that might be a little more beneficial for  
26 us to sit here and try to make -- try to vote on this  
27 right now. If I had a recommendation I'd say table it  
28 and if you really support pushing this through that we  
29 put a little more effort into it.

30

31 Coral.

32

33 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess before we  
34 wrap this up I just.....

35

36 MR. BRADY: This is Mike. I didn't  
37 work on the eight factors.....

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

40

41 MR. BRADY: .....I didn't work on the  
42 eight factors, but I did want clarification because it  
43 is difficult.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

46

47 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Della. So I  
48 just wanted to make my comments before this discussion  
49 wraps up. I will be voting no for this because I think

50

0150

1 of the -- most especially I feel like it doesn't fit  
2 into those sort of eight reasons that are mentioned,  
3 the eight factors of determining customary and  
4 traditional use. I think also they have access to the  
5 resource through other fisheries. And like I was  
6 talking about the culture of how they hunt and fish,  
7 it's different than that dependence -- that dependence  
8 on it. And that the reliance which it states in that  
9 reason, the reliance upon the resource. And I think  
10 Mike had made a comment earlier that part of this  
11 coming in was that people wanted to go to Litnik, they  
12 didn't like the fishery for State closed down early and  
13 they wanted more fishing time. I think that's kind of  
14 the culture of the fishery. A lot of people coming up  
15 to Alaska, they can't wait to get to that one year and  
16 then it's just the all out Alaskan experience without  
17 regard to the people that are still going to be there  
18 when they move away, without regard to the resource.  
19 I've experienced several times people duck hunting and  
20 the ducks are hanging out in the back of their truck  
21 and they're like yeah, I give those to my dogs, my dogs  
22 love them. Not legal, but it's the big Alaskan  
23 experience. And living around, I'm not going to say  
24 all the Coast Guard is like this, I think I just want  
25 to say that I'm going to be voting no because I know  
26 and I live there and it is a very different culture  
27 than reliance upon the resource for their families.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any more  
32 comments from anybody.

33

34 MS. SKINNER: I have a comment.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

37

38 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. I just  
39 wanted to thank Jason for the report and the  
40 presentation. I know this wasn't a -- it's not a  
41 particularly easy issue. And so thank you for the  
42 report and giving us the information.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. Is  
45 everybody ready for a roll call vote.

46

47 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Question.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, question.

50

0151

1 Is there a question.....

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Call.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....call for  
6 question.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: I call for question.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
11 Lisa, roll call.

12

13 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Patrick  
14 Holmes.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: No.

17

18 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard  
19 Koso.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard  
24 Koso.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You can go back  
29 to him.

30

31 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher  
32 Price.

33

34 MR. PRICE: No.

35

36 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral  
37 Chernoff.

38

39 MR. KOSO: Can you hear me now on  
40 there. Sorry, Della.

41

42 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: That's  
43 okay. Richard, your vote.

44

45 MR. KOSO: Can you hear me?

46

47 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, we can  
48 hear you.

49

50

0152

1 MR. KOSO: Oh, yeah. Well, I'm going  
2 to vote no with the Kodiak people because I'm going to  
3 just follow their suit and I don't know enough about  
4 that to make, you know, a good, educated vote on it.  
5 So I'll go with the majority of Kodiak and I'll vote  
6 no.

7  
8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral  
9 Chernoff.

10  
11 MS. CHERNOFF: No.

12  
13 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca  
14 Skinner.

15  
16 MS. SKINNER: No.

17  
18 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della  
19 Trumble.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No.

22  
23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha  
24 Hayden.

25  
26 MS. HAYDEN: No.

27  
28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And I don't  
29 believe Sam Rohrer's on the phone, correct?

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So seven  
34 nos. It failed.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, all I can  
37 say is that was a tough discussion. And, you know, I  
38 did like -- if there was more on here to substantiate  
39 it I might change my mind, but I just don't feel  
40 comfortable enough at this point to vote in that  
41 manner.

42  
43 If we can we'll go ahead and take a 10  
44 minute break. And we're going to go ahead and go on  
45 until 6:00 because our dinner will be at 6:00 and we'll  
46 at least try to get one or two more proposals done.

47  
48 Okay. Break time.

49  
50

0153

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So the next item  
6 on the agenda is FP 23-05b.

7

8 Justin Koller.

9

10 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
11 This is Justin Koller with the Office of Subsistence  
12 Management. FP 23-05b, the analysis of this proposal  
13 begins on page 43 of your meeting books.

14

15 FP 23-05b submitted by the Kodiak  
16 National Wildlife Refuge requests a change in the  
17 description of a Kodiak Island fishing area. The  
18 proponent states that this description change is  
19 necessary to clarify the area under regulation and to  
20 make it clear for those interpreting Federal fishing  
21 regulations. If you turn to page 43 in the executive  
22 summary, subsection A currently begins with Federal  
23 public waters of Kodiak Island and goes on to describe  
24 a subsection of the Kodiak Island area. The proponent  
25 is asking for a small change in how this subsection A  
26 area description begins specifically by replacing  
27 Federal public waters of Kodiak Island with road  
28 accessible zone and northeastern Kodiak Island in  
29 parentheses Federal public waters comprise marine  
30 waters within Women's Bay and this is on figure 1 on  
31 page 47. There are no inland Federal public waters in  
32 the Kodiak road system area and the primary subsistence  
33 fishery in this area targets salmon in the marine  
34 waters of Women's Bay.

35

36 The proposed amendment to the area  
37 description would have no effects other than providing  
38 a degree of clarity to Federally-qualified subsistence  
39 users and reduce confusion for anyone interpreting  
40 Federal subsistence fishing regulations in this area.

41

42 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
43 support Proposal FP 23-05b. This area description  
44 change is likely to clarify the area specified in  
45 regulations and would cause no negative impact to  
46 Federally-qualified subsistence users or the fisheries  
47 resource. In a way this -- one way to look at it is as  
48 a housekeeping proposal.

49

50

0154

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So  
4 if the people in the kitchen could come out here I'd  
5 sure appreciate it.

6

7 So the next -- where we're at on this  
8 is any comments -- I'm trying to figure this process  
9 out. Is this correct here on the back of this so that  
10 it would basically -- the introduction, we just did  
11 that. So next is report on Board consultation for  
12 tribes and/or ANCSA corporations. Were there any  
13 comments.

14

15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I believe  
16 Orville is not available today, but he said there were  
17 none.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.....

20

21 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: .....Madame  
22 Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....thank you,  
25 Lisa. Agency comments.

26

27 ADF&G.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to  
32 take that as no comments.

33

34 Federal agencies.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal entities,  
39 anybody from Sun'aq have any comments in regards to  
40 this proposal.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory Group  
45 comments, Other Regional Councils.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game

50

0155

1 Advisory Committees.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence  
6 Resource Commissions.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any summary of  
11 written public comments.

12

13 MR. KOLLER: There were no written  
14 public comments.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any  
17 public testimony.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council  
22 recommendations, motion to adopt.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Move to adopt.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by  
27 Pat Holmes.

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Coral.  
32 Discussion, justification.

33

34 Coral.

35

36 MS. CHERNOFF: So I guess I'll start.  
37 I have a question. OSM is would you say you're  
38 supporting this -- you're in support of this; is that  
39 correct, OSM is?

40

41 MR. KOLLER: Through the Chair. Yes,  
42 we are in support.

43

44 MS. CHERNOFF: So I was just wondering  
45 if you could maybe describe for me how -- what was the  
46 thought process about road accessible zone,  
47 northeastern Kodiak Island, how you found that to be  
48 less confusing than in the Federal public waters of  
49 Kodiak Island, kind of what was your thought there?

50

0156

1 MR. KOLLER: Thank you. Through the  
2 Chair. I may defer to Mike Brady on this one if he's  
3 on the line because he was the proponent of this  
4 proposal. But that is more in alignment with how the  
5 State describes that area. The State also uses the  
6 Kodiak road zone. And that part of the description  
7 starts by saying the Federal public waters of Kodiak  
8 Island. So right there that sort of implies the whole  
9 Island and then goes on to describe a subset of that  
10 Island. And the idea is to provide annual limits for  
11 the whole Kodiak Island area without having areas  
12 unaccounted for. So I think just for clarification  
13 purposes because there was a lot of confusion with  
14 people wandering into the Refuge and asking questions  
15 about this. So they thought it would reduce user  
16 confusion in interpretation of the regulations.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 MS. CHERNOFF: And then on the portion  
21 where -- I guess I never noticed before, but do you  
22 have any idea why we exclude the waters bordering  
23 Spruce Island?

24  
25 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
26 So.....

27  
28 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I can.....

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, do you have  
31 a comment.

32  
33 MR. HOLMES: I can answer that or Jeff  
34 can.

35  
36 MR. KOLLER: I'll defer to Pat gladly.  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 MR. HOLMES: Coral, that's because in  
40 the -- I think this definition comes basically from the  
41 game regs from the State. And so they don't include  
42 because it's a mile off Kodiak Island, but when you get  
43 on the north side over towards Ouzinkie, if you went a  
44 mile you'd be halfway across the Island. And so they  
45 are just pulling out Spruce Island and saying up to  
46 that point. At least that's my guess.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, are you  
49 good.

50

0157

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Can I ask a question.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

6

7 MS. SKINNER: When you were responding  
8 to Coral's question about how the road accessible zone  
9 or I guess removing the Federal public waters of Kodiak  
10 Island was more clear, I think you referred to -- did  
11 you refer to the Federal waters -- Federal public  
12 waters language appearing somewhere else as well or did  
13 I misunderstand what you said?

14

15 MR. KOLLER: Through the Chair. I  
16 believe I was just referring to the words Federal  
17 public waters of Kodiak Island there requesting to be  
18 deleted from subsection A.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: So and I guess we have a  
21 -- this is on the floor, right, we have a motion and a  
22 second?

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

25

26 MS. SKINNER: We're discussing. I  
27 could go either way on this proposal. I think for the  
28 average person if you said road accessible zone,  
29 northeastern Kodiak Island, that's probably more  
30 intuitive to understand, you know, where that is and  
31 what that looks like than if you just said in the  
32 Federal public waters of Kodiak Island. My concern  
33 though is dropping the words Federal public waters of  
34 Kodiak Island because that's a big characteristic of  
35 what we're talking about. And I guess those are my  
36 comments right now. There's things I like about it and  
37 there's things that I don't like about it.

38

39 Thanks.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pat.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: I have a question here.  
46 The way it's spelled out, it's been there for a while,  
47 but it includes -- it says including waters of Woody  
48 and Long Islands and saltwater bordering the area  
49 within one mile of Kodiak Island. And I was wondering

50

0158

1 if someone with OSM could give us some clarification as  
2 to why those are included as Federal waters because I  
3 haven't really seen a diagram of that before and I  
4 could be totally in error, but I just noticed that.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, I'm going  
9 to ask you to move closer to the mic and rephrase that  
10 question again, please.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Let me rephrase the  
13 question and get closer to the mic. And I guess my  
14 question is this definition which has been in place I  
15 imagine for some time includes the waters of Woody and  
16 Long Island and within one mile of Kodiak Island. And  
17 so I'm wondering what is the rationale that those are  
18 Federal waters. I know there's the Women's Bay, and is  
19 Woody and Long Island, are those part of the Maritime  
20 Refuge and how are the other waters within one mile of  
21 Kodiak, how are they classified Federal in this  
22 document? Just -- sorry to be picky, but I just never  
23 thought of that before.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
28 Does anybody want to take that question on.

29

30 MR. POLUM: Madame Chair, this is Tyler  
31 with Fish and Game. I'm obviously not with OSM, but I  
32 think I have an answer to several of these questions  
33 regarding that if I may.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tyler.

36

37 MR. POLUM: Yeah, sorry to interrupt  
38 here. But, Pat, and the -- I can't remember -- I  
39 didn't catch who asked the previous question. These  
40 regulations are identical to old sport fishing  
41 regulations for the definition of the road zone area.  
42 So likely they were just copied directly from sport  
43 fishing regs just like many of the other regulations in  
44 the Federal Register were when they were enacted. As  
45 to jurisdiction and all that I don't -- I'm not -- I  
46 don't -- that's for OSM to speak on obviously.

47

48 But since in the last several years  
49 these for sport fishing have changed in a number of

50

0159

1 ways so they're no longer current for sport fishing,  
2 but those as written are identical to what the previous  
3 sport fishing regulations were and had stood for three  
4 or four years up until the last six or seven years.

5

6                   Hopefully that helps.

7

8                   MR. HOLMES: Yes, thank you very much,  
9 Tyler.

10

11                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

12

13                   MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, so I'm just going  
14 to make my last comment. So I am going to be voting no  
15 for this because to me changing the language and  
16 removing Federal public waters of Kodiak Island which I  
17 think are very specific to Federal subsistence  
18 regulation and it makes Federal subsistence very clear.  
19 I think by removing it there's less clarity in what's  
20 happening. And then I'm not really in favor of like  
21 making the regulations, State and Federal say the same  
22 thing because like Tyler said this came from something  
23 before and now they've changed. And so things change.  
24 I think we should always just be specific to what we  
25 are doing and I think that gives the most clarity for  
26 me.

27

28                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

29

30                   MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Coral. How  
31 about if it just simply left the Federal public waters  
32 of Kodiak Island comma and then put in the road  
33 accessible zone and that just is providing a little  
34 better definition of Federal public waters. And then  
35 that should save confusion on anybody that's asking  
36 because it just tells you right there the whole thing.

37

38                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Did you have a  
39 comment. State your names.

40

41                   MR. AYERS: Good evening. This is  
42 Scott Ayers, OSM. I just was going to speak to  
43 something similar to what Mr. Holmes had mentioned was  
44 that if the Council would like to amend the motion in  
45 any way that they're totally able to do that if they  
46 wanted to add language different than what was  
47 recommended initially in the proposal.

48

49                   Thank you.

50

0160

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
2 Scott. Katya.

3  
4 MS. WESSELS: Katya Wessels and I -- if  
5 you -- the Council decides to amend the originally  
6 proposed language you'll need to have a motion to  
7 modify and then vote on the original motion as  
8 modified. So you will need to have two motions.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

11  
12 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman, I would  
13 like to make a motion to modify the Proposal FP 23-05b.

14  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You should state  
17 how you're modifying it, Pat, please.

18  
19 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I guess I would modify  
20 it by leaving the first part of the sentence that's  
21 crossed out in place and then include what was added by  
22 the recommendation of the Refuge, road accessible zone,  
23 northeast Kodiak Island because that's very definitive.

24  
25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
28 Is there a second to Pat's motion to modify.

29  
30 Rebecca.

31  
32 MS. SKINNER: Second.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second made by  
35 Rebecca. Discussion.

36  
37 Coral.

38  
39 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm still going to vote  
40 no on this amendment. I think making more words so now  
41 instead of having two clarifiers we'll have three  
42 clarifiers and I think the more words and the more  
43 clarifiers you have, it's just added confusion to the  
44 language. So I'm going to be voting no on the  
45 amendment.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha. Oh,  
48 Natasha is not available right now.

49  
50

0161

1 Rick, do you have any comments in  
2 regard to this proposal and the amendment.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Hearing  
7 none, call for question on the.....

8  
9 MS. SKINNER: Oh, can I make a comment.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

12  
13 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thank you. I am in  
14 support of Pat's amendment. I do understand Coral's  
15 concern with adding more words with the result being  
16 something that's more wordy without added value. I  
17 think that this amendment does add value because it  
18 keeps in the Federal public waters language which as I  
19 said before I think is important, but it also adds a  
20 more easily understood description of the area that's  
21 covered by the regulation. It is a description that as  
22 I said before I think most people who live in Kodiak  
23 would be able to intuitively figure out or understand  
24 what area were talking about whereas if you just said  
25 Federal public waters, that -- most people are going to  
26 have no idea where those are. So in that regard if the  
27 goal of this language is to make this regulation more  
28 easily understood and more accessible to the reader of  
29 the regulation I think this language does that.

30  
31 All of that being said I do -- I'm not  
32 going to propose to do it today, but I think at some  
33 point I think we should go back and look at this  
34 language in general. If it's merely mimicking old  
35 State of Alaska sport regulations and the intent was to  
36 mirror that language and that language has now changed,  
37 it's probably worth it to go back in and be more clear  
38 for this regulation. But I think that's a task for a  
39 future meeting.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
44 Somebody may have their -- needs to mute their phone  
45 that's online.

46  
47 MR. KOSO: You must be ready to go,  
48 huh.

49  
50

0162

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're getting  
2 close, Rick. I think your phone needs to be muted.

3  
4 Coral.

5  
6 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I've just got a  
7 question for OSM. Has anyone.....

8  
9 (Teleconference interference -  
10 participants not muted).

11  
12 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard or  
13 whoever's on the line could you please mute your phone,  
14 please.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 MS. CHERNOFF: So I'm going through the  
19 process of how I look at regulations. And so I am  
20 going to ask OSM has anyone looked at a map and saw  
21 where are the Federal public waters of Kodiak Island  
22 and then looked up what is the road accessible zone,  
23 northeastern Kodiak Island and looked the east of the  
24 line from Craig Point and do those all line up?

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Scott.

27  
28 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair. Thank you,  
29 member Chernoff. So what you're identifying and what  
30 the Council's been discussing here today is a relic of  
31 the way that our regulations were brought over at the  
32 beginning of this program. My understanding is that  
33 when they started the program there was an  
34 understanding that after there was a direction for  
35 Federal management of these programs that there was  
36 uncertainty as to how long that would last, that it was  
37 thought that the State would change their constitution  
38 to comply with ANILCA. And therefore when they began  
39 this whole process they were going to have to split the  
40 regulations and then they thought that they would be  
41 bringing them back together again. And so developing a  
42 whole second set of regulations was going to be  
43 complicated and cause that process of bringing them  
44 back together to be really difficult. So we've ended  
45 up with these regulations that across much of the State  
46 mirror exactly what was in the State regulations,  
47 oftentimes what was previously in the State regulations  
48 because those have changed and we have not necessarily  
49 had corresponding proposals to change the regulations.  
50

0163

1 Oftentimes that means that area descriptors are exactly  
2 the same as the State area descriptors and sometimes  
3 that's perfectly aligned with Federal public waters and  
4 other times there just aren't Federal public waters in  
5 a particular area, but we still use that area  
6 descriptor. This is the same thing we're going to  
7 encounter with the whole next set of closures which  
8 will be discussed later is that they were all brought  
9 over from State closures. And so we are just taking a  
10 first look at them now and saying are these still  
11 relevant or not.

12

13 This gets a little bit away from the  
14 question that you were asking and I think that member  
15 Holmes perhaps just showed you an image that may have  
16 helped clarify that.

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: Well, thank you. I do  
19 see an image, I haven't read the descriptor of what it  
20 is yet. But what I'm asking is if I look up in the  
21 regulation book in the Federal public waters of Kodiak  
22 Island and I found that on a map and then if I looked  
23 up -- I don't even know how I would look up road  
24 accessible zone, northeastern Kodiak Island, if I look  
25 that up, put it on a map and then if I looked up  
26 whatever all that other stuff is and put it on a map  
27 and I overlaid them will they be the same area. So I  
28 guess I'm -- that's what I'm asking. I think it would  
29 be negligent to vote yes if those three maps don't line  
30 up.

31

32 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

35

36 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I guess I am now  
37 rethinking my perspective on this. So I understood  
38 Coral's question or I interpreted Coral's question the  
39 way I wanted to to ask if I said road accessible zone  
40 and then I took all of that language about east of the  
41 line from Craig Point south to the western most point  
42 of Saltery Cove, et cetera and I created a map image of  
43 that, would it look to me consistent with road  
44 accessible zone. And, I mean, I know that we have a  
45 map in the packet, but I see that that map is -- you  
46 know, it's from 2003 so it was produced for another  
47 purpose. I don't know if this is exactly the same --  
48 if it's based on the same descriptive language that is  
49 in the current regulation and it's definitely different  
50

0164

1 from the map that Pat brought over and handed to Coral.  
2 So at this point if road accessible zone is actually  
3 different than all of the descriptive words that are  
4 the artifact coming over from the State sport regs, if  
5 those are inconsistent then I agree with Coral that  
6 it's irresponsible to vote yes on this if those aren't  
7 the same. But if you guys have looked at it and  
8 determined that it is the same or you can point to an  
9 image or you can say the map that's in the packet is an  
10 accurate representation of all those words then that  
11 would address my question.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. AYERS: The description does not  
16 line up with Federal public lands or waters, it's  
17 merely drawing a line encompassing the road system on  
18 Kodiak Island. And we -- to draw a line or to describe  
19 a line, differentiating between State and Federal land  
20 in that area would be extremely difficult. Our  
21 regulations routinely encompass areas that have a  
22 mosaic of different land ownerships and it's implied  
23 that our regulations only apply on Federal public lands  
24 and waters. So many of our area descriptions don't in  
25 fact describe boundaries perfectly. I hope that makes  
26 sense.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. So that was a very  
31 helpful response.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So basically we  
36 are ready to vote on an amendment.

37

38 Lisa. An amend -- just to maybe  
39 clarify what the amendment was.

40

41 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.  
42 We're going to vote on an amendment to FP 23-05b made  
43 by Pat and seconded by Rebecca to -- leaving the first  
44 part of the sentence and then adding additional  
45 language on the road accessible zone. That's a general  
46 summarization. So we're going to vote on the  
47 amendment.

48

49 Pat Holmes.

50

0165

1 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard  
4 Koso.

5

6 MR. KOSO: I'm going to abstain. I  
7 don't know where I'm at on this deal here. I'll let  
8 the Kodiak people figure that one out so I'll abstain  
9 from voting.

10

11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.  
12 Christopher Price.

13

14 MR. PRICE: Yes.

15

16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral  
17 Chernoff.

18

19 MS. CHERNOFF: No.

20

21 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca  
22 Skinner.

23

24 MS. SKINNER: No.

25

26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della  
27 Trumble.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I have to admit  
30 I'm truly lost. I'm going to -- because I am confused  
31 a little bit and lost on this whole issue I'm going to  
32 have to say no. Yeah, I -- no.

33

34 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And Natasha  
35 Hayden.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: She left.

40

41 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Oh, that's  
42 right, she left. Okay. So we have three nays and one  
43 abstain and one yay so it fails, the amendment fails.

44

45 Okay. Now we're back to the main  
46 motion.

47

48 MS. WESSELS: For the record it was two  
49 yay and three nays and one abstain and one absent.

50

0166

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris and Pat  
2 voted yes.

3  
4 MS. WESSELS: I just wanted to clarify  
5 for the record what the vote was.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

8  
9 MS. WESSELS: And the motion to amend  
10 failed.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct.  
13 Thank you. Now we'll be on to the main motion to  
14 approve FP 23-05b. Roll call, please.

15  
16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Patrick  
17 Holmes.

18  
19 MR. HOLMES: I think that I'll probably  
20 vote on this because it's going to be in the Federal  
21 reg book and so then one would naturally assume even  
22 though the amendment I was proposing, they would know  
23 that by knowing it's a Federal reg book so I'll say  
24 yes.

25  
26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I couldn't  
27 hear what he was saying.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, can you --  
30 you need to get closer to the mic and rephrase that,  
31 please.

32  
33 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I'll get closer and  
34 talk louder. I would -- I'll be voting yes and I think  
35 that folks would be able to answer the question that  
36 we've been debating because it'll be in the Federal  
37 regulation book defining all sorts of Federal things  
38 and so being as my motion failed then I would be voting  
39 for this because I think it answers the question.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral  
44 Chernoff.

45  
46 MS. CHERNOFF: I will be voting no.

47  
48 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca  
49 Skinner.

50

0167

1 MS. SKINNER: No.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha

4 Hayden.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della

9 Trumble.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No. And just  
12 for clarification I'm still not quite sure I understand  
13 what's being proposed here. So.....

14

15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher

16 Price.

17

18 MR. PRICE: Yeah, I'll vote yes and  
19 I'll say why. I like the amendment better though  
20 because I think what we were trying to get is a better  
21 description of the location. And I think the amendment  
22 tried to do that, but I can still support this because  
23 I think that's what people want, but again I'm not from  
24 Kodiak, but it appears to me that that's what they're  
25 looking for is a better way to describe the location.  
26 So that's what I support. So I would vote yes.

27

28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And,

29 Richard Koso.

30

31 MR. KOSO: I vote no.

32

33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. It  
34 was three yays and three nays so it failed, correct?

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We are losing  
37 it, we can't even count. And I agree with what  
38 Rebecca's saying and I think the intention behind this  
39 is good sense, but what's documented is not matching  
40 these maps. So again the idea that you were not to be  
41 responsible to vote on something, it's going to be out  
42 there for god knows how many years and it would be  
43 better to not have somebody come back and say hey, you  
44 guys passed this and it does not make any sense, it  
45 doesn't match up and then you go back through the whole  
46 process. But like I agree with Chris that, you know,  
47 the idea behind this is good, but what's in front of us  
48 and almost like the last proposal, maybe just a little  
49 more tweaking and work on it might not be a bad idea as  
50

0168

1 a recommendation.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: That map that I found and  
4 passed down the table was on the State side so I don't  
5 know what map you're comparing the description to that  
6 doesn't match.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The map in the  
9 book.

10

11 MR. PRICE: Page 47.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Are we up  
16 to one more proposal.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: This Federal just marine  
23 waters, this does not include the definition that we  
24 were discussing at all.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That was the  
27 point, Pat.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Okay.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Well, it says Women's Bay  
34 Federal jurisdiction, not necessarily Kodiak marine  
35 waters or marine waters of the road system. This is  
36 just a map of Women's Bay and the Buskin.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That correct.  
39 And it was brought to our attention I think by Rebecca  
40 maybe that this map is from May, 2003.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: But the description is  
43 accurate.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's go ahead  
46 and try one more proposal to go through before we call  
47 it a day. So FCR 21-18, Afognak Bay Closure Review.

48

49 Jarred Stone.

50

0169

1 MR. STONE: All right. Well, good  
2 evening. For the record my name is Jarred Stone, I'm a  
3 Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
4 Management. And I thought before we get started  
5 tonight on the closure reviews that I would first give  
6 a primer on the closure review process as well as give  
7 an overview of some of the outreach that OSM and some  
8 of the volunteers from the Council has helped us with.  
9 And then lastly give you a sense to OSM's conclusion  
10 for most of these closures reviews.

11  
12 So as you know during the fall of even  
13 number years the Regional Advisory Councils review  
14 fishery closures. It is the Federal Subsistence  
15 Board's policy that Federal public lands and waters  
16 should be reopened as soon as reasonable once the  
17 conditions that originally justified a closure have  
18 changed to such an extent that it's no longer  
19 necessary. The purpose of these reviews are to  
20 determine if the closures are still warranted and to  
21 ensure that they do not remain in place any longer than  
22 necessary.

23  
24 The Federal Subsistence Board will act  
25 on this set of fishery closure reviews during their  
26 January, 2023 regulatory meeting. There are a total of  
27 14 closure reviews up for your consideration today, 13  
28 of which involve.....

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MR. STONE: So again there are 14  
33 closure reviews up for your consideration today, 13 of  
34 which involve areas closed to salmon fishing under  
35 Federal regulations. It's important to note a couple  
36 of things. Number 1, you or likely someone you know  
37 probably already fish in these waters or these  
38 locations under State sport regulations. However these  
39 same waters are closed to subsistence salmon fishing  
40 under Federal regulations. This situation is not in  
41 compliance with ANILCA title VIII, section 804 which  
42 mandates a rural preference for consumptive uses of  
43 fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and waters.  
44 For all closures involving salmon OSM is recommending  
45 to rescind the closure thereby providing for title  
46 VIII's rural priority. If the closures are rescinded  
47 the In-Season Manager can use their delegated authority  
48 from the Board to manage these fisheries in the short  
49 term. This can be done by writing in new stipulations  
50

0170

1 on the area permit or by implementing special actions  
2 to allow certain gear types, harvests or seasons. This  
3 approach is considered temporary until proposals are  
4 submitted to set up the framework for the fishery.

5

6 We do have two closures where a Council  
7 member has submitted fishery proposals to address these  
8 closures directly and that includes the Buskin River  
9 and Women's Bay. This is a prime example of what we  
10 hope to see in the next cycle where people craft  
11 proposals to specify the gear types, harvest limits and  
12 the seasons of these rescinded closures.

13

14 So as you recall the Federal  
15 Subsistence Board deferred action on the seven closure  
16 reviews from this region from the 2020 cycle following  
17 this Council's recommendation to do so. At the  
18 direction of the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory  
19 Council OSM Staff and volunteers from the Council began  
20 reaching out to community, tribal and State Advisory  
21 Committee representatives to share information, to  
22 answer questions and to solicit input on the closure  
23 reviews. A meeting was held with tribal  
24 representatives from Kodiak Island on January 6th,  
25 2021. Seven representatives were in attendance. All  
26 tribal representatives expressed gratitude for the  
27 notice and withheld any comments or recommendations  
28 until they had more time to consider the closure  
29 reviews.

30

31 OSM Staff then met with the Kodiak Fish  
32 and Game Advisory Committee on February 9th, 2021 to  
33 present fisheries closure reviews and to get feedback.

34

35 OSM Staff also attended the Dutch  
36 Harbor, Unalaska Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
37 meeting on February 22nd, however that meeting was  
38 cancelled due to the Committee not having a quorum.

39

40 More recently OSM Staff traveled to  
41 Kodiak and met with Council members, the Kodiak  
42 National Wildlife Refuge Staff, community members of  
43 Ouzinkie, the Afognak Round Table which consists of the  
44 Afognak Native Corporation, the Native Village of  
45 Afognak and the Native Village of Port Lions as well as  
46 the Sun'aq Tribe and the Koniag Tribe.

47

48 Members of the Kodiak/Aleutians  
49 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council have volunteered

50

0171

1 to assist OSM Staff in these outreach efforts and met  
2 numerous times over the last two years to help develop  
3 and outreach plan that would encourage local residents  
4 and stakeholders to consider providing comments  
5 regarding each of the closure reviews. Various  
6 outreach materials were crafted including shorter  
7 summaries that described the closures. We also drafted  
8 additional maps to clarify the areas of the closures.  
9 We drafted radio and newspaper advertisements as well  
10 as we added to our OSM webpage a way for people to view  
11 closure reviews and to view maps of these closures.  
12 And lastly we also created some community flyers that  
13 we shared with various communities in the  
14 Kodiak/Aleutians region.

15

16 So with that we would like to thank the  
17 volunteers from the Council, Refuge Staff and the  
18 tribes and others who have helped with this outreach  
19 plan. We feel confident today that the council has the  
20 information needed to make an informed decision  
21 regarding each of these closure reviews.

22

23 This concludes my overview of our  
24 outreach efforts and the Office of Subsistence  
25 Management's approach with these closures. Anyone  
26 wishing to make a comment on any of the closure reviews  
27 during the meeting can do so by providing oral comments  
28 during the public testimony portion of the Council's  
29 discussion on the issue or written comments to the  
30 Council prior to a discussion of the agenda item.

31

32 Are there any questions before I begin  
33 to present the first closure review analyses?

34

35 MS. SKINNER: Madame Skinner.

36

37 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca.

38

39 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. I was hoping  
40 you could -- well, two things. One is to remind us  
41 what actions are available to us in regards to each  
42 closure and then if there is a desire to retain the  
43 status quo, so keep the closure, what kind of  
44 justification should we consider getting into the  
45 record for the Federal Subsistence Board so what will  
46 they be looking for that would justify maintaining a  
47 Federal subsistence closure in a particular area?

48

49 Thanks.

50

0172

1 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the  
2 Chair. Thank you for the question. The actions  
3 available, there are four. You can choose to maintain  
4 the status quo, you can choose to rescind the closure,  
5 the third option is to modify the closure and then  
6 lastly the last option is to defer the decision or take  
7 no action. They're sort of similar and one and the  
8 same.

9  
10 As for the -- your second part of your  
11 question to justifications needed to maintain a status  
12 quo. When it is in regards to a resource that is of a  
13 conversation concern and you wish to not allow  
14 additional effort or additional harvest on a resource,  
15 that could be one justification for doing such. Does  
16 that answer your question?

17  
18 MS. SKINNER: I think it does. So when  
19 we.....

20  
21 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, was that  
24 you?

25  
26 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair, this is Rick  
27 here. My phone died on me so I'm going to be cutting  
28 off here in a couple of minutes, okay?

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

31  
32 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. So really what  
33 we're looking or what the Federal Subsistence Board  
34 would be looking at a reason to maintain a closure  
35 would be a conservation concern.

36  
37 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the  
38 Chair. Yes. And one note that I'll make is of these  
39 14 closure reviews 13 of which apply to you as a  
40 Federally-qualified subsistence user, there is one  
41 closure review under consideration for the harvest of  
42 king crab. And I believe that's FCR 23-22. And so --  
43 I lost my train of thought. Could you please rephrase  
44 that question.

45  
46 MS. SKINNER: I think you were going to  
47 talk about conservation concern, that maybe the  
48 proposals don't have conservation concerns. I'm not  
49 sure where you were going with that.

50

0173

1 MR. KOLLER: Madame Chair, this is  
2 Justin Koller, Fisheries Biologist with OSM. The  
3 conservation concern can certainly be used as a  
4 justification to maintain a closure. I think what  
5 Jarred was about to say is that 13 of these closures  
6 currently have State sport fisheries that are allowed  
7 to fish in these areas which is not in alignment with  
8 ANILCA. So straight using conservation concern to  
9 maintain these closures would prolong the situation we  
10 have which is just -- it's not in alignment with  
11 ANILCA.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

18  
19 MS. CHERNOFF: And in the same line of  
20 questioning under modify, what are our choices there?

21  
22 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the  
23 Chair. That's a great question and we had kind of gone  
24 through this the last cycle. I had learned many  
25 lessons about what we can and cannot do in terms of  
26 modification. And during that process what we learned  
27 is that for the public to weigh in on any changes for  
28 the -- any of the closure reviews is outside of the  
29 scope to make modifications to things such as gear type  
30 or harvest or seasons. And so the options for  
31 modifications are somewhat limited I will say. If you  
32 bear with me. So basically the two options are to  
33 limit who can participate in the fishery and then also  
34 where the area descriptions or the areas. So examples  
35 of that would be to broaden the closure to both  
36 subsistence and nonsubsistence users.

37  
38 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat. Yeah, what  
41 if we felt it wasn't necessary at all?

42  
43 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the  
44 Chair and Pat. What do you mean by not necessary?

45  
46 MR. HOLMES: Well, you say that the  
47 sport fish regulations I believe you meant weren't  
48 covered -- aren't provided for subsistence there. But  
49 I guess I don't understand what the advantage would be.  
50

0174

1 I understand -- I heard that you folks, the visiting  
2 team to Kodiak, mentioned that sometimes the State  
3 closes subsistence, but not rod and reel and that  
4 that's an advantage having rod and reel, did that happen  
5 because.....

6  
7 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the  
8 Chair. And I think what maybe you're hinting at is,  
9 you know, our -- we're mandated to try and provide it  
10 priority and you might be asking, you know, where is  
11 the priority. And, you know, during times of low  
12 returns such as we're experiencing now with coho salmon  
13 on the Buskin, when there's a closure it applies to  
14 everybody, nobody -- you know, nobody can fish. If  
15 this closure were to be rescinded the Federal In-Season  
16 Manager then has the authority to exclude  
17 nonsubsistence uses such as rod and reel from sport  
18 fishing. And so there's an opportunity for Kodiak  
19 residents to provide food for their plates, but exclude  
20 nonrurals.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So it provides  
23 for a subsistence priority in the event there was a  
24 need or lack of resource for maybe a small harvest or  
25 something that the In-Season Manager would allow.

26  
27 MR. HOLMES: What would the In-Season  
28 Manager base that on, you know, and -- yeah, that's the  
29 question.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, I think I  
32 kind of just said it, maybe I need to be more clear and  
33 Jarred could -- they can make it based on how many fish  
34 have escaped base -- escapement, and if there is a  
35 small amount that can be harvested for subsistence  
36 purposes they have the authority to make that  
37 determination in consultation of course with the State  
38 and the tribal entities that are involved.

39  
40 Is that correct?

41  
42 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
43 Yes, that is correct. And to Pat's question, you know,  
44 how are these fisheries monitored, the Federal In-  
45 Season management would be -- I'm sorry, the Federal  
46 In-Season Manager would be paying close attention to  
47 the weir data coming from the Buskin River and other  
48 metrics too as well from Women's Bay. And so in most  
49 areas we're fortunate to have monitoring projects to  
50

0175

1 allow for that In-Season management information, but in  
2 some areas we don't. And for the Buskin and for the  
3 Women's Bay, you know, we have that information. This  
4 particular closure review again that we're going to be  
5 looking at here next will be pertaining to Afognak Bay.  
6 So I just want to bring your attention to FCR 21-18.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
9 Jarred. And I don't know about everybody else, I -- if  
10 we've got questions on this process maybe we do that  
11 now and start in the morning on the -- on the next one.  
12 And just maybe as an example, Pat, using Unimak 10 in  
13 regard to the caribou, there is a limited harvest based  
14 on the Refuge Manager in this case on what could be  
15 harvested for purposes of subsistence. And that's just  
16 basically the same process and it's used up north also  
17 at this time.

18  
19 Chris.

20  
21 MR. PRICE: Okay. I understand what  
22 you guys are trying to do, but why are these other ones  
23 out of alignment, you're saying there's 13 that are not  
24 in alignment, is that.....

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's right.

27  
28 MR. PRICE: And that's what we're  
29 trying to fix?

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Uh-huh.

32  
33 MR. PRICE: And I'm just trying to  
34 understand why are they out of alignment? That's my  
35 question.

36  
37 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. So I  
38 wouldn't say that they're out of alignment, what I  
39 would say is that these closure reviews have not been  
40 considered or reviewed for 20 plus years and we're now  
41 just bringing these to light and looking at them a  
42 little bit closer with a magnifying glass and what  
43 we're finding is that we're not in compliance with  
44 ANILCA section 804. We're supposed to provide a  
45 priority for consumptive uses and right now we're  
46 denying the opportunity for Federally-qualified to  
47 harvest fish, but that under State regulations there is  
48 harvest being done under sport fish regulations.

49  
50

0176

1 MR. HOLMES: I guess that point on  
2 there is that in this whole western region like I've  
3 said four times, when they close -- when something's  
4 short, commercial's closed, the subsistence is closed  
5 and the sport fish. And so I don't see how sport fish  
6 would be open if the -- these streams in Women's Bay  
7 came up short because they would be closed by  
8 everything else and is not gillnet also a Federally-  
9 qualified tool. And so just because you don't have rod  
10 and reel doesn't mean that you're not providing that  
11 opportunity. What I see in this is that it will cause  
12 quite a reallocation of things and it's just totally  
13 not necessary because that's just not way salmon is  
14 managed in the western region.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
19 Jarred, and then I might make a comment after that.

20

21 MR. STONE: Yeah. Thank you. And some  
22 of the flexibility afforded to the In-Season Managers  
23 to pick and choose what gear types and so in these  
24 systems that may be perhaps vulnerable to the use of  
25 gillnets or other means that we would hope that the In-  
26 Season Manager then would, you know, choose the correct  
27 gear types that are appropriate for that particular  
28 fishery. Again this is sort of a short term solution  
29 to what we hope to see future fisheries proposals come  
30 in that would set up the framework for the fishery and  
31 ultimate the local users, you know, tell us what kind  
32 of fishery they want to see.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess what is  
35 existing is what folks have wanted to have and it was  
36 in place before OSM and before all of this and when it  
37 came in that's what they liked and that's what, as far  
38 as I know, they still do. I did before you guys made  
39 your effort before every meeting I gave information to  
40 the tribes, to the Advisory Committees, I talked to  
41 people and I have yet to have anybody, my colleague,  
42 Rebecca and probably her sister, but I have -- no one  
43 has said that they would like to have that. And so  
44 your proceeding providing something that people haven't  
45 asked for, you're providing something that the Federal  
46 government thinks that we need. But frankly I just  
47 don't see it.

48

49 But thank you, I'm trying to.....

50

0177

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
2 Rebecca.

3  
4 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thank you. So I'll  
5 make a comment and then Jarred can correct or amplify.  
6 So the reason that we as a RAC are doing these closure  
7 reviews is because the Federal Subsistence Board has to  
8 do these closure reviews and so they've given us our  
9 homework which is from a regional level we need to give  
10 them input. My opinion is they're going to do these  
11 closure reviews. We've already kicked the can down the  
12 road for two cycles, I don't know how many more times  
13 that the Federal Subsistence Board will go along with  
14 that. So at some point the Federal Subsistence Board  
15 is going to make a decision on these closure reviews.  
16 So this is our opportunity to have a say and give them  
17 advice and input. And so that's my first comment.  
18 Well, it was two parts, one, we're doing this because  
19 the Federal Subsistence Board told us we have to  
20 because they have to and two, this is our opportunity  
21 to give input to them and reenforce the Federal  
22 subsistence priority.

23  
24 And then my third comment is just to  
25 remind everyone to distinguish between these closures  
26 that are in regulation that we're reviewing versus the  
27 In-Season management process. Because In-Season  
28 management will continue, that's something that is  
29 still a tool that's available, but that's very distinct  
30 from whether these closures exist in regulation.  
31 Because right now what we have in our packet clearly  
32 shows that there's areas where State sport fishing is  
33 possible and available and Federal subsistence is not.  
34 And.....

35  
36 MR. HOLMES: No, that's not.....

37  
38 MS. SKINNER: .....to me that's  
39 problematic. And I think that's what we're being told  
40 is that there's a priority requirement in ANILCA that's  
41 not being met. And that's why we're doing this  
42 process.

43  
44 So that was my comment and you can  
45 correct or amplify. Thanks.

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

49  
50

0178

1 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the  
2 Chair. I have really nothing to add, that was spot on.

3  
4 Thank you, Ms. Skinner.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
7 Rebecca, that is perfect because we've kicked this can  
8 down the road for two years. When I come back to the  
9 meeting in January and we say we put this off again  
10 then we have not done our job. And part of us doing  
11 this was trying to get the public involved and that in  
12 itself was an effort, I mean, but we do have to  
13 remember why we sit here. We have to remember that we  
14 represent sometimes different sport users, hunters,  
15 commercial fishermen, subsistence users and different  
16 organizations and agencies, but we need to be able to  
17 sit here and do our job and not say no, this is this  
18 and no, this is that. We need to sit down and address  
19 this, that is what we have to do. And god help me,  
20 it's probably going to take us until tomorrow night at  
21 midnight at the rate we're going.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So with that  
26 recommendation I'd say we convene until tomorrow  
27 morning at 8:30. Think about his tonight, Pat.

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Jarred.

32  
33 MR. STONE: If I may I just would add  
34 that I'm available tonight if anyone has questions, you  
35 want to go over a particular scenario or a particular  
36 thing I'm more than willing to help. So I'm here.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you much.  
39 Thank you. Tough work today, guys. Time to take a  
40 break.

41  
42 (Off record)

43  
44 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

