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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE
February 22, 2022
8:41 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Regional Council Coordinator, Katerina Wessels (Acting)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 2/22/2022)

(On record)

MS. WESSELS: This is Katya back. I am not able so far to get in touch with Della. Della, did you join us by any chance while I was off the phone.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: Let's see which Council members are online right now. I know that Pat is online. Other Council members please identify yourself if you're online.

MS. SKINNER: Yes, Katya, this is Rebecca Skinner and I'm prepared to step in as Vice Chair if need be if we can't get a hold of Della.

MS. WESSELS: Okay. Thank you, Rebecca. Anyone else besides Rebecca and Patrick.

MR. ROHRER: Good morning, Sam Rohrer is here.

MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Sam.

MR. ROHRER: Good morning.

MS. WESSELS: Anyone else.

MR. KOSO: Yeah, this is Rick Koso, I'm online.

MR. PRICE: Hi, good morning. This is Chris Price in Unalaska.

MS. WESSELS: Okay, so we have Pat, Rick, Sam, Chris, Rebecca, anyone else.

MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral Chernoff.

MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Coral.

Natasha are you online.

(No comments)

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1 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Rebecca, do you
2 think -- let's wait until about 8:40 and if Della
3 doesn't join us then let's begin the meeting, is that
4 okay with you?

5
6 MS. SKINNER: Yes, that sounds good.

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 MS. SKINNER: Della just texted that
11 she'll need to call in at 9:00.

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Let's just begin
14 the meeting and then she can join us when she can.

15
16 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Well, let's go
17 ahead and get started then. The first item -- and,
18 Katya, if there's something that I need to announce
19 that I have skipped just let me know, but we'll go
20 ahead and get the -- this is the February 22nd and
21 23rd, Kodiak Regional Subsistence Advisory Council
22 meeting, and the first item on the agenda is the
23 invocation.

24
25 I didn't have a chance to doublecheck
26 who's going to do this but I think Pat, this is
27 something you've done before, are you willing to do the
28 invocation this morning.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Yes, I am.

31
32 (Invocation)

33
34 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you,
35 Pat. We'll go ahead then and call the meeting to
36 order. This is Rebecca Skinner, Vice Chair, for the
37 record. It's 8:41 a.m. Third item on the agenda is
38 the roll call and establish quorum, Katya, if you could
39 do that.

40
41 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 I am going to do the roll call. Pat Holmes.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Yep.

45
46 MS. WESSELS: Rick Koso.

47
48 (No comments)

49
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1 MS. WESSELS: Rick Koso. I think I
2 heard you earlier.

3
4 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm sorry, I was on
5 mute.

6
7 MS. WESSELS: Oh, that's okay, thank
8 you.

9
10 Sam Rohrer.

11
12 MR. ROHRER: I'm here.

13
14 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Chris Price.

15
16 MR. PRICE: Here.

17
18 MS. WESSELS: Coral Chernoff.

19
20 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

21
22 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

23
24 Rebecca Skinner.

25
26 MS. SKINNER: Here.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

29
30 Della Trumble.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MS. WESSELS: Della is going to join us
35 shortly, thank you.

36
37 Natasha Hayden.

38
39 MS. HAYDEN: Here.

40
41 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. With seven of
42 the eight seated members present a quorum has been
43 established. Thank you, Madame Chair.

44
45 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you,
46 Katya. The next item on the agenda is the welcome and
47 introductions. So first of all I'll welcome everyone
48 to our RAC meeting today. For introductions I'll start
49 with the Council and then I think usually we go on to
50

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1 see who else is on the phone. Council member reports
2 will be later on the agenda so for the introductions
3 you can keep it brief, state your name, what area
4 you're from and anything else you want the Council and
5 public to know about yourself as we start the meeting
6 here.

7

8 So I'm going to go in the order that I
9 wrote people down on my list which is not any
10 particular kind of order. But the first name I'd
11 written down was Sam.

12

13 MR. ROHRER: Okay, thanks, Rebecca.
14 Yeah, my name is Sam Rohrer. I live on Kodiak and I
15 live in the town of Kodiak. I spend about six or seven
16 months out of the year on the west side of the island
17 though. So thanks.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
20 you, Sam. Next up is Pat.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Pat Holmes. I live
23 in Kodiak and since '63 I've lived and worked in almost
24 every community and a lot of ones that don't exist
25 anymore from Cape Douglas to Attu and up in the Pribis
26 and I've rattled around a lot. Now I'm almost 80 and I
27 don't travel as much but -- most of my acquaintances
28 have passed away and anyway, but, subsistence remains a
29 passion for me.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Pat. Next up
34 is Rick.

35

36 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm Rick Koso
37 representing Adak. I spend quite a bit of time in Cold
38 Bay during the summers. I still commercial fish out of
39 King Cove on and off there during the summers. I'm
40 still a resident and a voting member of Adak. So
41 that's all I have to say, thank you.

42

43 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Rick. Next up
44 is Chris.

45

46 MR. PRICE: Hi, good morning. Hi, this
47 is Chris Price from Unalaska. Privileged to be on the
48 Council with you folks and I appreciate all your time.
49 I am a subsistence harvester here in Unalaska and work
50

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1 for the tribe here and, again, it's a great privilege
2 to be a part of this group.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Chris. Next
7 up is Coral.

8

9 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi, I'm Coral Chernoff.
10 I live here in Kodiak, Alaska. I raised three boys who
11 are currently all out on the Chain fishing, they're
12 fishermen. I am an indigenous artist and I have a
13 studio where I teach art now. And I'm very much
14 involved in subsistence hunting and eating, as well as
15 I do medicinal plants. Yeah, and I'm very happy to be
16 here.

17

18 MS. SKINNER: All right, thanks, Coral.
19 Next up is Natasha.

20

21 MS. HAYDEN: Good morning. Natasha
22 Hayden. I am Alutiiq/Supiaq born and raised in Kodiak.
23 My family comes from the old village of Afognak. I'm
24 on the tribal council for eight years and I've been
25 part of (indiscernible - cuts out) pretty much my whole
26 life.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Thanks, Natasha. And
31 just so you know your line was cutting out pretty badly
32 so that may be -- I don't know if you can -- if it's a
33 reception issue. Okay.

34

35 And my name is Rebecca.....

36

37 MS. HAYDEN: I'll -- go ahead, sorry
38 Rebecca. I'm going to go ahead and hang up and try
39 calling back in.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. All
42 right. And my name is Rebecca Skinner. I was born and
43 raised in Kodiak. And I think I've been on the RAC
44 here, maybe this is going on my seventh or eighth year
45 and very happy to be here today.

46

47 Okay. So to do the rest of the
48 introductions in a fairly orderly manner, I'm going to
49 go down the list of agencies that are -- that appear on
50

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1 Page 2 of the agenda. I'm just going to go in order of
2 what's listed there.

3

4 So the first agency listed is tribal
5 governments. Do we have representatives from tribal
6 governments on the call today.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. SKINNER: All right, hearing none,
11 the next group is Native organizations. Do we have any
12 representatives from Native organizations on the line
13 today.

14

15 MS. PETERSON: Good morning. This is
16 Amy Peterson. I'm the Community Affairs Liaison for
17 Koniag. And my primary position is cross sharing
18 information between the Kodiak island rural
19 communities, tribes and corporations, as well as the
20 Kodiak National Wild [sic] Refuge and other
21 stakeholders. I have -- I am re -- I am currently
22 living in Kodiak part-time and Old Harbor part-time.
23 I'm a resident of Old Harbor for 31 years. Thank you
24 for having me.

25

26 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you,
27 Amy. Are there any other tribal Native organization
28 representatives.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MS. SKINNER: Okay, hearing none. The
33 next grouping is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
34 and I'll start with the Maritime National Wildlife
35 Refuge.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. SKINNER: Do we have anyone on from
40 the Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. SKINNER: Okay, hearing none. The
45 next is Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MS. SKINNER: Okay, hearing none. The

50

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1 next is the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

2

3 MR. BRADY: Good morning. This is Mike
4 Brady, I'm the Refuge Manager at Kodiak National
5 Wildlife Refuge.

6

7 MS. SKINNER: Good morning, Mike.

8

9 MR. PYLE: Good morning. This is Bill
10 Pyle, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist with Kodiak
11 Refuge.

12

13 MS. SKINNER: Good morning, Bill.
14 Okay, it sounds like that's it from the Kodiak National
15 Wildlife Refuge. The next grouping is the Alaska
16 Department of Fish and Game.

17

18 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. This is
19 Kelly Krueger and Mark Witteveen with the Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sportfish here
21 in Kodiak.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: Good morning, Kelly.

24

25 MR. LAWSON: Good morning. This is
26 Tyler Lawson and Lisa Fox with CommFish in Kodiak.

27

28 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. Anyone else
29 from.....

30

31 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
32 from the Palmer office, Department of Fish and Game.
33 Thank you.

34

35 MS. SKINNER: Yep, thank you, Mark. Is
36 there anyone else on from Fish and Game.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. SKINNER: Okay, hearing none. The
41 next group is the Office of Subsistence Management.

42

43 MS. WESSELS: Good morning. This is
44 Katya Wessels, and I'm the Council Coordination
45 Division Supervisor with the Office of Subsistence
46 Management. Today I'm serving as the Designated
47 Federal officer for this meeting. But I also would
48 like to introduce to you your new Coordinator that --
49 we just hired a new Coordinator so the Kodiak/Aleutians
50

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1 Council has a new Coordinator, her name is Leigh Honig
2 and she is not leading this meeting because she just
3 started about a week and a half ago so it would be kind
4 of hard for her to lead this meeting but she is here,
5 she's listening, she's taking notes, she's helping as
6 much as she can. And, Leigh, could you please
7 introduce yourself.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MS. HONIG: Good morning, Madame
12 Chairwoman and members of the Board. Very nice to meet
13 all of you. And like Katya said my name is Leigh Honig
14 and I am very excited to be working with all of you.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. SKINNER: Welcome, Leigh. All
19 right, so those are all of the agencies that are listed
20 on the agenda there, are there other agencies that
21 didn't list that would like to introduce yourselves at
22 this point.

23

24 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
25 Katya. There might be other Office of Subsistence
26 Management employees online.

27

28 MS. SKINNER: Oh, right, yes I
29 apologize, go ahead.

30

31 MR. LIND: (In Native) Good morning,
32 Madame Chair. This is Orville Lind, Native Liaison
33 from Office of Subsistence Management. Good morning,
34 everyone.

35

36 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Orville. I
37 apologize. In my fervor to be efficient I should not
38 have stepped on introductions there. Are there other
39 individuals from OSM on the line.

40

41 MR. STONE: Good morning. This is
42 Jarred Stone, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
43 Subsistence Management.

44

45 MS. SKINNER: Good morning, Jarred.

46

47 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning. This is
48 Jason Roberts, Anthropologist with the Office of
49 Subsistence Management.

50

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1 MS. SKINNER: Good morning.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Good morning. This is
4 Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator with the
5 Office of Subsistence Management.

6

7 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. This is
8 Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist with the Office of
9 Subsistence Management.

10

11 REPORTER: Yeah, hangon, sorry but.....

12

13 MS. SKINNER: I'm sorry whoever.....

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Sorry, this is Katya. We
16 could barely hear you.

17

18 MS. HOLMAN: Is this any better?

19

20 REPORTER: No. So Kendra, when you
21 come in you have a loud buzz that's coming with your
22 phone. I've noticed that at other meetings and I've
23 asked.....

24

25 MS. HOLMAN: Interesting. Interesting.
26 I'll have to see what I can do about that.

27

28 REPORTER: Thank you.

29

30 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra Holman,
31 Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
32 Management.

33

34 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you,
35 Kendra.

36

37 MR. PAPPAS: Good day. This is George
38 Pappas OSM.....

39

40 MR. VICKERS: Good morning everyone.
41 This is Brent.....

42

43 MR. PAPPAS:State Subsistence
44 Liaison.

45

46 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, George.

47

48 MR. VICKERS: I'll try again. This is
49 Brent Vickers. I am the Supervisory Anthropologist at
50

0011

1 OSM and I'll also be representing the Leadership Team
2 today for OSM so good morning.

3

4 MS. SKINNER: All right, good morning.
5 All right, are there anymore.....

6

7 MR. GERKEN: Good morning. This is
8 John Gerken -- sorry, Rebecca.

9

10 MS. SKINNER: Sorry, go ahead.

11

12 MR. GERKEN: This is John Gerken with
13 the Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the Fisheries
14 Biologist, Federal In-Season Manager for the Aleutians
15 area. Good morning.

16

17 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. All right, and
18 I realize -- is there anyone from BIA online.

19

20 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes. Pat Petrivelli,
21 Subsistence Anthropologist from Anchorage.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: All right, good morning,
24 Pat.

25

26 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning.

27

28 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Are there any
29 other agency representatives that have not introduced
30 themselves yet.

31

32 MR. HARRIS: Good morning. This is
33 Frank Harris. I'm.....

34

35 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, good morning. This
36 is Allison Williams. I'm a Wildlife Biologist at
37 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. And we also have
38 Letecia Melendez, our Deputy Refuge Manager on the
39 line. I apologize for not being quick enough to hit
40 the mute button earlier but we are present and excited
41 to be here.

42

43 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you,
44 Allison.

45

46 MR. HARRIS: Good morning. This is
47 Frank Harris with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
48 I'm a Fish Biologist with the Southern Alaska Fish and
49 Wildlife Service Field Office.

50

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1 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.
2 All right, is there anyone else.

3
4 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein. I'm
5 also with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of the
6 Anchorage office. I'm the Regional Subsistence
7 Coordinator.

8
9 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. All right,
10 anyone else.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MS. SKINNER: Okay. And then if
15 there's anyone else on the phone regardless of your
16 affiliation, anyone who would like to introduce
17 themselves I'll open the floor for that.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. SKINNER: Okay. All right so that
22 was the welcome and introduction section. We've got
23 about three minutes before 9:00 o'clock when hopefully
24 Della will be joining. The next item is review and
25 adopt the agenda. And I just want to note that Katya
26 did send out an updated agenda this morning via email
27 so hopefully all of the RAC members have the agenda.
28 Is there a motion to adopt the agenda.

29
30 MR. ROHRER: This is Sam. I'll make a
31 motion to adopt the agenda.

32
33 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Sam.

34
35 MR. KOSO: I'll second that, this is
36 Rick.

37
38 MS. SKINNER: Is there a second --
39 okay.

40
41 MR. KOSO: Yeah, this is Rick, second.

42
43 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you, Rick.
44 Katya, can I just ask if there's.....

45
46 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
47 Katya.

48
49 MS. SKINNER: Yes, go ahead. Yep, go
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1 ahead.

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MS. WESSELS: I was going to say, may I read into the record the additions to the agenda.

MS. SKINNER: Yes, please do.

MS. WESSELS: So the new updated agenda is to add an item 10B under old business, Council application and nomination open season update. That's the first item.

The next item is to add under new business, Item 11C, Fishery Closure Review Discussion by OSM.

And then add under new business, Item 11D, Call for Nonrural Determination Proposals. Also presented by OSM.

Then next item to add under 12, agency reports, under tribal governments, add Qwalangin Tribe update on McLees Lake Project.

The next item to add also under agency reports, under C(3) Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Proposed Administrative and Regulatory Changes to the Kodiak Fishing Regulations for 2023/2025, and you have that in your supplemental materials. They were mailed to you, priority mail, about a week or so ago. Hopefully you received it. They're also available on our website.

Then under agency reports as well, under 12D(3) Update on the Alaska Peninsula Island Salmon Fisheries presented by ADF&G Tyler Lawson.

And that's all of the agenda items that are proposed to be added to the earlier published agenda.

Thank you.

MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you, Katya.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning everybody this is Della, sorry I was late but I am. I am here now so go ahead.

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1 MS. SKINNER: All right, Della. Okay,
2 well, I'll finish the agenda Item No. 5 and then I'll
3 hand it back over to you then. So we had a motion and
4 a second, is there any further discussion.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: Pat here.

7
8 MS. SKINNER: Go ahead, Pat.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, on the Kodiak Refuge
11 -- nevermind -- I didn't receive the -- I'm down in the
12 States, Patty had to have an operation on her back a
13 couple weeks ago but I've been playing catch up.
14 George Pappas got things forwarded down to me but I
15 don't think that my -- that proposed Administrative
16 Regulatory Changes to Kodiak Fishing Regs from the
17 Refuge, I didn't receive that. And I'll try and get it
18 out once we have a break here, off of my 94 year old
19 mother-in-law's computer, which is -- you almost have
20 to crank it.

21
22 But my main thought is I had talked to
23 a lot of folks over the last four months, and, in
24 particularly, recently, about the Federal closure
25 reviews and they were not on the original agenda and so
26 I think that might catch some people short because, you
27 know, if you looked on the website and looked at the
28 agenda that wasn't on there previously. So I guess
29 we'll get an update as to what's going on but I think
30 that -- I tried to contact the local Fish and Game
31 Advisory Chair, they did have a meeting with -- or a
32 question and answer with OSM prior to our last meeting,
33 I believe, and had some questions -- or maybe it was
34 shortly after -- I'm sorry I'm getting old, on that,
35 that they hadn't had answered, but I don't know that
36 there's been success with communicating with that. And
37 I believe Chris can update us later on, I think they
38 may still be short a quorum out at Unalaska because we
39 were going to try for some outreach through the Fish
40 and Game Advisory Committees and through the other
41 folks. So I think getting this on the agenda this
42 morning, it's deserving of discussion, but I think it
43 might catch some of the public unaware.

44
45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46
47 MS. SKINNER: Okay. And just to
48 clarify, Pat, that was more of a comment, you're not
49 asking to pull anything off of the agenda, are you?
50

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1 MR. HOLMES: No, ma'am. I'm just
2 making a comment for the record.

3

4 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you, Pat.
5 Any further discussion.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Is there any
10 objection to approving the agenda as presented.

11

12 (No objections)

13

14 MS. SKINNER: Okay, hearing none, the
15 agenda is adopted. And, Della, I will hand it back
16 over to you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
19 Rebecca. Good morning, everyone. I'm sorry I'm late.
20 I have to be honest with you, I thought this meeting
21 started at 9:00 but apparently it's 8:30. The next
22 item that you have on your agenda is the election of
23 officers, so, Katya, I think this gets turned over to
24 you.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Madame
27 Chair. Members of the Council. For the record, my
28 name is Katya Wessels and I'm the Council Coordination
29 Supervisor with the Office of Subsistence Management.
30 And for the purposes of this meeting I am the
31 Designated Federal Officer.

32

33 So the Council has the charter as was
34 approved in 2021 and in accordance with the Council
35 charter Council members elect the Chair, Vice Chair and
36 Secretary for a one year term. The term starts at the
37 beginning of the calendar year. I'm going to open, in
38 a second, the nominations for the Council Chair, but
39 first I would just like to let you know that Council
40 meetings are usually run according to the Robert's
41 Rules of Order and the Robert's Rules of Order says
42 that nominations need not to be seconded. When we call
43 for nominations, you just nominate a Council member to
44 be a Chair and I will repeat their name and then after
45 the nominations are closed we will put those
46 nominations to vote.

47

48 So at this point I would like to open
49 the floor for nominations of the Council Chair.

50

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1 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat, I'd like to
2 nominate Della for Chair.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Della Trumble has
5 been nominated for Council Chair. Any other
6 nominations.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Okay, hearing none, I
11 would like to close this call for nominations for the
12 Council Chair. Ms. Della Trumble has been nominated to
13 serve as the Council Chair, all in favor say aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,
18 everyone, thank you. Thank you, Katya.

19
20 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Yeah, anyone
21 opposed say -- same sign.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 MS. WESSELS: No opposition. Madame
26 Chair, I'm going to pass this gavel to you. Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
29 Katya. And thank you everyone. I hope I'll be able to
30 do due diligence. This past year has been pretty busy
31 for me but we'll continue forward and thank you
32 everyone. Thank you, Rebecca, for Chairing the meeting
33 until I got here.

34
35 Vice Chair. I'll open the floor for
36 Vice Chair, do we have any nominations.

37
38 MR. KOSO: I'd like to nominate
39 Rebecca.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Nomination made
42 by Rick Koso. Are there any other nominations.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing
47 none.....

48
49 MR. HOLMES: No, I.....
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, Pat, go
2 ahead.

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I was just going to --
5 I don't know if we need to second it but I'd second it
6 because Rebecca has a unique ability to be able to do
7 four things at once and still keep track so she's a
8 good Vice Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
11 Hearing no other nominations, Rebecca, are you good
12 with the Vice Chair.

13
14 MS. SKINNER: I am. And thank you
15 everyone.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
18 Then we'll go ahead, anybody opposed.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll go ahead
23 and move. Open nominations on the floor for Secretary.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to nominate.....

26
27 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair, I'd like to
28 nominate -- sorry, go ahead.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: I was going to do Melissa
31 Berns.

32
33 MS. SKINNER: I was going to do Chris
34 Price because I don't think Melissa -- she's not listed
35 on the roster.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay, I missed that.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, Melissa
40 didn't renew her application to reapply, so, yeah.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Okay, well, in that case I
43 will -- I'd like to nominate Natasha.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Pat nominated
46 Natasha, Rebecca nominated Chris, are there any other
47 nominations.

48
49 MS. HAYDEN: This is Natasha. I would
50

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1 like to defer to Chris if possible.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

4

5 MR. PRICE: Natasha I was going to
6 defer to you.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MS. HAYDEN: I beat you to it Chris.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. PRICE: I don't know if there's any
15 other nominations for the -- we're talking about the
16 Secretary?

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct,
19 Chris.

20

21 MR. PRICE: Yeah.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing
24 no other nominations, Chris, I believe you are the
25 Secretary, is there anyone that opposes.

26

27 (No opposing votes)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
30 the officers are myself as Chair, Rebecca as Vice Chair
31 and Chris Price as Secretary.

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Katya, just
37 for the record, do we need a motion to approve the
38 officers as elected.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: No, we do -- Madame
41 Chair, thank you. No, we do not need a motion.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
44 you. Moving on we have the review and approve previous
45 meeting minutes, Tab No. 3. Do I hear a motion to
46 approve the minutes and then we can go into discussion.

47

48 MS. SKINNER: I would move to approve
49 the minutes for the September 27th, 28th, 2021 RAC

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0019

1 meeting.

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MR. KOSO: I second that.

4

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MR. HOLMES: I'm going to make a couple comments.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Motion's been -- go ahead, Pat.

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MR. HOLMES: On the minutes that we had, at our previous meeting, I noted and some of the other folks that our agenda has moved into a very strict active minutes, is that what you call, where you only have the topics down and very little discussion. And I had suggested that we have a little more discussion on items, so it's in the record, so then a person doesn't have to go and request the transcript through the Federal government.

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And one of the items that, too, that I'd like to comment on is that there wasn't any discussion about the RAC members comments on closures and difficulties that that might involve. And then the -- we did get some comments from the Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee, and, anyway some of those things didn't show up.

28

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And so I really think that there should be a little more meat in these so that it accurately reflects what was discussed rather than just saying there was a discussion.

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And, let's see, pardon me it's just hard to remember -- oh, discussed that I said my daughter and her family came down with Covid, I don't have a daughter and so maybe that was in reference to somebody I fished with. I haven't any idea. And just little details like that that really need to have a little more work. Like when we get down to the 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, probably could have used some editing down at the end of that. It says -- it's discussing Resource Monitoring Program and then down at the end it says the proposed subsistence harvest survey should be inserted there, Ouzinkie and Port Lyons, because it doesn't make any sense to say proposed subsistence harvest in Ouzinkie and Port Lyons -- I mean the whole question was monitoring it.

0020

1 And I think that's the gist of my
2 comments, but it could use a little more work, and
3 maybe bounce the minutes off of the Secretary or --
4 anyway, it needs more meat the next time.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
9 Are there any other comments in regards to the minutes.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And maybe just
14 for the record I do recall Pat bringing this up last
15 time, so hopefully we can take note of it and be able
16 to reflect his points that he has brought up. Hearing
17 that we had a motion to approve the minutes, Rebecca
18 can we just change that to as amended by Pat, or
19 recommended amendments.

20

21 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I think as
22 corrections are noted I think it would not be
23 inappropriate to just reflect those and those would be
24 encompassed in the motion>

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
27 Motion made by Rebecca, second by Rick Koso. Call for
28 question.

29

30 MR. KOSO: Question.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
33 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
38 sign.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
43 The next item on the agenda are Council member reports,
44 let me find my list here.

45

46 Pat, do you want to go ahead and start
47 with you, I'll just go down the list by the names we
48 have on our roster.

49

50

0021

1 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I'd like to put in
2 some thanks to the Sunaq Tribe because this year they
3 implemented a subsistence home pack program from their
4 little fish processing plant for elders in the
5 community. And I also didn't -- wasn't able to get out
6 for silver season and commercial fishermen, and former
7 school teacher, Nate, and his wife, asked me if I
8 needed some silvers and they brought me 20 and so I
9 gave two-thirds of those away to other old geezers that
10 needed some.

11
12 A few folks got some deer. Not too
13 many, it still needs time to recover. All I do anymore
14 is maybe a goat hunt, or if somebody takes me out to
15 their cabin, but the only two bucks that I saw were
16 right in the middle of Woodland Acres, they were as fat
17 as could be.

18
19 But anyway it would be great, I hope,
20 and if our Council doesn't have a lot to say about who
21 gets to replace things, but it would be really good,
22 because traditionally we've had somebody from Old
23 Harbor, to replace -- hopefully to replace Melissa
24 Berns, and I was hoping maybe somebody from the
25 Peninsula, like down at the False Pass, maybe the
26 Hoblet family, they've always been active in fisheries
27 and local subsistence and commercial fishing and
28 hunting issues, so that would be another good spot or
29 maybe we could get some applicants from the Pribilofs
30 again because we had Mr. Zuch (ph), and was quite
31 active when he was on so I just hope we can find some
32 good replacements.

33
34 Thank you, Madame Chair and sorry to
35 talk so much.

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

39
40 MR. KOSO: Yeah, hi, Board Members,
41 this is Rick Koso here. You know Adak is, we've had a
42 little bit of problems out there since we didn't have
43 the fish plant working the last couple of years. Being
44 a member of the Adak Community Corporation we've been
45 working on that to try to get a fish plant reopened, at
46 least on the commercial side.

47
48 As far as the subsistence goes on the
49 fisheries, you know, there's plenty of halibut and
50

0022

1 salmon and stuff that people are able to get without
2 too much of a problem outside of logistics getting
3 there, and the expense of that.

4

5 But overall -- and I did speak to Lisa
6 Spittler (ph) in Adak there, she's been living there
7 and working for the Feds for quite some time now,
8 probably as long as I've been here since 2001, on and
9 off, and she's brought up a problem of the ptarmigan
10 out there. That the birds have really dropped in
11 numbers, she's a little concerned about that, or I
12 guess I should say she's a lot of concerned. She's
13 been dealing with a couple of the local guides there
14 and they said they cut back on getting their bag
15 limits, daily limits, which is 20, 40 in possession so
16 they cut that in half on their own and dropped it to
17 10. So they've been working with her to try to get it
18 down. But, you know, we don't see that that's going to
19 solve that problem, but unfortunately we don't have
20 another -- our next submittal of proposals for that
21 wouldn't be until 2023. So I don't know what we can do
22 right now. I think a couple options is to cut the
23 season shorter and get the bag limit down but this has
24 been happening on a lot of the other islands too. So
25 the ptarmigan are just disappearing. So they don't
26 really have a clue why that happened.

27

28 So anyways as far as the caribou goes,
29 we're always concerned on the caribou, especially for
30 the locals out there. They've been using the caribou
31 for years for their survival on meat because of the
32 expense of getting anything in Adak. So that's very
33 important to them. But I've been working with Steve,
34 we have a meeting coming up March 1st with Steve
35 Delehanty and the Aleut Corporation Board and a couple
36 other entities that are involved in the caribou and so
37 we'll be talking about the caribou on March 1st of this
38 year here.

39

40 I don't have any more to say.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
45 Is there any comments in regards to Rick's report.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam, are you

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1 with us.

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MR. ROHRER: Yes, I am, thanks, Della.

I don't have a lot to report. I do want to say sorry to have missed the fall meeting. The fall meetings are always tough for me with hunting schedules and we had a lot of challenging weather and I was goat hunting and it was -- well, it was a challenging season just due to the weather but, anyway, sorry to have missed that meeting, but happy to be back here for this one.

Not a whole lot to report. Just to talk a little bit briefly about field observations for deer numbers. You know Kodiak's continued to have reduced deer numbers. Pat kind of alluded to that there. Particularly on the west side where I spend most of my time, we've just been hit by a series of bad winters. We're starting to see some recovery. This last winter we saw a few more than normal, than what we've seen in the last few years so that was good. This winter, it's just been a mixed bag. We've had a lot of really cold weather but then we've had some pretty warm spells like we're in right now. So it'll be interesting to see what happens with our deer. I was just communicating with a friend of mine who's down on the west side last night and the snow level's up and things are warm over there, snow's melting and he is finding some winterkill deer but not a whole lot. So we're optimistic that our numbers will continue to just slowly creep back.

The only other thing is just hearing in the community a lot of complaints about charter -- the charter fleet hitting deer pretty hard, and that was complaints coming from island-wide. Probably the most complaints focusing on the south end of the island but up and down the east and west side as well, just lots and lots of charter boats bringing lots of folks over to shoot deer on the beaches late in the season. So quite a bit of frustration -- we're hearing quite a bit of frustration from locals on that.

Other than that, that's all I have.

(Pause)

MS. SKINNER: Della, did we lose you.

(No comments)

0024

1 MS. SKINNER: Can anyone else hear me.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hello.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Oh, there you are.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm sorry, this
8 is Della. For some reason my phone disconnected, this
9 is Della. We've been having issues out here between
10 phone and internet so hopefully it won't be too much of
11 a problem, I apologize.

12

13 MR. ROHRER: No problem, Della. This
14 is Sam, I wrapped up my report there so I'm done.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 MR. ROHRER: Did we lose Della again.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, are you on.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. WESSELS: We might have lost her
25 again. Madame Chair Trumble, are you on.

26

27 MS. SKINNER: Okay.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Rebecca, would you mind
30 to take over temporarily.

31

32 MS. SKINNER: Yep, that's fine. The
33 next person on the list is Chris Price.

34

35 MR. PRICE: Good morning. Well, I'd
36 just like to let you guys know that it has been a
37 challenge not to meet in person and I've looked forward
38 to us getting back to in-person meetings. But we've
39 been doing well to keep our meetings going, so I
40 appreciate that too. Not everybody's been able to keep
41 all their meetings going.

42

43 The Unalaska Fish and Game Advisory
44 Group has not been meeting and so it has created a gap
45 for us locally with the community input process that
46 we've had in place with the group. So we're fortunate
47 with our, UNFA, Unalaska Native Fishermens Association
48 have been meeting. We have a new president that has
49 been elected, his name is Nick Tutiakoff and he's a
50

0025

1 long-time, I think, Vince, his dad, was on the RAC in
2 the past, so many of you may know Nick. He's some of
3 our next generation moving up into the leadership
4 position with the Unalaska Native Fishermens
5 Association which represents commercial, subsistence
6 and sportfishing interests in our community.

7
8 I would like to let you guys know that
9 we are going to have a report from the tribe later on
10 in the meeting under tribal government reports so
11 there's going to be a good discussion about our McLees
12 Lake Project that many of you have supported in the
13 past and helped us advocate for getting that project up
14 and running and so I want to thank you guys again for
15 that. A lot of times people don't realize how many
16 years it took to get these things going and in place
17 and even my Staff now, they don't really realize all
18 the hard work and effort in to trying to make it a
19 reality so you'll get to hear that later today. I'm
20 excited for you guys to get that update. I don't know
21 if we're going to have Tyler on the phone as well with
22 Fish and Game, but we have a really important
23 partnership that we've developed out there at McLees
24 and the tribe is -- and we're moving into year three of
25 our grant, we're starting to transition into the
26 leadership role and the staffing and the procurement
27 and the management of getting the weir up so you guys
28 will hear more about that. So, anyway, that's been
29 important for us.

30
31 You know another subsistence issue
32 would be, we do have some issues with sea otters here
33 locally that have been a little bit not in check. We
34 are working with the local subsistence hunters to try
35 to address that situation a little bit better. We're
36 concerned that it might be getting a little bit out of
37 hand with our sea otter populations here locally.

38
39 As you guys have heard -- you probably
40 did hear about the closure of the commercial red king
41 crab season that we had out here and that's affecting
42 us locally and our economy and so and then the
43 reduction in the opilio crab fishery as well on the
44 commercial side.

45
46 So as far as halibut, last summer we
47 did have a pretty successful year for subsistence and
48 so that's a positive sign and indicator for us and so
49 we really rely on the halibut to feed our local
50

0026

1 community. And we're glad to see some of the potential
2 management techniques that have been put into place are
3 working well, and so we're appreciative of that.
4 Whenever subsistence fishermen can actually catch fish
5 in our local bay that's a really big win for us.
6 Because as soon as you leave the bay you're in the
7 Bering Sea so it's a challenge in a small boat as you
8 guys know.

9
10 One issue that I spoke to Tyler about
11 with Fish and Game about our situation out at McLees,
12 and I'm almost going to wrap it up here, was that we do
13 have a need to coordinate with charter boats on the --
14 the -- how do I say this, where we move gear back and
15 forth annually to get the weir set up and just moving
16 Staff and supplies and that kind of stuff. You know we
17 use a charter vessel because we need a bigger boat out
18 there to do that type of work. And we tried to make it
19 in partnership with the Coast Guard but they really are
20 more -- they can't use their vessels, they can supply
21 us with some labor, but they can't really give us the
22 vessels. So we've had to make arrangements with local
23 charter groups to supply our shipping and the
24 coordination of all the -- it's a big -- you'll hear
25 more about it today, there's a lot of work that goes
26 into putting up a fish camp and then taking it down
27 annually. But one of the issues that came up is that
28 we have elders in the community that are unable, you
29 know, to harvest fish and so we inquired with the
30 charter boat captains if they would be able to
31 accommodate the subsistence practices that we have here
32 which are to use a small skiff to set the net. And
33 speaking to local charter captains and Tyler, that the
34 regulations say that that's not an allowable activity
35 and so I'd like, you know, maybe Tyler could speak to
36 it a little bit more on the legal side of it, but for
37 us, you know, we need to be able to hire some bigger
38 boats to help us out because we really can't supply
39 that -- that trip back in a small skiff it's not safe
40 and then we've had a number of accidents with boats out
41 there. So that's part of the reason behind that and
42 I'll let Tyler speak to that a little bit more.

43
44 That's about it for my report, I
45 appreciate your time, you guys. Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
48 Chris. And Tyler is on the agenda farther down.
49 Coral.

50

0027

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, this is Coral. I
2 don't have too much to report. I guess I haven't been
3 out that much this winter but when I do drive out to
4 the Flats I do notice emperor geese are pretty healthy
5 stocks of emperors on the way out of town.

6
7 And then this year we've noticed --
8 which we haven't noticed in a couple of years, the big
9 flocks we used to see, all the time, big flocks of
10 scoters and scaup and goldeneye, and we haven't seen
11 that in a while. And this year, a couple times out in
12 the bay I've seen some pretty big flocks of those so
13 those are kind of nice to see. As you know we have
14 pretty healthy eagle populations, they're all over the
15 place right now.

16
17 And this year it seemed like there was
18 salmon pretty late, I think even into December, there
19 was still salmon, quite a few salmon in Buskin River
20 that the bears were there eating so that was kind of
21 fun. I didn't personally go -- I saw one off the
22 bridge driving by once but it was a great opportunity
23 for photographers especially during some -- I think
24 there was one bear, I think they called it Icy Bear or
25 Frosty Bear and all its hair was all frosted so there
26 was some beautiful photographs of that, it was cold and
27 wet and eating fish. So that was fun.

28
29 And then I have a friend on the other
30 side of the island, he's been -- had friends out,
31 they've been chasing goats around, the goat population
32 seems to be fine, they haven't seen any deer kill
33 anywhere.

34
35 Everything they catch -- they catch a
36 couple crab now and then, so everything seems to be
37 just right where it should be, not noticing anything
38 unusual. Yeah, we'll see how the rest of the winter
39 goes, it's pretty mild now. We had maybe two really
40 cold -- really cold weeks, I think, in winter, but
41 other than that it's been snowy, rainy, and sunny. I
42 think the other day it was 47 and I'm guessing it's
43 going to be around that today so we've had some pretty
44 nice and warm weather. So that'll just help everything
45 be healthy.

46
47 And I guess that's it for me.

48
49 I haven't been out clam digging. And I
50

0028

1 don't know if there is -- I haven't been out clam
2 digging so I haven't seen -- I haven't heard about the
3 PSP numbers, either, so I haven't kept up on that or I
4 don't know if they post that so I don't know how the
5 clams are doing.

6
7 So that's all I have, thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
10 Coral. Rebecca.

11
12 MS. SKINNER: Thanks, Della. So I
13 wanted to make some comments that are a little bit
14 higher level than just the Kodiak/Aleutians. But
15 because Kodiak is really dependent on commercial
16 fishing and with the changing ocean conditions,
17 unexpected changes, I think we are, even in our region,
18 are seeing some of the impacts.

19
20 So the first thing, Chris Price had
21 mentioned, the crab seasons out in the Bering Sea, so
22 the red king crab and the opilio, those were
23 significant reductions in commercial fishing
24 opportunities and from what I'm hearing they are most
25 likely due to ocean conditions, although it's not
26 completely clear what exactly caused the, I guess, I'll
27 use the word, crash, for the crab.

28
29 The other thing this past summer, I
30 think everyone's probably heard about up in the
31 Northwest Alaska, the chinook and chum runs were
32 greatly reduced. I think chinook has been low for
33 awhile, but chum was unexpected as far as I understand,
34 as far as the severeness of the reduction. And, again,
35 I haven't heard a definitive reason behind those
36 reductions but I think from what I am hearing people
37 suspect, again, it's ocean conditions. So there's
38 these environmental changes that are impacting the
39 marine resources. And I think we'll hear more about it
40 later but for Kodiak, in the past summer, we had, I
41 think, unexpectedly low subsistence runs out at Buskin
42 for the sockeye.

43
44 On the brighter side, the Pacific cod
45 in the Gulf of Alaska seems to be on the rebound from
46 the significant reductions on the fisheries side that
47 occurred in 2018. So it looks like the cod is
48 recovering.

49
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0029

1 And then for halibut, the International
2 Pacific Halibut Commission did set the halibut limits a
3 little bit higher. So it -- halibut is looking
4 promising. there's some strong year classes that are
5 coming up that haven't disappeared so that's good news
6 on the halibut side.

7

8 And other than that I am looking
9 forward to our meeting today and tomorrow.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
14 Rebecca and thank you for all the information.

15

16 Natasha.

17

18 MS. HAYDEN: Good morning, Madame
19 Chair, can you hear me.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead.

22

23 MS. HAYDEN: Okay, good. Well, good
24 morning everybody. I have, I think, quite a bit to
25 report. I agree with Coral that we've seen lots of --
26 I don't know I'm not familiar enough with the seabirds
27 to call them out by species, but we've seen lots and
28 lots of ducks everywhere in the -- like Shuyak,
29 Afognak, so the southern coast of Afognak, pretty much
30 out anywhere in Marmot Bay, lots and lots of birds,
31 which has been really great.

32

33 I was able to go -- wasn't on the
34 Refuge land but I was able to go deer hunting, when was
35 it, I think it was the beginning of November. I didn't
36 see a huge amount of deer but the ones that we did see
37 were really healthy looking. And I think Coral said
38 there was a couple of weeks of very cold weather, I
39 think it was longer, I think it was about two months of
40 very, very cold weather there in October and November,
41 it was really hard. And I was kind of worried that if
42 things continued like that that we were going to see a
43 lot of stress on our deer but, thankfully, like she
44 said it has warmed up significantly, hopefully that's
45 going to stick and we're through the worst of it.

46

47 I also wanted to comment about the, not
48 just the hunting charters, the pressure seen from the
49 hunting charters but what the -- what we've seen over
50

0030

1 in Port Lyons and they're starting to see in Ouzinkie
2 is the traffic that is a result of the marine highway
3 going into those communities directly from the
4 mainland. That we didn't see very much in 2020 because
5 of Covid, but last year the residents thought that it
6 would -- that the trend would still stay down but they
7 saw a huge spike in hunting traffic from the mainland
8 where people were just riding their ATVs and side-by-
9 sides on to the ferry and then riding them off in Port
10 Lyons and they did some in Ouzinkie this year as well,
11 and just kind of a revolving door of traffic with
12 taking huge amounts of deer out of the area. So that
13 is also a concern. I mean everybody on the phone knows
14 that there's no grocery store in those communities so
15 all of the food is either harvested or having to be
16 brought in so residents are concerned about food
17 security for themselves there with all of that
18 increased pressure on the resource in the region.

19
20 Fish. Yeah, looking forward to this
21 spring. The fisheries, like I just wanted to talk
22 about the -- I'm glad that Rebecca brought up the
23 commercial fisheries and the collapse of the salmon
24 returns in Western Alaska and it is indeed a lot of
25 conversation and speculation about the ocean conditions
26 and the changing -- changing ocean conditions but
27 there's also a lot of concern around bycatch. The
28 Governor established a task force on bycatch. They
29 don't really have any authority to do anything. I
30 believe they're going to be making some recommendations
31 to the Governor regarding potential actions or strategy
32 around bycatch. But bycatch is a big problem both in
33 the groundfish for the halibut wastage and salmon. And
34 I know there isn't any existing limits on chum bycatch
35 in the Bering Sea and that's a concern considering the
36 collapse of the chum concerns on the Yukon River.

37
38 I was able to participate in the Yukon
39 River Drainage Fisheries Association -- invited me to
40 participate in a panel to talk about the collapse of
41 the salmon returns along the Yukon and there were
42 residents that called in on that call from the Bering
43 Sea all the way through British Columbia, so there's
44 dozens and dozens of communities that were impacted by
45 that last year and, you know, they're waiting on baited
46 breath. They've only got, you know, I don't know, six
47 or eight weeks before things start to break up and they
48 start to see salmon returns and start to get a feel for
49 what things are going to look like this year. I'm not
50

0031

1 sure -- I think we're going to get a report about the
2 projections for our returns here in our region coming
3 up this summer but I'm hoping the Buskin will see some
4 improvements for the sockeye return which would
5 hopefully alleviate some of the pressure over in
6 Afognak, over at Alitnik, there was a huge amount of
7 fishing activity, both subsistence and sportfishing
8 over at Afognak last year and people going over to
9 Ouzinkie and Port Lyons to get their subsistence.

10

11 So looking forward to hopefully the
12 worst of winter is behind us and look forward to a good
13 spring.

14

15 Thanks.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 Natasha. The next person who is no longer on our
19 Council is Melissa but I think for the record I would
20 like to thank Melissa for her past involvement with
21 this Council. She contributed a lot and the lady is
22 just so busy and involved in so many amazing projects
23 that hat's off to her and we'll definitely miss her.

24

25 Pat did mention Old Harbor earlier and
26 I think, and just for the record I'd like to recognize
27 Al Cratty who was a member on this Council for many,
28 many years and has recently passed away and the
29 hardships I think that's going to contribute to the
30 community of Old Harbor, and just the fact that we
31 really appreciated what he contributed in the past for
32 Kodiak.

33

34 And, with that, I think I'll go ahead
35 with my report, not a lot to report.

36

37 Winter, it's been interesting, it was
38 cold early and then we've had so much rain, just a
39 tremendous amount of rain. And, again, the effects
40 without the king crab and small amounts of opilio,
41 fortunately the guys did get to do some crab fishing.
42 The cod season was short and getting ready for the next
43 one.

44

45 Interesting enough we've had a lot of
46 ptarmigan. People are harvesting a bit of ptarmigan.

47

48 The silvers, like I think someone
49 mentioned earlier, Coral, maybe, that even into

50

0032

1 December there were still silvers basically around.

2

3 Bears have been out. It's been cold
4 and they -- yeah, they've been out, so I'm thinking
5 it's more of a hungry kind of thing there more than
6 anything else.

7

8 But other than that I guess we just
9 keep moving forward. The people are harvesting clams,
10 and thankfully we don't have an issue with sea otters
11 here but, yeah, the clams are good.

12

13 But other than that, caribou, I think
14 there were a few people earlier in the year that did
15 harvest caribou and recently I haven't heard of anybody
16 so -- but we've had a lot of storms so people don't
17 necessarily get out and about with that.

18

19 So that's all I have, are there any
20 other comments in regard to the Council reports.

21

22 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
23 Natasha.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead
26 Natasha.

27

28 MS. HAYDEN: Sorry, I forgot to
29 mention, I wanted to draw or just mention that one of
30 the most prominent reliable furriers called New Method
31 in California, has closed permanently. We don't have
32 any -- they're a sea otter -- they do sea mammal hide
33 processing, tanning, and so one of our issues that we
34 have here in our region is we don't have any tanners,
35 tanneries here and we don't -- I don't know what the
36 prospects are of the available tanneries in the future.
37 So it's one of the things that when people talk about
38 the increasing sea otter population, is that, for us to
39 be able to harvest and then have our hides process, we
40 need to be able to figure out how that's going to --
41 it's just going to be a bottleneck in the system.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: One question for Natasha

50

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1 on the sea otters, does the Tlingit Tribe in Sitka, are
2 they kind of maxed out on their hide processing, is
3 that an option?

4
5 MS. HAYDEN: I believe so. You know
6 one of the problems is getting them there and then
7 getting them back, like it was probably was cheaper to
8 ship it to California than some places Southeast. So
9 that's just one of the issues.

10
11 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. Madame Chair,
12 could I do one brief anecdote about Al Cratty, Jr.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, Pat, go
15 ahead.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: Al was really active on
18 our committee for many, many years and really was a
19 good representative for Kodiak Natives. And he, at
20 times, would get quite frustrated with bureaucracy but
21 he was always able to laugh about things. And so we
22 had one good discussion about how things take so long
23 and get so complicated and when he went to -- we had a
24 break, and I don't know if it was Pat Petrivelli or one
25 of the other gals, but I got some flowers and put them
26 in a little vase and put them at his place at the table
27 and I asked her to write a little note for him just to
28 kind of perk him up a little bit. And so she, whoever
29 she was, lady, in a very fine hand, you are really hot,
30 and exclamation points and said, a government gal, and
31 he came back and he looked at that and he looked at the
32 vase and he looked at the notes and he just cracked up
33 because, you know, not only hot in terms of emotion in
34 terms of the process but also, you know, about just
35 saying he was a cool guy and he must have laughed for
36 three or four minutes. His sense of humor and his
37 passion I think will be well remembered.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
42 His, definitely sense of humor. I recall a meeting in
43 Sand Point one time when I was Chairing the meeting and
44 I'm not sure, I stepped out of the room but I do know
45 that when I left for lunch that day, him and Vince
46 Tutiakoff stuffed my hood in my coat full of leaves and
47 stuff and I didn't realize it, they had it completely
48 full, I put my coat on and these dried alder leaves
49 were everywhere. But, yeah, his definitely sense of
50

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1 humor and he cared a lot about his community and the
2 Kodiak region and people in general so, yeah, big loss,
3 and definitely we will miss him.

4
5 Chair's report. There's not a lot to
6 report. There was one statewide meeting mainly just to
7 go over a couple of things. Chairs weren't really
8 involved, we were -- could call in and listen but
9 basically it's not a lot on that level.

10
11 And then No. 10 old business we have,
12 it looks like, the charter update, Katya Wessels.

13
14 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, thank you,
15 this is Katya Wessels. Do you want me to provide the
16 Council Coordinator report, is that what you're asking?

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on here.
19 Basically it has under old business.

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Oh, okay. We didn't have
22 public and tribal comment on non-agenda items yet.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry.
25 I am sorry.

26
27 MS. WESSELS: Yeah.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I found it,
30 sorry. So we do have public and tribal comment on non-
31 agenda items, and then for the record if people want to
32 testify over the course of the meeting you're welcome
33 to, just let me know and we've always made a time for
34 anybody to speak when they would like to make
35 testimony. So given that, are there any public or
36 tribal comments on non-agenda items.

37
38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted)

40
41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What's non-agenda
42 items.....

43
44 REPORTER: Could we please mute our
45 phone if we're not directly talking. You could do that
46 by star, six or the mute button on your phone. We're
47 hearing some background conversation.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think I heard
50

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1 a question being asked what are non-agenda items?

2

3

(No comments)

4

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, okay,

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MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
8 Katya.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

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Thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Okay,
hearing none, we'll continue on to No. 10 old business,
Council charter update, Katya.

25

26

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MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
For the record my name is Katya Wessels. And your
Council's charter can be found in your meeting
materials under Tab 15. It's also available online in
the Council's meeting materials.

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This is renewed charter, it was renewed
in 2021. And all 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory
Councils in Alaska were chartered under the Federal
Advisory Committee Act, we also abbreviate that as
FACA, Federal Advisory Committee Act is FACA. The
Council charters are renewed every two years. Last
year the Councils reviewed the charters and proposed
some changes. It was in 2021 when you reviewed your
charters. The Federal Subsistence Board supported most
of the Council proposed changes and forwarded its
recommendations to the Secretaries of the Interior and
Agriculture for review and renewal of the charters.

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Nine out of 10 Councils requested to
add a carryover terms clause to all Council charters to
avoid temporary vacancies on the Councils that occur
between the expiration of the current member terms and
the annual set of Secretarial appointments. The

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1 Secretaries supported these charter requests -- these
2 charter change request. And if you look in your
3 charters, the clause on the carryover terms was added
4 to your charter and it can be found in your charters in
5 Section 12 which is titled, Membership and Designation.
6 I will read the language that was added. So this
7 language is:

8
9 If appointments for a given year have
10 not yet been announced, a member may continue to serve
11 on the Council following the expiration of his or her
12 term until such appointments have been made. Unless
13 reappointed, the members service ends on the date of
14 announcement, even if that member specific seat remains
15 unfilled.

16
17 So this is a very good change that will
18 help us in the situations when the Secretarial
19 appointments are late.

20
21 So the other charter change that was
22 made, and it was actually recommended by the North
23 Slope Council. The North Slope Council recommended to
24 strike subsection 4(h) and 4(i), of Section 4,
25 description of duties, from all the Council charters.
26 The Board agreed with the Council's opinion that this
27 language of these subsections was irrelevant to the
28 Council mission and ANILCA mandates. These subsections
29 were inserted in all the Council charters during 2017
30 charter renewal by the previous Administration. Some
31 of the Executive Orders cited in these subsections were
32 either irrelevant or revoked by the newly issued
33 Executive Order. So the Secretaries approved this
34 change request as well. And the section 4(h) and for
35 (i) were removed. In some charters they are numbered a
36 little bit differently, in almost all the charters
37 they're 4(h) and 4(i). So that, you know, made your
38 charters a little bit shorter, which is also good,
39 easier to comprehend.

40
41 This concludes my presentation to the
42 Council on the charter change updates and I'm ready to
43 answer any questions the Council might have about the
44 charter changes. The only thing I want to say is the
45 next review of the charter will be happening now in
46 2023.

47
48 Thank you.

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Katya. Are there any comments or questions in regard
3 to her report.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
8 Item B, Council application nomination open seat,
9 Katya.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 As the Council might recall during your last meeting in
13 the fall of 2021 we appealed to the Council to help us
14 to solicit more applications for the -- to serve on the
15 Council. And, you know, the application season is open
16 right now. It will remain open just a little bit under
17 a week, it will close on February 28th. And I remember
18 that during one of the previous meetings the Council
19 wanted to ask to update them on the situation with the
20 applications in your region. So when it's going to be
21 December of this year the Council will have four vacant
22 or expiring terms and right now we have less than a
23 week before the open season closes on February 28th and
24 we only have one application for the Kodiak/Aleutian
25 region.

26
27 There are three incumbents on this
28 Council whose seats expire, so if you are planning on
29 reapplying please make sure you submit your incumbent
30 applications before February 28th. Your incumbent
31 applications have been mailed to you. And also if the
32 Council knows of any potential applicants to serve on
33 the Council and I would like to ask for your help to
34 encourage these people to apply or if you would like to
35 nominate them, you can nominate them as well. You can
36 always call me or email me if you need any help with
37 any of this or have any questions. My number to call
38 is (907) 786-3885.

39
40 Yeah, so we would like to keep the
41 Council strong and all the seats filled and to have
42 representatives from all parts of your region, you
43 know, Kodiak, Aleutian Chain, Pribilof, and we appeal
44 to the Council to help us with filling out these seats
45 because you are the representatives of your communities
46 and all people in your communities that can be very
47 good on the Council, that will be contributing members,
48 so we would appreciate this help.

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1 Thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Katya. And the three members that are currently coming up is that Pat Holmes, Rick Koso and Sam Rohrer; is that correct?

MS. WESSELS: Let me just open this. Yes, Pat, Rick and Sam, that's correct.

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

MR. HOLMES: Point of clarification. We need to fill out that form and send it in because I am not getting my mail down here to Seattle and some of it's up in Kodiak and I know I want to continue and we've lost -- one time I think we lost Rick Koso for a couple years because of some confusion as to whether he was reapplying and I believe he had tried to do so but it didn't make it to the right spot and so we had that slot open. And we should be -- can we do that online or whatever. I just don't understand because I am not ready to quit and I don't think Rick is or Sam and, you know, I would assume on this list here we have Della and Natasha being done in 2021 so I would assume that you wonderful ladies are going to continue. And so we're vacant one seat completely because we didn't have it filled that says 2022 expires and then I guess we'll need to find somebody for Melissa. So assuming that all of us that are on are going to continue then we need to find at least two people to replace those vacancies; is that correct?

MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct. Go ahead, Katya.

MS. WESSELS: Yes, Pat -- Madame Chair Trumble and Natasha Hayden have been approved to serve on the Council and now their term expires in 2024. I think when we sent the documents originally we might have had the older roster for the Council, and, yeah, the Council currently has two vacant seats.

MR. HOLMES: Okay. And then my other question, I'm sorry, I ramble around too much, I'm just

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1 old, so do I need to go online and get the application
2 and renew it, and same with Rick and Sam?

3

4 MS. WESSELS: Well, we will work
5 directly with incumbents so we will reach out to you
6 personally and talk to you. We don't need to talk
7 about that in the Council meeting. Mostly my
8 presentation is to request the help from the Council
9 members to solicit additional applications.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Roger that. Well, I
12 understand that but I'm down in Seattle and I won't be
13 back to get any mail in Kodiak and so if I have.....

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Yeah.

16

17 MR. HOLMES:to have a piece of
18 paper in then I need to know where to get it.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: Pat, either me or.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Katya.....

23

24 MS. WESSELS:the new Coordinator
25 will reach out to you then today or tomorrow and we'll
26 clarify it.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Okay, use my cell phone.

29

Thank you.

30

31 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat
34 and thank you, Katya.

35

36 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

39

40 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I did send in an
41 incumbent application, emailed it back but I'm not sure
42 if they got it or not so I emailed it back a few days
43 ago and I don't know that they got it. I got a feeling
44 that they didn't for some reason. So anyway if she
45 could check on that to see if she received my
46 application, it's been emailed in.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

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1 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

2

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4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And this kind of
5 happened with Rick last time. So my recommendation,
6 Katya, is to continue to directly contact the three
7 members to make sure that their paperwork has been
8 received in a timely -- you know, on time, so we don't
9 lose the three members. Sam, we haven't heard from you
10 but we are hoping you are going to continue to stay on
11 the Council. And then I will try to get a hold of the
12 Hublets in False Pass and see if I can get somebody
13 from there to fill out an application. And as far as
14 the Pribilofs, I can check maybe with Richard or
15 somebody out there to see if they know of anybody that
16 might want to apply. And any other help, I guess, we
17 can do from the Kodiak side for Melissa would be great.
18 Does that sound like a plan?

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Madame
20 Chair.

21

22 MS. SKINNER: Della, I have a -- yeah,
23 Della, I have a question.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that Rebecca.

26

27 MS. SKINNER: It is.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

30

31 MS. SKINNER: And this might be a
32 little unfair because it involves the Bristol Bay RAC.
33 But I see that -- so I looked at the notice for new
34 appointments that came out on February 4th or February
35 2nd and I see that Bristol Bay RAC is down to six
36 people and the Kodiak/Aleutian RAC is down to eight
37 people, which was very alarming to me when I first saw
38 it compared to the other RACs, which look much more,
39 you know, fully Staffed or fully seated. Does anyone
40 know if the Bristol Bay RAC is having the same problem,
41 in that, they're just not getting enough applicants and
42 I guess I'll give some context for my question.

43

44 My first thought was, oh, like they're
45 intentionally making Bristol Bay and the
46 Kodiak/Aleutian smaller, maybe they're going to squish
47 them together into one RAC. So I guess what I'm
48 looking for is reassurance that that's not what's
49 happening, it really just is that applications are not
50

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1 coming in for either the Bristol Bay RAC or the
2 Kodiak/Aleutian RAC.

3

4 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, may I
5 answer.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

8

9 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you. Yeah,
10 the situation with Bristol Bay is as you described.
11 They currently have actually five vacant seats and, you
12 know, last cycle we did not receive many applications
13 for Bristol Bay and the situation is kind of similar to
14 the last year with Bristol Bay. There is no
15 intentional at all to combine Kodiak/Aleutian and
16 Bristol Bay Councils. There will be -- the Councils
17 will remain. And, you know, we want to get more
18 applications for your regions and, you know, that's why
19 we're trying to do more outreach. I guess, you know,
20 just because -- perhaps because of the pandemic,
21 perhaps for other reason, we're not able to reach
22 people that would be interested and willing to apply to
23 serve on the Councils. And that's why we're appealing
24 to the Council members since you are the representative
25 for your communities, you live there, you know people,
26 you know who might be interested, who might be good in
27 serving on the Councils. So, you know, there is --
28 but, again, I will ensure that there is no intention to
29 combine two Councils together, not at all. You know
30 those are vast regions, there's no reason to combine
31 these two Councils. That's not what the -- originally
32 the 10 Councils were established, the 10 Councils will
33 remain there. We just need to have more applications.
34 We need to have more representatives from across the
35 region. This is a very big issue that, you know, not
36 just Bristol Bay and Kodiak/Aleutian are facing, there
37 are a few other Councils that are facing the same
38 situation.

39

40 And, you know, now that you will have
41 the permanent Coordinator, hopefully the situation will
42 change. They also will be able to do more outreach in
43 the future. We are looking at some other, you know,
44 some other avenues to increase this outreach. It's
45 just, you know, right now we only have less than a week
46 before the open season closes so the season, you know,
47 was opened in September and we're trying to reach the
48 public through newspaper ads and other, radio
49 announcements and other advertisements but, you know,
50

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1 as a result so far we only have one application for
2 Kodiak/Aleutian region. I am just being open about it
3 and, you know, hopefully we will get more applications
4 within the last few days. But that's what the
5 situation is.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you,
10 Katya. That makes me feel a lot better. Thank you for
11 the reassurances on that.

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Thanks.

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MS. WESSELS: This is Katya.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

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MS. WESSELS: You know, I think it will
be up to the Council, really, you know, I mean the
Council can still function with just eight seated
members. If you feel it's important for you to have
all the seats filled then it doesn't matter that, you
know, maybe most of them will come from Kodiak, but if
it's important for the Council to have, you know, all
the seats filled then, you know, I would encourage the
Council members to reach out to the people that they
know that might be good serving on the Council. Just
remember that, you know, Council members are usually
appointed for a three year term. It sometimes happens
when the seats remain vacant for awhile that when the
Council members are appointed, that seat specifically
will only have two, or one year term left, so then that
person will need to reapply. But like the Council
needs to really think about if they want to uphold what

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1 the request added to their charter, which is a
2 membership balance for different parts of the region,
3 because your region is so vast, geographically, or
4 perhaps you have some people, you know, in Kodiak that
5 also have knowledge of the subsistence needs and
6 resources in other regions. Because, you know, even if
7 you get the Council members from the other parts of the
8 region, the Council members are appointed for their
9 knowledge and experience in five categories. You know,
10 the knowledge of subsistence resources, and use and
11 knowledge of commercial/sport use, and, you know, their
12 ability to communicate with the public, their ability
13 for leadership. So that's kind of a balance, you know,
14 we don't know who.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Katya.

17

18 MS. WESSELS:these new people
19 will be applying.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Katya.

22

23 MS. WESSELS:on the Council --
24 yes.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think Rebecca,
27 maybe just a short answer to your question. We have 10
28 seats and the goal would be, in all reality, to have
29 five from Kodiak and five from the Aleutians, however,
30 in the past we haven't been able to get five people
31 from the Aleutians and a lot of times even if they
32 applied for some reason they actually got more out-
33 weighted on the Kodiak side, but I think the goal here
34 would be -- and ideally we would like five and five,
35 however, I think if we don't it's good to have those 10
36 seats filled regardless of where they're coming from.
37 And is that maybe Chris or Rick who can comment in
38 regard to that.

39

40 MR. PRICE: Rick, you want to go.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think Rick
45 might have stepped away. So Chris do you want to.....

46

47 MR. ROHRER: Della, this is.....

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49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:go, I think

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1 just.....

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MR. KOSO: Yeah, you hear me Della.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, yeah, we hear you now Chris -- or Rick, go ahead.

6

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MR. KOSO: Yeah, okay, this is Rick, Della.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

11

12

13

MR. KOSO: You know I don't have a problem with having the 10 members from other regions. I think our problem came when we confronted this a few years back to where we were having not so much on the subsistence of it but our meeting side of it. We were kind of being outgunned when it came to selecting a spot to have our next meetings and we felt sometimes that Kodiak was overriding to have their meetings in Kodiak versus having them in Cold Bay or Dutch Harbor. I think that was a reality that we ran into a few years back. But outside of that I don't see where there would be a problem with filling it up with some other areas in our region.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I think, Rick, that might have fell into when they were trying to cut back on travel and saying that our main area, or hub was Kodiak. That's kind of where that whole process fell into place a few years back.

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Thank you.

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Chris.

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MR. PRICE: Yeah, I mean I'm not the expert in this because I'm more new to the Council but I do encourage, you know, the Aleutian region to be more active and participate and I always, you know, want to work with the Pribilofs and encourage them to participate. I mean I like that we have a way to make openings for communities that may not be engaged at this time but in the future may wish to participate more and be full members. So, you know, I don't have all the answers here and, you know, you guys are the experts so I'll listen in and hear what you guys have to say.

0045

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Rebecca,
2 we'll try do some due diligence on our side too to get
3 try to get people to apply. It's not always easy. I
4 do know that I'm aware of people that have applied in
5 the past that didn't get appointed so we'll do the best
6 we can, I guess and see where we end up, we don't
7 necessarily have the choice in the final decisionmaking
8 of who is selected.

9
10 MR. ROHRER: Della, this is Sam. I just
11 want to jump in real quick and say I do plan on
12 reapplying. I have the application sitting on my desk,
13 I've just been a little bit busy and sidetracked with
14 some other stuff going on, but I will get that in here
15 before the deadline. So just wanted to let you know.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

18
19 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I'm going to
22 do a couple -- one person in Cold Bay I have in mind,
23 too, that I'll get a hold of in the next day or two and
24 see if I can get him possibly interested. And then
25 Rebecca, I hear you.

26
27 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I just wanted to
28 say that your response was very helpful and that's
29 exactly the kind of feedback I was looking for so thank
30 you for that.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
33 other comments.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Katya
38 and Council.

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none we
43 will move on to sea otter discussion. We have this on
44 the agenda, there was some, I think emails back and
45 forth on whether to keep this on the agenda or not, so
46 it's up to the Council, for Council discussion.
47 However, you know, I will say it's starting to come
48 more like Chris just mentioned in Unalaska in regard to
49 sea otters so with that I think I'm going to ask Katya
50

0046

1 to talk about why this discussion is up and her emails
2 in regards to this and the Council can tell us what
3 they want to do in the future.

4

5 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

6 In one of the previous Council meetings the Council
7 voted actually to have sea otter as a topic on their
8 agenda, like a permanent topic, so I reached out to
9 Council members that are on the sea otter working group
10 to see if, you know, you would like to have this on the
11 agenda and to see if the Fish and Wildlife Marine
12 Mammal Management could present anything on this topic
13 and, you know, it seemed like there was no request for
14 Marine Mammal Management to present anything and it
15 wasn't clear to us if the Council would like to see the
16 sea otter for a topic for this particular meeting on
17 the agenda so that's why we left it on the agenda. And
18 the Council can speak up now and if you would like to
19 have this discussion, there is no presentation
20 associated with it, nothing like that, but if the
21 Council would like to discuss anything right now about
22 sea otters you can or we can just move on to the next
23 agenda item.

24

25 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
28 Rebecca.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. So I think
31 that part of the circumstances leading up to this
32 meeting is that our sea otter working group, I think is
33 what we're calling it, was not able to meet prior to
34 this meeting and so it wasn't as clear what specific
35 issues or questions or information we would want Marine
36 Mammals to share in a presentation. I do think -- and
37 so there was correspondence prior to the meeting today
38 to see if we -- if it was feasible to try and have that
39 working group meeting and my sense was rather than
40 trying to squish in a last minute working group
41 meeting, that we would aim to do that after this RAC
42 meeting. And I think that when we have the working
43 group meeting it will become more clear what kind of
44 discussion or information we want to have at our next
45 RAC meeting. And so when Katya says there wasn't --
46 there didn't seem to be a lot of interest in having the
47 sea otter discussion today, I do think a big part of
48 that was just lacking, again, the working group coming --
49 the sea otter working group coming together and being
50

0047

1 able to have more focused conversation ahead of time.
2 So I think it's really useful to hear that, you know,
3 there's more sea otter issues out along the Chain,
4 which I'm not sure we heard of much before, so I'm
5 looking forward to our sea otter working group and,
6 again, I think that will help define -- you know better
7 define what we want to hear from Marine Mammals at our
8 next RAC meeting.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral, Madame
13 Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
16 Rebecca. Coral.

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, for myself, I
19 don't know, I was just thinking, oh, where are these
20 emails, I might not have responded. This fall -- yeah,
21 we didn't get together as a working group because we
22 had -- as you all know we had the new Omicron going
23 through and just everything was disrupted again. And
24 so -- but I do think I would like to see this be on the
25 agenda every time and we will get our working group
26 together. There's also things to work on -- I just
27 found out through a friend who works in government, or
28 she's a lobbyist in Washington and they are trying to
29 get a law passed to ban fur in Washington, which should
30 be a really big concern for us here also if people are
31 going to start trying to ban fur. That would be major --
32 there's not that many sea otters taken now but, of
33 course, if you ban fur -- or people start banning furs
34 and they start getting the word out against -- the word
35 starts getting out that furs are bad, you know, that's
36 not good for our -- you know we do cull a little bit of
37 our population and I think Sealaska was trying to get
38 something started. So I think there are, definitely
39 issues to work on, that is definitely something new
40 that we should keep our eyes on.

41

42 Yeah, and then I think we just haven't
43 really met. I know the Burke Museum, too, has got -- I
44 don't know what they're doing, they're doing sea otter
45 studies on something. The Burke Museum they just got a
46 bunch of sea otter skulls, I think, and then they were
47 going to do a bunch of studies on them so it'd be nice
48 to keep updated on everything that's going on with sea
49 otters even though we are not the governing body, we
50

0048

1 don't report to the governing body that deals with
2 them. We do know it concerns us and concerns our
3 subsistence foods so we do have to, I think, have
4 conversation to figure out how to talk to people about
5 it and how to -- yeah, I guess just to talk to people
6 about it.

7

8 And, yeah, so I'm interested in keeping
9 it on every time and I'm sure we'll get started up with
10 our sea otter working group soon.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
13 Coral. Any other comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
18 we'll keep it on the agenda. And maybe whoever -- we
19 do have our new Coordinator, I don't know if she's been
20 introduced, I believe she's online listening, but to
21 maybe -- we need to make a little more effort, I think,
22 in getting the working group together prior to our
23 meetings, would be probably a good idea.

24

25 All right. My suggestion at this time
26 is to go ahead and take a 10, 15 minute break. Let's
27 take 15 before we start on new business, if everybody
28 is okay. We'll come back in 15 minutes.

29

30 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you, Della.

31

32 MR. PRICE: Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, 15 minutes
35 guys.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's call our
42 meeting back to order from our break and continue on.
43 I think the next item on the agenda is new business,
44 11A, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program information
45 update, Jarred Stone.

46

47 MR. STONE: Okay, thank you. Good
48 morning, Madame Chair and members of the Council. For
49 the record my name is Jarred Stone, I am a Fisheries
50

0049

1 Biologist here at the Office of Subsistence Management.
2 I work in the Kodiak/Aleutian region but I also work in
3 the Bristol Bay and Southcentral regions. I'm joined
4 here today with my anthropologist colleague Jason
5 Roberts. Today I will provide updates on three
6 fisheries programmatic areas. I'll begin with the
7 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and then I'll
8 switch over to the fishery call for proposals for the
9 upcoming regulatory cycle, and then I'll finish by
10 providing additional details regarding the fisheries
11 closure review process. These will be brief updates
12 but please ask questions as we move along and I'll do
13 my best to help answer them.

14
15 For the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
16 Program update, this is not an action item for today,
17 and as I mentioned there are no associated materials
18 for this discussion in your Council meeting books.

19
20 We are currently in the final stage of
21 the 2022 Monitoring Program funding cycle. The Federal
22 Subsistence Board met in early February and made
23 recommendations about the Monitoring Plan. Once the
24 Office of Subsistence Management has a final budget,
25 the Assistant Regional Director will then approve the
26 funding plan and all applicants will be notified of the
27 status of their submissions.

28
29 With the 2022 cycle coming to an end,
30 it's time now for the Councils to begin developing
31 priority information needs for the 2024 Fisheries
32 Resource Monitoring Program, which will happen at your
33 next meeting in the fall. We are asking for Council
34 members from both the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
35 Council and your Council to consider volunteering and
36 to meet by telephone this summer to identify knowledge
37 gaps and information needed for the management of
38 subsistence fisheries for the Southwest region. The
39 draft list of priority information needs will then be
40 presented to the Councils for their final approval
41 during their fall 2022 meeting.

42
43 This isn't an action item but if
44 there's anyone on the Council that would like to
45 volunteer to help develop the draft priority
46 information needs for the next cycle it would be
47 greatly appreciated.

48
49 This concludes my presentation
50

0050

1 regarding the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
2 Are there any questions or volunteers who would like to
3 help draft the priority information needs for the fall
4 2022 meeting.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
11 Rebecca.

12

13 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thank you. I would
14 like to volunteer to help draft the PINS.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
17 Rebecca, anyone else.

18

19 MR. STONE: Thank you, Rebecca.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'll go ahead
22 and put my name in, too, Jarred.

23

24 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody
27 have any comments or questions for Jarred in regard to
28 this agenda item.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess hearing
33 none, we'll.....

34

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

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
38 Jarred.

39

40 MR. STONE: So for the Bristol Bay
41 region, Council Member Dan Dunaway had volunteered so
42 I'll work with the three of you to try and coordinate a
43 time this summer that works best for the three of you
44 and that will be it. So look for an invitation on my
45 part to try and coordinate a time that works best.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
48 Jarred. Do you want to go ahead and move on to Item
49 No. B.

50

0051

1 MR. STONE: Okay. Again, for the
2 record, my name is Jarred Stone and I'm a Fisheries
3 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

4
5 I'll now give an update on our call for
6 Federal fisheries and shellfish proposals. This is an
7 action item for your Council. Once we work through
8 this item I will then provide an update on the upcoming
9 Federal subsistence fisheries closure reviews that were
10 deferred by the Board in 2021. You can find the
11 materials on how to submit regulatory proposals on Tab
12 4 of your meeting books.

13
14 The Federal Subsistence Board will be
15 accepting proposals this winter and into spring to
16 change the Federal regulations for the subsistence take
17 of fish and shellfish on Federal public lands and
18 waters for the 2023 through 2025 regulatory cycle. The
19 Board will consider proposals to change Federal fish
20 and shellfish seasons, harvest limits, methods and
21 means and customary and traditional use determinations.
22 The current window of opportunity to submit proposals
23 is not quite open yet, however, as a Council you may
24 vote on fisheries proposals and then submit the
25 proposals to the Council Coordinator at any time during
26 our Council meeting. Coordinators will then hold on to
27 the proposals until the window for fisheries proposals
28 is officially opened and then submit them. The general
29 public will need to wait until the window for fisheries
30 proposals has officially opened, which should be some
31 time soon, and stay open for a period of at least 30
32 days.

33
34 Proposals need to be submitted to the
35 regulations website by going to www.regulations.gov.
36 The proposals will be analyzed and presented to the
37 Councils during the upcoming fall 2022 meetings for
38 Council recommendations. Proposal analysis and Council
39 recommendations will be presented to the Federal
40 Subsistence Board for their final action at the January
41 2023 fisheries regulatory meeting.

42
43 This concludes my presentation. Are
44 there any questions or regulatory proposals that the
45 Council would like to put forward before I move into
46 the fisheries closure update.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

49
50

0052

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm sorry I lost you
4 folks there for awhile. I couldn't call out on my cell,
5 it went nuts on me. I would like to be on that
6 planning group and I don't have any other questions. I
7 participated in every one in the last 20 years and I'd
8 like to continue on that. And I found that Dan Dunaway
9 was a really good link on that.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

14

15 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Holmes.
16 Council Member Holmes I'll add you to the list of
17 volunteers for the upcoming draft of the priority
18 information needs.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Jarred, I
23 don't hear any other comments if you want to continue
24 on.

25

26 MR. STONE: Okay, thank you, Madame
27 Chair. Again, for the record, this is Jarred Stone and
28 I am a Fisheries Biologist with OSM.

29

30 In addition to the upcoming fisheries
31 regulatory cycle OSM Staff will review closures to
32 Federal subsistence fisheries similar to what wildlife
33 closure reviews had done during the last cycle.

34

35 So Title VIII of ANILCA establishes a
36 priority for the taking of fish and wildlife on Federal
37 public lands and waters for non-wasteful subsistence
38 uses over the taking of fish and wildlife on such lands
39 or other purposes. Under certain circumstances
40 specified in Title VIII, the Board is authorized to
41 restrict, close and reopen Federal public lands and
42 waters to the taking of fish and wildlife. Like other
43 Board established rules closures are subject to change
44 during the regulatory cycle. It is the Board's policy
45 that Federal public lands and waters should be reopened
46 as soon as practicable once the conditions that
47 originally justified the closure have changed to such
48 an extent that the closure is no longer necessary. To
49 help ensure that the closures do not remain in place

50

0053

1 longer than necessary, the Board has directed OSM to
2 review existing closures.

3
4 OSM will review half of all closures
5 during each applicable regulatory cycle. Closure
6 reviews will include analysis of all relevant
7 considerations and OSM will recommend an action for the
8 Council's consideration on the closure. The types of
9 actions that the Council can recommend include, to
10 retain, which means the closure remains in the
11 regulations unchanged. The second option is to modify,
12 which means a change directly related to the actual
13 closure, an example of that would be adjusting the
14 dates the closure's effective, or perhaps assigning an
15 expiration date or broadening a closure to both
16 subsistence and non-subsistence users. A third option
17 is to rescind, which means to remove the closure from
18 the regulations. If a season harvest limit exists in
19 the regulations, that season or harvest limit will then
20 once again become effective. If none exists, a
21 proposal must be submitted to establish a season and/or
22 harvest limit. If no parallel proposal is submitted
23 with the closure review, existing State sport
24 regulations would be as applicable for fish or there is
25 no harvest season until a proposal is submitted. And
26 the last option is to defer, which means that the
27 closure then would remain in place until that time the
28 Board takes up the closure again, normally no longer
29 than the next applicable regulatory cycle.

30
31 There are currently 20 fisheries
32 closure reviews statewide under review for the upcoming
33 fisheries regulatory cycle. Of the 20 reviews, 14 will
34 be considered for the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory
35 Council during the fall 2022 Council meeting.

36
37 Here is a brief list of the fisheries
38 closures that will be under review for the cycle.
39 First I'll go over the list of deferred closure reviews
40 from 2021, all of which pertain to the harvest of
41 salmon.

42
43 That includes FCR21-08 Unalaska Lake.

44
45 FCR21-09 Unalaska Bay, including
46 Summers and Morris Lake.

47
48 FCR21-11 McLees Lake drainage.

49
50

0054

1 FCR21-13 Alaska Peninsula, Russell
2 Creek and Nurse Lagoon.

3
4 FCR21-16 Kodiak Island Buskin River.

5
6 FCR21-18 Afognak Bay drainage.

7
8 FCR21-19 Afognak Island freshwater
9 drainages.

10

11 There are an additional seven closure
12 reviews to be considered, and OSM Staff will draft the
13 analysis for these during the summer and provide
14 preliminary conclusions to your Council during the fall
15 meeting. These additional closure reviews for the
16 upcoming cycle include:

17

18 Unalaska Bay streams for salmon.

19

20 Adak/Kagalaska freshwater streams for
21 salmon.

22

23 Trout Creek on the Alaska Peninsula for
24 salmon.

25

26 Womens Bay for salmon.

27

28 Selief Bay Creek for salmon.

29

30 Little Kitoi Creek for salmon.

31

32 Womens Bay for king crab.

33

34 As you recall an outreach team made up
35 of volunteers from your Council and OSM Staff helped to
36 create outreach materials to help generate additional
37 feedback from the affected communities. This included
38 community fliers which were sent to local communities
39 showing summaries of each of the closures, the OSM
40 website was then updated with additional maps depicting
41 the areas along with guidance on how to submit a public
42 comment and meetings were held with the State's local
43 Advisory Committees and tribal organizations.

44

45 If you're interested in viewing the
46 analysis and would like to submit a public comment, you
47 can visit our website by going to
48 www.doi.gov/subsistence/krac, and that's spelled KRAC /
49 closures.

50

0055

1 We are hopeful that this outreach will
2 generate thoughtful feedback concerning these closure
3 reviews to allow the Council and the Board to make an
4 informed decision for each of the 14 closure reviews to
5 be considered. If anyone wishes to modify any of these
6 closure reviews in any way, other than the four options
7 I had described earlier, a parallel proposal must be
8 submitted during the call for fisheries regulatory
9 proposals, such as during this meeting. The window of
10 time to submit a proposal is not yet open, however, the
11 Council can choose to provide proposals directly to the
12 Council Coordinator to have submitted when the window
13 of opportunity opens.

14
15 This concludes my update on the
16 fisheries closure review process and the status of the
17 upcoming closure reviews to be considered for the fall
18 2022 meeting.

19
20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
23 Jarred. Are there any comments or questions for
24 Jarred.

25
26 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
27 is Rebecca.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rebecca.

30
31 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. Yeah, I have
32 three questions right now and I think they're
33 clarifying questions. So the first question I have, I
34 thought that I heard you say in the presentation right
35 now that OSM would provide recommendations to the RAC
36 and I wanted to make sure I understand that correctly
37 because I thought in previous discussions about this
38 item, there was some back and forth about whether OSM
39 could provide a recommendation or perhaps the nature of
40 that recommendation. So I wanted to make sure that,
41 one, I heard you correctly and, then, two, what does
42 that mean, that OSM will provide or can provide a
43 recommendation to the RAC.

44
45 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
46 Chair, Council Member Skinner. You are correct. So
47 OSM, in the fall, will have finished all of the Staff
48 analysis on each of the closure reviews, very similar
49 to what the regulatory proposals look like. And at the
50

0056

1 very end of the analysis, OSM will provide what we call
2 a preliminary conclusion. And that is, you know, a
3 recommendation to the Council for their consideration.
4 And so I hope that addresses your question.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Yes. So just to dig into
7 this one a little bit more. So would that be along the
8 lines of, for example, OSM recommends rescinding the
9 closure, or is it going to be a higher level statement
10 that doesn't get into one of the specific options that
11 you outlined?

12

13 MR. STONE: Thank you for the question.
14 Boy, to answer that I think it -- our preliminary
15 recommendation or conclusion that we offer for our
16 Staff analysis will likely only involve one of the four
17 options that I had mentioned before, to either rescind,
18 or retain or modify or defer. You know, we'll often --
19 similar to what we've done last time during the
20 previous regulatory cycle, a majority of those closure
21 reviews we had opted or recommended for allowing those
22 closures to be opened and for allowing the fisheries to
23 essentially mirror what the State sportfish regulations
24 would look like.

25

26 It's a little early for me to make any
27 recommendations on the upcoming new fisheries closures
28 just because Staff have not had a chance to provide
29 their full analysis on those particular fisheries
30 closures.

31

32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted - hold)

34

35 MR. STONE: And so this fall when we
36 come in front of you again for our fall meeting, we'll
37 likely discuss to a great extent each of the fisheries
38 in detail and then make a preliminary conclusion or a
39 recommendation to the Council for your consideration
40 and it will include one of those four actions.

41

42 MS. SKINNER: Yep, that's very helpful.
43 So two more questions. My next question has to do with
44 timing. So at our upcoming fall RAC meeting, we will
45 be reviewing all of the -- and correct me if I'm
46 misstating this, we will be reviewing all 14 of the
47 closure reviews, or all the closures, but if we -- as a
48 Council, if we wanted to put forward regulations that --
49 proposed regulations that related to these closures
50

0057

1 and we wanted to do that as a Council, would we need to
2 suggest those at this meeting, because it's going to be
3 too late in the fall to generate a proposed regulatory
4 change, or if I've got the timing on that wrong, if you
5 could comment on that.

6
7 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
8 Chair. And, Council Member Skinner. That's a great
9 question and, you know, unfortunately the timing of our
10 call for proposal and our review process are a bit
11 awkward. We are very much open to receiving comment
12 from the Council in regards to how to maybe make this
13 process more streamlined or to make it easier, but you
14 are correct, in that, if there are changes you would
15 like to make to any of the closures then you would have
16 sort of two opportunities. One would be right now
17 during this Council meeting. The next opportunity then
18 would be, you know, during our next regulatory cycle,
19 which would be in two years. So, again, I apologize
20 for the awkwardness or the nature of this in the way
21 that it's rolling out, but you are correct that the
22 call for proposals will be this spring, and you will
23 not see the Staff analysis of the next seven closure
24 reviews until this fall.

25
26 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Thank you, that's
27 helpful. And then my last question is, can you explain
28 again -- I know you just explained this in your
29 presentation but I did not completely follow it; if a
30 closure is rescinded and there is no current Federal
31 subsistence regulation to fall back on, I heard you say
32 if that was the case then the State sport regulations
33 would be kind of the default, but then I thought you
34 said something right after that, like it was an either
35 or. Can you explain again what happens if a closure is
36 rescinded and there is no Federal subsistence
37 regulation to fall back on.

38
39 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through Madame
40 Chair. Council Member Ms. Skinner. If a closure is
41 rescinded and there are no existing regulations in
42 place to fall back on, it would require a proposal to
43 establish a harvest season. If -- again, and I'll just
44 state that again: If there's no regulations in the
45 background, or none exist, a proposal must be submitted
46 to establish a season and/or harvest limits, and if no
47 parallel proposal is submitted with the closure review,
48 existing State sport regulations would be followed.
49 And so from my understanding, if no parallel was
50

0058

1 submitted, maybe come this Council meeting in the
2 spring, then in the fall the Council decides to rescind
3 the closures, then what would likely happen is that
4 those fisheries would then revert to mirror State sport
5 regulations.

6
7 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.
8 That's all I had, Madame Chair.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat here.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: You said it would revert
15 to State sport regulations, what does that have to do
16 with it? I mean that's part of it, but it seems like
17 my recollection that all of these closures originally
18 came from the State and all of those were originally
19 from the various agencies within the State and the
20 Board of Alaska Department of Fish and Game; is that
21 not correct?

22
23 MR. STONE: Madame Chair.....

24
25 MR. HOLMES: None of them originated
26 with OSM.

27
28 MR. STONE: To answer your question
29 Council Member Mr. Holmes. You are correct in that a
30 lot of these regulations were adopted during the time
31 when the Federal regulations were first enacted. And
32 in certain circumstances some of these State fisheries
33 do allow a sportfishing opportunity, whereas they do
34 not allow for an opportunity for Federal subsistence
35 users. And we're hoping to address this, and to allow
36 for more rural subsistence priority for folks that live
37 in the rural parts.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: I have a point that I'd
42 like to make on this whole section of which I raised
43 earlier on our minutes from our meeting and that the
44 two previous times this has been presented to our
45 Council, many comments have been made and none of them
46 have shown up in the minutes. And I would question the
47 fact, in our region, that sportfish would be allowed
48 when subsistence is closed. Because in the time that
49 I've been with the Department and living here, which is
50

0059

1 like combined over 50 years, 60 years, almost every
2 single closure in our region, both sportfish,
3 commercial -- commercial closes first, and then there's
4 a decision to make on subsistence and sport, but in our
5 region I don't recall any single time where sportfish
6 has been allowed to continue if the subsistence is
7 closed. And there are several reasons why, and,
8 particularly in Unalaska why those are implemented the
9 way they were, they were done in coordination between
10 the State and the local Advisory Committees and
11 presently since the Subsistence Management Program was
12 developed, all the ones that are within jurisdiction of
13 the Federal government, are all consulted with prior to
14 the closure.

15

16 And so tell me where there has been a
17 sportfish allowed in our region when the subsistence is
18 closed, I just don't recall that.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Jarred, do you
21 have an answer?

22

23 MR. STONE: Madame Chair. Mr. Holmes
24 -- Council Member Holmes, would you mind just maybe
25 restating that so I understand the question.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Well, yes. A, okay, the
28 regulations in place were originally from the State,
29 okay. B, and my recollection, let's say the Buskin,
30 for instance, there is no commercial fishery allowed
31 for red salmon near there by the Alaska Fish and Game.
32 If there is any closure then the area biologist, James
33 Jackson, calls up Bill Pyle at the Refuge and he says,
34 gee, the escapements are way down, we're going to have
35 to close things up and both the commercial -- the
36 commercial fishery is already closed and then the
37 sportfish and commercial -- and the subsistence are
38 closed at the same time. And you made the statement
39 that this process is to avoid the problems that would
40 occur, would provide for subsistence fishing if its
41 closed by the State, and I do not recall ever -- it
42 might have happened sometime, but that the subsistence
43 has been closed and the sportfish left open, it just
44 doesn't happen. It's almost a matter of policy. And I
45 checked with the area biologist and the regional
46 biologist and sportfish and commercial fisheries and
47 tell me where this has happened and why is it a
48 problem.

49

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1 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
4 Jarred.

5

6 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, this is Scott
7 Ayers, I'm the Fish Division Supervisor at OSM. Could
8 I speak up to the question?

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead.

11

12 MR. AYERS: Hi, thank you. And thank
13 you for allowing me to be part of this meeting today,
14 it's exciting to be here and I'm still -- while I spent
15 time at OSM, I've been gone for a few years and I'm
16 happy to be returning and am happy to see the Council
17 so invigorated in these discussions.

18

19 To Mr. Holmes' question. The fisheries
20 that we're talking about aren't fisheries that were
21 closed as a matter of, even the season adjustments,
22 these are fisheries that are closed by regulations and
23 have been closed for a number of years. And I believe
24 what Jarred was bringing up was that there are some of
25 these closures that are closures to both State and
26 Federal subsistence that do have allowances for
27 sportfishing, I believe, in some of the freshwaters in
28 Unalaska, that's the case, and I believe that was what
29 Jarred was bringing up as part of his discussion. The
30 closure review process as was stated earlier by the
31 other member is a little bit awkward right now, in
32 that, our timing is not optimal to bring these closures
33 and this discussion to you, letting you know that
34 there's going to be an analysis conducted that you'll
35 be in the fall, but also letting you know that if you
36 want to make changes beyond the scope of those four
37 options you have to do it now and we recognize this and
38 this is something that we've been discussing internally
39 about attempting to see if we can make changes to the
40 timing of this process for the next cycle.
41 Unfortunately we're just too far along right now to
42 make those changes.

43

44 Our intent today to bring this forward
45 with you was mostly to provide some discussion on the
46 front end that these closure reviews would be coming to
47 you in the fall and to provide opportunity for the
48 Council members to consider what the options will be,
49 and also to let you know which closures were going to
50

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1 be up for review so that there was ample opportunity to
2 consider those and reach out to others in the area as
3 appropriate for their feedback before the fall came.

4
5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So
8 any other comments.

9
10 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

13
14 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I guess I got a -- I
15 guess I'm more confused than anything. I think in Cold
16 Bay there just north of Trout Creek, I know they put
17 markers out this last couple of years for 500 yards
18 from the entrance to the creek there and it was closed
19 down to -- as far as I understand, I could be wrong, it
20 was closed down to subsistence users but not for
21 sportfishing, they were able to sportfish there, but we
22 were not able to do the subsistence fishing in that
23 area. So that's one of the deals that I was concerned
24 about.

25
26 And then in Adak, you know, it kind of
27 got me that they were closed down in Kagalaska, you
28 know, streams there, ADF&G, when there's not a
29 commercial fishery that's been out there since the
30 1960s so I don't know why they would close that down
31 to, you know, subsistence fishermen.

32
33 Those are the only places that I know
34 that people go from Adak that they're able to get red
35 salmon so that would be a real hit to the local people
36 in Adak.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. This
39 is Della, I have to admit I'm a little -- I get a more
40 confused, I swear, the more we discuss this particular
41 issue. So correct me if I am wrong. As stated, if we
42 rescind these closures from regulations, aren't these
43 closures basically State regulations?

44
45 MR. STONE: Madame Chair. Yeah, so
46 when there are existing State regulations, if there are
47 no Federal regulations to back them, then, yes, they
48 would revert to State sportfish regulations. A lot of
49 times, with these closure reviews, if they're rescinded
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1 they would then fall back on to the area, or the region
2 area regulations.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So given
5 that answer, if this Council voted to rescind these
6 regulations and then we have to go through a process,
7 our Staff would need to determine whether there are
8 regulations or in place or whether or not we have to
9 create ones, would that be the next process prior to
10 the fall meeting?

11

12 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Yes. You know, I think in the ideal situation in the
14 fall when we come to you next with our Staff analysis
15 and our preliminary conclusions that we have sort of a
16 formulated stance, or approach for the Council to
17 consider so that they can consider opening these
18 waters. That was our intent with our last seven
19 fisheries closure reviews that we reviewed last cycle,
20 our intent then was to allow sort of a limited
21 opportunity to mirror State fishing regulations to have
22 rod and reel fisheries in each of those closed waters.
23 And as Council Member Koso had mentioned, you know,
24 currently as the regulations sit right now, you know,
25 as a Federal subsistence user you cannot fish in these
26 waters, however as a sport fisher you can, so we were
27 hoping to address this rural priority issue and to
28 allow opportunity for Federally-qualified to
29 participate in these fisheries.

30

31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
34 Thank you, Jarred. I agree with Rick also because I do
35 hear -- that question has been brought to my attention
36 from other residents in Cold Bay and King Cove.

37

38 So basically at this particular moment
39 in time what are we, as a Council, needing to do?

40

41 MR. STONE: Madame Chair. Right now if
42 the Council wishes to submit a proposal for any of the
43 14 closure reviews, you can do that today or tomorrow
44 or any time during the call for proposal, when that
45 window opens. You can choose to do nothing for now and
46 come fall wait for our Staff analysis and make a
47 decision at that time. The timing of it, like Mr.
48 Ayers had mentioned, is a bit awkward, in that, the
49 call for proposals will then be over in the fall and so

50

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1 then to take action or modify any of the closures you
2 would have to wait until the next cycle which would be
3 in two years.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So maybe,
6 Council, my recommendation might be that we review
7 what's in front of us and if there are or is a
8 particular one you would like to see rescinded then we
9 can try to draft a proposal, maybe a time tomorrow,
10 before the closing of the meeting, that we do so.
11 Would that be agreeable?

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.....

14

15 MR. HOLMES: I think we.....

16

17 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is.....

18

19 MR. HOLMES:should wait for the
20 analysis, Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, if we wait
23 for the analysis.....

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, Pat it was
28 brought up that if you want for the analysis it would
29 be another basically two years. Rebecca, I believe I
30 heard you.

31

32 MS. SKINNER: Yep, you did. Can I
33 defer to Coral because I think I've already spoken at
34 least once on this and then I can go after Coral.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead,
37 Coral.

38

39 MS. CHERNOFF: I -- yeah, I don't have
40 -- well, maybe -- no, I don't have anything to say on
41 this question but I do have a comment, maybe after we
42 cover this question I do have a comment on something
43 that was talked about before so I'll just wait until
44 we're finished on this subject.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Rebecca.

47

48 MR. STONE: Yeah, so in -- I guess in
49 regards to what the Council needs to do or can do right
50

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1 now and then what we need to do or can do in the fall,
2 on the one hand I do appreciate Della's suggestion to
3 look at the closures reviews and take advantage of the
4 timing opportunity to propose regulatory changes that
5 would need to go into effect if the result of the
6 closure review is to rescind the closure. So I mean in
7 some ways I do like that suggestion.

8
9 On the other hand, reflecting back to
10 Pat's comments at the beginning of the meeting, that
11 the closure reviews weren't originally included on the
12 agenda and also just thinking about the amount of
13 information involved with each of these closure
14 reviews. So having participated in the previous
15 discussions with the RAC and then also the small sub-
16 group that talked about, and developed kind of an
17 outreach plan regarding the closures, there's a lot of
18 information. And so I am concerned about trying to
19 quickly digest that and come up with cohesive
20 regulatory proposals in the middle of the RAC meeting
21 that's happening.

22
23 I did ask the questions of Jarred, you
24 know, what happens if we don't have regulations and his
25 response was that the default would be whatever's
26 allowed under State sport regulations for the area,
27 that would be the default. I'm actually fairly
28 comfortable with that because I do support a
29 subsistence priority so at least if subsistence users
30 get the same access as sport users under State regs I'm
31 okay with that, understanding that it would then take
32 another two years to get back to the fishery proposal
33 cycle.

34
35 So I guess I just want to be clear in
36 my understanding, at the meeting today, we're not
37 taking action on closure reviews; that's something
38 we're going to do at the fall meeting and, in fact, we
39 don't even have any materials in the agenda packet
40 regarding the closure reviews. What is on the agenda
41 for potential action today would be proposing potential
42 changes to fishery proposals, which technically the
43 call for proposals hasn't opened yet, but if we want to
44 take action as a Council, this meeting is the time we
45 would have to do it because by the time we get to our
46 fall meeting the window would have closed. So we could
47 generate some potential proposals at this meeting for
48 fisheries, that then would be kind of the fallback
49 position if some of the closures were actually
50

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1 rescinded. And I think the situation probably isn't
2 that complicated but, yeah, the awkward timing isn't --
3 isn't helping, I think that actually makes it a lot
4 more confusing, you know, oh, well, what are we doing
5 today, it's almost like the step that's in front of us
6 today is really the second step in the process, we
7 haven't even acted on the closure reviews yet and we
8 are not going to at this meeting.

9

10 So after all of that talking, like I
11 said, I see merits to Della's' suggestion, I also see
12 some challenges and I will be quiet and let some other
13 people talk.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
18 other comments.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: If there's not I'd like to
21 make a brief one.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat,
24 and then I had.....

25

26 MR. PRICE: Pat, this is Chris, I had a
27 brief comment.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

30

31 MR. PRICE: So I just want to clarify.
32 So the closure reviews and the review of those are
33 going to happen at the September meeting in Cold Bay
34 and then based on those discussions and decisions we'll
35 see how they -- what the recommendations are at that
36 point; is that correct?

37

38 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

41

42 MR. AYERS: Hi, this is Scott again.
43 Thank you, again, for the opportunity. That is
44 accurate. Right now there is no action required of the
45 Council on the closures as was described earlier, just
46 a few moments ago by the Council member. We are
47 providing you with a list of closures that are going to
48 be brought to you in the fall with analysis, with
49 relevant information for the Council to make a
50

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1 recommendation, they would then go through the same
2 process to the Board as the regulatory proposals do and
3 the Board would give deference to the Councils related
4 to these issues.

5
6 The closures are -- again, if there is
7 no relevant Federal subsistence regulation in place for
8 the area, they would defer next to State subsistence
9 regulations. As all of these areas, I believe have
10 that same closure, in both Federal and State
11 subsistence regulations, they would then defer to State
12 sportfish regulations. They would not -- they would
13 incorporate those into the Federal regulations, if that
14 makes sense. This is the opportunity right now to
15 submit a parallel proposal, if the Council so chooses,
16 that would allow you to put one of the other options
17 out there beyond the four options that Jarred described
18 earlier, however, you may also choose to make no --
19 take no action -- there's no action to be taken on the
20 closures, you may choose to not submit proposals at
21 this point in time if you so choose.

22
23 Please let me know if that clarified
24 anything or if I've just muddied the waters further.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So basically
27 that leads me to -- this is Della. Leads me to the
28 point or question is, if you look at Jarred's memo and
29 he basically said that you're seeking input whether to
30 recommend lifting local fishery closures in the
31 Kodiak/Aleutian region and then the Federal Subsistence
32 Board relies upon public comments to better inform the
33 decisionmaking process. The Board options during a
34 closure review are retain, modify, rescind or defer.
35 If we were to recommend to rescind, technically if it
36 went through the process then it would revert to
37 subsistence utilizing whatever the State sportfish
38 regulation is in place; is that correct?

39
40 MR. AYERS: Yes, I believe that is the
41 correct answer.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And the other
44 question I guess I have is an issue of timing.
45 Whatever decision is made today and if we request to
46 put a proposal into place there's a deadline and that
47 needs to be done prior to our fall meeting, is that
48 correct, or can it be done at that fall meeting, or do
49 we have to wait another two years for the fisheries
50

0067

1 cycle.

2

3

MR. AYERS: Madame Chair.....

4

5

6

MR. STONE: Madame Chair, this is Jarred. Are you talking about the -- at what time you can submit a proposal for the change of regulations?

7

8

9

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct.

10

11

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Thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, that helps. I'll be honest with you I'm looking at Russell Creek and Nurse Lagoon. Because -- and I don't particularly know the real answer to this but what was brought from a resident in Cold Bay was, you know, they have the sportfish, most of us go over -- I, myself, go over and I sportfish for my subsistence in reality. I use that fish for subsistence. But the question was is how come there's not a subsistence regulation in place but there is sport in place and doesn't subsistence -- isn't subsistence a priority, so that's basically the question. And I think if you get to -- I think it comes up more and more and I think as we all know, is if there is a shortage of salmon, which I think about-- as I recall, but maybe Rick could help me, maybe about four years ago there definitely was a shortage. So I just want to make sure that I understand so if I talk to somebody in Cold Bay and they suggest that we put in a proposal then I want to be able to work with them to

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1 do so but I wanted to make sure that I got the dynamics
2 of this whole process in place.

3

4 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Yes, as a Council you can put together a proposal today
6 or tomorrow but if you work with individuals outside of
7 the Council they would have to wait until the window of
8 opportunity opens for the call for proposals, and any
9 individual can submit a proposal to change or modify
10 these fisheries regulations.

11

12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Jarred.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: I appreciate the
22 difficulties here. But as Rebecca pointed out and I
23 mentioned earlier, we had our agenda published and it
24 was revised today and maybe we can make changes without
25 going to the public. This review process that we
26 worked on for getting more input from the communities
27 was to be making presentations to the Advisory
28 Committees. Before that decision was made, there was
29 an informal one with the Kodiak AC that I listened to
30 and they had some questions that I don't believe were
31 answered for them. They were hoping to have them back,
32 so did, A, did we have briefings in the communities
33 other than what has gone on through our RAC? And then
34 I'll go on with my questions, or my comment on the need
35 for more information. What groups have you met with
36 since that casual meeting where the AC called you in
37 Kodiak, has there been one for Sand Point, Unalaska, or
38 meetings with the tribes?

39

40 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
41 Chair. Council Member, Mr. Holmes. So, you know, at
42 the direction of the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory
43 Council, OSM Staff and volunteers from the Council
44 began reaching out to the communities and tribes and
45 the State Advisory Committees for their
46 representatives. A meeting was held with tribal
47 representatives from Kodiak Island back in January of
48 2021. Seven representatives were in attendance. All
49 tribal representatives expressed gratitude for the
50

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1 notice and they withheld any comments or
2 recommendations until they had more time to consider
3 the closure reviews.

4

5

6 OSM Staff then met with the Kodiak Fish
7 and Game Advisory Committee on February 9th, 2021 to
8 present fishery closure reviews and get feedback.
9 This, I believe, was the meeting that you are
10 referring to, Mr. Holmes, and OSM Staff had also
11 attended the Dutch Harbor/Unalaska Fish and Game
12 Advisory Committee meeting held on February 22nd last
13 year, however, that was the meeting that was cancelled
14 due to the Committee not having a quorum.

14

15

16 So during that time, during last
17 summer, members of the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional
18 Advisory Council had volunteered to assist OSM Staff in
19 outreach efforts and we met twice last summer to
20 develop this outreach plan that would encourage local
21 residents and stakeholders to consider providing
22 comments regarding each of the closure reviews.
23 Various outreach materials were crafted, some of which
24 you have seen. We had posted shorter summaries on our
25 website that had described the closures, and offered up
26 additional maps that helped clarify the actual areas
27 that were closed. We had drafted some radio and
28 newspaper advertisements, however, we withheld those
29 until we were thinking closer in time towards the fall
30 meeting just to generate more public interest and the
31 timeframe of it was going to work out better we thought
32 if we waited for those to go out this summer.

32

33

34 And then lastly we had created the
35 community flier. And I sent out most of those
36 community fliers to various communities just before
37 Christmas, I believe. And I tried to get some of the
38 Council members feedback as to where exactly I should
39 be sending this fliers and I had generated a list of a
40 large amount of contacts, actually, from various
41 communities and had sent these community fliers out, as
42 I mentioned, just before Christmas. And they really
43 were just aimed at the general public to help inform
44 them of our process and where and how to submit a
45 public comment.

45

46

47 And as of last week we have not
48 received any public comments regarding any of the
49 fishery closure reviews thus far.

49

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I -- Madame Chair,
4 Pat.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd like to commend
9 you on your efforts. I did printout that information
10 and then I also emailed and talked to everybody that I
11 possibly knew about this topic and that it would be
12 coming up if it were going to be on our fall agenda.
13 And I mean like at least 50 people and all the way out
14 west, and really didn't get any response at all on it.

15

16 I think that we really do need more
17 information.

18

19 I believe that ADF&G has some reports
20 coming up, I believe, Lisa Fox who is the area
21 biologist for the Alaska Peninsula, might be able to
22 explain to you the closures there in Cold Bay and why
23 they're there and I believe that she and her assistant
24 have come up with some solutions so we might want to
25 wait until we hear from Fish and Game later in our
26 meeting to see what's going on there. And you could
27 also ask them about any problems that you perceive,
28 Rick, out at Unalaska.

29

30 And then I think also as far as
31 information goes, the Unalaska subsistence survey is
32 being conducted now but won't be summarized until later
33 on and so that'll be questioned where people will say,
34 gee, there is a problem. And so those are things I
35 think that should be kept in mind.

36

37 And I'd like to make one comment on the
38 stream that most people think about in Unalaska and
39 that's Iliuliuk that comes out of Unalaska Lake and the
40 drone surveys that they've been doing show that there
41 and the other systems on the road for reds, which is
42 the main target for subsistence in Unalaska are still
43 down after more than 25 years. Morris has like about
44 100 fish going back to that lake, 100 fish and Unalaska
45 Lake has like 400. The community has reduced their own
46 harvest on Towne Beach with gillnets and many years ago
47 they worked with the area biologist Arnie Shawl and I
48 also worked with them on the closures for Iliuliuk and
49 only allowed fishing -- red fishing in that stream to
50

0071

1 the Church Hole and that's because there's only 400
2 fish that have come back to that, usually less. And
3 these places are stressed out and so -- and I'd be open
4 to having sport gear for subsistence if it wouldn't
5 potentially cause difficulties in the returns, but when
6 you have very small returns and let's say you have -- I
7 think a question you should have for the sportfish data
8 is do they have any data on what the sport catch is,
9 would that double the catch in-stream for what gets
10 into the Iliuliuk and then what's going to happen to
11 the returns in the future.

12

13 So that's my point, is, thinking about
14 the fish and adding another harvest level. So I
15 honestly think we should explore this future when we
16 get the State people making their reports, asking them
17 questions about what have been reported as problem
18 areas, King Cove, Adak and then just see what the
19 options are. And then also we'll probably have the
20 sportfish biologist, regional one, Tyler Polum, I think
21 should be on there somewhere and ask him some very
22 pointed questions about what's allowed and what's taken
23 and -- before we go on this.

24

25 And so at that I'll just close with
26 Becky's main point, if it wasn't on the agenda, if
27 we're firing up a new proposal, are we going to run
28 amuck. So thank you and I'm sorry to be so gabby.

29

30 Thanks a lot, bye-bye.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
33 And if I may make a comment, this is Della. 11B item
34 on the agenda is call for Federal fish and shellfish
35 proposals. Item C is the closure discussion. So this
36 particular meeting basically is a discussion to call
37 for any proposals or an action item whether to propose
38 regulatory changes, which we're allowed to do and this
39 was noticed -- this stuff was given to the public, it's
40 part of the notice and this process for this meeting.
41 And the point of the awkwardness of this timing is
42 correct but there's a lot of awkwardness with a lot of
43 stuff we got going on due to Covid and it's just things
44 we need to work with.

45

46 I understand, Pat, you getting the
47 information, I think it's great to look at what the
48 State's reports are and I agree to wait until the
49 following meeting, but I don't necessarily agree to put
50

50

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1 this totally aside and if there's something that can be
2 put into place, possibly, and then to work with the
3 State through the course, prior to our fall meeting, I
4 would just like that opportunity. I think that's what
5 this call for Federal proposals is.

6
7 If somebody could help me if I'm
8 getting this all wrong.

9
10 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Madame Chair.

11
12 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, I
15 think I thought I heard Rick, and then maybe -- I don't
16 know who the lady was behind him.

17
18 MR. KOSO: Yeah, this is Rick here,
19 Madame Chair. Yeah, you know, I'm all for ADF&G and
20 their regulation, but I question some of their actions,
21 you know, we really feel it in Cold Bay, probably the
22 only place that I feel it and I think everybody else
23 does that's a subsistence fisherman. They closed
24 Mortensens Lagoon down to subsistence fishermen and
25 left it open for sportfishing, unless I'm wrong on that
26 but I'm pretty sure I'm not, and we get hundreds of
27 people that come in, you know, through Anchorage and go
28 down and sportfish there and so they're catching a
29 tremendous amount of fish out of there and the
30 subsistence people are not able to go and catch their
31 fish and we've been fishing Mortensens Lagoon for 50
32 years that I could remember in my lifetime for
33 subsistence, so they closed that down, I think it was
34 last year for subsistence and so I think it's
35 conservation but to leave it open for sportfishermen, I
36 think ADF&G needs to follow the regulation too on
37 priority where the subsistence users are, you know,
38 above the sportsfishermen. So I think they need to get
39 in line on how that works and I think they should be
40 giving the subsistence fishermen priority over
41 sportfishing.

42
43 So that's all I have to say, I don't
44 want to prolong this anymore.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
47 There was a lady starting to make a comment.

48
49 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, it was Rebecca.
50

0073

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rebecca,
2 go ahead.

3
4 MS. SKINNER: Yep, thank you. So a
5 couple of things and then a suggestion. I just wanted
6 to clarify that we -- it was noticed to the public that
7 as a RAC we were going to discuss and have the
8 opportunity to propose regulatory changes related to
9 fisheries. So there's no question in my mind that that
10 was properly noticed and, in fact, that's one of the
11 big things that we're going to do at this meeting, this
12 particular meeting. My caution, as far as what was not
13 noticed to the public, was getting into a significant
14 RAC discussion about the pros and cons of the specific
15 fishery closure reviews because that was not on the
16 agenda well in advance, and there's no materials as
17 part of the packet, and so I would be concerned if we
18 were having significant RAC discussion about whether
19 the closures should be rescinded or not and getting
20 into a lot of detail.

21
22 I do acknowledge that that's probably a
23 very awkward and fine distinction because the proposals
24 we might be talking about, you know, are related to the
25 closure reviews. But I did just want to clarify that
26 those are two different things, they're going to be two
27 different RAC actions. So the RAC can take action to
28 propose regulatory changes; in the fall the RAC will
29 take action to, you know -- you know on the closure
30 reviews, to recommend one of the four options that
31 Jarred went over. So that's comment one.

32
33 The suggestion is, and I don't know if
34 you need a motion to this but I would suggest that we
35 table the regulatory discus -- the regulatory changes
36 discussion until at least tomorrow and that will give
37 some opportunity for some offline discussions to
38 develop some actual regulatory language if any RAC
39 members want to propose, you know, put some language
40 together for the RAC to consider as far as a proposed
41 regulation. Because I think that that's going to be a
42 more efficient development process to do offline as
43 opposed to trying to do it in the middle of the
44 meeting. So if it is appropriate and you need a motion
45 I'd be happy to move to table this particular item
46 until tomorrow.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: I'll second that.

49
50

0074

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Rebecca I'm
2 going to assume that's a motion since Pat seconded it.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MS. SKINNER: Yep.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All
11 right. We have a motion made and second. Discussion.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
16 discussion.

17
18 MS. CHERNOFF: No, I guess -- this is
19 Coral.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Coral.

22
23 MS. CHERNOFF: I don't have discussion
24 particularly on this motion but I still -- I was
25 waiting to make comment still.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Do you
28 want to go ahead and make that comment now before we
29 vote on this, Coral?

30
31 MS. CHERNOFF: No. No, I think we can
32 vote on it and then I'll just make another comment.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All
35 right. All in favor signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
40 sign.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
45 We will table this until tomorrow. Now, Coral, do you
46 have a comment.

47
48 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess my comment
49 is I -- it seems like there's really still this sort
50

0075

1 of, I don't know how much lack of understanding there
2 is over these closures and I don't know how we can
3 clear up that before we come to our next meeting.
4 There seems to be confusion.

5
6 And then I guess I have a little
7 confusion, too, in when we're talking about if this --
8 let me look at my notes -- so if this gets rescinded we
9 keep sort of jumping over -- we do say if there's no
10 regulations then it goes to sports regs, but we're all
11 in areas where we all have subsistence so I'm not under
12 -- so my understanding is why do we keep jumping over
13 that then we go right into whatever our subsistence
14 regulations are for our area. So I think then there
15 seems to cause this panic that we jump right over into
16 -- then it'll -- then we'll go right into method and
17 means and times and what do you call, how many you
18 keep, limits, then we'll go into sport but we keep
19 skipping over the fact that we all do have subsistence
20 areas with subsistence rulings. So I think that's
21 causing a little bit of confusion and if somebody wants
22 to address that maybe we can address that.

23
24 Because I know when I look in the
25 Kodiak area, of course, we have subsistence take of
26 salmon in our area so I'm assuming that we would just
27 go right into that and we may have -- nope, outside of
28 that area we have customary and traditional -- some you
29 might have customary and traditional use determinations
30 already in the area, so I guess that, to me, is causing
31 some lack of understanding.

32
33 And then I think if people want to go
34 back to what they're doing on this Board, we're
35 representing subsistence and the kind of upholding of
36 the Title VIII, which gives subsistence priority, so
37 I'm not quite understanding -- it seems like that's
38 kind of a no-brainer that all of that probably today,
39 if that's what we are to do, is to uphold these
40 subsistence priorities we could all just go ahead and
41 vote to rescind all these today because that's kind of
42 what we're here to -- sports is already open in all
43 these areas and subsistence is not and so that seems
44 like a no-brainer to me, and then in the fall just --
45 we look at whether -- how our local subsistence applies
46 to these areas and if it's not sufficient then work on
47 proposals that gets submitted in addition to these.

48
49 And so that's all my comments and then
50

0076

1 if anybody would like to comment about, I guess, my
2 perception of why we just kind of keep jumping over the
3 -- we have subsistence in our area and how would that
4 apply if these are rescinded. I think that might
5 be.....

6
7 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Madame Chair.

8
9 MS. CHERNOFF:a helpful
10 (indiscernible - cuts out)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
13 Coral. Is that you Katya.

14
15 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, no, this is.....

16
17 MS. WESSELS: No, it wasn't me, Madame
18 Chair.

19
20 MS. GREDIAGIN:Lisa Grediagin
21 with OSM. I'm the Wildlife Division Supervisor. But
22 we deal with the same closure review issues on the
23 wildlife side. So I would just like to respond to
24 Coral's question because I think the Council has gotten
25 a little confused on how rescinding the closures work.

26
27 And so if there's a closure under
28 Federal regulations that's to all users, so there's no
29 harvest limit or season under Federal regulations, but
30 the Board -- the Council recommends rescinding that
31 closure to everyone, then there are still no Federal
32 regulations but then because there is no closure --
33 Federal closure anymore then everyone can still fish
34 under the State regulations. So I think that's where a
35 little confusion came when people were saying revert to
36 the State regulations, is just because there is no
37 longer a Federal closure in place then people can fish
38 or hunt under the State regulations but there would
39 still need to be a Federal proposal to establish the
40 harvest limit and season under the Federal regulations.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

43
44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I think if
47 you look into the fisheries closure review in our
48 minutes it basically says Mr. Stone gave an update on
49 the outreach effort and that all of these were deferred
50

0077

1 by the Federal Subsistence Board from the last
2 fisheries regulatory cycle at the request of the
3 Council, and that was for the purpose of trying to have
4 public meetings and Advisory Council meetings, but
5 we're actually now going into the second year of this
6 process and we still have not made headway. So that's
7 basically the next issue. If the Council makes a
8 decision to ask to have those lifted as a whole and try
9 to determine what the process would be for a proposal
10 or, you know, what exactly -- you know, what would
11 happen if we agreed at this point to recommend to the
12 Federal Board that those closures be lifted.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hello.

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is
19 Lisa. And, yeah, I would have to defer to Jarred or
20 Scott for the specifics of those closures because I'm
21 just, yeah, more familiar with the process and the
22 wildlife regulations, but, yeah, it would depend
23 whether there's -- I mean, yeah, I guess I would think
24 you would still need to submit a proposal to establish
25 the harvest limit and season under the Federal
26 regulations if it's currently a closure to all users.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
29 is Katya.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

32

33 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I just wanted to let
34 the Council members know and the public, that the
35 information on the fisheries closure reviews that the
36 Council addressed during the fall of 2020 for the first
37 time, and that the Council decided to defer is actually
38 now on the Council meeting materials page, it's
39 supplemental material No. 3, and if you click on that
40 link there is information on the first seven closure
41 reviews that the Council addressed in 2020.

42

43 That's all, thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

46

47 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, this is.....

48

49 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair.....

50

0078

1 MR. STONE:Jarred.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Jarred.

4

5 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
6 guess I would just maybe caution the Council in making
7 a broad sweep in rescinding all of them as sort of a
8 package. You know the previous cycle we had Staff do
9 the analysis on the first seven of the closure reviews,
10 and the upcoming new closure reviews for this next
11 cycle have not had Staff analysis yet and so I just
12 want to preface that by saying I -- as a Council I
13 would recommend maybe only considering those first
14 seven since there's available information surrounding
15 those fisheries.

16

17 Thank you, Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
20 Jared. That's what I was recommending. For some
21 reason I've got a letter from you and then I've got
22 seven pieces of document that says Federal Subsistence
23 Board public comment opportunity and it's all the same
24 page so I don't know -- which is fine, I got lots of
25 copies -- but, anyway, I think maybe as a
26 recommendation, we've all contributed to this
27 discussion and a recommendation, or a motion was made
28 by Rebecca and seconded by Pat, to keep this on the
29 agenda but to maybe look at it tomorrow.

30

31 So it was a lot of information for
32 everybody and maybe we kind of just think about all of
33 this between now and then and definitely have it on the
34 agenda before we close our meeting. Would that be
35 appropriate -- maybe the last item on the agenda after
36 agency reports, that way we've got everybody's report
37 to help with making any kind of decision.

38

39 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, that makes sense to
40 me Della, this is Rebecca.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And I
43 guess maybe given that it is noon, so if we break for
44 lunch, what does everybody want to come back at 1:00,
45 does that work for everybody or 1:15.

46

47 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, that works for me,
48 1:00.

49

50

0079

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All
2 right, maybe we break for lunch and everybody be back
3 at 1:15 and good discussion. Okay, thank you all.

4
5 (Off record)

6
7 (On record)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hi, this is
10 Della. Katya, could we get a count of Council members,
11 please.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Katya, are you
16 online.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I wonder if she
21 maybe thought 1:15, I don't know.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Hello.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hi.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Hello.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, is that
30 you.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, can you
35 hear me.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hello.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is anybody
44 online.

45
46 REPORTER: I'm on here Della.

47
48 MR. PRICE: I'm here Della.

49
50

0080

1 MS. HAYDEN: This is Natasha.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I think
4 we're waiting for Staff, maybe they thought we were
5 going at 1:15.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Should we
10 do a tentative call on who's here for the record.
11 Let's go ahead and do that.

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Yes, we can do that,
14 Madame Chair. Yes, I'll do the roll call. Pat Holmes,
15 are you on.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Here.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

20

21 Rick Koso, are you back.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. WESSELS: Okay, we can get back

26

Rick.

27

28 Sam Rohrer, are you on.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MS. WESSELS: Okay, it looks like he's
33 not on either.

34

35 Chris Price, are you back.

36

37 MR. PRICE: Here. I'm here.

38

39 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

40

41 Coral Chernoff.

42

43 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

46

47 Rebecca Skinner.

48

49 MS. SKINNER: Here.

50

0081

1 MS. WESSELS: Della. Natasha Hayden.

2

3 MS. HAYDEN: Here.

4

5 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. So we have,
6 let's see, six out of eight members present, Della, so
7 we have a quorum. I will ask again if Rick Koso or Sam
8 Rohrer rejoined the meeting.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MS. WESSELS: It doesn't look like
13 they're back on yet. So you may proceed if you would
14 like, Madame Chair, or we can wait another few minutes.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can kind of
17 start and proceed. Maybe, just for the record I'd call
18 for any public or tribal comments. Is there anybody
19 online that would like to speak to that. And just a
20 reminder, that that option is open, and if you would
21 like to speak just let me know.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Jarred, are
26 you online.

27

28 MR. STONE: Yes, Madame Chair, this is
29 Jarred, I am online.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
32 Jarred. Just maybe before we close out I just have a
33 couple questions in regard to our last discussion.

34

35 No. 1 on the call for fish and
36 shellfish proposals and also the fisheries closure
37 reviews.

38

39 Just so we're all clear, because I have
40 to be honest with you, I've been through this I don't
41 know how many times and I still get confused and that
42 may just be the case with me forever, I can blame it on
43 age. But can you tell me, and maybe the State can also
44 answer in regard to this. Let's start with the
45 fisheries closure review.

46

47 If we look at those, and I'm looking
48 specifically at Russell and Nurse Lagoon. Now, on
49 these, for consideration, these are State subsistence
50

0082

1 closures, does the Federal government -- can the
2 Federal government set a subsistence fishery for those
3 waters or are they all under State jurisdiction?

4

5 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
6 So to my understanding the waters are under both
7 Federal and State jurisdiction. So there is a Federal
8 fisheries closure for Federal subsistence users. And
9 to my knowledge some of these fisheries are closed as
10 well for State subsistence as well. Where it's awkward
11 is that there are State sportfishing regulations that
12 allow people to participate in those waters.

13

14 Does that answer your question.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It does. And I
17 wanted to make sure we're clear on that. And then
18 there was, I think, another question, I don't think I
19 wrote it down -- so if we were to create some sort of
20 proposal -- and I'll talk to Rick -- I'll talk to Rick
21 after we break, later, in regards to that. Does
22 anybody else have another question -- any other
23 questions on this before we.....

24

25 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Della, this is
26 Rebecca.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Go
29 ahead, Rebecca.

30

31 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. So the
32 question that I have for clarification, you -- in your
33 presentation you made it clear that if the fisheries
34 closures are rescinded, if there is not Federal
35 regulations in place then the default set of
36 regulations will be State sportfishing. That made
37 sense to me, as far as at least understanding what's
38 the basic, you know, floor that we're looking at. But
39 over lunch I went in and looked at the regulations just
40 for the Kodiak area for the Buskin closure to see, you
41 know, with the language of the regulation, how would
42 this work, and it looks like for the Buskin area, at
43 any rate, to remove -- if the closure were rescinded,
44 the paragraph having to do with the Buskin closure
45 would be removed and the general subsistence
46 regulations that otherwise apply to the Kodiak area
47 would then go into place because the Buskin closure was
48 basically an extra rule that was put in, so if you
49 remove the extra rule then, you know, the regular
50

0083

1 subsistence rules apply. If that were the case it
2 looked like to me that there wouldn't be a need to fall
3 back to the State's sport regulations because there
4 actually would be Federal subsistence regulations
5 already in place.

6
7 So I guess it's a two part question.

8
9 One is, do you know, for each of the
10 seven areas that have already been analyzed whether
11 there are Federal regulations that would go -- that
12 would serve as that fallback or not, and then if you do
13 have that answer, do you have or is it possible to
14 quickly get kind of a summary of what those regulations
15 would be.

16
17 So I mean I can do that, I can look
18 through the regulations but I barely had time at lunch
19 just to find the Buskin one because depending on what
20 the response is we may or may not need to do
21 additional, you know, proposed regulatory language at
22 this meeting. We may be satisfied that, okay, if it
23 just falls back to the Federal subsistence regs for
24 whatever area we're talking about, that that's fine and
25 we're comfortable with that. But at this point I think
26 we just --we don'tknow thestatus for eachof theseareas.

27
28 So that was a very long-winded question
29 but did that make sense?

30
31 MR. STONE: Thank you, Council Member
32 Ms. Skinner. Yes, it does. I think right now the
33 Council is at sort of a crossroads in trying to decide
34 what to do with these closure reviews. And I would ask
35 that I work with my team quickly and try to get this
36 answer for you so that when we circle back to having
37 the idea of crafting proposals we have a clear answer
38 for you so that we're not having your Council generate
39 proposals that are maybe not necessary if it's, indeed,
40 just maybe rescinding the closures is going to be ample
41 for moving forward.

42
43 Again, I need to probably sit down and
44 work with our folks in-house and just make sure I have
45 a perfectly clear response for that.

46
47 MS. SKINNER: Okay, yeah, that -- that
48 makes sense. Thank you. Thank you, Madame Chair.

49
50

0084

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Rebecca. Any other question or comments before we move
3 on.

4
5 MS. FOX: Madame Chair, this is Lisa
6 Fox with Fish and Game.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Lisa.

9
10 MS. FOX: I just wanted to address a
11 question that Coral had had earlier and this is a super
12 complicated topic, even within the Department and it
13 sounds like there's a lot of confusion all around.

14
15 But one of the questions that had come
16 up was where does the State subsistence fishery kind of
17 fit into it. And so I guess there's the State sport
18 fishery in the freshwater and then the State
19 subsistence fishery, at least in the areas that I
20 manage, which is the South Alaska Peninsula and the
21 Aleutian Islands, those subsistence fisheries are all
22 in the salt water, and for the State sportfishery,
23 that's rod and reel, and for the State subsistence
24 fishery is gillnet. So two different gear types and
25 two different areas within the water.

26
27 And so if the Federal closures were
28 rescinded, the State sportfishery would be in effect,
29 and the State subsistence fishery with gillnet in the
30 saltwater would be in effect still.

31
32 So I just wanted to clarify that a
33 little bit.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And,
36 Lisa, can you help me with this, if you look at that
37 list, using basically Russell Creek and Nurse Lagoon,
38 on the closures on 21-13, weren't those implemented by
39 the State -- are those State regulations?

40
41 MS. FOX: So, Madame Chair, those are
42 the State regulations for using subsistence gillnet
43 gear and not for where the sportfisheries are. And
44 that's kind of the confusing part, is each one of these
45 systems, you know, is a case by case scenario. So like
46 in Unalaska it says -- in Iliuliuk, it says that that's
47 open to sportfishing but it's actually closed to all
48 salmon fishing, it's just for trout fishing in
49 Unalaska. And then in Russell Creek, it doesn't have
50

0085

1 any of the areas that are open for gillnet fishing for
2 subsistence. So there's kind of a part of the picture
3 that's missing in each one of these -- each one of
4 these graphics. And we're happy to go through each of
5 those on a case by case basis from the State side and
6 Tyler's going to talk a little bit about this later on
7 when he gives his presentation. I just wanted to try
8 to clarify a little bit of the State subsistence versus
9 sport and then Federal kind of the question.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
12 Thank you, that helps.

13

14 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It sounds like,
17 go ahead, Rick, Rick you're online now.

18

19 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I got cut off, I don't
20 know what happened. Anyway, a question for Lisa on
21 that subsistence sportfishing in Cold Bay there. I know
22 that you put some markers up on the creek, on the beach
23 going up toward the head of Cold Bay, I think it's 500
24 yard closures there for subsistence fishing but it was
25 open to sportfishing, but outside of those markers
26 there I think it was legal to do subsistence fishing.
27 Is that right or am I missing something?

28

29 MS. FOX: Yeah, through the Chair.
30 Rick. Yeah, that's kind of a complicated one, too, in
31 Cold Bay, that Swan Lake Creek has been kind of a hot
32 topic the last couple of years. That stream has had a
33 lot of sockeye salmon harvested from out around in
34 front of it near the mouth but that stream is actually
35 not in the anadromous catalog so it doesn't fall under
36 some of the regulations we have for the State and we're
37 trying to clean that up. Tyler's going to talk about
38 this a little bit later too, but we have a couple
39 proposals to kind of clean up some of the issues that
40 have been going on up at Swan Lake Creek.

41

42 But, yes, it was open to subsistence
43 fishing and we didn't have any closures at all for
44 subsistence fishing. There's just another complicated
45 regulation and I hate to make it even more confusing
46 but in the Alaska Peninsula area the subsistence
47 fisheries closures get tied in with the commercial
48 fishery closures and we're also going to submit a
49 proposal to try to clean that up so it only pertains to
50

0086

1 people who have a commercial fishery permit and not
2 just the general public. But, yeah, the subsistence
3 fishing was open and that's for the State, that's with
4 gillnet gear, so just outside of the markers residents
5 could put up a gillnet and put up fish with that
6 method, but not with rod and reel for State. As the
7 regulations stand right now that's not a -- that's not
8 a gear type that's allowed in the Alaska Peninsula
9 area, but sportfishing was allowed and subsistence
10 fishing was allowed right there.

11

12 MR. KOSO: Thank you, Lisa.

13

14 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
17 Rebecca.

18

19 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. I just wanted
20 to get clarification on something that, again, may
21 influence how the Council moves forward with whether to
22 propose new regulations at this meeting. So my
23 question for clarification is, in areas that are --
24 that have both -- or I guess are subject to both State
25 and Federal jurisdiction as Jarred had clarified,
26 Russell Lagoon fit into that, if the State regulations
27 are more stringent or limiting than the Federal
28 subsistence regulations, if a closure is rescinded -- I
29 just want to clarify, I guess, my understanding that in
30 that case, the more liberal Federal subsistence
31 regulations would control for that area, provided if,
32 you know, a Federal subsistence user engaging in
33 Federal subsistence, can -- can we just get
34 clarification whether that's the case or not.

35

36 Thanks.

37

38 MR. STONE: Through the Chair.

39

40 MS. FOX: Oh, go ahead Jarred.

41

42 MR. STONE: Well, I was just going to
43 say I don't know the answer to that off -- shooting off
44 the top of my head but maybe, Lisa, maybe you do.

45

46 MS. FOX: Yeah, this is Lisa Fox with
47 Fish and Game. My understanding from the discussion
48 and from what I read is that if the Federal closure
49 review decides to rescind the closures in freshwaters
50

0087

1 then there wouldn't be a Federal subsistence fishery
2 until a proposal was submitted to define what that
3 would look like, but the State sportfishery would
4 continue as it is and the State subsistence fishery
5 would continue as it is.

6
7 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I think that that
8 didn't.....

9
10 MS. FOX: So in order to.....

11
12 MS. SKINNER:yeah, that didn't
13 actually.....

14
15 MS. FOX:in order to increase the
16 Federal.....

17
18 MS. SKINNER:get to my.....

19
20 MS. FOX:subsistence.....

21
22 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, that didn't
23 actually get to my.....

24
25 MS. FOX: Well.....

26
27 REPORTER: Okay, I need just one at a
28 time please.

29
30 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thank you. But I
31 think that you do raise a good point. And this is
32 something that we asked Jarred to try to get some
33 clarification on, that, if the closures are rescinded,
34 whether the fallback is the general Federal subsistence
35 regulations that are already in place for the area, or
36 whether new regulations need to be, you know, proposed
37 and promulgated. So at this point it seems like that's
38 an open question. So we've heard two different
39 perspectives on that. But I do think Jarred's going to
40 clarify that.

41
42 My specific question was if it's just
43 really -- if there's State and Federal jurisdiction and
44 the Federal regulations are more liberal as far as
45 subsistence harvest those -- that's what applies to
46 Federal subsistence users, and I'm looking for either
47 yes, that's the case, or no, that's not the case. And
48 the reason I ask is I swear I read it in the Federal
49 subsistence book, the summary regulation book for fish
50

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1 and shellfish and I'm trying to where I read it but I
2 haven't been able to find it again yet.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

MS. FOX: Through the Chair. Again,
7 this is Lisa Fox. I believe that if you -- if there
8 were a Federal subsistence fishery and you were
9 Federally-qualified and had a permit, you could fill
10 your Federal subsistence permit and if you had a
11 sportfishing license you could also go State
12 sportfishing, which is part of the complication of this
13 issue.

14

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MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

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MR. KOSO: All right, thanks, Lisa.

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1 MS. FOX: You're welcome.

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3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
4 questions or comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess hearing
9 none, thank you, Lisa. Yeah, boy there's a lot to all
10 of this. So Jarred's going to do all his homework
11 and.....

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:have all
16 the answers for us tomorrow. Go ahead.

17

18 MS. LAVINE: This is Robbin. And I do
19 hope to work closely with Jarred in preparation for
20 this discussion tomorrow. I think that would be a
21 wonderful way to tackle this during this meeting, is to
22 let Staff regroup and review and also to remind
23 ourselves of some of the options that you may have. So
24 while we are trying to recognize what would happen if
25 you did lift a closure, some of these closures, what
26 regulations would be in place when that is done. In
27 some cases there could be minimal regulations which are
28 good enough for now and then you can recommend changes
29 during the next fisheries regulatory cycle. Some
30 though, if you lift the closure, could potential be
31 detrimental to some of these watersheds, some of these
32 fisheries. And I think those ones, those potentially
33 detrimental regulations to vulnerable fisheries, are
34 the ones you want to get ahead of so we'll be looking
35 into those between now and tomorrow.

36

37 I do want to flag for your
38 consideration that if we -- if we move forward and find
39 that you don't make any proposals to change regulations
40 this cycle and you review the closures in the fall,
41 let's say you suggest to rescind the closures, if you
42 think there would be helpful regulations to put in
43 place after that rescinding, you can propose special
44 actions, so you can put some temporary regulations in
45 place until the next call for proposals. So that is
46 something I want to remind you that you would have,
47 that's an option, a tool that you will have. And the
48 Staff will work together between now and tomorrow
49 morning to make sure we have some clear guidance and
50

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1 messaging for you.

2

3

Thank you, Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you. Yeah, this is.....

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MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is.....

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Is this Coral.

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MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. I just want to say that I wanted to thank Rebecca for looking through her book and sort of restating what I stated before, which was it seems like we already do have subsistence in place and to me that has always looked like that's what we would fall back on. So I guess, that, in looking to what Robbin was just saying, I'm not sure what they're going to look into but I think the one thing we definitely ask for in all these areas, do we have a subsistence already in place that this could fall back on to. I think that's the only question unless somebody else wants to -- unless Rebecca wants to say again what she was asking for, but I think that was kind of really -- yeah, before even putting in any proposals or anything, we first need to know what will happen if we rescind the Kodiak area, we already have subsistence in the Kodiak area, does that just fall under it. To me it looks like it does but I guess other people might see it a different way. So that's what we need clarification on. And then if we want to go about changing other things then we can decide.

35

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39

But, yeah, I just wanted to clarify that. That is one thing we were definitely asking for in each of these areas, is do we already have subsistence in place once we rescind because then the issue is not complicated at all.

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And I don't think -- and I guess I'll just say, too, I don't think this issue is complicated at all in already that if there's sportfishing already open in these areas and we have Title VIII in place and that's part of our duties, this Subsistence Board, is to uphold subsistence rights, to me it's kind of a no-brainer to kind of rescind these.

So that's all I have to say, thank you.

0091

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
2 Maybe we'll go -- maybe just as a thought we can bring
3 this up first thing in the morning, that way whatever
4 discussion is brought to our attention, we have a
5 little bit of time to think of before we close, if
6 there's any proposals that we want to put in place,
7 would be a recommendation.

8
9 So hold on a second.

10
11 (Pause)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, sorry
14 about that. Sam, did you get online.

15
16 MR. ROHRER: Yes, Della, sorry I was
17 like a minute late dialing in but, yep, I've been here
18 the whole time listening.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
21 All right, I guess maybe at this point we could move
22 on. Thank you everybody for the discussion. It's
23 pretty healthy and it doesn't look like it's an easy
24 one but every little bit we learn helps making a
25 decision.

26
27 So the next item on the agenda says
28 call for nonrural determination proposal, Jason
29 Roberts.

30
31 MR. ROBERTS: Hi, thank you, Madame
32 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Jason
33 Roberts, new Anthropologist here at the Office of
34 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. And as I get
35 under way one of my key priorities will be working on
36 subsistence issues with the Kodiak/Aleutian region and
37 the Southcentral region. But today I'm here to provide
38 a brief overview of the current call for proposals for
39 nonrural determination in Federal regulations and this
40 is an action item, but these materials are not in your
41 Council book.

42
43 A nonrural determination is the process
44 for formally changing in Federal regulations a
45 community's status from nonrural to rural or from rural
46 to nonrural. This is the second call for proposals for
47 nonrural determinations since 2018. Any valid nonrural
48 determination proposals submitted this year will be
49 acted on by the Board in 2025. So the call for
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1 nonrural determination proposals occurs every four
2 years concurrent with every other fisheries regulatory
3 cycle. So the next call for proposals for nonrural
4 determinations will be in 2026.

5

6 As you just heard from our colleagues
7 in the Fisheries Division, the call for proposals has
8 not yet published due to a lengthy clearance process in
9 Washington. When it gets published the public comment
10 proposal to change rural or nonrural regulations will
11 be open for at least 30 days.

12

13 There's a flier on our website on how
14 to submit proposals to change nonrural determinations.
15 The flier includes information on where to submit a
16 proposal and lists items a proposal must contain to be
17 accepted for consideration by the Board. The website
18 address is www.doi.gov/subsistence/faqs. This flier
19 can be found near the bottom of the frequently asked
20 questions page. Additional information should soon to
21 be published proposed rule for the 2023 to 2025
22 subsistence fish and shellfish proposed rule.

23

24 And, again, this is an action item so
25 thank you very much for your attention and me, and my
26 colleagues from OSM will try to answer your questions
27 if you have any.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
30 there any questions or comments.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
35 Hearing none, we'll go ahead and move on, thank you.

36

37 Next item on the agenda, review and
38 approve FY2021 annual report. Katya. That is Tab 5.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Sorry I had myself on
41 mute, I apologize for that. Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 Members of the Council. The Council developed topics
43 for the annual report during their fall meeting. The
44 draft annual report is located in Tab No. 5 of your
45 meeting materials and it is also available online on
46 our website. At this point we just will open the floor
47 to the Council members to see if there is any
48 additions, changes, edits to the current draft and
49 after that we would entertain a motion from the Council

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1 to approve this annual report to be submitted to the
2 Federal Subsistence Board.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
7 Katya. Are there any comments, questions in regard to
8 the draft report.

9

10 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair, this is
11 Rebecca.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
14 Rebecca.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. I think
17 it's just a typo under Item No. 5, the invasive
18 species.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

21

22 MS. SKINNER: The second to the last
23 line where it says, in going forward we would like to
24 see a FRMP project to eradicate, either remove the
25 word, A, or take the S off of projects.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.

28

29 MR. PRICE: Hi, this is Chris, I had a
30 comment on the food security, No. 3.

31

32 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.

35

36 MR. PRICE: The way it reads is pretty
37 general. I'm assuming that means you're referring to
38 the entire region when you're talking about -- yeah, it
39 says, region, but, you know, Unalaska, particularly is
40 having some challenges, you know, with our food
41 security and subsistence at this time. I just wanted
42 to mention that.

43

44 MS. WESSELS: So may I clarify, would
45 you like to add Unalaska specifically to this topic.

46

47 MR. PRICE: I mean if that would be
48 okay with the Chair, but, you know, I would -- I
49 wouldn't mind if it was mentioned specifically.

50

0094

1 Because we write it in to a lot of our grants
2 currently.

3

4 MS. WESSELS: What does the rest of the
5 Council think.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Basically this
8 is overall for the Kodiak and Aleutians, the food
9 security. I guess I'm a little bit confused, Chris,
10 about what you're asking.

11

12 MR. PRICE: Maybe we could just write
13 in Kodiak/Aleutians region, it just says region, but I
14 just want to make the point that we have a number of
15 food security issues that we've been addressing over
16 the last two years and would like, you know, to make
17 sure that that's understood here. That's all.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Okay. We can certainly
20 add -- yeah, we can certainly add specifically that
21 instead of saying affected food security in our region,
22 we can say affected food security in the
23 Kodiak/Aleutian region, if you would like that to be
24 added there.

25

26 MR. PRICE: Okay.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: We can do that if that is
29 satisfactory for you.

30

31 MR. PRICE: Yeah, I'd appreciate that.
32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I think --
37 go ahead, Pat.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: On Item 1, level of
40 Staffing in Refuges in our region and at the Office of
41 Subsistence Management, and at OSM. I think that's
42 very good. It would be good to have a short sentence
43 in there, at the end it says the Units 9 and 10 have
44 been Federal special actions have -- have been Federal
45 special actions recently and the caribou populations
46 and subsistence uses should be closely monitored so
47 that the importance of the resource and other
48 subsistence resources can be sustained and subsistence
49 can be maintained. Somewhere in there there should be

50

0095

1 a statement, because of the shortages that we've had,
2 Staff shortages -- Staff shortages have resulted in
3 annual surveys of critical subsistence species not
4 being completed. And I believe that's happened in
5 Kodiak as well as Izembek.

6
7 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Is the rest of the
8 Council okay with Pat's suggestion to add a sentence
9 that because of the Staff shortages annual surveys have
10 not been completed?

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I don't have a
13 problem, that sounds good.

14
15 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
18 comments or additions.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I think
23 we're good.

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Okay, Della -- Madame
26 Chair, we need to have a motion to approve this annual
27 report.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Do I hear
30 a motion to approve the FY2021 annual report as
31 amended.

32
33 MR. ROHRER: Della, this is Sam,
34 I'll.....

35
36 MS. SKINNER: I'll make that motion.

37
38 MR. ROHRER:make the motion.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, motion
41 made by Sam, is there a second.

42
43 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Rebecca will
44 second.

45
46 MR. PRICE: Second, Chris.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rebecca
49 second and Chris, but I heard Rebecca first.

50

0096

1 Discussion.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question. All
6 in favor signify by saying aye.

7

8

IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
11 sign.

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(No opposing votes)

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
Okay, moving on, Item F, Federal Subsistence Board
annual report reply process review and revision,
discussion and Council comments and feedback. Robbin
LaVine.

MS. LAVINE: Good afternoon, Madame
Chair and members of the Council. For the record my
name is Robbin LaVine and I'm the Subsistence Policy
Coordinator at OSM. Before I jump into my talking
points, I just want to let you all know how grateful I
am for your service and your volunteering and your
expertise and I love working with this Council. I know
it's hard, I miss seeing you all face to face. I just
wanted to let you know that.

This is an action item.

During the Federal Subsistence Board's
August 2021 work session, the InterAgency Staff
Committee briefed the Board on the annual report reply
process and possible revisions to improve
responsiveness to Regional Advisory Councils. This ISC
briefing is part of a larger ISC effort to improve
workload efficiencies within the Federal Subsistence
Management Program. The Board reviewed and discussed
the report reply process and agreed to forward this
topic on, to you, the Councils, for your input on the
suggested revisions, including possible ideas of your
own.

As you are aware, ANILCA Section .805
authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual report
containing information related to important subsistence
resource issues within their regions. These reports

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1 are invaluable as they provide the Board with a broad
2 holistic picture of local resource conditions and the
3 most up to date subsistence issues facing communities
4 across rural Alaska. With this knowledge the Board can
5 make informed decisions.

6
7 Historically, the Board has strived to
8 provide responses to every topic listed in annual
9 reports regardless of its authority to address the
10 issue raised. However, it's unclear if Board responses
11 on all annual report topics are helpful to the Councils
12 while also taking considerable Staff time to complete.
13 The ISC has suggested process revisions.

14
15 1. To maintain annual reports as a way
16 to inform the Board of local conditions, issues and
17 needs, and

18
19 2. They propose that letter writing be
20 a way to request a response from the Board on topics of
21 concern.

22
23 We do recognize that Councils already
24 write letters to the Board and to other agencies
25 outside of the annual report process. Under the ISC
26 scenario the only change is how the Board responds to
27 issues within your annual report. This change might
28 allow for more substantive and timely responses from
29 the Board on topics of critical concern to the Council,
30 for example, a separate letter requesting Board
31 response could be written and submitted to the Board
32 more quickly than including the issue in the annual
33 report as the annual report requires a longer time for
34 both preparation of the report as well as for
35 preparations of the Board's response.

36
37 So these suggested revisions are not
38 intended to diminish the ability of the Councils to
39 communicate with the Board. The Board relies upon your
40 knowledge and expertise and annual reports are a way to
41 ensure the Board remains up to date on important
42 developments in your region.

43
44 To that end, we are asking you to think
45 about what you want from the Board in response to your
46 annual report. To help guide your discussion I suggest
47 we first; we're going to review the ISC's suggestions;
48 2, we can open the floor to questions and Council
49 discussions, and, then; 3, ask you to take action
50

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1 developing your comments to forward to the Board.

2

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4 So I'll start with step one and review
5 the ISC's suggestions and those are: annual reports
6 remain as a means to keep the Board informed of
7 important conditions, issues and needs, and letter
8 writing is proposed as a way to request Board response
9 on important topics and concerns.

9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair and members of
11 the Council. I'm ready for your questions and your
12 comments.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do I hear any
15 questions or comments for Robbin.

16

17

(No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
20 Robbin, do you have -- are you.....

21

22 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
23 Robbin.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair and members
28 of the Council. We actually did bring this up at your
29 fall meeting and I gave a bit of a briefing and there
30 was actually a pretty good discussion and some of the
31 Council members, while I can't summarize, but you
32 provided feedback on this, you know, your -- if I
33 recall your comments were interested in the process and
34 acknowledging the challenges that the Board faces when
35 reviewing your annual reports and recognizing that
36 there are issues on your reports the Board has no
37 authority to address, I mean other than to say, wow,
38 that is so important because we understand it affects
39 your subsistence way of life, so, again, it serves to
40 inform the Board more than the Board can actually
41 respond on some of those issues.

42

43 I remember that this Council was kind
44 of open to these suggestions but that's all I can say.

45

46 If the Council does not feel strongly
47 about a discussion today you can also suggest we review
48 the transcript and forward those comments to the Board.

49

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1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

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3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Robbin,
5 maybe help me out a little bit here today. I know we
6 discussed this a little bit the other day. You're
7 saying, in regard to the RACs report, annual report, if
8 we are looking at something like using migratory birds
9 as an example, and it's in our letter to the Federal
10 Board, that we shouldn't be using that, but that those
11 are issues that pertain to subsistence that are outside
12 of our purview so to speak but when we need assistance,
13 are you basically saying we shouldn't be doing that --
14 what exactly are you saying?

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MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. First I'm
saying that every single issue that you feel impacts
your subsistence way of life and the resources that you
depend on in your region should absolutely be in the
annual report, all of it. It's -- it is really
important for our Federal Subsistence Management
Program to really understand all the different context
and, you know, regulatory and management complexities
that impact you, we can only address a small arena and
that's fish and wildlife regulations and we defer to
you in circumstances of take. What -- so that won't
change, and please don't change any of the information
you share with us, it's really, really important.
Again, it helps all of us to be informed and all of us
to better understand what you're working with in your
regions.

We're looking at the process of
replies. So in the fall, right now what you're doing
is you're confirming your annual report and you're
going to send it to the Board and in our -- usually in
our summer work session, the reports -- all the reports
are presented to the Board members, the Board members
read them and the Staff listens and reads them and from
there, we also, develop replies, or at that time they
confirm replies. Not all the replies can be useful.
Title VIII of ANILCA, Section .805 requires as part of
your authority of your Councils to forward reports to
the Board, but it doesn't require the Board to respond.
We have consistently responded because, of course, we
value your annual reports. What we are interested in
is the utility of that response, and then we're asking,
rather, forward the annual reports and, you know, we
present them to the Board and the Board says thank you
so much and the Staff says thank you so much, this is

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1 really important it'll help us track issues across the
2 state of Alaska, but we don't give you individual
3 responses. If you want individual issue responses, you
4 can write a letter, you can say Board take action, this
5 was in our annual report, and now it's in a letter,
6 please respond to us. And I think that's what the ISC
7 is recommending.

8

9 Thank you, Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Thank
12 you, Katya [sic]. Are there any questions or comments
13 for Katya in regard to this item.

14

15 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
16 is Rebecca.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
19 Rebecca.

20

21 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. I think I
22 agree with the approach of not expecting the Federal
23 Subsistence Board to reply to each item in our annual
24 report. For one, the reply that we get usually comes
25 so far after the issue first came up, because for
26 example we had discussion or we're going to have
27 discussion at this meeting and then -- sorry, let me
28 back up. Today we approved our 2021 report but that
29 covered issues all the way back to our meeting a year
30 ago and then by the time that report gets submitted and
31 then we get a reply from the Federal Subsistence Board
32 there's quite a lag in time so sometimes the response
33 we get, the value of it is somewhat attenuated just
34 because there's such a big time gap.

35

36 Two. I do like the idea of sending a
37 letter instead of putting something in the annual
38 report, if it's an issue where we are looking for a
39 response because that gives us two chances a year. So
40 we could decide at this meeting -- well, now I'm making
41 an assumption, maybe this is a question for
42 clarification -- I'm assuming that either meeting
43 during the year we could generate a letter directed to
44 the Federal Subsistence Board asking for something, or
45 asking for clarification or asking for a response and
46 that would allow responses to be more timely as opposed
47 to right now it seems like our correspondence or our
48 dialogue with the Federal Subsistence Board is on this
49 much longer timeframe where we do an annual report and
50

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1 then wait for responses, so I do like that there's the
2 potential for faster responses. And also if it's an
3 issue that's important we may need more than a
4 paragraph to describe the issue. And I think when we
5 do our annual report there is a certain -- it seems
6 like it makes sense, you know, to have, you know, kind
7 of brief paragraph for each issue because if we wrote
8 two pages on every issue our report would be 12 pages,
9 you know, that's a very lengthy report, but if we've
10 identified an issue that's very important and we've had
11 nuance discussion and we want to put together a good,
12 you know, one and a half, two page letter about it,
13 that works well in a letter. And if we send a letter,
14 to me, that is a signal to the Federal Subsistence
15 Board that we care enough about this issue, it's
16 important enough to take the time to write and approve
17 a separate letter.

18
19 So in general I think going in this
20 direction is not a bad thing. I guess I will say it
21 has been nice to get a response back to the annual
22 reports just because then we know somebody took the
23 time to read it, somebody took the time to respond, so
24 I will somewhat miss those responses to the annual
25 report but I understand the point that it takes, you
26 know, a lot of Staff time to respond to each of those
27 issues, sometimes we have very disparate issues that we
28 bring up and it does take time to understand the issue
29 and then draft a response back and perhaps that Staff
30 time is better spent on other things.

31
32 And that's all I had, thank you, Madame
33 Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
36 Rebecca. Any other comments.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: I can understand all the
43 rationale and Becky's really good at that, however, I
44 still think that often there are things that should
45 come to their attention and sometimes they respond,
46 sometimes they don't, but we didn't get any response,
47 even though it's not our turf on the sea otters for
48 four years, until we finally had somebody at the Board --
49 and I was going through -- a lot of times I'll read
50

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1 their minutes and we had somebody that said, gee, this
2 has come up before, why don't we have somebody on Staff
3 call up Marine Mammals and have them get together and
4 brief folks, even though it's not the turf, and so I
5 would think we should just have a normal letter and if
6 there's something that requires an immediate response
7 or something that has more in-depth then we have, you
8 know, our Secretary or somebody work with OSM or to
9 fill it out and have more detail, and I think a lot of
10 the detail gets lost because we've had such poor
11 minutes in the last four years and it's not the
12 function, the responsibility of the folks that are in
13 that niche right now because I can emphasize losing,
14 you know, 40 percent of your Staff and making it more
15 difficult. But if we think that the most important
16 thing is closures at Unalaska Lake and it needs more
17 in-depth discussion then we put an asterisk on it and
18 say, letter to follow. But I think that they should
19 know what is of concern to people in our region, and
20 I'm sorry that Staff time is difficult but they can go
21 through and pull out the important ones if they are
22 marked and get back to us on that and then the other
23 ones, if there's no response, just come back with the
24 thing, Item No. 2, no response, and let it go at that.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
29 Any other questions or comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing
34 none, thank you, Robbin.

35

36 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair
37 and Council members. And your comments were really
38 helpful and specific. Thank you, Council Member Holmes
39 and Skinner. Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Next item
42 on the agenda, receiving public testimony protocol,
43 guided discussion, Brent Vickers.

44

45 MR. VICKERS: Hello, Madame Chair.
46 Members of the Council. This is Brent Vickers, OSM.
47 Can everyone hear me just fine.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Loud and clear.

50

0103

1 MR. VICKERS: Okay, great, thank you.
2 Sometimes it's hard to know if I'm just speaking into
3 the air or if anyone can hear me. Thank you for that
4 confirmation. I've got a few things for you today.
5 The first of which will be update you on receiving
6 public testimony protocol and we're going to have a
7 little bit of a discussion at the end of this before
8 getting into the next topic. We're going to have a
9 series of questions that we'd like to get comments back
10 from you if you have any.

11

12 First let me give you the update.

13

14 Receiving public testimony protocol
15 guided discussion.

16

17 All 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory
18 Councils were formed under Title VIII of Alaska
19 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, or ANILCA,
20 and chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
21 ANILCA gives each Regional Advisory Council an
22 authority to 1; provide a forum for the expression of
23 opinions and recommendations by persons interested in
24 matter related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife
25 within the region; and, 2, encourage local and regional
26 participation pursuant to the provisions of Title VIII
27 of ANILCA in the decisionmaking process affecting the
28 taking of fish and wildlife on public lands within the
29 region for subsistence uses.

30

31 The Federal Advisory Committee Act
32 stipulates that any member of the public is permitted
33 to file a written statement with the Advisory Committee
34 and may speak to or otherwise address the Advisory
35 Committee if the agency guidelines so permit.

36

37 During each regulatory cycle there are
38 several opportunities for the public to provide their
39 oral and written comments to the Federal Subsistence
40 Board, or Board and to the Councils.

41

42 First opportunity commences after the
43 call for the proposals, officially known as the
44 proposed rule, after it's published in the Federal
45 Register. This is an opportunity to submit proposals,
46 or any significant comments to the Board. The first
47 comment window is open anywhere from 45 up to 90 days
48 or longer.

49

50

1 Second opportunity for public comments
2 on submitted proposals begins when the proposal
3 submission window closes and validated proposals are
4 published on the Federal Subsistence Management Program
5 website.

6
7 The third opportunity for public
8 comments on proposals is during the Council meetings.

9
10 The fourth opportunity for public
11 comments on proposals during the Board regulation
12 meeting -- the Board regulatory meeting -- sorry.
13 These comments are used by the Board in their
14 decisionmaking process.

15
16 Now I will explain the third
17 opportunity for public comments on proposals during the
18 Regional Advisory Council meetings in more detail
19 because this is the subject of our guided discussion
20 today.

21
22 The public comments on proposals
23 accepted at the Council public meetings are for use by
24 the Council in making their recommendations to the
25 Board. The Council Chair or your Council Coordinator
26 presents the Council recommendations and any supporting
27 data to the Board in its regulatory meeting. This round
28 of public comments on proposals are part of the record
29 for the Council meeting, not the Board of meeting.
30 Public comments on proposals are accepted after the
31 presentation of each proposal analysis. These include
32 oral comments provided by the public attending the
33 meeting and written comments provided by the public
34 during the meeting. The latter will be read or
35 summarized to the Council. Again, these comments are
36 for the Council and not to be included in the Board
37 proposal analysis. Public comments on non-agenda items
38 are accepted at the start of each day of a Council
39 meeting. All right, now in the past when the Councils
40 met in person, the public brought their written public
41 comments to the meeting to be distributed to Council
42 members and other meeting participants. During the
43 fall 2021 meeting cycle since all meetings were held
44 via teleconference, the OSM leadership deemed it
45 necessary to establish a temporary procedure for the
46 submission of written public comments during the
47 Council meeting. The public was directed to submit
48 written comments to centralized OSM email during the
49 meeting as it was indicated in that years proposed rule
50

0105

1 published in the Federal Register. The OSM Staff read
2 these comments into the record verbatim during the
3 meeting. This was an interim procedure.

4

5 Now, prior to the Councils fall 2022
6 meeting cycle, when the Councils are going to discuss
7 fisheries proposals and closure reviews we are
8 requesting the Councils input on how the Councils would
9 prefer receiving written public comments submitted to
10 them after the proposed rule deadline. These are
11 comments the Council may want to consider in
12 formulating their recommendations to the Board. Once
13 OSM receives input from the Councils on permanent
14 guidance we will then update the written framework
15 accordingly. This is not an action item but the
16 Council's discussion is encouraged.

17

18 And for the Council's feedback we
19 developed a number of questions that we would like the
20 Council members to respond to. Remember, that we are
21 talking about the written public comments submitted
22 only to the Council. These comments are used by the
23 Councils to make their recommendations to the Board.
24 The comments themselves will not be shared with the
25 Board.

26

27 Okay so now I have five questions for
28 discussion, they're related questions and we're really
29 looking just to get feedback on this comment period
30 process.

31

32 No. 1. In the Council's opinion, what
33 are the best ways to encourage public feedback to the
34 Councils.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are you
37 basically looking for some answers now or are you going
38 to.....

39

40 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, we are, sorry.
41 Yes, I should have clarified. Yeah, so we're just
42 going to try to get, you know, some of your thoughts,
43 concerns you've had, some ideas that you might have and
44 what might improve the process we have given how things
45 were done in-person and how they have been done in the
46 last two years. We're trying to make better guidelines
47 going forward. And so I was just going to ask some
48 questions and you guys can just shoot out ideas as you
49 have them, have a discussion, I'll try to get the notes

50

0106

1 down, we're going to take these ideas and then try to
2 use them to make a better guideline going into the fall
3 2022 meetings.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair, can I ask a
6 question.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
9 Rebecca.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thank you. Thank
12 you, Brent. I think you covered this but I missed it.
13 Prior to Covid times, so back when we had in-person
14 meetings, how were written comments handled because I'm
15 going to be honest I was wracking my brain trying to
16 receive written comments, and I know this came up
17 during the working group that was working on the
18 fishery closure outreach, just how is written comment
19 taken and I couldn't remember how we ended up receiving
20 public comment. So can you just go over again how did
21 it used to work prior to Covid times.

22

23 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
24 Katya.

25

26 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, this.....

27

28 MS. WESSELS: May I reply.

29

30 MR. VICKERS: Thank you. Please,
31 Katya, that was going to be my suggestion, thank you.

32

33 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

36

37 MS. WESSELS: Is that okay.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead.

40

41 MS. WESSELS: Thank you for the
42 question. You know prior to when we started meeting
43 teleconference during the pandemic, usually the written
44 comments were brought to the meetings and handed to the
45 Council Coordinators and then Council Coordinators made
46 copies of these written comments, they were given to
47 all Council members in person and additional copies
48 were made to put on the public table. Some of you
49 might remember, you know, that we used to have the
50

0107

1 public table because all the materials that are shared
2 with the Council are public documents as well. So
3 that's kind of what, you know, our dilemma when we
4 started meeting via teleconference, you know, we're
5 trying to figure out how we're going to share the
6 written public comments with the public. During the
7 last meeting cycle we advised all the public that they
8 could email all their comments during the meeting to
9 our general email inbox subsistence@fws.gov, and then
10 we tried to either read them verbatim into the record
11 or summarize them on the record. But for some regions
12 it didn't work because some regions received very large
13 number of written public comments so it extended their
14 meetings tremendously. It wasn't the case for
15 Kodiak/Aleutian. But in the past, you know, like I
16 said they were brought to the Council meetings and they
17 were distributed there.

18

19 I just want to emphasize also, any oral
20 or written public comments provided during the Council
21 meetings, they're there to help the Council to help
22 make their decisions. Those comments are not usually
23 shared with the Federal Subsistence Board. They're
24 just for the Council's information and decisionmaking
25 process.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 I hope I answered your question, thank
30 you.

31

32 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, you did, thank you.
33 So I'm going to have a comment or suggestion that
34 relates -- I guess it relates more to how information
35 and/or our meeting materials are distributed. Is one
36 of the five questions you have, are you going to get to
37 that topic or should I go ahead and share my comment
38 now.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: I think you can go ahead
41 and share your comment now. You know I don't remember
42 all of the five questions we're asking but any kind of
43 feedback from the Council on improving this public
44 process would be very helpful to us.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. So my
49 comment is, and I'm just speaking for myself, I

50

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1 understand that other people have different ways that
2 work better for them. But for me I would prefer to
3 have all of the meeting materials posted online. So
4 right now I do think all of the meeting materials are
5 posted online and if written comments are received in
6 advance of a RAC meeting, I would like to have those
7 posted online so that we can access it off of the
8 website. For myself, personally, I would rather access
9 the materials through the website directly rather than
10 receiving hard copy materials that are mailed to me. I
11 think every time I get a big binder in the mail I feel
12 kind of bad that there was the cost and the carbon that
13 was spent mailing the thing to me. And I also think,
14 kind of taking a step back, that maybe if our meeting
15 materials were posted online perhaps we could relax the
16 scheduling a little bit. I think that in order to get
17 everything received, printed and mailed out, the
18 deadlines for submitting that information are so early
19 in the process that I think that my perception is that
20 that creates challenges. And so part of my perspective
21 on this is, well, if the materials are posted online
22 that actually gives more time for more information and
23 reports to be received, rather than having -- and I'm
24 not sure how many weeks in advance it is, but I think
25 it's quite a few weeks in advance of our RAC meetings.

26
27 And then -- but I guess to get back to
28 the question that was poised, I think it was, what do
29 we think is the most effective way to solicit public
30 comment, it's hard right now because we are between --
31 we're between in-person meetings, which is how we used
32 to do it and then during Covid times we've had these
33 virtual meetings and I think that the answer kind of
34 depends what format you're using. I think during in-
35 person meetings, it was very easy if there was an in-
36 person meeting in your community and you had time, you
37 could come to the meeting, you could sit in the
38 audience or stand by the doorway, whatever you felt
39 comfortable with and there were opportunities to talk
40 to RAC members at break, before or after, and/or you
41 could make a comment in the room. And in some ways I
42 think that feels more accessible and more informal.

43
44 Now that we're in virtual meetings,
45 that's not possible, so the -- you know unless you have
46 the contact information for the individual RAC Members
47 you don't necessarily have that individual kind of
48 communication option and you can call in -- honestly, I
49 don't have a better suggestion but I do -- I do think
50

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1 there's probably better outreach options to let people
2 know that these meetings are happening. But, again, I
3 don't have an immediate suggestion. But it does seem
4 like, you know, putting things in the newspaper, a lot
5 of people don't read the newspaper or putting a flier
6 up, I don't know, sometimes especially these days
7 people just aren't going where the fliers are. For
8 Kodiak, Facebook, like friends of Kodiak is very
9 popular so putting stuff up there can reach a wider
10 range of people.

11

12 All of that being said I think the
13 kinds of topics we talk about maybe are, you know,
14 going towards a niche market and we're not going to get
15 300 people in Kodiak showing up, you know, there might
16 be a smaller number of people who are very interested
17 in the kind of stuff we talk about and maybe they
18 already-- youknow they'realready alerted tothe meeting.

19

20 So I kind of wandered there in my
21 response but I'll be quiet and give other people a
22 chance to talk.

23

24 Thanks.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Thank you for
27 your feedback. That was actually great, you know, this
28 is exactly what we're looking for, the kind of feedback
29 that you provided.

30

31 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair, Sam here. I
32 have come comments to make.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

35

36 MR. ROHRER: Thanks. Yeah, I'll echo a
37 lot of what Member Skinner said. Having -- you know
38 it's sometimes hard to follow along when you're just
39 listening and you don't have a person you're looking
40 at, it's really helpful for me to be able to have an
41 actual report to follow along with, even like these
42 five questions, to have them written out where I can be
43 looking at them while they're being read is helpful.
44 Having everything posted on the website where we can go
45 to, we can download them, we can open up the documents
46 from there, whether it be for comments or whether it be
47 for reports that were too late to be mailed out is
48 really important to me. Having them emailed out, even
49 the morning of the meeting is just fine, you can -- as
50

0110

1 we're sitting here at our computer listening in we can,
2 you know, open those documents up from there. So
3 somehow having them either emailed or on the website,
4 one central location on the website would be helpful.

5

6 Again, to echo what Member Skinner
7 said, the hard copies, I mean it's fine, I'm following
8 along with my meeting book but I could just as easily
9 be following along online, it's not necessary for me to
10 have those mailed to me. I think we could -- think
11 there's.....

12

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

15

16 MR. ROHRER:probably better use
17 of Staff's time, in my case.

18

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted - hold)

21

22 MR. ROHRER: Can you still hear me
23 there, I hear a dial tone coming through.

24

25 REPORTER: I do. So either somebody's
26 put us on hold or is trying to make another call. So
27 if everybody could take a moment, mute your phone,
28 star, six, please don't put us on hold if you're going
29 to listen to this meeting.

30

31 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, I have more
32 comments, I'll just wait until the dial tone is done.

33

34 MS. SKINNER: That may be awhile.

35

36 REPORTER: Yep.

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Tina, could you isolate
39 that phone call through an operator and disconnect
40 them.

41

42 REPORTER: I will. But, please, I
43 can't record while I'm doing that so hold your
44 comments. Just a moment.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50

0111

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think as we
2 come back into session here we left with Sam making
3 comments. So Sam.

4

5 MR. ROHRER: Della, this is Sam, do you
6 want me to finish my comments.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I think
9 we're good go ahead.

10

11 MR. ROHRER: Okay. The only additional
12 thing I was going to add, again, to echo what Member
13 Skinner said, the idea of maybe expanding how we're
14 advertising these meetings. Certainly I get the local
15 Kodiak paper and so I see the ad in there but I think
16 making use of social media, it seems most of our rural
17 communities have community centered social media pages
18 that they use on Facebook that have quite a lot of
19 folks that interact on them and I think making use of
20 those pages would certainly help.

21

22 The one other aspect that I think would
23 help is maybe in those ads if we listed the local
24 people who are members of those Councils and would let
25 the public know who to reach out and ask questions of.
26 You know there's three or four of us from Kodiak who
27 are on the Council, if that ad for this meeting listed
28 us as being members it might help some of the folks who
29 maybe aren't exactly sure what the Subsistence
30 Council's meeting about, what things we discuss, if
31 they have point of contacts on there for us maybe those
32 folks would reach out to individual Council members and
33 then help them be a little bit more informed about the
34 process.

35

36 So those would be my suggestions.

37

38 Thanks.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.
41 I have a question for you, Katya, and do you -- I know
42 Sand Point has KSDP, Sand Point radio, I think
43 Unalaska, Chris, isn't there some sort of radio or
44 something or do you use KDLG from Dillingham, and Rick
45 I don't know if there's anything farther out west, but
46 do you utilize the radio stations that are available at
47 all, in Kodiak.

48

49 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Madame

50

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1 Chair. I can't tell exactly which radio stations we're
2 utilizing but I don't have this information in front of
3 me but, yes, we do utilize the public announcements on
4 the radio, before the Council meetings and also for
5 when we're having open RAC application cycle, we also
6 utilize the radio public announcements. So I can get
7 that information to you exactly which stations we put
8 those announcements on but I can't tell right now.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, an old geezer
15 perspective. Through the years I usually try to call
16 somebody in each of the villages, particularly if
17 there's been somebody that's on our Council for Kodiak
18 and try to hit a few places out west and then I always
19 give a call to KMXT, the public radio and also to Ellen
20 Simeonoff at KVOK, which is our private radio and Ellen
21 was one of our big supporters when we were doing the
22 arguments on Kodiak staying rural, an old born Kodiak
23 family, so that's -- but also I mean you're talking
24 about new generation, millennial solutions, which are
25 great and probably cover a lot of folks, but I think
26 that personal contact with people. Like I said I
27 usually try to those folks, I couldn't when I was down
28 here in the States but I think that personal contact is
29 important.

30

31 And then on receiving information,
32 everyone's expressed their preferences, but I don't
33 have a tablet and I don't have a portable computer and
34 sometimes I end up going down to the library and asking
35 for a separate room so I can use their computer so
36 having a paper copy of most of the materials is
37 important to me just because I don't have sort of the
38 spry brain like the young folks do of being able to
39 look at a tablet and a computer and deal with that
40 information. I like to have a piece of paper to
41 scribble on and then I can go back over it again. So
42 you need to provide for both types of levels for
43 communication.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

48 Any other comment.

49

50

0113

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
4 Brent, do you want to go on to your second item.

5

6 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, that's -- would you
7 like me to -- you guys have touched on most of the
8 material that was in the list of five questions. Would
9 you just like me to go through the rest of the
10 questions to see if you have anything else to add. Like
11 I said you really have touched on most of it but if
12 anyone has a comment -- would you like me to do that or
13 just go ahead to the next item.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, let's just
16 go ahead and cover them and then if somebody wants to
17 speak to something that hasn't already been addressed
18 they can add to it.

19

20 MR. VICKERS: Okay. That's great,
21 thank you. Okay, again, this is Brent Vickers for the
22 record.

23

24 The second question was, would the
25 Council prefer to receive comments from the public
26 orally or in writing.

27

28 And I think -- well, go ahead, if you
29 have anything else to say?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I thought you
32 were just going to go ahead and go through all your
33 questions and then we can comment.

34

35 MR. VICKERS: Oh, okay, I'll just go --
36 all right, I'm sorry, I'll read all the questions and
37 then let me know if you have anything. Thank you for
38 clarifying. Sorry.

39

40 No. 3. Would it be helpful to the
41 Council if OSM requests the written public comments
42 submitted to your Council Coordinator prior to the
43 meeting within a certain time period and the
44 Coordinator, in turn, will summarize the comments and
45 present them to the Council during the meeting.

46

47 No. 4. Is it better for the Council if
48 received public comments are read verbatim into the
49 record or summarized.

50

0114

1 No. 5. Do you have any other
2 suggestions regarding the ways of improving written or
3 oral public testimony procedures during the Council
4 meetings.

5
6 Those are all the questions.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I've followed the
13 RAC for five years longer than I've been on it, tried
14 to sit in on all the ones in Kodiak and very seldom do
15 we ever get anything written from anybody. They, you
16 know, and I think with Covid then that might happen a
17 bit more but I think mostly people will call in and
18 it's verbal in my perspective.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

23
24 Any other comments.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think I got a
29 couple here. It doesn't -- from my perspective it
30 doesn't bother me whether they're in person or written,
31 I'm happy to get the comments and I think that helps
32 with any decisionmaking. One of the things I think
33 that we have, the tribal liaison, that does take public
34 comments and having meetings with the various
35 organizations, or tribes, those hearings continue and
36 it seems like that effort, in some cases in regions
37 they get a lot of response and others not so much and I
38 think it depends on exactly what the item on the agenda
39 is being up for public comment is possibly part of the
40 issue here. I think sometimes when you don't get a lot
41 of comments people are just -- means people are just
42 fine with what is as is.

43
44 Those are the only comments that I can
45 think of. I like all the comments that were made in
46 regard to on other opportunities to get the message out
47 more or interact with people about the various issues.
48 And I know, Pat, for sure has always called people, or
49 called around to check with them prior to our meeting
50

0115

1 and if there's something that has an effect on your
2 community he does call people and that's much
3 appreciated by people.

4
5 Other than that I don't have any other
6 comments.

7
8 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
11 Rebecca.

12
13 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. So I'm
14 going to go ahead and make these comments with the
15 assumption that these five questions are being posed to
16 all of the Regional Councils and that the responses are
17 going to be compiled together somehow and used in
18 decisionmaking around the process.

19
20 So in response to the question do we
21 prefer written or oral comments. I prefer comments. I
22 don't care how they come in. If somebody -- if they're
23 more comfortable submitting a written comment, I'm fine
24 with that, if they're more comfortable either calling
25 in or showing up to a meeting, I'm fine with that as
26 well. However, we need to meet the public in order to
27 make it a less confronting process for them, I'm in
28 favor of that.

29
30 In response to the question about -- it
31 had to do with would I like the Coordinator to
32 summarize the comments. Personally if written comments
33 are coming in, I would not like a summary of the
34 comments, I would like to actually read the written
35 comments as they were written by the member of the
36 public writing the comment. That being said, as I said
37 earlier, I don't think that the Kodiak/Aleutian RAC has
38 received very much written comment at all over the time
39 that I've been on it. If in response to the question
40 that had to do with the written comments being read
41 into the record verbatim, for myself, I would just
42 prefer to read the comment myself rather than have it
43 read into the record -- on the other hand, I guess now
44 that I think about it, I understand that reading it in
45 verbatim is how it would get into the record of the RAC
46 meeting, but I think my preference would be, as I said
47 at the very beginning of this conversation, if the
48 comments are basically published as part of our meeting
49 materials and they're on the website then they will be
50

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1 part of the record in their entirety. And if it did
2 get to the point where we were receiving hundreds of
3 written comments, you know, I'm very, I guess
4 sympathetic to not taking hours and hours and hours
5 reading into the record verbatim public comment.
6 There's probably a better way to handle that. But like
7 I said our RAC just hasn't received a lot of written
8 comment so it hasn't been an issue. But for myself, I
9 prefer to read the comments myself and I'd like to read
10 the words as they were written by the person that took
11 the time to comment on the subject.

12

13 And I think you had another question in
14 there that I didn't specifically address but those were
15 the points that I did just want to get on the record.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
20 Rebecca. Any other comments.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, I
25 think that should cover that. Do you have any other
26 questions for us in regard to this issue or -- Brent.

27

28 MR. VICKERS: No, you guys have really
29 covered it. You have actually excellent comments so I
30 really appreciate your thoughts. And, Rebecca, is
31 right, we're asking these questions, same questions,
32 same ordeal with all the Regional Councils and we're
33 going to get together with all the comments and meet
34 and discuss and take what we can do and try to make an
35 overall better process for everyone. So we'll see
36 exactly what happens. But those are really thoughtful
37 and great comments, I really appreciate it, thank you.

38

39 And if you're ready I can go into the
40 next item.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead,
43 I see you're on the next two items so go ahead.

44

45 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, you'll get a lot of
46 me. All right. So the next item is briefing the
47 Council comment -- Council comments on proposed actions
48 to automate Federal subsistence permits. This is not
49 an action item.

50

0117

1 One of the many governing statutes that
2 cover the Federal Subsistence Management Program is the
3 Paperwork Reduction Act, commonly referred to as the
4 PRA. This law requires all Federal departments and
5 agencies to gain approval through the Office of
6 Management and Budget, or OMB, prior to the collection
7 of information from the public. In regards to our
8 Program, this collection of information can be the
9 information you provide on your permits, the data
10 supplied to be nominate to serve, or to continue your
11 service on the Regional Advisory Councils, but it also
12 covers the signage used for fishwheels, nets and buoy
13 markers. Even the requirements to submit a lower moose
14 jaw, the sealing of untanned animal skins, and other
15 biological submissions are covered under this statute.

16
17 This law was designed to protect you,
18 the public, from unreasonable requirements to provide
19 data and/or personal information without justification.
20 The process to gain approval to collect information
21 from OMB generally takes a year, but can be as long as
22 18 months. An agency must, in short, provide the
23 reasons this information will be collected, what it
24 will be used for, how it may be used outside of the
25 original intent, who will have access to the
26 information, and how it will be stored. This clearance
27 is valid for three years and must be resubmitted prior
28 to the expiration date.

29
30 Another governing statute that covers
31 our Program is the E-Government Act. The purpose of
32 this law is to improve the management and promotion of
33 electronic government services and requires using
34 Internet-based information technology to improve
35 citizen access to government information and services.
36 You see this is in our Program, in our webpage,
37 providing news releases, meeting materials, and other
38 information, and in the use of social media which
39 allows for the swift notifications regarding special
40 actions, meetings, and submissions of regulatory
41 proposals. Our webpage and social media sites are
42 monitored by DOI 24/7 to ensure we meet all
43 requirements of the law and departmental policies.

44
45 After the most recent OMB clearance to
46 collect information from the public, OMB contacted OSM
47 tasked us with exploring the use of automated permits
48 within our Program. Many issues would accompany the
49 use of automated permits and must be addressed before
50

0118

1 any attempt is made to use internet permits.

2

3 OSM is asking the Councils and the
4 public for ideas as to how the issuing of permits might
5 look in the future. Any and all ideas are welcome.
6 There are several overriding factors that must be
7 understood. All Federal permits must be issued by a
8 Federal agency and cannot be delegated to a non-Federal
9 entity, such as a local or State entity or a tribal
10 government. The cost must be considered, the Program
11 has limited budget and excessive costs cannot be
12 absorbed to the detriment of Board and Council meetings
13 or the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. A paper
14 permit will still have to be carried into the field for
15 proof when addressing LE or field Staff.

16

17 Some of the issues that must be
18 addressed.

19

20 How can we verify a person is a
21 Federally-qualified user.

22

23 How do we address the lack of or
24 substandard infrastructure in rural communities if
25 internet permits are used.

26

27 How will managers address quotas,
28 and/or limit the amount of permits issued in the case
29 of conservation concerns.

30

31 How will managers deal with the lack of
32 reporting of harvesting results in the case of power
33 failures or lack of the internet. Especially when
34 reporting requirements are listed as 48 or 72 hours due
35 to severe conservation concerns.

36

37 How would this possible change affect
38 subsistence users.

39

40 And what method of issuing permits
41 would be preferred by subsistence users.

42

43 While this is not a formal request for
44 comments, we ask that any comments be sent to
45 subsistence at fws.gov by November 15th, 2022. More
46 information will be provided to the Councils as this
47 process moves forward.

48

49 And that is all I have to say about

50

0119

1 that. Are there any questions or comments.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: Could I just ask you to
8 repeat that where -- where are suggestions sent to,
9 subsistence at something?

10

11 MR. VICKERS: Yes, no problem. The
12 email address is subsistence@fws, as in Fish and
13 Wildlife Services dot gov. And we're requesting these
14 be sent to that email address by November 15th, 2022.

15

16 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you.

17

18 MR. VICKERS: Do you have it.

19

20 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, thank you.

21

22 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
25 comments or questions.

26

27 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
30 Rebecca.

31

32 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. So that was a
33 lot. Can you distribute or post what you just read or
34 something that generally covers what you just read so
35 that we can cogitate -- I'm going to use one of Pat's
36 words, cogitate on it and formulate responses?

37

38 MR. VICKERS: Hi, this is Brent.
39 You're not the first to ask for this, it is a lot of
40 information and as you mentioned before it's hard to
41 hear it just get read verbatim. I will get -- I will
42 see what we can do. If this was, like actually was
43 mentioned I think by you earlier, a matter of timing,
44 and getting all the information after the publishing
45 date and so I'll get back to you with whatever we can
46 provide to you in writing as soon as possible, is that
47 okay.

48

49 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

50

0120

1 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
4 comments.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madame Chair, Pat.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: One of the things getting
11 on -- on Federal permits would be probably really handy
12 for villagers and what not, to be able to do it online,
13 but it's also -- I wouldn't remove it from any places
14 where, like at Kodiak, you can get it out the Refuge
15 and they have a lady now that will be handling that. I
16 don't think you would want to suspend all personal
17 interactions, particularly in rural areas because that
18 provide a point for person getting a permit to ask
19 questions and sometimes, you know, you run into folks
20 that really aren't adept to the modern media and so
21 it's good for them to still have a physical source for
22 the permit, as well as for information.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
27 Other comments.

28

29 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

32

33 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, I know like down in
34 the Aleutians or Cold Bay, Adak, I know we were able to
35 get on the phone and call ADF&G and they would issue us
36 a permit, send it through the email too back to us or
37 mail it to us, but it was always kind of nice that we
38 could pick up the phone and talk to them and they would
39 get a permit to us. So that was really good for at
40 least in the Adak and the Cold Bay area there.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
43 Any other comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing
48 none, I think, Brent, we can move on.

49

50

0121

1 MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 All right, my last for today I think -- I believe.
3 Briefing on the Secretarial regulations proposing the
4 inclusion of identified submerged lands in the Tongass
5 National Forest. Again, this is not an action item.
6 This is an informational brief only and no action is
7 required on the part of the Council.

8
9 This is the second rulemaking on this
10 subject. The first taking place with the publication
11 of a proposed rule in June 2016 and the final rule in
12 May 2018.

13
14 To comply with a court order,
15 Peratrovich, et al., versus United State and the state
16 of Alaska. The Secretaries were directed to initiate
17 regulatory proceedings to identify those submerged
18 lands within the Tongass National Forest that did not
19 pass to the state of Alaska at statehood, and,
20 therefore, remain Federal public lands subject to
21 Federal subsistence provisions. This task was
22 forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board by the
23 Secretaries. This proposed rule would add to the list
24 of submerged parcels in the Federal subsistence
25 regulations that have been identified through agency
26 review. The purpose of this proposed rule is to comply
27 -- is to complete regulatory proceedings addressing
28 submerged public lands within the Tongass National
29 Forest, as directed by the court.

30
31 The majority of these submerged lands
32 are low-water lines, reefs, rocks and very small
33 islands, 100 yards to a half a mile in length.

34
35 This document is expected to be
36 published in the Federal Register in February 2022 and
37 will have a 60 day comment period. The exact dates
38 will be announced by news release and social media.

39
40 If you or the public desires to comment
41 on this proposed rule you may submit comments by one of
42 the following methods:

43
44 Electronically. Go to the Federal
45 erulemaking portal <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the
46 search box enter the docket number -- I can provide
47 that if anybody wants to, it's a long string of letters
48 and numbers, then click on the search button. On the
49 resulting page, in the search panel on the left side of
50

0122

1 the screen, under the document type heading, check the
2 proposed rule box to locate this document. You may
3 submit a comment by clicking comment.

4
5 And you can do this by hard copy. I
6 can -- this would be submitted U.S. Mail or hand
7 delivery and I can provide you with the mailing address
8 which is in Falls Church Virginia if you would like.

9
10 Would anyone like me to repeat any of
11 the docket number for the erule portal or for the
12 physical address for making these comments.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MR. VICKERS: As a Council, if you
17 desire to comment on this proposed rule you may submit
18 your comment to the Council Coordinator. And that
19 concludes that update. Thank you. Let me know if you
20 have any questions or comments.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I do have a
23 comment, or maybe a question. You made the comment
24 that you could submit them to your Council Coordinator
25 if you are on the Council -- the Council, as a whole
26 wanted to make a comment then that's the process, but
27 individually as a Council member we can't do that
28 unless we make -- take action as a whole to proceed; is
29 that correct.

30
31 MR. VICKERS: Thank you for the
32 question. That is my understanding but, of course,
33 Katya, would be able to respond to that better, with
34 more authority. Katya.

35
36 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya. Would you
37 please -- Della, would you repeat your question,
38 please, because I got temporarily distracted here.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This discussion
41 is in regard to the Briefing on the Secretarial
42 regulations proposing the inclusion of identified
43 submerged lands in the Tongass National Forest. Brent
44 gave where it can be pulled up and reviewed, which we
45 don't have that information in front of us. And so his
46 comment at the end was if we wanted to make any
47 comments in regards to this that we could do it through
48 the Coordinator. I guess my comment was, we really, in
49 the past, have not made any comments -- or, you know,
50

0123

1 we don't unless we approve it as a whole to do so, as a
2 unit, and then it goes forward, but in this case I
3 don't see any documentation for us to even make comment
4 on.

5
6 MS. WESSELS: Yes, well, thank you,
7 Madame Chair. What I would just say about this
8 specific agenda item, since this is a proposed rule,
9 this is going to be presented to all the Councils
10 (indiscernible - cuts out) to just Southeast
11 Subsistence region because that's where the Tongass
12 National Forest is. You know we are talking about
13 (indiscernible - cuts out) trying to post online what
14 we have, what we can currently provide to the Council.
15 So it's not really an action item for the Council, that
16 is, you know, more of a briefing, but if Council wants
17 to provide some kind of a comment of course it's your
18 prerogative. So I just would suggest that, you know,
19 let us discuss it here, we might have something to you
20 later today, or -- and online, you know, and then the
21 Council can address that item again if you would like
22 to. I think at this point it would be kind of
23 difficult for the Council to provide any kind of
24 comment, I completely agree with you.

25
26 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: I would suggest that we
31 deal with this like we have historically and if it's
32 something in another region that doesn't relate to us
33 that we just defer to the SERAC on that and let the
34 Tlingit and Haida and I don't know if the Tsimshian
35 folks are in that neck of the woods or not, but differ
36 to the Southeast RAC and not take a position.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
43 Go ahead, Rebecca.

44
45 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. So I
46 either have one or two questions. If the docket number
47 is available I think Brent offered to give us the very
48 long docket number; is that open now so if I went on
49 could I -- could I, you know, ask the Federal Register
50

0124

1 system to send me an update when the rule is actually
2 published; and maybe you don't know the answer to that,
3 but either way I think I would like the docket number.
4 You could either read it or is that something that
5 could be emailed to our new Coordinator, Leigh, and
6 then she can forward it out to the RAC.

7

8 And then I guess I do have a third
9 part, I'm wondering when the rule is published, will
10 that information be posted, or can it be posted
11 somewhere on the kind of the general RAC website so if
12 people do want to comment, there's a place they can go
13 that would link them to the Federal Register. Because
14 I know it can be -- sometimes it can be challenging
15 trying to find things in the Federal Register so if
16 there was an easier way to link to it if the public is
17 interested, I think that would be handy.

18

19 So, sorry, that ended up being multiple
20 questions in there.

21

22 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
23 Katya.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: To answer your question,
28 I don't really know if that docket number is active
29 right now. We definitely can send to the Council that
30 information in an email and we definitely can provide
31 that link on our website to the Federal Register. Like
32 I said earlier, we are just discussing right now behind
33 the scenes how to provide this information in the best
34 way possible to the Council because we realize that,
35 you know, that's a pretty complicated topic and it's
36 the first time you hear about them and I'm sure it's
37 very difficult to the Council to just comprehend, you
38 know, the topic in its entirety just listening to a
39 presentation without having any written information in
40 front of you. So our apologies for that. That was not
41 thought through very well, and we will try to correct
42 that as we go.

43

44 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you,
45 that will be really helpful. And I understand the rule
46 isn't published yet so I'm not sure how much more you
47 could have shared but, yeah, appreciate getting an
48 email on that when that does become available.

49

50

0125

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
4 comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
9 Brent.

10

11 MR. VICKERS: Madame Chair, this is
12 Brent Vickers. I just wanted to ask, Chair Member
13 Skinner [sic], would you like me to read out the docket
14 number while I'm here or do you just prefer the email.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I think email would
17 probably be easier just in case I miss -- you know
18 miss.....

19

20 MR. VICKERS: Okay.

21

22 MS. SKINNER:you know transpose
23 something you say. Thank you.

24

25 MR. VICKERS: Understand, well, no
26 problem. Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Brent are
29 you good, we're done.

30

31 MR. VICKERS: I'm done, if you guys are
32 done with me.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okey-dokey.

35

36 MR. VICKERS: Thank you very much,
37 appreciate your time.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
40 Thank you. Okay, moving on, we have agency reports and
41 the first one is tribal governments, Qwalangin Tribe,
42 update on McLees Lake project.

43

44 MS. POE: Hi, Madame Chair, this is
45 Chandra Poe with the Qwalangin Tribe.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hi, welcome, go
48 ahead.

49

50

1 MS. POE: Hi. And I would like to give
2 an update from Qwalangin Tribe, tribal government on a
3 couple of topics and our Fisheries and Outreach
4 Coordinator Jenny Rene will be giving very more
5 detailed information about the McLees fish run
6 measurements from last summer. So we'll look forward
7 to hearing from Jenny, I think, a little further on
8 down the line, probably about when Tyler is speaking
9 for Fish and Game. But with your permission, I do have
10 some other updates that I would love to share.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

13
14 MS. POE: Thank you. So, again, my
15 name is Chandra Poe, and I am a Environmental Program
16 Instructor at Qwalangin Tribe and I've been working for
17 the tribal government for about two years. And I just
18 wanted to share some of the ongoing work that we've
19 been involved with and I'll just move on through my
20 list.

21
22 I think that probably throughout the
23 time that I've been working at the tribe, in our
24 Qwalangin Tribe updates, we have shared our plans to
25 have our Coastal Community Forum, and that was
26 successfully held this November -- November 2021. I
27 think that several people on this call were actually
28 able to attend for at least part of that event, which
29 we held virtually, and so I want to thank everyone for
30 their support. It was a really successful regional
31 event even though it was mainly virtual with a couple
32 of communities able to gather there together locally
33 and we were able to introduce many topics related to
34 changing climate conditions and impact to many
35 different aspects of which subsistence is, of course,
36 the highest priority for the tribe. So thank you to
37 everybody for your support on that event. And if
38 anybody is interested in any materials from that, I'd
39 be happy to speak with you more or provide some more
40 information on that.

41
42 As a follow on to that Coastal
43 Community Forum that Qwalangin Tribe hosted with a lot
44 of great partners, I also wanted to let this group know
45 that there will be a regional workshop on food security
46 and climate adaptations with Aleutians Pribilof Islands
47 Association in April, April 12th through the 14th,
48 again, just for your information. If anyone would like
49 additional information, very, very happy to share about
50

0127

1 that, and working with great partners at APIA for that
2 next regional effort on food security and climate
3 adaptation.

4
5 I would also like to share just a few
6 updates. One of the really exciting developments for
7 us as a tribal government Staff is a lot of increasing
8 collaboration between environmental programs and
9 culture and wellness and I was given some updates to
10 share from our culture and wellness team. And one of
11 the really rewarding things that they've been able to
12 accomplish the last couple of years is berry picking
13 for elders and both tribal Staff and community members
14 will go out at the appropriate time and harvest and
15 share the harvest with elders who may not be able to
16 access the areas where the berries are anymore. So
17 this year that effort was able to share the harvest
18 with 21 elders of the 36 who currently live in
19 Unalaska. They did find the berries were less abundant
20 this year and one elder asked, where did you find them
21 so it was, again, as it's been for the past couple
22 years, a very wonderful event that we were very happy
23 to be able to accomplish.

24
25 And also to share an update from last
26 summer. Camp Q, our summer camp was back on in-person,
27 thankfully, and those activities were able to be
28 completed, including sharing with the youth, the
29 process and fish and seal harvest processing, language
30 and dance among many other important sharing
31 opportunities. So very happy to say that that was able
32 to be in-person again last summer.

33
34 And other than that, I think I'll
35 probably close there except to say, again, that Jenny
36 Rene will give more detailed information about the
37 McLees Lake results from last summer. And I would like
38 to say here that we've been very pleased with the
39 partnership that we are developing and continuing to
40 work with Fish and Game. We're very thankful to be
41 involved in the Partners Fisheries Monitoring Program
42 and have been able to really expand some good capacity
43 and are really looking forward to what that's going to
44 mean for being able to continue to work on important
45 subsistence issues for the tribe and community. And we
46 are really looking forward to another great season at
47 the salmon weir and continuing to develop additional
48 project work.

49
50

0128

1 That is all that I had on my list. I
2 will thank you for your time and ask if there are any
3 comments or questions.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
6 Chandra. Any comments or questions for Chandra.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, this is Pat.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was wondering if
13 you folks have talked with Lisa and Tyler, I know
14 you're kind of working on a -- you know, getting as
15 many folks from the community involved, but Mark
16 Witteveen and Tyler Polum here with Sportfish in Kodiak
17 have had a program ongoing there for, gosh, 20 years,
18 on trying to work in high school interns for part of
19 their program and they've had tremendous success with
20 those young folks eventually getting jobs with the
21 Department and then going out to other agencies. I
22 just wondered if you had a chance to explore a similar
23 relationship or maybe some time in the future.

24
25 Thank you, very much.

26
27 MS. POE: Thank you, Pat. Wonderful.
28 We are fortunate to be often able to host interns for
29 the summer through a (Indiscernible) Program and we
30 also are working with ANSEP, with Alaska Native Science
31 and Engineering Program and we are hopeful to be able
32 to have a summer Bridge student at the weir this
33 summer, is our -- is our goal, to start involving more
34 youth. And we definitely appreciate that observation
35 and look for those opportunities to involve youth.
36 It's especially wonderful to have the hatchery program
37 in Unalaska and I think that gives us some really good
38 strong connections and inspires a lot of interest in
39 the Unalaska youth specific for salmon fisheries.

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

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing
47 none, thank you for your report Chandra. Glad to hear
48 everything is moving forward and going good.

49
50

0129

1 MS. POE: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
4 other Native organizations online that would like to
5 speak or give a report at this time.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there anyone
10 from Kodiak.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Well, if
15 somebody does, as the meeting goes on, just let us
16 know. The next item on the agenda is Tab No. 6, U.S.
17 Fish and Wildlife Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
18 winter 2022 report.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hello.

23

24 MS. WESSELS: Della, this is Katya.
25 Perhaps they're not online.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay.
28 How about Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Is there
29 someone online for that report.

30

31 MS. FOSADO: Hi, good afternoon, yes,
32 this is Maria, can you hear me?

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can hear you.
35 You might get a little closer to the phone though.

36

37 MS. FOSADO: Good afternoon, Madame
38 Chair and members of the Board. This is Maria Fosado
39 from Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Can you hear
40 me?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes we can hear
43 you.

44

45 MS. FOSADO: Perfect. All right, well,
46 we're going to share just a few of the activities that
47 have taken place since we last met. I hope everybody
48 has a copy of our report but I'll just start off with
49 the caribou Federal subsistence hunt for Unit 9D on the
50

0130

1 Southern Alaska Peninsula. Izembek Refuge during
2 2021/2022 the Federal subsistence caribou hunt in Unit
3 9D which covers the hunting periods of August 1st
4 through September 30th and then again opens November
5 15th and ends March 31st. The hunt, you know, was
6 available to folks, however, to-date we have not
7 received any harvest reports. None have been submitted
8 to the Refuge.

9

10 As far as the Federal subsistence hunt
11 on Unimak Island, Unit 10D, the period -- the hunting
12 period was open August 15th through October 15th, 10
13 permits were allotted, five permits were issued and we
14 received reports that three caribou were harvested for
15 Unit 10.

16

17 We were able to conduct our annual bear
18 stream survey. The 2021 brown bear survey took place
19 over the course of six days during the end of August
20 into the beginning of September. The survey covered
21 all the major watersheds in Izembek Refuge and Unimak
22 Island where the bears are most likely to be
23 concentrated while feeding on salmon runs. The minimum
24 population counts for the Izembek area was 162 bears,
25 which made up about -- which was made up of 89 single
26 bears, 21 sows with cubs and 52 cubs. Compared to the
27 2020 count, total count for brown bears at Izembek
28 decreased by three and a half percent. The count of
29 single bears was the same, however, the count for sows
30 with cubs decreased.

31

32 The minimum -- we also surveyed on
33 Unimak Island the minimum population count for Unimak
34 Island area was 108 bears, it consisted of 72 single
35 bears, 12 sows with cubs and 24 cubs. Compared to the
36 2020 counts the total on Unimak Island also showed a
37 decrease of 18.2 percent. There's some additional
38 details in the report but I just want to note that the
39 survey -- it's important to note that this survey is
40 used to understand the minimum numbers of bears present
41 in the area and the general population trends but it's
42 not intended for use as a population estimate. There's
43 a lot of variables such as, you know, the time of day,
44 the tides, the weather, the individuals that are
45 conducting the survey so I just wanted to make that
46 disclaimer known.

47

48 Moving on to waterfowl. We were able
49 to conduct a reduced scale brant age ratio. We had
50

0131

1 planned to continue operations as we had historically
2 and we had planned to bring in employees from -- Fish
3 and Wildlife Service employees from King Salmon,
4 Anchorage and Fairbanks, however, due to the pandemic
5 we reduced our efforts and it was Izembek Staff that
6 carried out the survey. Historically we've done it
7 both from shore counts and boat counts, however, since
8 it was just Izembek Staff all of our observations were
9 shore based operations. Over the course of seven days,
10 five Staff members traveled to locations along Izembek
11 Lagoon and we counted and aged 8,911 birds to
12 understand the ratio of juvenile and adult birds in the
13 population. We shared the data with USGS and it's used
14 to develop modeled estimates of productivity of Pacific
15 black brant populations. And there's a link in the
16 report but data is available for viewing and download
17 at the annual data modeled based estimate link provided
18 in the report.

19

20 Waterfowl commercial guiding. In 2021
21 Izembek issued four permits to commercial hunt
22 operations. Our permits -- permit, guiding clients
23 using Refuge lands. Each operation reports the number
24 of client use days at the conclusion of the hunting
25 season, which are the number of hunts -- excuse me,
26 which are the number of days the hunter was taken on
27 the Refuge by a commercial guide. Since 2009 the
28 number of reported client use days has increased and we
29 did provide a figure in our report. And as you can see
30 since 2009 the overall trend has been one of
31 increasing. And I just want to note that the client
32 use days are the number of days the hunter was taken on
33 the Refuge by a commercial guide. So this does not
34 account for any non-commercial waterfowl hunting. And
35 a single trip to the Refuge will contribute multiple
36 client use days when multiple clients are guided at
37 once. In addition to that multiple trips by the same
38 client on the same day only constitutes a single day.
39 So it's important to note that this is merely an index
40 of the commercial use of the Refuge as it illustrates
41 the number a client was guided on the Refuge but does
42 not account for the area hunted, the methods used, the
43 birds harvested or the amount of time spent on the
44 Refuge.

45

46 Moving on to our habitat efforts.
47 Eelgrass abundance and productivity monitoring. Due to
48 Covid19, we had to cancel our lagoon-wide eelgrass
49 survey, however, retired biologist -- USGS biologist

50

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1 David Ward was able to come out to Cold Bay and he did
2 spend a week training our Staff on the survey protocol.
3 And although we weren't able to conduct a full Izembek
4 Lagoon eelgrass abundance monitoring survey, we were
5 able to conduct the eelgrass transect sampling along
6 Grant Point, and this has been conducted in the spring
7 and summer since 2007 and so those efforts are ongoing.

8

9 Moving on to invasive species. The
10 Fish and Wildlife Service Staff from the invasive
11 species program conducted surveys on and around Izembek
12 and the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge
13 during summer of 2021. The surveys included sampling
14 of road ways for terrestrial invasive species, major
15 bodies of water for invasive aquatic species and
16 surveying for invasive European green crab in Cold Bay.
17 Surveys uncovered no species of high concern on the
18 Refuge itself or signs of European crab, however,
19 several populations of aggressive and invasive orange
20 hawkweed, Canada thistle and oxeye daisy were found
21 within the city limits of Cold Bay.

22

23 We hope to continue these efforts in
24 2022. Izembek Staff and the invasive species program
25 members hope to work with the community of Cold Bay to
26 compile a treatment plan for the invasives that were
27 surveyed during the summer of 2021. In addition to
28 that Izembek Staff will be reaching out to the
29 community of King Cove to share the information on the
30 project and to discuss potential opportunities for
31 partnering and conducting similar surveys around King
32 Cove. Early detection and treatment of invasive
33 species, which can have severe ecological consequences
34 for habitat and wildlife will reduce the likelihood of
35 spread into the remote areas and wilderness areas of
36 the Refuge.

37

38 Moving on to upcoming work, we had
39 actually scheduled our mid-winter caribou survey for
40 this week, however, we're still pending a pilot, we're
41 keeping an eye on weather and we're hopeful that we
42 will be able to still carry it out but stay tuned for
43 more. We'll see if it's able to -- if we're able to
44 carry that out.

45

46 And the same for the Pacific Flyaway
47 Pacific winter brant survey, we had planned on hosting
48 Migratory Bird crew members here in Cold Bay over the
49 course of the last couple weeks, however, unforeseen
50

50

0133

1 issues have come up, whether it's weather or just
2 planning logistics and they haven't been able to make
3 it down to Cold Bay. So we're hoping that that will
4 materialize still this winter but stay tuned on that.

5

6 That is all.

7

8 Are there any questions.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any questions or
11 comments for Maria.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Thank you for the very
18 nice report and glad what you've been doing what you
19 have been doing for your research programs, and I
20 understand that because of Covid you haven't been able
21 to do as much of your normal outreach over in King Cove
22 or in town with the school kids. But I was quite
23 interested in your reported game bird client use days
24 because at our last meeting we had quite a talk
25 reviewing the State proposals in which they seemed to
26 me that non-resident hunters were trying to get more
27 emperor geese which they use mainly for trophies versus
28 the King Cove folks and residents there in Cold Bay,
29 using them there for food, and so our Council made
30 comments to the Game Board not to do that. So this
31 continuing up creep certainly shows that there is a
32 whole lot more demand for that resource.

33

34 I'll just leave it at that because I'm
35 sure you're sensitive to what local folks feel about
36 the emperor geese in hopes to try to get the numbers up
37 for a better subsistence harvest, so thank you very
38 much for your report.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

41

42 MS. FOSADO: Thank you for sharing.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
45 comments.

46

47 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead Rick.

50

0134

1 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

4

5 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I just got a question
6 on this decrease, this three and a half percent
7 decrease on the bear surveys that you did on 9 and 10D.
8 Is that due to more guided bear hunts or is that just
9 natural?

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think maybe,
12 Rick, to add to that.....

13

14 MS. FOSADO: Good afternoon, Rick.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:because I
17 was going to.....

18

19 MS. FOSADO:I'm jumping to that
20 part of the report.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:bring that
23 up.

24

25 MS. FOSADO: I would venture to say
26 that right now I can't answer whether or not it's tied
27 directly to hunter harvest but I would venture to say
28 that based on the variables that I mentioned such as
29 the time of day we're surveying, the individuals who
30 are surveying, the weather, the transects that we're
31 flying, the surveys aren't necessarily always capturing
32 the exact same areas and so I just don't have enough
33 information to really give you a really concrete answer
34 on the decrease.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Rick, this
37 is Della. To add to that, if you recall, I think it
38 was in 2020 there was not a bear season, 2021 had a
39 spring and fall hunt, which I think, in my opinion,
40 probably contributed to those numbers.

41

42 Did you have anything else, Rick.

43

44 MR. KOSO: Yeah. I just wanted to
45 know, is this the bear survey, the 162 that you
46 surveyed, is that within your realm of where you want
47 to be with bear, is that high or is that low?

48

49 MS. FOSADO: Hi, Rick, yes, this is

50

0135

1 Maria. I'll defer to the -- I don't know if there's
2 folks from ADF&G that want to speak to the bear
3 population.

4

5 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark
6 Burch.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. BURCH: Yeah, as I introduced
11 myself, I'm with the Department of Fish and Game, but
12 I'm a generalist kind of coordinator, unfortunately I'm
13 not familiar with the bear management in great detail.
14 And the biologist that normally does that is not online
15 as far as I know. So we'd have to put that on the
16 agenda and get it scheduled in order to be able to get
17 into that subject very deeply, I'm afraid.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

22

23 MR. ROHRER: Della, Sam here. I have a
24 comment -- a couple comments on that that might help
25 shed a little bit of light on Rick's question.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

28

29 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, if you look at the
30 survey data from Izembek, the total count was down but
31 it says -- in the third paragraph there it says the
32 count of single bears was the same, so 89 single bears
33 were counted in 2021 and then 89 single bears counted
34 the year before in 2020 so there's no decline in single
35 bears. It looks like the decline came from the sow and
36 cubs count. So certainly that wouldn't have been
37 contributed to by hunting.

38

39 And then I'll just mention, Unimak saw
40 the bigger decline in count but I'll point out, Unimak
41 is managed by strict drawing for resident and non-
42 resident hunters alike. And I don't remember with the
43 cancelled seasons for 2020 -- I'm trying to remember
44 off the top of my head how that worked on Unimak, the
45 non-resident portion of that hunt was cancelled so
46 harvest would have been down for non-residents,
47 residents could still show up. But I don't think there
48 was any special seasons like the rest of the Peninsula
49 had some special seasons, but Unimak didn't have those,
50

0136

1 it would have just stuck with its normal drawing. So
2 the numbers have held pretty close on Unimak. So I
3 would say that it's pretty unlikely that bear hunting
4 led to any of those decreases, it's probably more
5 likely -- like Letecia said, due to inconsistencies in
6 the actual surveys.

7

8 MR. KOSO: All right, thank you, Sam.
9 That cleared things up for me, so I appreciate that.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
14 comments -- go ahead, Pat.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Yeah I was just wondering,
17 these are rather small but I'm just curious because if
18 you do -- you probably don't do any surveys outside of
19 the Refuge for the -- on the Peninsula but I can recall
20 that the area biologist there in the past when --
21 commenting on when they've had significant changes in
22 the returning salmon on seeing a larger number of
23 bears, I forget the name of that lagoon that's west of
24 Cold Bay, on the other side of the Peninsula there but
25 sometimes I think the number of chums and silvers in
26 there can fluctuate a lot so, you know, I think your
27 numbers there in relation to the harvest and what's
28 available seem to be pretty reasonable. But I'm just
29 wondering if you've ever noticed or if your reports --
30 if you correlate those at all with the -- Lisa Fox'
31 salmon surveys.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is.....

36

37 MS. FOSADO: Good afternoon, Madame
38 Chair and.....

39

40 MS. CHERNOFF:Coral.

41

42 MS. FOSADO:members of the Board.
43 We have -- I'm sorry.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think Pat had
46 some questions I don't know if they were towards Lisa
47 or Maria so maybe we can get those answers and then I
48 think it was maybe Coral after that.

49

50

0137

1 MS. FOSADO: Okay. That I'm aware of
2 in recent years we have not looked at any salmon
3 escapement and tried to correlate the runs with our
4 annual bear stream surveys but that could something
5 that could be looked at into the future.

6
7 MS. FOX: Yeah, good afternoon, Della
8 -- Madame Chair, this is Lisa Fox. There have been
9 some low sockeye numbers at Christianson's Lagoon on
10 Unimak Island, I believe that's the one you're talking
11 about but last year there was some decent escapement
12 and the year before I think there was really, really
13 good escapement. I don't know if the escapement at
14 Christianson's would change the population of the bears
15 that much, so much that it would just concentrate them
16 right on that river there. Sometimes there's bears
17 side by side on that whole stream. But we definitely
18 can start sharing those escapement numbers with the
19 folks at Izembek in-season because we fly that survey,
20 you know, six times a year probably.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Pat,
23 is that good -- are you good?

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am, thank you. I
26 think that's really swell. I know they -- 20 years
27 ago, well before Lisa, but, you know, there was a lot
28 of communication between -- we've had a lot of
29 turnover, and so I think that's just really swell for
30 the ladies to be working together on that.

31
32 Thank you, very much. And thanks for
33 your answers, ladies, thank you.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
36 Coral, was that you.

37
38 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Coral go
41 ahead.

42
43 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I had a question
44 about your graph here with the reported game bird use
45 days. There's quite a large jump from 2019 to 2020.
46 2019 it looks like there was less than 300, maybe 275
47 client use days and then 2021 there was over 800. So
48 does that cause any concern for you out there within
49 the Izembek communities or is that something then you
50

0138

1 have -- or do you have conversations with biologists
2 and stuff, like is that number a concern, and if it's
3 not have you ever discussed at what point that number
4 would become a concern that you might have to limit
5 permits or lower amounts of birds taken.

6
7 MS. FOSADO: Good afternoon, Madame
8 Chair and members of the Council. Yes, we do -- to
9 answer your question, we do have continuous
10 conversations in-house of, you know, the uses that are
11 occurring on the Refuge, whether it's commercial uses
12 or any other recreational uses. We would, of course,
13 become concerned if there starts to be noticeable
14 impacts to the resource and/or to wildlife increase
15 disturbance. I know that that has been a conversation
16 that has been, I believe, discussed at previous RAC
17 meetings and we have fielded some concerns from the
18 public either via -- mainly via phone calls of folks
19 that have called in and relayed how they've perceived
20 things changing throughout the years as they've visited
21 and hunted here. So, yes, we have in-house
22 conversations.

23
24 As far as our permits are non-
25 competitively issued permits. And in order to look at
26 restricting any use or the number of guides we would
27 have to move from a non-competitively issued special
28 use permit, so a competitively issued special use
29 permit and that would require, of course, going through
30 the NEPA process and either an environmental assessment
31 or an environmental impact statement on the disturbance
32 and the potential impacts that the use is causing and
33 that information would be fed into competitively
34 determinations. But I'd also like to note that the
35 Lagoon waters, Izembek Lagoon, below the mean high tide
36 is actually State jurisdiction so if there is concern
37 over damage to the resource and/or disturbance to
38 wildlife the first step would be for the Refuge and the
39 State to start having discussions and fielding some of
40 those concerns and working through discussions between
41 the State and the Refuge here to see where we go from
42 here.

43
44 I don't know if I captured all your
45 questions or if I answered all your questions, if not,
46 please let me know.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
49 Katya.
50

0139

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go -- let's see,
2 first, Coral, did she answer your questions.

3
4 MS. CHERNOFF: Not -- well, I guess it
5 sounds like it's just kind of up in the air, open
6 process, there are no numbers they're looking at
7 exactly of birds taken. But if they got to be more
8 concerned they would have to change the process to a
9 limited process for game guides. I think that's what I
10 understood.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay.
13 Katya.

14
15 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I just wanted to let
16 the Council know that Dave Crowley with ADF&G is online
17 so he's able to answer any bear questions if the
18 Council would like. Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Before we
21 move to bear, can you -- does the impact of the amount
22 of hunting days on birds contribute to more hunters
23 going into the -- they're after basically the emperor
24 goose and while they're there they are harvesting other
25 birds because they have a daily limit, do you think
26 there's possibly -- some of that impact coming from
27 that at all.

28
29 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair, I'm not sure
30 I completely understood the question. So we permit the
31 commercial operation but we don't set any of the
32 harvest limits. So as long as hunters are operating
33 legally and following the regulations, getting the
34 necessary permits -- I'm making the assumption that the
35 regulations that are being -- the harvest regulations
36 and the limits that are being set are essentially
37 capturing the concern for specifically as you mentioned
38 the emperor goose.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, another
43 question relating around the non-residents.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was wondering
48 there, Maria, if does either Fish and Game or your shop
49 do any monitoring of the number of sportfishermen
50

0140

1 around there, or Cold Bay, because we've had some
2 complaints about competition with non-residents
3 sportfishing and difficulties with locals getting their
4 food. I was just wondering if we've seen that big of
5 an increase in guided hunters, if there's been a
6 similar increase particularly at that time of the year
7 in non-resident sportfishermen. And probably nobody
8 has any data but I was just curious.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

13

14 MS. FOSADO: Good afternoon, Madame
15 Chair and members of the Board. We do -- we do issue
16 some sportfishing commercial permits. I don't have all
17 the data available that I -- I would need additional
18 time and I could report back on client use days. But
19 as far as the concerns that have been discussed at past
20 RAC meetings and some of the concerns that we field via
21 phone calls here at the office, they seem to be
22 revolving around the waterfowl, the commercial
23 waterfowl guiding client use days. I haven't heard
24 anything specific to commercial sportfishing, as far as
25 guiding and Refuge issued permits.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

28

29 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. LAWSON: Hi. This is Tyler Lawson
34 with Fish and Game. In some related conversations with
35 the Sportfish Division, they do have some harvest
36 estimates for Cold Bay and I think Tyler Polum is out
37 sick today but maybe tomorrow he'll be back in and he
38 might be able to share some of those harvest numbers.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, where --
41 is Tyler online.

42

43 MR. LAWSON: Yes, were you able to hear
44 me okay.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, go ahead and
47 repeat that please.

48

49 MR. LAWSON: Sure, sorry about that. So

50

0141

1 I was just saying that related to some of the other
2 conversations we've had with Cold Bay fishing, which
3 I'll discuss more during my update, I know that
4 Sportfish does have some harvest estimates for the
5 sportfish harvest in Cold Bay waters, however, Tyler
6 Polum, I believe is out sick today and he might,
7 hopefully, be back in the office tomorrow and he might
8 be able to share some of those numbers with the RAC.
9 So I know it's out there, I'm just not sure about
10 sharing that graph with you because he has it
11 currently.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, perfect,
14 thank you.

15
16 MR. LAWSON: Uh-huh.

17
18 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.....

19
20 MS. KRUEGER: Madame Chair, this is
21 Kelly Krueger with Department of Fish and Game.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I had two
24 people online so.

25
26 MS. KRUEGER: This is Kelly Krueger.

27
28 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.....

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's start with
31 Kelly, I caught her name.

32
33 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you. I am just
34 going off of what Tyler Lawson was just saying. There
35 are numbers online for the Cold Bay area under the
36 statewide harvest survey and that data is available to
37 the public on the Fish and Game website. And it's
38 updated as recently as 2020.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
41 And there was another lady on that was trying to speak
42 at the same time.

43
44 MS. SKINNER: It was, it was Rebecca.
45 I think I have two questions. One question is, in the
46 report that we got from Izembek we do have data on
47 client use days but I'm not seeing data on harvest of
48 game birds. Is that correct that we don't have harvest
49 data in the report?

50

0142

1 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair. Members of
2 the Council. The only thing that we recorded was the
3 client use days.

4
5 MS. SKINNER: Okay. And then this
6 relates to my second question, and this is a bigger
7 process question, because I feel like I haven't been
8 directly involved in one of these, if there starts to
9 be or if there is a big concern with the resource, and
10 local subsistence users, or subsistence users access to
11 an adequate amount of resource where -- how does that
12 usually come to light, so the data for that? Is that
13 something that normally the resource managers would
14 alert the RAC to so we would have data that shows
15 there's a resource issue and that maybe we need to go
16 towards limiting it to a customary -- or, you know, a
17 C&T, customary and traditional use, or does that
18 usually come about based on feedback that the RAC has
19 gotten from people in the community and then do we need
20 to request specific data that would help show whether
21 there's a resource problem or not? And so that is kind
22 of a higher level question, again, because I realize I
23 am not completely sure how this process is supposed to
24 unfold.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 (Pause)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maria.

31
32 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair. Members of
33 the Council. This is Maria at Izembek.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

36
37 MS. FOSADO: I would venture to say
38 that that would be on a case by case basis. It could
39 stem from internal conversations identifying potential
40 impacts to the resources, or to wildlife, and then
41 looking internally at our process and us starting to
42 reach out to our partners and to our biologists to
43 ensure that we have the data that we need to address
44 some of the potential impacts. So it could start from
45 in-house, from within Fish and Wildlife Service as far
46 as our permits are concerned, and trying to assess if
47 there are impacts occurring, what impacts are incurring
48 and how to best mitigate for those impacts.

49
50

0143

1 Or, Option B, as you mentioned, could
2 be concerned members of the public reaching out to the
3 RAC, as has been done I believe in the past.

4
5 I don't know if there is any one right
6 answer, but I would venture to say it's on a case by
7 case basis.

8
9 MS. SKINNER: Okay. And then just to
10 confirm, based on the report, I didn't get the sense
11 that Izembek itself has any concerns with the
12 resources, was that a correct interpretation of the
13 report because you did provide the graph on the client
14 use days, is that raising a little bit of a red flag
15 for you guys or is this just merely informational, the
16 fact that it was included in the report?

17
18 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair. Members of
19 the Council. This is Maria. It's both. It's an
20 informa -- I know that this subject has come up at
21 historic -- at the past couple RAC meetings so I wanted
22 to be transparent in the information that we're
23 providing. So we -- it is some -- it is an issue that
24 we are keeping an eye on, we are trying to collect the
25 data as best as we can and starting to have some of
26 those internal conversations. I believe -- well, I
27 don't know if this was shared at the last Regional
28 Advisory Council meeting, I can't recall, but we have
29 had a few conversations with our State partners but
30 nothing that has really -- it's just initial
31 conversations I guess is where we would be at.

32
33 MS. SKINNER: Okay. All right, thank
34 you for that context. Thank you, Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
37 Rebecca.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

40
41 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Pat.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Okay, do Coral first.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat and then
48 Coral.

49
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Probably Coral is
2 going to hit on the same thing. Because of the Covid I
3 haven't made as many of the AMBCC meetings as I would
4 like to, but what I've heard is the numbers of emperor
5 geese are down, over -- statewide, and so the overall
6 management of that is raising questions, and I may be
7 wrong, but -- so I'm glad to hear, Maria, that you
8 folks are starting to think about it and looking at
9 towards what information is available because Izembek
10 is definitely one of the major places for emperor geese
11 to stop and have a little snack before they head this
12 way or go up into the Western Alaska. So thank you
13 very much for starting to think about that.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

16
17 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. So I guess I would
18 suggest -- I guess what I would like to see, Della, for
19 us for our next meeting, I don't know where we would
20 get this information but the bird game guides, when
21 you're a guide I believe you have to fill out some
22 paperwork for your clients, and send it into the State,
23 and I'm wondering if at our next meeting we could get
24 our information for the guides in our area, like
25 Kodiak, Izembek, and if we could get the bird numbers,
26 because we've never seen those and I think that would
27 make a difference. Even though we're not -- we don't
28 deal with migratory birds, that's a separate thing, we
29 are, you know, we're very much involved in it in our
30 subsistence lifestyles, and so I would like to see our
31 Councils get those numbers if we can at our next
32 meeting.

33
34 And to me, that's pretty startling, the
35 number of use days, how much it has increased and
36 somehow there needs to be an actual conversation
37 started, to go from less than 300 client days to over
38 800 in two years and then who knows where it's going to
39 go next year and next year. So I think we should
40 definitely get some numbers in front of us and start
41 talking about this.

42
43 And that's all I have.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
46 Coral. I think a lot of very good points brought
47 forward. Any other comments in regard to this for
48 Izembek.

0145

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Appreciate your
4 report and your time, Maria.

5

6 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark
7 Burch.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mark.

10

11 MR. BURCH: Yeah, I just wondered if
12 you wanted to get back to Dave Crowley, the bear
13 biologist, since he is for that part of the state,
14 since he is on the line.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, yeah, I
17 agree, let's go ahead and do that, thank you.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 MR. CROWLEY: Hello, Madame Chair, good
22 afternoon. This is Dave Crowley, can you hear me okay.

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes. Della,
25 stepped out for just a second but she will be right
26 back, she had to run to the bathroom real quick.
27 Sorry.

28

29 MR. CROWLEY: Okay, thanks, I'll be
30 here.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della,
35 I'm back here. I had to run and get something.

36

37 MS. WESSELS: Della, we have Dave
38 Crowley online, he's available to talk, we were just
39 waiting on you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, yeah, I'm
42 here. I heard him start but I had to step out, so,
43 yeah, go ahead.

44

45 MR. CROWLEY: Okay. Good afternoon,
46 Madame Chair and Committee members. This is Dave
47 Crowley, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the
48 Area Biologist out of King Salmon. I understand there
49 were some questions. Were there some specific
50

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1 questions on bears down in Unit 9E or 9E?

2

3 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch -- oh,
4 go ahead.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mark.

7

8 MR. BURCH: Since Dave was not online I
9 was just going to try and summarize. I think I heard
10 the question, about the affect of the pandemic on the
11 hunting pressure and harvest and overall population.
12 Whoever asked that question in the first place might
13 want to clarify it.

14

15 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair, this is
16 Rebecca. I have another question if we don't get
17 clarification on that other question.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
22 Rebecca. I'm sorry, I'm in the office and sometimes I
23 have to stop and deal with a couple things but I think
24 we're good now so go ahead.

25

26 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Yeah, and then
27 whoever did have the original questions this may give
28 them more time to think about it. But since we do have
29 the bear biologist for the -- that would cover the area
30 that's in the Izembek report here, I was wondering as
31 far as the lower numbers of sows with cubs, so for
32 example the Unimak brown bear counts between '20 and
33 '21 there was a 42 percent decrease in sows with cubs,
34 is that a big decrease, I mean is that an alarming
35 number or is it just normal, sometimes, that's how much
36 they decrease. And then if it is alarming or it is
37 significant, do we know, do we have any sense of why
38 there was that decrease.

39

40 MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, Madame Chair. I
41 have not seen the recent data from Izembek, I'm
42 assuming you're referring to their surveys of Unimak
43 Island. And those surveys can vary quite a bit from
44 year to year because they're not repeated. Normally
45 when we do bear composition surveys we do repeated
46 surveys during the week, we'll survey the same thing as
47 many as, you know, four or five times, and pool that
48 data because it can vary so much day to day. And so
49 with the data from Izembek and Unimak Island, I kind
50

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1 of, you know, take a long range look at those surveys
2 and it could be that their survey this year jumps right
3 back up to a normal level. So a decline in one or two
4 years in the number of cubs doesn't really concern me
5 much.

6
7 From what we've seen on our ungulate
8 surveys -- we haven't gotten down to Cold Bay since,
9 oh, I think a parturition survey a couple years ago, or
10 a composition survey a couple years ago but the cubs
11 were coming back. We actually did see -- I don't think
12 in 9D or Unimak, but elsewhere in Unit 9 we saw a
13 decline in cubs during our ungulate surveys but boy
14 they've come screaming back at least in Units C and E.
15 We haven't spent as much time down in 9D yet or Unimak
16 but -- so, yeah, short answer, no, that wouldn't
17 concern me from one year to the next, but if it was a
18 longer term decline, if we saw that over, you know,
19 three, four, five years then I'd be concerned.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thanks. Yeah, that
24 context was exactly what I was looking for. Thank you,
25 Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
28 Rebecca. Thank you.

29

30 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

33

34 MR. KOSO: Yeah, no, that answered my
35 question too on Unimak and 9D area. It doesn't sound
36 like they're too concerned about it. Like I said, my
37 concern was this three and a half percent decline, so I
38 think I got my answer from them, they don't seem very
39 concerned about it so I guess there's nothing to worry
40 about as far as that goes, so thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Do we
43 see the State -- does the State report on the bear part
44 of this reporting process for our meetings, or can we
45 get that in the future?

46

47 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark
48 Burch.

49

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mark.

2

3 MR. BURCH: I would just say in
4 general, of course, the Department of Fish and Game has
5 a place on the agenda for agency reports. In the case --
6 if we have population level concerns we'll sometimes
7 initiate a report to bring that to your attention but
8 often it turns out to be by request. So if you have
9 concerns about a population and want to let us know
10 what those concerns are and would like to have that
11 added to the agenda, you know, a situation where we
12 could of course prepare ahead of time and line up the
13 biologist, we're happy to do that. But we wouldn't
14 normally present on bears on Unimak, for instance, at
15 every meeting. Hopefully that makes sense, thanks.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. Well, I
18 guess I'm looking at more the, you know, how you
19 sometimes do the joint survey on caribou, I think in
20 this case you most likely don't do a joint survey on
21 bear but it's just that when those reports are
22 available, I guess it's nice to be able to see what
23 they are. But at this particular point it doesn't
24 sound like there's a concern on anything, it was just a
25 question.

26

27 Okay, any other comments or questions.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think hearing
32 none, do we want to go ahead -- thank you, everyone, on
33 the Izembek, reports.

34

35 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

38

39 MS. WESSELS: Yes, we have Steve
40 Delehanty with Maritime National Wildlife Refuge online
41 if you would like to return to Maritime now.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
44 Steve, do you want to go ahead with Maritime National
45 Wildlife Refuge winter report.

46

47 MR. DELEHANTY: Yes, thank you very
48 much for the opportunity. I just want to make sure
49 that you have a copy of the report to the Council
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0149

1 members and can hear me all right.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, we can hear you well and it is Tab No. 6 in your binder.

MR. DELEHANTY: Perfect. Thank you, very much. So I wanted to -- we spent, as so many people have, a lot of time worrying about Covid and being safe and keeping your communities safe and that remains our focus. But we are planning a more active field season, summer season coming up. So last year, if you perhaps remember from our fall report, we did all of our work that was ship-based departing from Homer only, and arriving Homer. So basically we did big giant long, six, eight weeks long sweeps around and would return to Homer, we did not stop in Adak or Unalaska or Sand Point or Cold Bay or any place else and we didn't fly anybody anywhere. This year we are hoping to stay safe and conservative but to have some ports of call other than Homer, particularly once we have our field camps dropped off in the spring. So will be in Adak and Unalaska, for example.

We are doing, as you can see from that first topic, Snow On The Ground, Summer on Our Minds, we're doing a lot of planning trying to figure out how to get as much done as we can with what everybody is saying, which is not enough resources to be able to do the work, so we're having a hard time finding people to get the projects done and we're -- but we're excited about our plans. And it includes, I'm happy to say, besides our normal biological monitoring and oversight of the Refuge management issues, we are hoping this year, and are planning this year to reengage in person with the youth culture in camp science and camps and we -- in recent years, traditionally, pre-Covid, have had active participation in the Pribilof Islands as well as Sand Point and Unalaska so we hope to do that this year as well. We're working a with Maria a little bit to try and figure out the best way to help support the Sand Point camp. We expect to receive some money for that and invest some Staff time in that.

We also are planning on a youth hiring program that we've done for quite a few years now. It's complicated. And it's particularly complicated now doing it safely and smartly but we've been really pleased and proud of the program in the past where we've been able to take young people from remote

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1 communities and bring them together with Refuge Staff
2 and have them experience biological field work and ship
3 operations and just sort of how we do things, they
4 typically get a short trip, a week or so aboard the
5 Tiglax, so we're hoping for that again this year. With
6 all of this we're reaching out to the communities and
7 making sure that we're welcome, but so far we've gotten
8 nothing but positive information from communities,
9 they'd be glad to have us back and participating more
10 actively.

11

12 I know I heard Rick on earlier, he
13 knows this already, but we are -- we do have a meeting
14 planned with Rick and Dave Crowley and the Aleut
15 Corporation and myself to talk about the Adak caribou
16 issue. So I don't have any new information for you
17 other than we have a meeting date and time set up to
18 have that discussion about caribou in Adak and hear
19 what people have to say.

20

21 We continue our work, moving down in
22 the report, on invasive species. Just -- I believe it
23 was last week or the week before, we did a rather
24 intensive plant species workshop so that's something
25 that we have never ever dealt with effectively at
26 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, we're pretty
27 famous for our work removing introduced foxes from
28 islands and rats and things like that but we've tended
29 to not do much with plants, if anything. And so we
30 brought some plant experts and others to just kind of
31 go through an evaluation and figure out which are the
32 most difficult plants and which islands should we --
33 you know, how should we be looking at this. We really
34 haven't made any decisions yet but we hope it will help
35 us figure out where we can best make an investment and
36 do good work for plant, you know, invasive plants,
37 either eradication or controlled. So that is going on
38 actively right now.

39

40 And then as you know we maintain this
41 vision for a rat free Aleutians some day. That full
42 implementation of that vision is a long ways out and I
43 may not live to see it but every journey starts with a
44 single step. So we are continuing planning to look at
45 the feasibility of possible eradication on Great Sitkin
46 Island most intensely but we're also looking at
47 Amchitka and Kiska and Attu just in kind of more of
48 conceptual desktop exercise. But it was delayed
49 because of Covid so we will be going out there this
50

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1 summer and.....

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 REPORTER: Okay, hang on Dave. Dave.
7 Hang -- or, no, not Dave, Steve. I'm sorry, Steve.
8 Steve, hold on, could you hold on just a moment. Could
9 everybody check their lines and make sure they're
10 muted, I have a lot of background noise and I cannot
11 hear him talking right now, it's not picking up on the
12 recorder.

13

14 MR. DELEHANTY: Thank you. Just let me
15 know when you'd like me to proceed.

16

17 REPORTER: Okay, go ahead, I think
18 somebody muted. Sorry to interrupt you.

19

20 MR. DELEHANTY: Oh, that's fine, thank
21 you. So we are planning on some field work on Great
22 Sitkin Island this summer. And that relates to
23 studying the -- not only looking to figure out how,
24 like for example, how high up elevation rats live on
25 the island but also things like how quickly the bait
26 breaks down in the real environment out there. We're
27 not actually putting any poison on the island but using
28 the little kernels, the grain-based products that would
29 be very similar to what some day could be -- could
30 include the toxicant, the chemical in it, but for this
31 year there's no chemical or anything it's just the
32 grain-based bait trying to figure out what happens in
33 the aquatic environment, invertebrate take and things
34 like that and -- and there's also parallel work being
35 done in a lab to understand the effects on salmon of
36 this particular pesticide that likely would get used in
37 a future project.

38

39 So that work is going on and we're
40 excited to be going out and interacting with some
41 communities again this summer. And really that's all I
42 wanted to report on but I'd be happy to take any
43 questions and thank you, as always, for the work that
44 you all do to help take care of this wonderful
45 landscape out here.

46

47 Thanks.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any

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1 comments or questions.

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MR. HOLMES: Pat.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

6

7

MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm sorry there, I was having to deal with something else on a different phone but you were mentioning something about rats and I lost you and then pesticides and salmon, I just wonder if you could briefly repeat that.

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MR. DELEHANTY: Yes, hi Pat. So as part of our feasibility project to learn whether or not it's really possible to try and eradicate rats from Great Sitkin Island in the Aleutians we've got kind of a two-part research going on that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is doing for us. Part one is laboratory-based, so they're studying the effects of rodenticide (ph) on salmon because the islands that we're looking at, like Great Sitkin and Attu, for example, have salmon runs on them and so we want to understand what, if any, what the impact on those fish. And then the second part of the research is actually on the island will be occurring this late summer this year, which is examining how non-toxic, just grain pellets that resemble the grain-pellets that some day could contain the rodenticide, how those break down and move through the, particularly the aquatic food chain, so that research is going on this summer on Great Sitkin Island.

Yeah, and I think that's it if that answers your question.

MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thank you very much. I did survey the Chain in '82 and looked at a lot of those streams and have followed your rat attempts at different places and I did, at one point, in the '80s there, get -- I forget where they were working, but one of the golden king crab fishermen that was working out there, said they noticed some -- several dead eagles and so I think you're finding your way of distributing the rodenticide is going to be an important thing, particularly the question of using pellets and whether or not that might get into the stream is certainly a good thing to check out before you do that. And I'm glad that, hopefully things will loosen up for you folks, I know my friends at Atka were really

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1 appreciative of the trip you folks took them out to
2 Attu to get grass and I finally was able to afford to
3 buy an Attu basket made by an Atkan lady with Attu
4 grass for my wife for Christmas last year. So anyway
5 that helped -- that was good for the folks there, not
6 only for their culture but for their own personal
7 income. So thanks a lot for all your hard work, bye.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
10 Any other comments or questions for Steve.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing
15 none, thank you for your report.

16

17 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry,
20 go ahead, Coral.

21

22 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess I just
23 wanted to -- I don't know at this point, about putting
24 my two cents in worth, but I don't think that any sorts
25 of poisons or toxins are ever a great idea to put into
26 the environment but I don't know what we have to say
27 about that but that's my comment.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
30 Okay, Council, I think we're -- the next item is the
31 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, my question to you is
32 do you want to continue on today and do this or do you
33 want to do it the first thing in the morning.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Morning would be fine for
36 me.

37

38 MR. KOSO: Yeah, morning's fine for me,
39 Della, I'm going to have to check out right now.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

42

43 MR. PRICE: Yeah, and for me too.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, that
46 works, we don't have a whole lot left on this agenda so
47 I think we'll be fine. So 8:30 in the morning.

48

49 MR. KOSO: Was that 8:30.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, 8:30.

2

3 MR. KOSO: Okay.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And we will talk
6 to you all then, have a very good evening everybody and
7 thank you all for the reports and work today.

8

9 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks Della.

10

11 MR. ROHRER: Have a good evening,
12 thanks.

13

14 MR. PRICE: Thanks, Della.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You too, have a
17 good evening, bye.

18

19 (Off record)

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21 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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