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1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
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8 VOLUME II
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10
11 Community Center
12 Cold Bay, Alaska
13 September 22, 2022
14 8:30 a.m.
15
16
17

18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
19

20 Della Trumble, Chair
21 Coral Chernoff
22 Natasha Hayden
23 Patrick Holmes
24 Richard Koso
25 Christopher Price
26 Rebecca Skinner
27

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29
30 Regional Council Coordinator, Lisa Hutchinson-
31 Scarbrough
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Cold Bay, Alaska - 9/22/2022)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning, everyone. Welcome back to the Kodiak/Aleutians Federal Subsistence Advisory Council day two. We are going to try to be a little more productive today. We didn't make a dent in this agenda yesterday. Soon as I find it. So I guess we'll start out this morning by calling the meeting to order and having a roll call.

Lisa.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Good morning, Council. Good morning, Chair. Good morning, everybody. Yes, good morning.

Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard Koso.

MR. KOSO: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Sam Rohrer.

(No comments)

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher Price.

MR. PRICE: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral Chernoff.

MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca Skinner.

MS. SKINNER: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della

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1 Trumble.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Here.

4

5 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha

6 Hayden.

7

8 MS. HAYDEN: Here.

9

10 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Seven out
11 of eight standing Council members are here so we have a
12 quorum.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
15 for the record Sam has an excused absence.

16

17 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We didn't get to
20 say.....

21

22 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes. Yes,

23 he does.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:that
26 yesterday.

27

28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes. He
29 indicated he might be able to join us later today.
30 We'll see.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Lisa.

35

36 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So we will
39 continue on to do -- again good morning and welcome.
40 We'll continue on with Council members introduction and
41 then online and move to people in the room. And there
42 are people online. And we're going to try to -- we're
43 going to try to be as efficient as possible today.

44

45 So we'll start with you, Pat.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes from Kodiak.
48 Been around a while most places.

49

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

4

5 MR. PRICE: Good morning. Chris Price
6 from Unalaska.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca Skinner from
11 Kodiak.

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff from
14 Kodiak.

15

16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Lisa
17 Hutchinson-Scarborough, Council Coordinator.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick Koso.

20

21 MR. KOSO: Rick Koso from Adak.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha.

24

25 MS. HAYDEN: Natasha Hayden from
26 Kodiak.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
29 myself, Della Trumble. I am the Chair.

30

31 And we'll go ahead and start in the
32 room. Jarred.

33

34 MR. KOSO: Della.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

37

38 MR. KOSO: Yeah, are you -- you know,
39 I'm having a hard time hearing you, you're real low. I
40 hear the other people fairly loud, but I'm having a
41 hard time hearing you unless I put my ear right up to
42 the phone here.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I'll try
45 to speak a little closer to the mic. Is that better?

46

47 MR. KOSO: Oh, yeah, that's better.

48

49 Thank you, Della.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
2 Jarred.

3
4 MR. STONE: Good morning. I was
5 getting prepared to give my presentation, but then I
6 just realized this is Staff introductions. So my name
7 is Jarred Stone, Fisheries Biologist with OSM.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. KOLLER: Good morning, Madame
12 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Justin
13 Koller. I'm also a Fisheries Biologist with the Office
14 of Subsistence Management.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MR. CHEN: Good morning again,
19 everyone. Glen Chen from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

20
21 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair,
22 RAC members from Kodiak. This is Orville Lind, Native
23 Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management. Good
24 morning, good to hear you all.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
29 Orville.

30
31 Katya.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Council
34 members. Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division
35 Supervisor with OSM.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

38
39 MR. AYERS: Scott Ayers, Fisheries
40 Division Supervisor at OSM.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good morning.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're doing the
47 people in the room right now for those of you who are
48 online.

49
50 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning, Madame

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1 Chair, members of the Council. Jason Roberts,
2 Anthropologist, OSM.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. FOSADO: Good morning, Madame
7 Chair, members of the Council. Maria Fosado, Izembek
8 Refuge Manager.

9

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Madame
11 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Alison
12 Williams, I'm a Wildlife Biologist at Izembek Refuge.

13

14 MR. LAWSON: Good morning, Madame
15 Chair, members of the Council. Tyler Lawson with the
16 Department of Fish and Game.

17

18 MR. KEYSE: Good morning, Madame Chair
19 and Council members. My name is Matt Keyse. I'm with
20 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
23 this morning we'll do things a little bit different.
24 Those of you that represent tribes or ANCSA
25 corporations or the -- from the communities, if you'll
26 go ahead and introduce yourselves first, I'd appreciate
27 it.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MS. PETERSON: Good morning. This is
32 Amy Peterson, Kodiak Community Affairs Liaison.

33

34 MR. VAN DAELE: This is Matt Van Daele,
35 Natural Resources Director for Sun'aq Tribe, Kodiak.

36

37 MS. JONES: Tami Jones, Grant
38 Administrator, Native Village of Ouzinkie.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
41 We'll go ahead and move on to Staff online from U.S.
42 Fish and Wildlife.

43

44 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
45 Klein, Regional Subsistence Coordinator with the U.S.
46 Fish and Wildlife Service working out of Anchorage in
47 our regional office and ISC member.

48

49 MR. BRADY: Good morning, Mike Brady,

50

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1 I'm the Refuge Manager at Kodiak National Wildlife
2 Refuge.

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Jeff
5 Williams, Deputy Refuge Manager, Alaska Maritime
6 National Wildlife Refuge.

7

8 MR. GERKEN: Good morning. John
9 Gerken, Federal In-Season Manager for the Aleutian
10 Islands, Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula. I'm in
11 Anchorage.

12

13 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. This is
14 Kendra Holman, I'm a Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

15

16 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. This is
17 George Pappas, OSM, State Subsistence Liaison.

18

19 MS. LaVINE: Good morning. This is
20 Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator with the
21 Office of Subsistence Management.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Hearing
24 no other, we'll move on to ADF&G Staff.

25

26 MS. KEATING: Good morning. This is
27 Jackie Keating with the Division of Subsistence in
28 Anchorage.

29

30 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
31 Burch from the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

32

33 MR. WILCOX: Good morning. This is
34 Chance Wilcox with the Division of Subsistence in
35 Anchorage.

36

37 MR. POLUM: This is Tyler Polum with
38 the Department of Fish and Game Sport fish in Kodiak.

39

40 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. This is
41 Kelly Krueger with the Department of Fish and Game
42 Sport fish in Kodiak too.

43

44 MR. JACKSON: This is James Jackson,
45 I'm the Kodiak Commercial and Subsistence Salmon and
46 Herring Management Biologist. Good morning.

47

48 MS. FOX: Good morning, Madame Chair.
49 This is Lisa Fox, I'm the South Peninsula Commercial
50

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1 and Subsistence Salmon Manager.

2

3 MR. WADLE: Good morning, Madame Chair.
4 This is Jeff Wadle, Regional Management Biologist for
5 the Western Region.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
8 you, everyone and again welcome. I think the next item
9 that we will have on the agenda is -- oh, before we do
10 that just housekeeping. Please make sure that you mute
11 your mics. Also if you would like to testify for the
12 Council there are some forms that you can fill out.
13 And we do allow people -- we work you in the schedule
14 as -- make that opportunity for you to speak as we move
15 on. And also if you're online and just have a time
16 frame that you need to -- would like to talk to us just
17 let us know and we'll make arrangements.

18

19 The next item on our agenda, we
20 continue on from yesterday and that is the Fisheries
21 proposals and closure reviews. And that's with Jarred.
22 Oh, I'm sorry, I do have to stop for -- before we go.
23 I forgot if there's any public comments on nonagenda
24 items at this point.

25

26 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. This is
27 Kelly Krueger with the Alaska Department of Fish and
28 Game. I was wondering if I could do a quick five
29 minute presentation on our Buskin sockeye projects.
30 Normally we're on the agenda, but it doesn't look like
31 our materials made it on there this time.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think, Kelly,
34 we can go ahead when we do the Kodiak Refuge reports
35 and just take like five minutes. We'll just add that.

36

37 MS. KRUEGER: This is for Fish and
38 Game.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry.

41

42 MS. KRUEGER: I'm happy to do it with
43 the Fish and Game agency reports. I just wanted to ask
44 if that was okay.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's fine,
47 Kelly.

48

49 MS. KRUEGER:to add that to the

50

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1 agenda.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's fine.
4 We'll get you on the agenda.

5

6 MS. KRUEGER: Okay. Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Kelly, can you
9 email your presentation?

10

11 MS. KRUEGER: Yes. It should have been
12 emailed on the 31st, but I will email it again to the
13 Coordinator.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 Kelly. Any other public comments?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Moving
23 forward. Regional Fisheries proposals and closure
24 reviews.

25

26 Jarred Stone.

27

28 Katya, just a question. Just hold on a
29 minute.

30

31 So in order to maybe shorten some of
32 the time on these, I request that we take Kodiak Region
33 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Jarred. I know you did the review
34 on the first one yesterday before we left and if we can
35 -- the idea here will be to pass these six items in a
36 block and then take the 7, 8 and 9 separately. And
37 just -- I guess the process would be to go through each
38 of them and review and then go through our steps by the
39 tribes and then agency comments, we just go through the
40 steps. So if you can go through 1 through 6 and then
41 we can go from there.

42

43 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

46

47 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I wanted to ask if
48 Proposal FRC 23-21, the king crab proposal should that
49 one be pulled out of that block. Okay. So that would
50

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1 be number 6.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So 1 through 5.

4

5

MS. SKINNER: 1 through 5.

6

7

MR. STONE: Additionally if I may. This is Jarred Stone for the record. I would also recommend FC 23-19 be removed from that block. That one is unique in that we're not taking the stance to rescind that closure in the same fashion as we are with the other ones. We believe that that particular waters do not have Federal jurisdiction so we're looking to remove those -- that language from the regulations.

15

16

MS. SKINNER: Which one is that?

17

18

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Number 4.

19

20

21

MR. STONE: That is number 5 on the agenda I'm looking at. It's FCR 23-19.

22

23

24

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. So then we're going to do 1, 2, 3, 4. You did 1 review yesterday.

25

26

27

28

29

MR. STONE: Correct. Yeah, we did 1 and 2 yesterday. And so today we'll be picking up with number 3, FCR 21-18.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

Okay. If the Council's ready, my name is Jarred Stone, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. The analysis for the deferred Fisheries closure 21-18 for the marine waters of Afognak Bay begins on page 92 of your Council materials.

37

38

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40

41

42

43

44

Fisheries closure 21-18 states that you may not subsistence fish for salmon in Afognak Bay north and west of a line from the tip of last point to the tip of river mouth point. This was a closure that was incorporated into Federal regulations from existing State regulations. And now I'll give a brief background on the biological background.

45

46

47

48

49

50

The Afognak Lake watershed is located on the southeast side of Afognak Island and supports sockeye, coho and pink salmon runs. Afognak Lake drains through Afognak River which flows into Afognak

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1 Bay. Afognak Bay is part of the Alaska Maritime
2 National Wildlife Refuge and is where most of the
3 localized subsistence sockeye salmon fishing occurs.
4 The marine waters adjacent to the mouth of the Afognak
5 River are closed under both Federal and State
6 subsistence regulations to protect salmon as the
7 migrate through the estuary. However these same waters
8 remain open to the harvest of fish under State sport
9 fish regulations.

10

11 The Afognak River weir is located
12 approximately a half a mile above the outlet of Afognak
13 River and operates from mid May to mid August.
14 Currently the Afognak River has an escapement goal of
15 20,000 to 50,000 sockeye salmon. The Afognak River has
16 seen relatively weak sockeye salmon returns in recent
17 years. You can see that on table 1. Between 2010 and
18 2021 the annual sockeye salmon escapement ranged from
19 17,601 fish to 51,821 fish with a 12 year average
20 escapement of 34,000 fish. Sockeye salmon returns have
21 been below average since 2016 with the lowest return of
22 17,601 occurring back in 2018.

23

24 Monitoring of adult coho salmon through
25 the weir into Afognak Lake has been secondary to
26 monitoring sockeye salmon. Largely due to budgetary
27 constraints the weir is often removed before the coho
28 run is complete. Coho salmon escapement estimates are
29 again like I said often incomplete and depending on run
30 timing and currently there is no escapement goal for
31 coho or pink salmon returning to Afognak Lake.

32

33 Now I'll go over a little bit of the
34 harvest history of the area. Subsistence harvest for
35 salmon is open throughout the year in most Federal
36 public waters of the Kodiak Management Area with a
37 subsistence fishing permit. Historically the most
38 utilized subsistence fishery areas under Federal
39 regulations are the marine waters in proximity to the
40 Buskin River on the north end of Kodiak Island and also
41 the marine waters of Afognak Bay. Both of these areas
42 are again part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife
43 Refuge and sockeye salmon are the primary species
44 harvested by Federally-qualified subsistence users with
45 a three year average harvest of 216 fish. Coho salmon
46 are the second most frequently harvested fish with a
47 three year average of about 48 fish. Fish harvested
48 under State sport fish regulations in the Kodiak
49 Management Area are estimated through the Alaska sport
50

1 fishing harvest survey. And because of low response
2 rates there are no estimates of sockeye or coho salmon
3 harvest in the freshwater systems of Afognak Island.

4
5 I'll go briefly over the effects of
6 this closure if rescinded. According to title VIII,
7 section 804 of Alaska National Interest Lands
8 Conservation Act, the taking on public lands of fish
9 and wildlife for non-wasteful subsistence uses shall be
10 accorded priority over taking on such lands of fish and
11 wildlife for other purposes. There are currently
12 nonsubsistence uses permitted in this area making the
13 current situation out of compliance with title VIII of
14 ANILCA. Rescinding the closure would provide Federal
15 opportunity to harvest salmon in the marine waters of
16 Afognak Bay thereby providing priority consumptive use
17 to Federally-qualified subsistence users. If the
18 closure is rescinded Federally-qualified subsistence
19 users would be allowed to harvest salmon using the
20 methods described on the Federal permit which allows
21 the use of nets and a more liberal harvest than sport
22 harvest. To conserve fish populations the Federal In-
23 Season Manager could revise the area permit or issue a
24 special action to set provisions for the fishery such
25 as stipulating the gear types like rod and reel only
26 and setting conservative harvest limits. If the In-
27 Season Manager chose to mirror State sport fish
28 regulations harvest would likely remain near the same
29 level largely due to the fact that rural residents are
30 already participating in harvesting fish under State
31 sport fish regulations. This would ease some of the
32 regulatory complexity while providing a rural priority
33 for subsistence use particularly during times of low
34 abundance by possibly limiting the fishery to
35 Federally-qualified subsistence users only.

36
37 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
38 rescind the closure. And I'll give a justification.
39 As we move through some of the rest of the closure
40 reviews the justifications for these will largely be
41 the same and so I'll try to just note that and not read
42 the same recommendation. I'm sorry, the same
43 justification.

44
45 This portion of Afognak Bay is
46 currently closed to the harvest of salmon by Federally-
47 qualified subsistence users, but remains open to other
48 uses such as State sport harvest. Section 802 of
49 ANILCA requires that subsistence uses by rural
50

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1 residents of Alaska shall be the priority consumptive
2 uses of all such resources on the public lands of
3 Alaska. Federal subsistence opportunity should also be
4 provided to comply with the rural preference mandated
5 by ANILCA. The Federal In-Season Manager has been
6 delegated authority to open or close Federal
7 subsistence fishing periods or areas provided under
8 codified regulations to specify methods and means, to
9 specify permit requirements and to set harvest and
10 possession limits for Federal subsistence fisheries.
11 The In-Season Manager can use this authority to manage
12 the fishery in the short term. Harvest levels again we
13 believe would likely remain unaffected as Federally-
14 qualified subsistence users are already participating
15 in the State sport fishery. A proposal outlining
16 specific parameters can be submitted during a future
17 Fisheries regulatory cycle if desired.

18

19 And that concludes my presentation.
20 I'll take any questions you might have.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we'll
23 move down the line, Jarred, and then do the questions
24 after a motion is taken. So given that I think the
25 next would be a report on board consultation.

26

27 Orville, from tribes or ANCSA
28 corporations.

29

30 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Council
31 members, Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
32 Subsistence Management. During the consultations held
33 on August 23rd for your review in Kodiak there were no
34 comments or questions.

35

36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
39 Orville. Agency comments.

40

41 ADF&G.

42

43 MR. POLUM: This is Tyler Polum. I
44 think I saw for James Jackson or Jeff Wadle they were
45 going to comment on that previous one second and I'll
46 see who's going to take the lead on that.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

49

50

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1 (Pause)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: ADF&G, we'll
4 move to Federal agencies and then we'll come back to
5 you.

6

7 MR. POLUM: Madame Chair, I'm sorry
8 about that. I'm not sure if James is disconnected or
9 something like that. This is Tyler Polum with the
10 Department of Fish and Game. If you got a -- do you
11 got a second here?

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead.
14 Just go ahead.

15

16 MR. POLUM: We -- okay. Yeah, James
17 can chime in, but I'll jump in for him here if -- until
18 he gets connected there. For the department comments
19 for this proposal, we -- the Department of Fish and
20 Game supports maintaining the current closure. So we'd
21 be opposed to the suggestion that OSM has to rescind
22 the closure due to conservation concerns with this
23 area. So the current closure was in place prior to
24 being -- having the regulations adopted by OSM. So
25 even prior to OSM adopting these closures that came
26 originally from State regulations, they were on the
27 books for quite a number -- a long time with the aim to
28 protect the area closest to the stream terminus from
29 the more liberal gear types of gillnets, beach seines,
30 that are allowed in subsistence fisheries both -- now
31 both in the State and the Federal subsistence
32 fisheries. So since those gear types are -- allow for
33 a great potential for harvest the area nearest the
34 stream mouth is the area of most concern for those. In
35 addition to that adding more regulatory -- you know,
36 we're close to adding more regulatory complexity to
37 existing fisheries. The current fisheries have been in
38 place for many, many years and operating under both
39 State and Federal management since -- for quite a
40 number of years including, you know, Federal in-season
41 and State in-season management in recent years.

42

43 We're also opposed to anything that
44 would create enforcement challenges as there is
45 currently no Federal enforcement that we're aware of in
46 these areas and we're unsure what that would look like.
47 There's not been any Federal enforcement action to our
48 knowledge in these fisheries and we're unsure what that
49 would like in the future as well.

50

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1 So I'll leave it there and we're glad
2 for questions on any of that especially since ADF&G
3 operates the weir so we can get any data for those.
4 There are also some survey data in there too. If
5 anything -- you know, any questions come up I'll try to
6 track down James too so he can answer any questions as
7 well.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
10 Tyler. Just let us know when.....

11

12 MR. JACKSON: Madame Chairman, this is
13 James Jackson.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh.

16

17 MR. JACKSON: I'm the Kodiak Commercial
18 Herring and Salmon Subsistence Management Biologist.
19 Sorry about that, I got cut off. But Tyler covered
20 most everything in there, I mean, basically the regard
21 to the longstanding regulation, the current opportunity
22 for Federally-qualified subsistence users, the
23 importance of these closed waters to conserve salmon
24 species, make sure we meet our escapement goals and
25 objectives. The current closed waters are there
26 because -- not because they got copied from OSM,
27 they're there because 40 plus years ago a management
28 biologist realized that it was not a good idea to have
29 seines and set gillnets in the river of Afognak. And
30 their liberalization of a new subsistence gear type,
31 the one major concern we have for that is obviously if
32 you -- if it -- a sport fish limit is not as big of a
33 conservation concern, as Jarred said likely it wouldn't
34 cause too much of an increase in harvest, but if that
35 were to be liberalized in the future that could be a
36 possible biological concern. And I think Tyler hit it,
37 most importantly the unenforceability of these proposed
38 changes. We already have unenforced regulations,
39 Federal regulations in the Kodiak area and this would
40 just create more.

41

42 And sorry, Tyler, didn't mean to drop
43 you on that. I hit a button and got kicked out.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
46 James.

47

48 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca has a
2 comment or question.

3
4 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. Good morning,
5 James, this is Rebecca. I just wanted to clarify the
6 waters we're talking about are open to sport fishing,
7 correct?

8
9 MR. JACKSON: The subsistence closed
10 waters that are closed to State set gillnet and seine
11 subsistence fishing are open to the sport fishery for
12 rod and reel, that's correct.

13
14 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
17 you. We'll go ahead and move on to Federal agency
18 comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
23 Tribal entities, Native, tribal, village or other, any
24 comments.

25
26 MR. VAN DAELE: Madame Chair, this is
27 Matt Van Daele with Sun'aq Tribe. Can you hear me
28 okay?

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can hear you,
31 Matt. Go ahead.

32
33 MR. VAN DAELE: Okay. Are we going to
34 be discussing each one of these closures by themselves
35 and if so is there going to be a time just to give a
36 general comment about all of them at the end or would
37 you like me to comment after each one?

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: At this
40 particular time we are doing 1 through 4 that we had
41 the report on.

42
43 MR. VAN DAELE: Okay. Okay. Okay.
44 Would it be appropriate for me to give my comments
45 about 1 through 4 right now or just wait until the
46 discussion for number 4?

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You can go ahead
49 and do 1 through 4 now, that's -- we'll be taking
50

0196

1 action on 1 through 4.

2

3

MR. VAN DAELE: Okay. Okay. Okay.
4 Yeah, thank you. Yeah, our comment for Sun'aq Tribe is
5 we are definitely in favor of anything that's going to
6 bring them to alignment with title VIII, as well as
7 protecting access to subsistence resource and
8 especially wise use in management conservation of
9 resources. And we would like to see more information
10 as time goes on about what the actual regulations would
11 change to in terms of types of harvest, methods of
12 harvest, all those things before we give more
13 substantive comments at this time.

14

15

(Off record comments - microphone)

16

17

18

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Matt, can
you repeat that, please.

19

20

21

MR. VAN DAELE: Yeah, I'm about -- I
don't know, is that better?

22

23

24

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, much
better. Thank you.

25

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MR. VAN DAELE: Yeah, sorry about that.
We would like to receive more information about what
the actual regulation would be changing to rather than
just rescinding the closures because we had also -- you
know, we do have concerns about overharvest as well and
the enforcement issues that Fish and Game were saying
early. But we are definitely in favor of regulatory
changes that are going to bring into alignment with
title VIII and protecting access to subsistence
resources as well as wise use management and
conservation of these subsistence resources.

37

38

39

Thank you.

40

41

42

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Matt.
Any other Native, tribal, village or other comments.

43

44

(No comments)

45

46

47

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory Group
comments, other Regional Councils.

48

49

50

(No comments)

0197

1 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that you,
4 Pat, I.....

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am. Pat Holmes.
7 I have two questions.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat that -- if I
10 can interrupt you just a minute. Once we get to the
11 bottom then all the Council members can comment. We're
12 not quite there yet, we're on other Regional Councils.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Sorry.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's okay.
17 We'll get back to you.

18

19 Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
24 Resource Commissions.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of
29 written public comments.

30

31 Lisa.

32

33 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, I'll take
34 that. There were no public comments submitted for this
35 proposal.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
40 Jarred. Any public testimony.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
45 recommendations. Motion.

46

47 MS. CHERNOFF: I'd like to make a
48 motion to move to rescind this closure on FCR 21-18.

49

50

0198

1 MS. SKINNER: Second.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
4 Coral to rescind, a second by Rebecca. Discussion.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, two
11 questions for Jarred. With this new management will I
12 need or other folks need to also have a Federal
13 subsistence permit in addition to the State one and
14 will that provide -- cause any difficulties for folks,
15 it'll probably make it more complex at the regional
16 office.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, can you
19 rephrase that and get closer to the mic?

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Okay. My question is will
22 we need to have with the new regulation to have a
23 Federal subsistence permit?

24

25 MR. STONE: That -- yes. Through the
26 Chair. Yes, you would need a Federal subsistence
27 permit. You would not need a State permit if you chose
28 to just participate in the Federal public waters. In
29 addition to that you would not need a State sport fish
30 license, you would just need a Federal permit and that
31 is all.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Continuing on that line
34 you mentioned in your discussion on page 98 that the
35 average subsistence harvest Federal was 272, what is
36 the average harvest on the State permit? I would
37 imagine it's up in the thousands at least.

38

39 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. I do
40 not have that information in front of me so I can't
41 speak to the numbers of the State harvest. I would
42 assume that you're right.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering perhaps if
45 James Jackson might be able to come back with an
46 approximation on that being as it's his shop that does
47 the summary on the State side?

48

49 MR. JACKSON: Hey, Pat, this is James

50

0199

1 Jackson. Let me look real fast, we have a pretty quick
2 data base. It looks like -- I'm going to give you a
3 rough approximation, but Afognak last -- well, Afognak
4 Bay the last 10 years averages just under 2,000
5 sockeye. That doesn't include coho or pinks, I just
6 did that query for sockeye.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
11 comments. Natasha. Rick.

12

13 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
14 Natasha.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

17

18 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you. My comments --
19 I actually also have some questions. My comments would
20 be aligned with Mr. Van Daele from Sun'aq about
21 bringing the regulation in line with title VIII of
22 ANILCA. My understanding is that if ANILCA requires --
23 if there's -- if -- that sport fishing activities be
24 closed before subsistence fishing activities are closed
25 and so I'm not really sure who this question is for,
26 but I -- I'm trying to understand how sport fishing
27 activities are permitted to continue if that same area
28 is closed for subsistence?

29

30 MR. POLUM: Madame Chair, this is Tyler
31 Polum with the Sport Fish Division in Kodiak. I can
32 try and answer that question.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

35

36 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you.

37

38 MR. POLUM: I -- yeah, as far as ANILCA
39 goes, I won't -- as far as the, you know, OSM's
40 interpretation of those regulations, I leave that to
41 them of course. But as far as management of the sport
42 fishery goes we -- the sport fisheries throughout the
43 state of Alaska are managed with a very conservative
44 gear type and bag limits because they're intended for--
45 the regulations are intended to promote recreational
46 fishing even though in many cases they're used for
47 supplementing, you know, for subsistence in essence
48 because they're -- those fish are harvested for food,
49 many by Federally-qualified subsistence users. But the
50

0200

1 regulations are intended to be conservative by nature
2 for both methods and means and bag limit. So in the
3 case of Litnik fishing there in Afognak Bay for -- you
4 can have a total of five salmon per day which they have
5 to be, you know, a combined limit of whatever species
6 you get, but most folks, you know, are either going
7 there in June for reds or in August for silvers. So
8 you can get no more than five per day and you're
9 limited to one line with no more than two hooks. So
10 that's the way the sport fishery is managed by
11 regulation. So it's a much, much more conservative
12 gear type than gillnets or beach seines which are moved
13 out further in the bay for their potential for harvest.

14

15

16 When the sockeye run for instance is
17 not looking like it's going to meet its escapement
18 objectives just like we did with Buskin here with coho,
19 we work James and -- as the subsistence manager, who's
20 the subsistence manager and then Mike Brady who's with
21 the Refuge as the In-Season Manager for the Federal
22 fishery. And we have always closed those fisheries
23 concurrently. So there's never been a case where
24 anglers are allowed to fish while subsistence is closed
25 outright. When there's a shortage of fish there are
26 different places where they can fish at different -- at
27 -- you know, while the normal regulations are in place,
28 but when we restricted those fisheries there's never
29 been a time where sport fishing's been allowed, but
30 subsistence has not.

31

32

Hopefully that makes sense.

33

34

35 MS. HAYDEN: Yeah, thank you for that.
36 I understand all of that. But that -- I don't really
37 think -- maybe I should have done a better job of
38 asking my question. From a regulatory standpoint if --
39 that doesn't -- the way that I understand ANILCA is
40 that if subsistence areas are closed that sport fishing
41 would -- that subsistence fishing areas are closed
42 after sport fishing areas are closed. And what we're
43 talking about with this proposal and what is -- what
44 has been in existence for now quite some time, going
45 back decades from what -- I can't remember the exact
46 year, but that area is closed to subsistence and sport
47 fishing is currently allowed to be conducted in those
48 areas, correct?

48

49

MR. POLUM: Through the Chair. Yes,

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0201

1 that's correct and that's due to the gear types and bag
2 limits in the two different fisheries, not because of
3 the users of those fisheries. And so I'd leave it to
4 OSM to answer any further questions about, you know,
5 how that's -- you know, the requirements of ANILCA and
6 how that's interpreted or perhaps our own ANILCA stats
7 if they're available, but I'm not certain who's on from
8 Fish and Game in that regard. But that is -- as far as
9 the closed waters for each fishery, that's -- there are
10 no closed waters for sport fishing except for around
11 the weir. And so the difference being the gear types
12 and bag limits used.

13

14 MR. JACKSON: Through the Chair. This
15 is James Jackson.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, James.

18

19 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Madame Chair,
20 Ms. Hayden. So the whole point of the subsistence
21 closed waters there is because for the State you can
22 only use seine and gillnet and just imagine if you
23 could go put a gillnet by the old bridge there which is
24 where the Federal waters map shows you would basically
25 catch all the fish. And so because we want to ensure,
26 you know, local escapement we created those closed
27 waters. And under Federal regulations because rod and
28 reel is a legal gear type if they rescinded those
29 closed waters they'd be able to use -- well, I mean,
30 the way it's written they'd be able to use everything,
31 but I think the intent was to allow for rod and reel
32 subsistence fishing.

33

34 MS. HAYDEN: All right. Thank you, Mr.
35 Jackson. I understand that. I guess -- and it's early
36 in the day and you guys might have had more
37 conversations about this last night and I wasn't able
38 to stay on. The title VIII of ANILCA is -- contains
39 the requirement for subsistence opportunity to have
40 primacy over sport fishing opportunity. And so I guess
41 what I'm getting at is that -- and I fully understand,
42 you know, two hooks, one line, five fish a day, is --
43 well, night and day different from a gillnet or a beach
44 seine in that area. But the intent of having the
45 primacy for subsistence is that the -- those
46 opportunities have priority over sport fishing. And I
47 don't disagree that it would be potentially -- well, it
48 would be harder to manage, but despite that is that the
49 -- is that in line with ANILCA?

50

0202

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha, if I
2 could maybe.....

3
4 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Ms. Hayden.
5 This is James Jackson again.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If I could
8 interrupt a minute. Jarred, could you maybe talk --
9 explain ANILCA, basically the definition of what
10 Natasha's trying to get at here?

11
12 MR. STONE: Sure. Thank you. Through
13 the Chair. I think what Natasha's getting at is, you
14 know, the step wise decision making of when to close
15 down fisheries and affording the rural priority. And
16 currently as it sits the In-Season Manager has her
17 hands tied, they cannot make in-season decisions to
18 manage the fishery to allow for subsistence priority.
19 And so by lifting this closure, by affording this
20 fishery to occur, there would be the opportunity then
21 for the In-Season Manager to make the decision as to
22 what types of gear and set the harvest limits, things
23 of that nature. And so there -- I understand, you
24 know, Fish and Game's stance as to the possibility of
25 those gear types being used, but I will say that under
26 the Federal permit as it sits right now we allow rod
27 and reel. And that's a flexibility that the State
28 currently does not. And so if these closures are
29 rescinded the Federal In-Season Manager can limit the
30 fishery to rod and reel only and additionally there's
31 also the flexibility to for someone to submit a
32 proposal for the next cycle. And so if anyone from the
33 public or -- doesn't agree with the current
34 regulations, they would submit a proposal to help us
35 shape the fishery for the next cycle which would be two
36 years from now.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
39 Jarred. And I do have one question. In the State of
40 Alaska are there any other areas that have both the
41 Federal and State permit subsistence in place, any
42 regions, and where are those regions?

43
44 MR. STONE: Yes, I believe -- thank
45 you. Through the Chair. Yes, I believe there are
46 instances where there's both Federal and State permits.
47 An example of that would -- yeah, an example of that
48 would be the Copper River.

49
50

0203

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chignik.

2

3 MR. STONE: Oh, and Chignik as well.

4 Yeah, there is two -- there is a State permit as well

5 as a Federal permit. The Federal permit there is

6 lesser known.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So my next

9 question is when you apply for a Federal or subsistence

10 permit can you have two or are you only basically

11 allowed one?

12

13 MR. STONE: You can have two, you can

14 have both. You cannot double down and harvest from

15 both permits and combine those limits. From what I

16 understand you have to choose and pick which fishery

17 you're going to participate in and only meet the bag

18 limit or the harvest limit of that -- of that permit of

19 your choosing. So it's not illegal to have both

20 permits, but you have to decide which permit you're

21 going to fish.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

24

25 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

28

29 MS. SKINNER: I have a comment and a

30 question. My comment and I feel like I'm being the --

31 in my head I'm being the curmudgeon, old person who's

32 sitting here like this today. The Council had an

33 opportunity to put in proposed regulations that would

34 limit gear types or be more -- offer more conservative

35 management for every single one of these closures and

36 the Council decided at our last meeting to not take

37 advantage of that. So I am a little frustrated that

38 today there's a lot of discussion around, you know,

39 seine nets being too liberal. We had an option, we

40 could have put forward proposals at our last meeting

41 and we didn't. My question is since we've missed that

42 opportunity with this closure and if the closure is

43 rescinded the in -- I'm going to call it the In-Season

44 Manager, is able to put in appropriate restrictions.

45 So if they in their judgment deem that the use of a net

46 is going to be too liberal for a particular system they

47 could -- they could limit it to rod and reel under

48 Federal subsistence regs. I think you said earlier and

49 this is what I want to confirm, that the In-Season

50

0204

1 Managers do want to hear recommendations from the
2 Council and they will give that weight. So for anyone
3 of these closures if we say, you know, given that we've
4 missed this regulatory cycle, we'll have another chance
5 in two years, but in the meantime we would really like
6 the In-Service Manager to limit it to rod and reel or
7 limit it to five fish or two fish or 10 fish, that
8 generally the In-Service Manager does give that weight
9 and does give that deference when they are making those
10 decisions to put limits around the fishery action for
11 anyone of these areas?

12

13 MR. STONE: Through the Chair, Council
14 member, Ms. Skinner. Yes, you're exactly right. I
15 know both In-Season Managers right now are online and
16 listening and they're looking for your guidance. This
17 is, you know, the bottom up process for what we're
18 looking to do today is listen and hear your voices.
19 And if you have ideas on this fishery, they might not
20 come in the form of like a modification to the proposal
21 today or for the closure, but they will come in the
22 form of your own opinion or a recommendation that you
23 hope that the In-Service Manager would heed to. And as
24 long as it, you know, follows recognized principles of
25 fisheries management and conservation then I don't see
26 why they wouldn't heed to those recommendations.

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, Jarred, I just have
33 one question. So currently with Federal subsistence
34 closed in this area is it in violation of title VIII?

35

36 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Yes.
37 That's a great question and that's what we're trying to
38 rectify. We are out of compliance with title VIII
39 right now.

40

41 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

42

43 MR. STONE: And we are not affording
44 the rural priority for consumptive uses. And so that's
45 why we're here today. Yeah.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
48 other comments, Coral?

49

50

0205

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess I have a
2 comment. We often say rod and reel, we act like it's
3 less of a stress on things. But I do know -- I know
4 people who are guides, I know like in Kodiak one guide
5 can take up to 30 people in his lodge a night. So when
6 you're taking 30 people out to get a limit of five a
7 day and you're taking them out every day for three or
8 four months that's a lot of fish. So I think people
9 have to do the math and realize that subsistence
10 putting out a net and catching fish is not necessarily
11 anymore harmful than rod and reel. Rod and reel also
12 puts a lot of traffic a lot of times on the riverbanks
13 and the land. So that's also a lot of times a
14 consideration for me or I like to think about that,
15 like all the activity that happens on the land and
16 erosion that can happen on the banks. And so there can
17 be a lot of impact with rod and reel also.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, in relation
26 to Becky's comments on our choosing not to do it, I
27 believe that was based on wanting to get input from the
28 public which we have had very little. I have a
29 question on management in-season if the proposed gear
30 type, what happens and it has happened a few times at
31 Litnik I recall, when you end up having higher
32 escapement than expected and they move the markers in
33 for gillnetting. What is the Federal manager going to
34 do, what's the coordination there? And then I'd also
35 like to know on the permit reports is there in-season
36 coordination back from the Federal government from the
37 Refuge on harvest on the Federal subsistence side, do
38 they contact Mr. Jackson and let him know what's
39 happening?

40
41 That's a couple questions. Thank you.

42
43 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
44 Chair. If Mike Brady is on the line I would look to
45 maybe have him answer that question.

46
47 Mike, are you there?

48
49 MR. BRADY: Hey, Jarred, I am online.

50

0206

1 What was the question?

2

3

MR. HOLMES: The question was does your shop provide information in-season to the State on your results that you have on subsistence harvest or is that only done once a year at the end of the season?

7

8

MR. BRADY: Yeah, Jane Powell and I talk about it every day, if that's what you mean by weir counts and whatnot and whether we're getting close to have to have it shut down. Is that what you're talking about, Pat, or is it something different?

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MR. HOLMES: Oh, no, I understand you do that, that's gone on for many years. What I'm wondering is you have a separate harvest permit and how does the State know what's being taken on the Federal side and how will they with this change?

MR. BRADY: Oh. Well, the harvest reports aren't -- we don't get harvest reports until later on in the wintertime and generally not -- we don't get that much reported to be honest. It's kind of hard to -- in the wildlife arena I think we get better harvest data, but fish data, it's very difficult to get people to turn their harvest reports in.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And does.....

MR. BRADY: We don't have that many Federal subsistence folks fishing, there's maybe 20 permits a year. So I don't think it's substantial probably compared to maybe the State subsistence harvest.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And correct me if I'm wrong too. This is Della. On the State side you turn in your subsistence harvest reports at the end of the year, they're not turned in or most times they're turned in at the end of the season. And we don't even get to see those numbers until almost a year later.

MR. PRICE: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris.

MR. JACKSON: Madame Chairman, this is James Jackson again. The State subsistence permit, if

0207

1 you want to get a permit in Kodiak the next year you
2 have to turn in your permit from the previous year. I
3 don't know if there's an actual reporting requirement
4 with the Federal permit.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But there is one
7 for the State because we do see those numbers usually
8 in your report each year on the harvest, subsistence
9 harvest numbers.

10

11 MR. JACKSON: Madame Chairman, this is
12 James Jackson again. Yes, that's correct. However if
13 you were to create a rod and rear -- rod and reel gear
14 type and you needed a Federal permit, there's no
15 requirement -- as far as I know, Mike can probably
16 correct me, for them to report what they've harvested.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But is that not
19 a matter of just creating it in the regulation, Jarred?

20

21 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. I'm
22 unsure. I don't see why the In-Season Manager couldn't
23 add that to the permit and make it a stipulation to
24 mandatory reporting.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Chris,
27 did you have a comment.

28

29 MR. PRICE: Yes. You mentioned that
30 the In-Season Manager has their hands tied currently.
31 Can you explain to me what that's about and why and how
32 this will fix it?

33

34 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. And a
35 great question, Mr. Price. Right now as it sits the
36 waters are closed and so the In-Season Manager cannot
37 make in-season actions on that particular fishery. And
38 so, you know, over the last 20 plus years people have
39 been participating in the State fishery and they've
40 become accustomed and knowing to those regulations in
41 those waters and the harvest limits. And so when
42 there's closures it's under the State and when those
43 closures happen they close to all, everyone. If I flew
44 to Afognak I would -- I would be shut down and vice
45 versa. And so with the Federal management scheme that
46 I'm proposing today, that would allow the In-Season
47 Manager the flexibility to shut down the fishery when
48 there's low returns to nonsubsistence uses. And so to
49 allow the continuation of subsistence users during
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0208

1 times of low returns.

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MR. PRICE: And so you're saying that's because currently the waters are closed?

MR. STONE: Yes. Through the Chair. Yes. The portion of Afognak Bay that we're talking about is near more of the headwaters of the bay and that portion of the waters is currently closed under Federal management.

MR. PRICE: And will this play out on the same scenario with all these closure reviews?

MR. STONE: Yes, you're exactly right.

ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. And thanks. Della had to step out so I am.....

MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, Natasha.

ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Natasha.

MS. HAYDEN: Thank you. I think -- what I really want to communicate or, you know, trying to comment on is if those waters are opened and rod and reel is the -- let's say rod and reel is the only gear type that's allowed under the subsistence fishery, the -- if the State fishery, sport fishery, is closed down the subsistence rod and reel fishery in that area would or could stay open until In-Season Managers determine that it needs to be closed down; is that correct?

MR. STONE: Yes, through the Chair. To answer your question, Natasha, you are correct. The -- I'll add a caveat to that and say that if the run is so poor and there is a conservation concern the In-Season Manager also has the authority to close to all users, to close to Federally-qualified as well. And so there is a backdrop for that, you know, to protect the fishery, but it's sort of step wise in that we first afford the priority to the rural users. And if it becomes so severe, the runs are so poor, then there's an action there that the in-season management can take to close the fishery to all.

ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.

0209

1 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Good. Thank you.
2 And so and I wanted to make a comment about Mr. Jackson
3 had or we -- earlier there was some questions about
4 reporting on a sport fish. And I believe that I heard
5 that there isn't a requirement for the -- from the
6 State for fish users to report their harvest, their
7 sport fish harvest during the year; is that correct?

8
9 MR. POLUM: This is Tyler Polum,
10 Fishing and Sport Fish. That -- that's correct.
11 There's a -- you know, a -- we -- each participant is
12 required to have a sport fishing license and there's
13 various kinds, resident, nonresident and such. And the
14 way we collect harvest information is through a post
15 season survey, statewide harvest survey that takes a
16 census of those -- not census, but a survey of those
17 license holders, everybody's who's a license holder,
18 it's about 10 percent of them, and we gather estimates
19 of harvest through that. For Kodiak there's very few
20 because most of our fisheries including Litnik are very
21 small. But no, there's no requirement for harvest
22 reporting like there is for subsistence primarily due
23 to the fact that there's many hundreds of thousands of
24 license holders versus, you know, a couple dozen or a
25 few hundred in the area. So because it's a
26 statewide.....

27
28 MS. HAYDEN: Okay.

29
30 MR. POLUM:program.

31
32 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Thank you. And so
33 then I -- finally the In-Season Managers through OSM
34 cooperate with the ADF&G's In-Season Managers. Does
35 the in-season -- does OSM have a program that could
36 manage a subsistence sport if -- a subsistence fishery
37 if rod and reel was being -- was an eligible gear type
38 similarly to ADF&G so that OSM has got -- I mean, would
39 it -- OSM have to create an entirely new program to
40 monitor catch rates and escapement and make that
41 determination if there's a conservation issue
42 independent of ADF&G?

43
44 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. To
45 answer your question, Natasha, so just a point of
46 clarification. The Office of Subsistence Management
47 hasn't been given the delegated authority by the Board
48 to manage these fisheries. And so the current
49 situation right now is that the Federal In-Season
50

0210

1 Manager for this particular fishery is the Refuge
2 Manager at the national -- Kodiak National Wildlife
3 Refuge. And it's up to their prerogative to set the
4 stipulations that are on the permit. And again I just
5 wanted to reiterate that we really hope that this is a
6 short term solution and that we would have somebody
7 submit a formal proposal that would ultimately shape
8 the fishery for the future.

9

10 MS. HAYDEN: All right. Does that
11 proposal include how that subsistence fishery is
12 managed.....

13

14 MR. STONE: Through the Chair.

15

16 MS. HAYDEN:for biological
17 management?

18

19 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
20 Chair. I guess I'm a little unsure as to, you know,
21 maybe what parameters you're speaking about for that,
22 what that would look like, but yes, yeah, a person can
23 submit a proposal that would -- you could submit a
24 proposal that outlines ideas on gear type, harvest I
25 believe and season dates. And so that flexibility is
26 there for a proposal to be submitted for the Council
27 and Board's consideration for the next fishery cycle.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
30 Thank you.

31

32 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

35

36 MS. HAYDEN: All right. I've just got
37 one final question. Sorry. The -- but the target
38 escapements are set by the Board of Fish and -- is the
39 way I understand it. And is there a similar mechanism
40 to set the biological optimum returns through the
41 Refuge?

42

43 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. You
44 know, I don't know that I can answer that. We rely
45 heavily on the monitoring weirs and the efforts done by
46 ADF&G. And so typically for a lot of these systems
47 like for Afognak and Litnik there's currently a Fish
48 and Game weir that operates there and the biological
49 escapement goals are created by the Board of Fish. And
50

0211

1 we really have not done anything in the past with -- in
2 that regard. We rely on the Board of Fish for that.

3

4 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

7

8 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Thank you. Thanks
9 for your indulgence, Madame Chair.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. I.....

12

13 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark
14 Burch with Fish and Game.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Can I -- can I go?

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So is it -- I
21 think this is probably a comment with a question at the
22 end. In the Kodiak area there are areas that are open
23 to Federal subsistence. And currently there is
24 cooperation between the Federal side and the State side
25 for in-Season Management. So again I want to
26 distinguish between the In-season management decisions
27 where the In-Season Managers can close or reopen
28 fisheries based on what's happening on a day to day
29 basis to ensure that escapement goals are met.

30

31 What we're talking about with the
32 closure reviews is we have these very -- well, I'm
33 going to say small, these discrete areas that have been
34 closed that are, you know, artifacts that have carried
35 over from, you know, 30 plus year old decisions that
36 the State made back in the day. But there are these
37 very discrete, small closures within a larger area.
38 And so to the question of do -- does a whole new system
39 need to be created to manage this, well, no, we already
40 have existing Federal subsistence fisheries that are
41 open that are managed in collaboration with the State.
42 We're just talking about removing these little,
43 discrete closures in specific areas. And when those
44 are lifted the -- kind of the default will be they'll
45 be managed like all of the other Federal subsistence
46 areas in the Kodiak region. So we're not recreating
47 anything, the system exists today. We're not creating
48 new biological goals or escapement goals so those all
49 exist. And there's already mechanisms in place, the
50

0212

1 relationships are in place, there's already
2 collaboration between the Federal and the State.
3 Question mark, is that correct? Okay. So that's
4 correct.

5
6 And right now, I mean, there is --
7 Della handed me a note that said Buskin. So I think
8 there is -- there is open fisheries at Buskin, Federal
9 fisheries, we're just talking about a closure that is
10 kind of a weird little triangle out in front of the
11 Buskin River. But otherwise these two fisheries
12 already exist so we're not having to recreate anything.

13
14 And Coral handed me a note, I think
15 she's going to have to speak to that because I'm not
16 sure what that means.

17
18 And I have another point about in-
19 season management, but I forgot what it was. I guess I
20 just -- I think it's very important to remember that
21 the closures that happen because of in-season
22 management decisions are different than these
23 regulatory closures that we're talking about
24 rescinding. If we -- with these -- the closures in
25 place as Jarred said the In-Season Man -- the Federal
26 In-Season Manager's hands are tied because there is no
27 Federal subsistence opportunity because it is closed,
28 it is permanently closed. By rescinding the closure we
29 would open that opportunity, but there can still be
30 limits that go in to protect the salmon based on in-
31 season management decisions. So we still have the same
32 protections that exist today and those decisions for
33 in-season management will be carried out by a process
34 where the State and the Feds are already collaborating.
35 So that already happens, we're not reinventing the
36 wheel.

37
38 And I -- that's another question mark.
39 So is everything I said, is that an accurate
40 representation of how things work?

41
42 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. To
43 answer Council member Skinner's -- yes, you're exactly
44 right. And I have the letter of delegation up in front
45 of me and briefly I'll just read that. It's the intent
46 of the Board that the Federal subsistence fisheries
47 management by Federal officials and when I say Federal
48 officials, that means the In-Season Managers, be
49 coordinated prior to implementation with Regional
50

0213

1 Advisory Council representatives, the Office of
2 Subsistence Management and the Alaska Department of
3 Fish and Game. And so they're mandated to have that
4 level of coordination, you're correct.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
7 Jarred. And they also work with the communities too
8 when they're making these decisions, the tribal
9 governments.

10

11 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Yes.
12 Yes.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mark, I think we
15 might have cut you off, did you have a comment you
16 wanted to add?

17

18 MR. BURCH: Yes. Thank you, Madame
19 Chair. I think I'd like to make three points if I
20 might. One is these waters are closed right now and if
21 you decide to open them the regulations there won't --
22 the fishery and fishery management activities there
23 will be new because currently if you -- most of these
24 areas are -- if you didn't replace it with something
25 else it would open it up to other gear that we've been
26 talking about such as gillnets and that kind of thing
27 which in many of these small fisheries could be
28 devastating in short order. And of course we
29 understand that's not the intent, the intent is for the
30 managers to have the authority to restrict it, but
31 nonetheless what's out there now and the level of those
32 restrictions are not really defined at this point. So
33 I just wanted to make that one point.

34

35 The second point and I have to say this
36 seems a bit vague to me, but all these fish stocks are
37 providing subsistence opportunity outside of these
38 closures, they're susceptible to harvest in the
39 subsistence fisheries. And my understanding in Afognak
40 in particular, those waters were withdrawn before
41 statehood even. They're susceptible to the use of nets
42 for subsistence. So in effect the Federal program is
43 providing subsistence opportunity there. In other
44 areas it may be that the State is providing that
45 opportunity just outside of the closure areas.

46

47 And the third point I wanted to make is
48 that the Federal Subsistence Board has the authority to
49 close any area, any Federal public lands or waters, to
50

0214

1 non-Federally-qualified users if they determine that is
2 necessary. So for instance they -- the Federal
3 Subsistence Board has the authority and of course they
4 could delegate it if they wish to, to close the sport
5 fisheries in Federal public waters. And that would be
6 a means of accomplishing a lot of this without have to
7 go to the old, complicated and somewhat risky approach
8 of doing systems to provide that rod and reel
9 opportunity.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

16

17 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Mark. I
18 think a good thing to add to this a lot of times is
19 context. This place is pretty far away, you have to
20 have a skiff to get to it. I don't know if anybody, if
21 Pat knows or actually Natasha might know, is it like a
22 three hour skiff ride?

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Uh-huh.

25

26 MS. CHERNOFF: It -- it's a ways away
27 so first of all. And so I think some of this
28 discussion that's coming up is very fear based, like
29 4,000 people are now going to be fishing in the area.
30 It's just not going to be the case at all. So I just
31 wanted to say that, a little context into the area.
32 It's not an area that's two miles from town by seven
33 boat ramps.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: To answer your question,
40 Coral, most folks that go up there launch at Antone
41 Larson and it's about 45 minutes to an hour depending
42 the skiff to get up there. If you go from town with a
43 slower speed cruiser type of thing most people can't
44 afford, then it takes three to four hours on a slower,
45 you know, yacht type of boat.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Maybe
48 point of order here. I guess we're on Council
49 discussion. So I'm assuming we're at the point of call
50

0215

1 for question and a roll call.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Question.

4

5 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. Roll
6 call.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Justin.

9

10 MR. KOLLER: We didn't hear anyone call
11 the question so we need to have someone.....

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Call for question, Madame
16 Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

19

20 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, do you
23 have a comment before we do this?

24

25 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. I just want.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF:to clarify what
30 we're doing. Is this we say we rescind, modify, are we
31 voting.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The motion was
34 to rescind.

35

36 MS. SKINNER: The motion was to
37 rescind.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The motion.....

40

41 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. That's what I
42 wanted to confirm.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, the motion
45 was to rescind. And we're doing the block, 1 through
46 4, correct?

47

48 (Whispered conversation)

49

50

0216

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess we're
2 doing 1 through 4 and then, Rebecca, do you have a
3 question?

4
5 MS. SKINNER: I do have a question. If
6 the Council wanted to make a recommendation -- if the
7 closure was rescinded and the Council wanted to make a
8 recommendation on limitations can we have that
9 discussion after we vote on the closure; is that
10 appropriate?

11
12 MR. AYERS: (Indiscernible - away from
13 microphone).....

14
15 MS. SKINNER: I can't hear you from
16 back there.

17
18 MS. WESSELS: He wanted you to repeat
19 it was what he said.

20
21 MS. SKINNER: Oh, sorry. My question
22 was is it appropriate procedurally that after we vote
23 if the closure is rescinded can we have some discussion
24 that some narrative would go to -- would be available
25 for the In-Season Manager to understand limitations
26 that we would like them to put on the fishery?

27
28 MR. AYERS: Through the Chair. I
29 believe that would be correct as part of the
30 justification for your action on this. It would be
31 just a portion of your justification on the vote would
32 be to include that additional information.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're doing 1
35 through 4.

36
37 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. Sorry to be
38 nitpicky here. So my question is once we vote I think
39 it's not really appropriate to have further discussion.
40 So my question is do we need to have the discussion now
41 about limitations or can we have that after we know
42 that the closure is rescinded? That's my question.

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Well, do you want to have
45 the direction to the In-Season Managers for all the
46 closures or just for this one?

47
48 MS. SKINNER: Well, I would think it
49 would depend there because these systems are different.
50

0217

1 So there may be much stronger feelings about having a
2 limitation to rod and reel in some systems whereas
3 other ones it may be fine to have them open. But I'm
4 just asking because this is the first one we're voting
5 on. So as we do this one and the next one and the next
6 one and the next one. It seems premature to me that we
7 try to discuss limitations when we don't know if the
8 closure is rescinded yet. So it seems like we would
9 vote on the -- rescinding the closure and then maybe
10 there if we wanted to do another motion that has some
11 guidance for the In-Season Manager. So I think I've
12 just answered my own question.

13

14 Thanks.

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you. You did.
17 I agree with you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So my question
20 is are we voting on 18 and 19 or just 18?

21

22 MR. HOLMES: We haven't discussed 19.
23 It's a different area, different.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Because
26 we're going to be here until midnight at this point.
27 We've spent -- hopefully can set precedent for the
28 other ones coming up.

29

30 All right. Jarred, did you have a
31 comment?

32

33 MR. STONE: Just -- thank you, Chair.
34 I just wanted to add to that so moving forward through
35 the rest of the closure reviews I'll likely shorten my
36 narrative because they all very similar, but I do want
37 to go over some of the differences between the systems.
38 But when I do the justification part I might say
39 something along the lines of similar to the previous
40 proposal and the ANILCA mandates that we have. We
41 recommend this same justification.

42

43 (Whispered conversation)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. We
46 will go back now to the roll call vote. Following the
47 roll call vote if it passes -- if we pass to rescind
48 then the discussion floor will be open for discussion
49 to use mechanisms on how and what it's used for, this
50

0218

1 subsistence use.

2

3 All right. Roll call. Lisa.

4

5 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: The motion
6 was made to rescind FCR 21-18 for salmon in the Afognak
7 Bay closure review.

8

9 Okay. Roll call vote. Coral Chernoff.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

12

13 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca
14 Skinner.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

17

18 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha
19 Hayden.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha, are you
26 online?

27

28 MS. HAYDEN: Yes, I keep getting kicked
29 out. Were you calling me for a vote?

30

31 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, we're
32 on a motion to rescind FCR 21-18 which is salmon in the
33 Afognak Bay closure review.

34

35 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Yes. My vote is
36 yes.

37

38 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
39 Thank you. Patrick Holmes.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: No.

42

43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard
44 Koso.

45

46 MR. KOSO: Yeah. I'm going to vote
47 yes. I'm more confused now than I was when we first
48 started.

49

50

0219

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. KOSO: So I'm going to vote with
4 the majority of Kodiak so I'll say yes.

5

6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher
7 Price.

8

9 MR. PRICE: Yes.

10

11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della
12 Trumble.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

15

16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. The
17 motion passed, six for, one no and one absent.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca -- I'm
20 going to put Rebecca on the floor to discuss what we
21 talked about before the vote.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. So I thought it
24 would be useful for the -- to have some discussion if
25 the Council feels that the existing regulations that
26 would go into place for this area are too liberal. So
27 just to recap those regulations do allow a gillnet and
28 I think the limit -- I guess I'm looking toward Jarred
29 if he can look up the limit. But we do have an
30 opportunity to, you know, recommend or get -- you know,
31 get into the record what we would like the In-Season
32 Manager to do over the next two years until a reg -- an
33 actual regulation could -- we could propose a
34 regulation or somebody else could propose a regulation
35 that would have that information. But in the meantime,
36 I mean, I assume that the In-Season Manager is going to
37 be very conservative, but we can give our
38 recommendation that would -- that would kind of help
39 backup that decision. So for example if we wanted to
40 limit it to rod and reel which has been discussed as a,
41 you know, more conservative gear type or if we wanted
42 to talk about lower limits.

43

44 And if it would be faster I guess I'm
45 happy to make a motion that, you know, that our -- that
46 we convey to the In-Season -- if the closure's
47 rescinded by the Federal Subsistence Board that we do
48 recommend conservative management in that area. So
49 limiting the gear type to rod and reel and the bag
50

0220

1 limits to whatever Jarred says here in a second.

2

3 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
4 Chair. Yeah, currently the bag limit right now is 25
5 fish per person and the allowable gear types are
6 gillnet, seine and rod and reel.

7

8 MS. SKINNER: So I guess I would feel
9 comfortable that our recommendation would be for in-
10 season management limiting it to rod and reel. And, I
11 mean, I'm okay with the 25 limit. That would be my
12 motion. If it gets a second we can have more
13 discussion on it.

14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
18 Rebecca, seconded by Coral.

19

20 Rebecca.

21

22 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, and just to clarify
23 this would not be a regulation, this is just an
24 advisory opinion that goes to the In-Season Manager.
25 So I don't think we need to get super detailed because
26 this isn't going into -- we're not trying to craft
27 regulatory language.

28

29 Thanks.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

32

33 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. So I -- my.....

34

35 MR. JACKSON: Madame Chairman, this is
36 James Jackson at Fish and Game.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on, James.
39 Coral.

40

41 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. So I guess my
42 feeling is that we should just -- what should come
43 along with this rescinding of this closure is just to
44 adopt the current regulations that we have with the
45 same general provisions of the whole area. And through
46 this discussion I think I -- some of my reasonings are
47 because there's been no conservation concern, there's
48 been a concern about the area size kind of, but
49 currently there's no conservation concern. I think the
50

0221

1 low number of permits, the difficulty in getting to the
2 area is going to limit people. Tyler also mentioned
3 there are hundreds of thousands of or over 100,000
4 licensed fishermen for rod and reel. So if we're going
5 to look at the maximum amount of use in permitting by
6 like talking about nets and also with the permit for
7 nets you're only allowed 25 so there's a low amount
8 there. And then because of just perhaps if you're
9 fishing with a net that's less impact to the stream
10 than having many people go along the stream.

11

12 So I think the provisions that are in
13 the subsistence -- Federal subsistence regulations are
14 actually more conservation based than State regulations
15 or rod and reel.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And here I sit
18 confused. Rebecca made a motion basically to be
19 conservative on how the take of this subsistence would
20 be utilizing rod and reel. That's what I understood
21 the motion to be.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: Uh-huh.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And then, Coral,
26 you seconded, but however you just stated that you want
27 to keep the regulation as is because you feel like
28 that.....

29

30 MS. CHERNOFF: Because I'm opposed to
31 the motion.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You're.....

34

35 MS. SKINNER: She seconded for
36 discussion purposes.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. You
39 seconded it for discussion purposes. Gotcha. All
40 right.

41

42 Anybody else want to add to this
43 discussion?

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good -- Mark,
48 was that you?

49

50

0222

1 MR. JACKSON: Madame Chairman, this is
2 James Jackson with Fish and Game.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, James.
5 Okay. I'm sorry. James, go ahead and then Pat. And
6 then we probably need to take a break here at 10:30.
7 So just FYI.

8
9 MR. JACKSON: Am I ready to go?

10
11 (Whispered conversation)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So
14 basically a point of order brought to my attention is
15 that this is Council discussion.

16
17 Go ahead, Pat.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is in
20 reference to Becky's suggestion, I would ask what
21 would be the case if we had runs like occurred from the
22 '80s, '90s through 2016, where the escapements were
23 much higher than expected and I can't remember every
24 time it happened, but I think the majority of the time
25 when they had large escapements then the area inside
26 the markers were moved in and that allowed people with
27 gillnets to go ahead and do their traditional
28 subsistence that way. So if we just have rod and reel
29 what occurs when we get a record run.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So which raised
32 a question, Pat, for me to you is that is under State
33 regulation currently because there is no Federal
34 regulation. So under State regulation they would have
35 moved the markers in and that take was being done by --
36 under State regulation; is that correct?

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's what's being
39 done. But if the Federal Manager is going to be doing
40 in-season managing would he do that, would he be
41 parallel to the State or would it not happen at all.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is merely I
44 think looking at the Federal -- align for Federal
45 subsistence, we're not looking at the State
46 subsistence. So the discussion is on the Federal
47 subsistence permit that we just passed.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I -- go
50

0223

1 ahead.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, go ahead.

4

5

MR. HOLMES: The point I'm making is not necessarily State management. What I'm talking about is in order to maintain correct escapements you don't want to have too much escapement. So if you only have rod and reel and you only have Federal management, what happens when you need to increase the harvest as has been done probably close to half the time in the last 30 years, how do you do that if you only have rod and reel. Would the Federal manager go back and reopen gillnetting within the bay. Just a question on the Federal management.

16

17

18

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat. Rebecca.

19

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MS. SKINNER: Yeah. Thank you, Madame Chair. I am going to withdraw my motion. I thought this would be an opportunity to have -- to give some productive guidance for in-season management and I think that this isn't being very productive. I think the concerns about the need for conservative management in times of low abundance, I mean, I'm not sure that we really need to have that conversation because I think the managers understand that. And as Pat just said giving the widest latitude to the Federal In-Season Manager, it makes sense to me. So with the concurrence of my second I will withdraw my motion and then we can move on to the next proposal.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a second to her.....

MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. So I -- I'd like to recommend we take a 10 minute break. And I'm going to assume we've got our pattern down, we're going to whip through these other ones.

All right. Thank you. Ten minute break.

(Off record)

0224

1 (On record)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:R-21-19.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: Oh, I was going to make a
10 motion that we rescind, I'm going to do two closures at
11 once, FCR 21-19 and FCR 23-22. 19 is the Afognak
12 Island freshwater drainages closure and 22 is Little
13 Kitoi Creek closure. So my motion is to rescind both
14 of those.

15

16 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We have a little
19 bit of a correction here. I think Jarred's going --
20 she's recommended we do them together. So maybe you do
21 -- you -- Jarred, go ahead and do your job.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 Thank you. All right. All right. Let's get to it.
27 So FCR 21-19. Again for the record my name is Jarred
28 Stone and I'm a Fisheries Biologist here at the Office
29 of Subsistence Management. The analyses of deferred
30 Fisheries closure 21-19 for the Federal public
31 freshwaters of Afognak Island begins on page 101 of
32 your Council meeting materials.

33

34 Fisheries closure 21-19 states you may
35 not subsistence fish for salmon in all freshwater
36 systems of Afognak Island. I'll give a brief
37 background on some of the biological and harvest
38 history. Subsistence harvest for salmon is open
39 throughout the year in most Federal public waters of
40 the Kodiak Management Area with a subsistence fishing
41 permit. However the freshwater systems of Afognak
42 Island within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge are
43 closed under both Federal and State regulation to
44 subsistence harvest largely because of their relatively
45 small size and accessibility. Historically the most
46 utilized subsistence fishery areas under Federal
47 regulations are the marine waters in proximity to the
48 Buskin River at the north end of Kodiak Island and the
49 marine waters of Afognak Bay on the southeast side of
50

1 Afognak Island.

2

3

4 Briefly I'll go over some of the
5 harvest history. So sockeye salmon are the primary
6 species harvested by Federally-qualified subsistence
7 users with a three year average harvest of about 216
8 fish. Coho salmon are the second most harvested fish
9 with a three year average harvest of 48 fish. Fish
10 harvested under the State sport fish regulations in the
11 Kodiak Management Area are estimated through the Alaska
12 sport fishing harvest survey as we had mentioned
13 before, but because of low response rates there are no
14 estimates of sockeye or coho salmon harvests in the
15 freshwater streams of Afognak Island.

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The effects of this proposal are very similar to the effects from the previous closure review that we just looked at. I'll just quickly state that according to title VIII, section 804 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the taking of -- on public lands of fish and wildlife for non-wasteful subsistence uses shall be accorded priority over taking of such lands and fish and wildlife for other purposes. There are currently nonsubsistence uses that are permitted in this area making the current situation again out of compliance.

So rescinding the closure would provide Federal opportunity to harvest salmon on Federal public freshwaters of Afognak thereby providing the priority consumptive use to Federally-qualified subsistence users. If the closure is rescinded Federally-qualified subsistence users would be allowed to harvest salmon using the methods described on the Federal permit which allows the use of nets and a more liberal harvest than sport harvest. To conserve fish populations the Federal In-Season Manager could revise the stipulations listed on the permit or again issue a special action to set provisions for the fishery such as stipulating which gear types to be used like rod and reel and/or setting conservative harvest limits.

OSM's preliminary conclusion is to rescind this closure. And the justification remains the same as the previous closure.

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I might be inclined
2 to do the rod and reel on this one, but my question is
3 for Mr. Brady and James is right now, maybe James, is
4 there ever any reported gillnet harvest up there, it's
5 probably pretty small, and are there any red systems up
6 on the Refuge there because most of them are little,
7 short pink streams and coho. And I just wonder is
8 there reds up in that neck of the woods?

9
10 MR. JACKSON: Through the Chair, Mr.
11 Holmes, this is James Jackson again. There's some
12 limited coho gillnetting that takes place up in Blue
13 Fox and there's a bit of subsistence harvest that takes
14 place out of Fowl Bay there because there's a patchy
15 sockeye run up there. And so there are some harvest up
16 there with gillnets, both coho and sockeye, mostly
17 sockeye out of Hidden Lake in Fowl Bay and coho usually
18 up there in Blue Fox.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I'm going to
21 ask, this is the Chair, just for a minute here, Katya,
22 I need to -- if you can come forward I have some
23 questions on procedure for you and Jarred. And then so
24 if everybody just hold tight a second.

25
26 (Whispered conversation)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. Just
29 for a point of clarification and time. Right now
30 Jarred did report the proposal 21-19. He will then do
31 the report on proposal 23-22. Following that we will
32 have the Board consultation from tribes and ANCSA
33 corporations, agency comments, we'll go through the
34 list, advisory groups, we go through the list, summary
35 of written comments, public testimony, Regional Council
36 recommendation and that's when the action is taken and
37 the Council has time -- a report for discussion. So
38 following that procedure we should hopefully get
39 through this process a little faster.

40
41 Jarred, go ahead and go forward,
42 please.

43
44 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
45 members of the Council. My name is Jarred Stone again
46 for the record. And we are going to switch gears now
47 to Fisheries closure review 23-22 which pertains to the
48 terminus of Little Kitoi Creek and those materials can
49 be found on page 130 of your Council books.
50

1 Fisheries closure 23-22 states you may
2 not subsistence fish for salmon in all waters 500 yards
3 seaward of the terminus of Little Kitoi Creek from
4 August 15th through September 30. Little Kitoi Lake
5 and Little Kitoi Creek are located approximately a half
6 a mile north of Kitoi Bay Hatchery where coho, sockeye,
7 pink and chum salmon adult egg takes occur at the weir.
8 Little Kitoi Creek has a weir that monitors returning
9 adult escapement and smolt out migration simultaneously
10 using a pipeline bypass that's adjacent to the adult
11 fish pass. The hatchery has capacity to incubate 254
12 million salmon eggs and rear up to 180 million
13 juveniles of all life stages. The chum salmon run
14 begins in early June, peaks in late June to early July
15 and ends in late July. The pink salmon return begins
16 in mid July, peaks in early to mid August and ends in
17 late August to early September. And the coho salmon
18 run's expected to start in early August, peak in late
19 August and then continue through early September. For
20 the 2021 season an estimate 128,000 chum salmon, 11.3
21 million pink salmon, 124,000 coho salmon, 15,000
22 sockeye salmon were expected to return to Kitoi Bay.

23
24 I'll go over some of the harvest
25 history. The vast majority of returning fish to Kitoi
26 Bay are exclusively hatchery production stocks where
27 most are the harvest are from commercial seiners and
28 set gillnet fishers. Some harvest does occur from
29 subsistence and recreational fishers, but it's thought
30 to be very little. Subsistence and commercial
31 fisherman harvest reporting aids in the management of
32 the fishery and is conducted by ADF&G, Division of
33 Commercial Fisheries through permits.

34
35 Hatchery produced salmon are considered
36 common property fisheries and the general public are
37 allowed to harvest fish subject to State and Federal
38 laws. A portion of the hatchery produced salmon
39 returning to spawn are needed for brood stock with an
40 estimated 86,000 chum salmon, 118,000 coho salmon,
41 8,000 sockeye salmon are up -- available for the common
42 property harvest. Pink salmon available for harvest
43 depends on the combination of marine survival, average
44 adult fish weight and the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture
45 Association's cost recovery harvest needs.
46 Traditionally portions of the inner and outer Kitoi,
47 Izhut and Duck Bay sections could close to commercial
48 common property fishing for cost recovery operations
49 around August 1st.
50

1 The effects of maintaining status quo
2 or keeping the fishery or rescinding the closure remain
3 the same as the previous close that we'd worked through
4 previously.

5
6 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
7 rescind the closure. And the justification during
8 August 15th through September 30th, all waters 500
9 yards seaward of the terminus of Little Kitoi Creek are
10 currently closed to the salmon by Federally-qualified
11 subsistence users and State sport fishing. However
12 there are State subsistence opportunities in adjacent
13 marine waters. Federal subsistence opportunity in this
14 location could afford a rural preference as set forth
15 by title VIII of ANILCA. The Federal In-Season Manager
16 has the delegated authority to open or close Federal
17 subsistence fishing periods or areas provided under
18 Federal codified regulations and to specify the methods
19 and means to specify permit requirements and to set
20 harvest and possession limits for Federal subsistence
21 fisheries. The In-Season Manager could use this
22 authority to manage the fishery in the short term and
23 implement additional measures such as a 300 foot
24 reduced closure area to just below the weir to protect
25 congregated fish and to allow the safe operations of
26 the weir. A proposal outlining specific parameters for
27 this fishery can be submitted during the next fisheries
28 cycle if desired.

29
30 And that concludes my presentation.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
33 there any comments from tribes or ANCSA corporations at
34 this time.

35
36 Orville.

37
38 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair,
39 RAC Council members. During the consultation session
40 we had no comments or questions.

41
42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
45 Orville. Agency comments.

46
47 ADF&G.

48
49 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Madame Chair,
50

0229

1 this is James Jackson, Commercial Fisheries Management
2 Biologist. This one's pretty simple. The closed
3 waters are established to collect the brood for coho
4 salmon because coho salmon are almost exclusively
5 hatchery fish. So all the fish that are showing back
6 up there are hatchery fish and they need to have a
7 certain amount of fish for brood. Those fish are also
8 stocked in Ouzinkie and in Port Lions. So opening
9 these areas to subsistence fishing would make it harder
10 for them to achieve their brood stock and would likely
11 produce diminished returns.

12
13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
16 Federal agencies.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal entities.

21
22 MS. JONES: Madame Chair, this is Tami
23 Jones with the Native Village of Ouzinkie representing
24 the Tribal Council. On behalf of the Native Village of
25 Ouzinkie Tribal Council and its members, we wish to go
26 on record as being in support of comments previously
27 given by Mr. Van Daele and Natasha Hayden, specifically
28 urging that any regulatory changes to the Kodiak area
29 bring management in line with title VIII of ANILCA.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other tribal
34 entities?

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory Group
39 comments, other Regional Councils.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
44 Advisory Committees.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
49 Resource Commissions.

50

0230

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of
4 written comments.

5

6 Lisa.

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I'm going
9 to defer this to Jarred.

10

11 MR. STONE: Thank you. Yeah, there --
12 this is Jarred. There were no written comments
13 submitted.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 Jarred. Public testimony.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Regional
23 Council recommendations.

24

25 Rebecca had made a motion to approve,
26 seconded by Coral. Discussion.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, we'll start
31 with you.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: This might be a place
34 where rod and reel could work. And then with the
35 managers if they work together on what area for gillnet
36 depending on what was needed at the hatchery, I think I
37 could kind of go along with it.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
40 And maybe just a point of clarification, a reminder to
41 everybody. It is the -- basically the work to
42 collaborate between the Refuges, the In-Season Mangers,
43 the State and the tribal and local entities when these
44 openings or closures are made I think is the opportune
45 time for them to be -- taken into consideration. So
46 understanding that they do and it's been my experience
47 that they work close together on all of these decisions
48 that they've been making. So I think that's -- just
49 keep that in mind, Pat, and thank you so much.

50

0231

1 Chris.

2

3 MR. PRICE: No comment.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm just going to say
8 that I am in favor of rescinding this closure and
9 having full -- just going to the full standard
10 subsistence regulations for the reasons of I don't --
11 you know, again it is far away, not many permits are
12 issued, I don't think conservation's going to be a
13 concern. And there's always the option of the manger,
14 In-Season Manager, to regulate in times of where that's
15 necessary.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 Coral. Rebecca.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: I concur with Coral's
21 comments and then I would reference all of the comments
22 I made in the previous proposal rather than repeating
23 them.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
28 Rebecca. Natasha.

29

30 MS. HAYDEN: Sorry, Madame Chair. I
31 had gotten disconnected so I'm going to abstain. I'm
32 not sure where we are.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're not at the
35 vote, Natasha, we're basically on the Council comments.

36

37

38 So Rick Koso.

39

40 MS. HAYDEN: Okay.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, go ahead,
43 Natasha.

44

45 MS. HAYDEN: I don't have any comments
46 at this time.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
49 you, Natasha. Rick.

50

0232

1 MS. HAYDEN: I -- I don't have any
2 comments right now.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

5
6 MR. KOSO: No comment.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
9 you, Rick. All right. I guess we'll go on to a roll
10 call vote.

11
12 Lisa.

13
14 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame
15 Chair, would you please repeat what we're voting on?

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

18
19 MS. SKINNER: The motion was to rescind
20 fisheries closures FCR 21-19 and FCR 23-22.

21
22 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. Roll
23 call vote, please.

24
25 Coral Chernoff.

26
27 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

28
29 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca
30 Skinner.

31
32 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

33
34 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Pat Holmes.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Yep.

37
38 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard
39 Koso.

40
41 MR. KOSO: Yes.

42
43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher
44 Price.

45
46 MR. PRICE: Yes.

47
48 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha
49 Hayden.

50

0233

1 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And Della
4 Trumble.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. The
9 motion passed, two three -- everybody voted.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
12 Thank you, everyone. Moving on. The next item on the
13 agenda is FCR 23-19, salmon, marine waters of Selief
14 Bay Creek closure review.

15

16 Jarred.

17

18 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
19 Again for the record my name is Jarred Stone. And the
20 analyses on Fisheries Closure Review FCR 23-19 for
21 Selief Bay Creek marine waters begins on page 109 of
22 your Council meeting materials.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Page 180?

25

26 MR. STONE: 109.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: 109?

29

30 MR. STONE: Yeah. Fisheries closure
31 23-19 states you may not subsistence fish for salmon in
32 all waters closed to commercial salmon fishing within
33 100 yards of the terminus of Selief Bay Creek. During
34 the review of Selief Bay Creek closure area it became
35 clear that there is no Federal jurisdiction in these
36 waters if we consider the terminus is where the
37 freshwater meets saltwater at mean high tide. There
38 are no waters that fit within the closure area by
39 definition. It's all State managed waters seaward of
40 this terminus and inland of the terminus is outside of
41 the State commercial closed marine waters. So we found
42 this closure to be in error.

43

44 Biological background. There's very
45 little information available on the fish species of
46 Selief Bay Creek and their associated run timing. The
47 Alaska Department of Fish and Game anadromous fish
48 catalog indicates chum salmon, coho salmon, pink
49 salmon, sockeye salmon and dolly varden and steelhead

50

0234

1 inhabit Selief Bay Creek. Abundance of these species
2 is unknown however likely small.

3

4

5 I'll now go over a little bit of the
6 harvest history. And that's a little bit of the same,
7 there's not much or very little information is
8 available for the harvest of salmon in the vicinity of
9 Selief Bay Creek. Annual rod and reel harvest surveys
10 are completed under the State Sport Fish Division and
11 are tracked through the Statewide mail out survey of a
12 random sample of sport fish license holders. And
13 harvest for the Afognak area indicated annual harvest
14 of salmon can vary year to year with a low harvest of
15 1,081 salmon in 2018 and a high harvest of 8,209 salmon
16 in 2013. Coho salmon are considered the primary
17 harvest of sport anglers, chinook and sockeye salmon
18 are harvested in smaller numbers. The Federal
19 subsistence permits are needed to harvest salmon in
20 Federal public waters and in 2021 18 Federal permits
21 were issued from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
22 and four permits were returned indicating a harvest of
23 81 sockeye and 24 chinook salmon.

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Some of the effects. If this closure
is rescinded all of the erroneous language regarding
Selief Bay Creek closure would then be removed from the
regulations to reduce user confusion. If the closure
is retained the jurisdictional issue would remain in
the Federal regulations.

OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
rescind this closure. The Selief Bay Creek area
closure has been found to be again erroneous as there
is no Federal jurisdiction in this location. And so
this is the first time that this closure has been under
review since its adoption and it should be removed from
the regulations.

And that concludes my presentation.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
Jarred. Report on Board consultation, tribes, ANCSA
corporations.

MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Orville Lind,
OSM. There were no questions or comments upon this
proposal.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

0235

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Orville. Agency comments.

3
4 ADF&G.

5
6 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 This is James Jackson, Fish and Game, Kodiak. This
8 one's pretty simple. We agree with OSM, they don't
9 have jurisdiction.

10
11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Federal
14 agencies.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal entities.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory Group
23 comments, other Regional Councils.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
28 Advisory Committees.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
33 Resource Commissions.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of
38 written public comments.

39
40 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
41 There were no written comments submitted for this
42 proposal or closure review. Sorry.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
45 Public testimony.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council

50

0236

1 recommendation.

2

3

Rebecca.

4

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MS. SKINNER: I move to rescind FCR 23-

6

19.

7

8

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a

9

second.

10

11

MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

12

13

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Coral.

14

Discussion by Council.

15

16

Pat, do you want to start on this, have

17

any comments.

18

19

MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair.

20

Jarred, if there's no Federal jurisdiction and

21

definition I've seen for Federal waters there is in the

22

middle of Raspberry Straits, why are we even talking

23

about it, do we have any jurisdiction to even comment?

24

25

Thank you.

26

27

MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Thank

28

you, Mr. Holmes, that's a great question. And this

29

regulation has been in regulations for 20 plus years

30

and had gone undetected and so here we are today, it's

31

sort of a housekeeping measure to kind of clean up

32

these errors. And you are correct in that the boundary

33

for the Federal marine waters jurisdiction that is

34

surrounding Afognak Island does split the channel. And

35

these Selief Bay Creek happens to be on the wrong side

36

of that channel and so it's not under Federal

37

jurisdiction.

38

39

MR. HOLMES: So our voting to rescind

40

this just removes it from the books and it's not

41

proposing alternate gear types or alternate management,

42

correct?

43

44

MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Yes, it

45

is correct. It is somewhat awkward in that we've gone

46

through closure reviews just previously rescinding the

47

closure and then that means it reverts back to the area

48

wide regulations. But in this instance when this

49

closure is rescinded behind the scenes we'll do some

50

0237

1 housekeeping to remove this regulation administratively
2 and pull it from the regulation booklet so that Federal
3 subsistence users are not trying to fish in these
4 waters.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Thank you very much for
7 clarifying that.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris.

10

11 MR. PRICE: No comment.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick.

18

19 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della. I just -- I
20 concur with the other guys there so yeah, I don't have
21 any comment.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
24 Rebecca.

25

26 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, my only comment is
27 that this is a housekeeping clean up to the language
28 kind of an action. So I think anything that removes
29 erroneous regulations and makes them more clear I
30 support.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

35

36 MS. CHERNOFF: (Indiscernible - away
37 from microphone).....

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral is good.
40 Okay. Question -- I mean, call for question.

41

42 MR. KOSO: I didn't have any comment,
43 Della.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, go ahead,
46 Rick.

47

48 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I didn't have a
49 comment on that.

50

0238

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
2 you. All right. Call for question.

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Call for the question,
5 Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question has
8 been called. I think this one's fairly easy. All in
9 favor signify by saying aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
14 sign.

15
16 (No opposing votes)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Moving
19 on. It's FCR 23-21, king crab, Kodiak and Afognak
20 marine waters.

21
22 MR. STONE: All right. Again for the
23 record my name is Jarred Stone and I'm the Fisheries
24 Biologist with Office of Subsistence Management. And
25 the analysis of fisheries closure 23-21 begins on page
26 120 of your Council materials.

27
28 This closure is unique in that it is
29 closed to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users.
30 All of the closure reviews that we've been working
31 through previous this morning have pertained to
32 Federally-qualified subsistence users and now we're
33 switching gears and this particular closure is the one
34 and only that pertains to non-Federally-qualified
35 users. Additionally this closure pertains to the
36 harvest of king crab in the Federal marine waters again
37 by non-Federally-qualified, in other words
38 nonsubsistence users in four locations in the Kodiak
39 and Afognak Islands.

40
41 Fisheries closure 23-21 states the
42 marine waters of the Pacific Ocean enclosed by the
43 boundaries of Women's Bay, Gibson Cove and an area
44 defined by a line half mile on either side of the
45 Karluk River and extending seaward 3,000 feet in all
46 waters within 1,500 feet seaward of the shoreline of
47 Afognak Island are closed to the harvest of king crab
48 except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. In
49 2000 -- so lets -- oh, yeah.

50

0239

1 So I'll give some background on the
2 biological background. The 2021 large mesh, bottom
3 trawl survey was conducted in a known crab habitat
4 using a fixed grid station design developed back in
5 1988. The total survey station area surveyed was
6 approximately 15,500 kilometers squared. That's
7 greater than 20 fathoms. In 2021 337 successful bottom
8 trawls were conducted at 333 stations. Red king crab
9 were caught in 13 percent of the Kodiak area hauls
10 totalling 179 males and 220 females. Of the 179 males
11 only 67 were of legal size. The 2021 Kodiak red king
12 crab abundance was estimated at 255,185 crab which was
13 more than the estimated 121,284 crabs caught in 2020.
14 The largest increases were observed among females in
15 pre-recruit class 5 mills, while legal male abundance
16 still had declined. The total estimated abundance of
17 legal males decreased from 94,164 crabs in 2020 to
18 45,000 crabs in 2021 and represented 37.7 percent of
19 the total male abundance. Mean king crab size was 129
20 millimeters carapace length for males and 117.1
21 millimeters for females. Just over half of the female
22 king crab are juvenile while the majority of the males
23 were sublegal. During the 2021 Kodiak area survey 53.4
24 percent that you -- ended up being about 55 of all the
25 mature females examined, had egg clutches that was more
26 than half full which was lower than 2020.

27
28 No specific management objectives have
29 been set for either the Federal or the State red king
30 crab subsistence fisheries in the Kodiak area, however
31 the State does set a total threshold abundance of
32 fertilized females for determining when to reopen the
33 commercial fishery. State trawl survey estimates have
34 continued to remain well below that threshold level.

35
36 Women's Bay has been recognized as an
37 important nursery area for red king crab and studies of
38 juveniles have shown that Women's Bay has much higher
39 numbers than two nearby bays. Since relatively few red
40 king crabs are captured in the State trawl survey each
41 year it is not possible to accurately determine trends
42 since small differences in catches result in large
43 differences in population estimates. However these
44 surveys show that the red king crab stock in the Kodiak
45 area has remained at very low abundance with no
46 indication of rebuilding.

47
48 I'll briefly go over some of the
49 harvest history. Historically there were large numbers
50

1 of red king crab in the Kodiak Management Area and the
2 species supported a large commercial fishery along with
3 other uses. In the 1970s the commercial harvest of red
4 king crab in Kodiak area ranged from 12 and 24 million
5 pounds. A near peak commercial harvest of red king
6 crab occurred in the 1980/1981 season, but three years
7 later the harvest precipitously declined. The four top
8 historical producing areas were closed to commercial
9 red king crab fishing for the first time, but the
10 stocks have still not recovered. Subsistence crab
11 harvest in the Kodiak area dropped dramatically with a
12 decline of red king crab stocks. The estimated
13 subsistence harvest for the Kodiak vicinity was almost
14 18,000 red kind crabs in 1982, but declined to more
15 than less than 6,000 red king crabs by the 1990s.
16 About one-quarter of this harvest may have been taken
17 within the Chiniak Bay area which includes the Federal
18 public waters of Women's Bay and Gibson Cove.
19 Subsistence red king harvest in the Kodiak area have
20 been very small since the collapse of the stock. An
21 ADF&G subsistence permit is required to participate in
22 the Federal subsistence crab fishery and annual harvest
23 documented through these permits have often been well
24 under 100 red king crabs per year.

25
26 I'll go over some of the effects of
27 this closure review. If the closure is retained
28 Federally-qualified subsistence users would continue to
29 be allowed to harvest king crab under Federal
30 regulations while non-Federally-qualified would be
31 prohibited from harvesting red king crab. This would
32 keep in place a rural priority for subsistence while
33 restricting nonsubsistence uses during the time when
34 crab stocks continue to try and rebound. If the
35 closure is rescinded non-Federally-qualified users
36 would still not be allowed to harvest king crab because
37 the harvest remains closed under State regulations.
38 This change would not align Federal subsistence
39 regulations with current State sport fish and State
40 subsistence regulations.

41
42 So OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
43 retain the status quo. The justification for doing so,
44 the conservation concern for king crab continues in the
45 Kodiak area including in the Federal public waters in
46 Women's Bay, Gibson Cove and nearshore waters around
47 the Karluk River mouth and Afognak Island. The Kodiak
48 area king crab stock remains at very low abundance with
49 no indication of improvement over the near term.
50

0241

1 Marine waters under Federal jurisdiction in Women's Bay
2 are a known nursery for the larger Chiniak Bay and are
3 easy to access from the Kodiak road system.
4 Restricting the taking of king crab in Federal public
5 waters for nonsubsistence uses is necessary for the
6 conservation of the king crab resource and to help
7 ensure continuation of Federal subsistence uses.

8

9 And that concludes my presentation.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
12 Jarred. Continue on. Report on Board consultation,
13 tribes and ANCSA corporations.

14

15 Orville.

16

17 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Orville Lind,
18 Native Liaison. There were no questions or comments on
19 this proposal.

20

21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
24 Orville. Agency comments.

25

26 ADF&G.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: ADF&G.

31

32 MR. POLUM: Madame Chair, I'm not
33 certain who is taking the lead on this one, but I can
34 read our position comments, the draft comments anyway.
35 I can't answer many questions about this because I'm
36 not a crab biologist.

37

38 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
39 supports the repeal of this closure. While the
40 population of red king crab has declined and remains at
41 historically low levels, ADF&G has taken appropriate
42 management action to conserve this stock by closing the
43 commercial and sport red king crab fisheries. The
44 amount necessary for subsistence is being provided and
45 we know this because it's from historical average
46 harvest in the State subsistence red king crab fishery
47 within the ANS. We also know that the State
48 subsistence fishery is overwhelmingly conducted by
49 residents of Kodiak and there is no impact to
50

0242

1 Federally-qualified users from non-Federally-qualified
2 users coming from non-rural areas of the State.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If it's possible
5 can you maybe get closer to the mic and repeat that
6 we'd appreciate it.

7

8 MR. POLUM: Sure. Sure thing. I'll
9 read it again here. And again this is -- I'm just
10 reading comments, I'm not sure who -- who is taking the
11 lead on this one, but they're -- so all I can do is
12 read the comments.

13

14 ADF&G supports the repeal of this
15 closure. While the population of red king crab has
16 declined and remains at historically low levels, ADF&G
17 has taken appropriate management action to conserve
18 this stock by closing the commercial and sport red king
19 crab fisheries. The amount reasonably necessary for
20 subsistence is being provided and we know this because
21 the historical average harvest in the State
22 subsistence red king crab fishery is within the ANS.
23 We also know that the State subsistence fishery is
24 overwhelmingly conducted by residents of Kodiak and
25 there is no impact from Federally -- there's no impact
26 to the Federally-qualified users by non-Federally-
27 qualified users coming from non-rural areas of the
28 State.

29

30 Were you able to hear that this time?

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, thank you.
33 Thank you. Federal agencies.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal entities,
38 Native, tribal, village or other.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory Group
43 comments, other Regional Councils.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
48 Advisory Committees.

49

50

0243

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
4 Resource Commissions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of
9 written public comments.

10

11 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, there were no
12 written public comments for this.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
17 Public testimony.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
22 recommendation.

23

24 Rebecca.

25

26 MS. SKINNER: I would move to retain
27 the status quo on FCR 23-21.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
30 Rebecca. Is there a second.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

33

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

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing no
40 discussion, call for question.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Question.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question by Pat.
45 All in favor signify by saying aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Abstain.

50

0244

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
2 sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And we do have
7 one abstention from Pat Holmes.

8
9 All right. Moving on. So we are at FP
10 23-06a and FCR 23-15. Salmon, Women's Bay, rod and
11 reel.

12
13 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, I just wanted
14 to -- a quick point of order. We didn't get a
15 justification for why the Council was voting to
16 maintain the status quo on that one. I think if we can
17 just put something on the record at this point if time
18 would help us.

19
20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
23 Scott. Go ahead, Rebecca.

24
25 MS. SKINNER: Sure. So one,
26 referencing the OSM report I think it clearly stated
27 that the current closure restricts non-Federally-
28 qualified subsistence users in the described area for
29 the harvest of king crab, but does allow a harvest by
30 Federally-qualified subsistence users. So it carries
31 out the subsistence priority. I think that the report
32 also clearly described the very low abundance for crab --
33 of crab in those areas which justifies having the
34 closure in place for the non-Federally-qualified
35 subsistence users. And then in general I would
36 reference the analysis and points that were captured in
37 the analysis for FCR 23-21.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
40 Okay. Moving on to 23-06a and 23-15.

41
42 Jarred.

43
44 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair and
45 members of the Council. Again for the record my name
46 is Jarred Stone, Fisheries Biologist with OSM. The
47 analyses of Fisheries Proposal 23-06a for the Marine
48 Waters of Women's Bay begins on page 49 of your Council
49 materials.

50

1 So now that we've finished all of the
2 closure reviews for the Kodiak area that do not have a
3 parallel proposal we now move into the last two where
4 we have Fisheries proposals that were submitted to
5 rescind the closure. So as a reminder FP 23-06a is a
6 parallel Fisheries proposal to the Fisheries closure in
7 the same marine waters of Women's Bay. This parallel
8 Fisheries proposal was submitted by Rebecca Skinner of
9 Kodiak which requests to rescind the closure and modify
10 the regulations to match the State sport fishing
11 regulations and harvest limits. The proponent states
12 that currently Federally-qualified subsistence users
13 are not allowed to harvest fish under Federal
14 regulations in an area that already allows sport
15 harvest under State regulations.

16
17 Some current events involving the
18 species. Fisheries emergency special actions were
19 implemented for Women's Bay and Buskin River in recent
20 history due to poor returns of salmon to the Buskin
21 River drainage. This includes emergency special action
22 9-SS-01-22, that was this year in 2022, that closed the
23 take of sockeye salmon by all users in the open marine
24 water area. That was later rescinded under emergency
25 special action 9-RS-02-22. Emergency special actions
26 also occurred back in 2021 which closed the take of
27 sockeye salmon to all users in the Federal public
28 waters of Women's Bay. And additionally back in 2019
29 which closed all Federal public waters at the mouth of
30 the Buskin River in the Kodiak district to the take of
31 coho salmon. And additionally it seems today that
32 there is an additional emergency special action that
33 closed the harvest of coho salmon on the Buskin River
34 that became effective today.

35
36 Briefly some of the biological
37 background. Annual sockeye salmon escapement returning
38 to the Buskin River is estimated through a weir from
39 May through July. The majority of the fish returning
40 to the system pass through a weir that's located at the
41 outlet of Buskin Lake. The Buskin Lake has a sockeye
42 escapement goal of 5,000 to 8,000 fish. The Buskin
43 River has seen both very strong and relatively weak
44 sockeye and coho salmon runs over the past 10 years.
45 The 2021 escapement of 2,330 sockeye salmon.....

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Jarred, can I
48 interrupt you a second. I think we might have a -- I
49 think what you're going through is the 23-06b and 21-
50

0246

1 16, not 23-06a and 23-15.

2

3

4 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 I'm just simply referencing some data and results from
6 the Buskin River, but I am actually covering Women's
7 Bay so the analysis I'm giving right now is for FP 23-
8 06a and that pertains also to the closure review of 23-
9 15.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
12 you.

13

14 MR. STONE: Yeah. No worries. So the
15 2021 escapement of 2,330 sockeye salmon was the lowest
16 return of sockeye salmon in the past 10 year period.
17 During 2013, the very next year, one of the highest
18 passages was recorded with 16,178 fish from that same
19 10 year period. In the most recent five year period
20 two years did not meet escapement for sockeye salmon.
21 And that was back in 2018 and 2021.

22

23 The Buskin River supports one of the
24 historically most productive coho salmon stocks in the
25 Kodiak Management Area. Coho salmon typically start
26 returning in early to mid August and continue into the
27 fall. The escapement is monitored by a weir about a
28 mile above the river mouth. The Buskin River has a
29 coho salmon escapement goal of 4,700 to 9,600 fish.
30 From 2012 to 2021 weir counts of coho salmon ranged
31 from a high of 8,413 fish, that was back in 2014, to a
32 low of 630 fish and that was back in 2020. The average
33 escapement was 4,7756 fish during this time frame.

34

35 I'll now go over briefly just some of
36 the harvest history. Both Federal and State
37 subsistence users harvest primarily sockeye and coho
38 salmon in marine waters near the mouth of the Buskin
39 River. However the marine waters adjacent to the mouth
40 of the Buskin River are closed under both Federal and
41 State subsistence regulations to protect the salmon as
42 they migrate through the estuary. The Buskin River
43 supports the primary runs of sockeye and coho salmon to
44 Women's Bay. Large subsistence and sport fish harvest
45 occur on these returning stocks of the Buskin River.
46 Historically the marine waters beyond the closure are
47 the single largest source of subsistence harvest in
48 Federal public waters within the Kodiak/Aleutians
49 region. The Buskin River is also one of the most
50 popular sport fishing locations because of road access

50

0247

1 and proximity to the City of Kodiak. Both sockeye and
2 coho salmon are targeted in the sport fishery. In
3 addition commercial fisheries in the marine waters
4 surrounding Kodiak Island also harvest a small number
5 of Buskin River salmon. Fish harvested from the Buskin
6 River generally fluctuate with the escapement, but
7 again due to its proximity to the city the Buskin River
8 continues to support both subsistence and sport fishing
9 even in years with small returns. The sockeye salmon
10 fisheries occur primarily in June due to the early run
11 timing.

12

13 I'll briefly go over some of the
14 subsistence harvest of coho and sockeye salmon.
15 Between 2016 and 2020 the annual subsistence harvest of
16 sockeye salmon have ranged from 473 to 4,916 fish with
17 a low subsistence harvest of 473 fish in 2018 with an
18 annual average harvest of 3,891 fish. Coho salmon
19 harvest varies drastically from year to year with a low
20 harvest of 300 fish and with a high harvest of 1,107
21 fish. Total permits. The total number of permits
22 issued for subsistence harvest has declined from 2016
23 to 2020.

24

25 I'll now speak to some of the sport
26 fish harvest of coho salmon. Between 2010 and 2018 the
27 annual sport harvest of coho salmon in the Buskin River
28 has ranged from 1,793 fish to 5,388 fish with an
29 average annual harvest of 3,293 fish.

30

31 Some of the effects of the proposal.
32 Now when I speak to the effects I'm speaking also to
33 the closure and so I'll first state that if the closure
34 were rescinded Federally-qualified subsistence users
35 would have additional opportunity to harvest fish
36 closer to town in the nearshore marine waters. It is
37 unlikely that the harvest rates would rise if this
38 closure were rescinded. Rural residents of Kodiak are
39 already harvesting salmon under State sport fish
40 regulations and this change would allow Kodiak
41 residents to choose which fishery they would like to
42 participate in. If the closure were not rescinded
43 there would be continued inconsistency between State
44 sport, State subsistence and Federal subsistence
45 regulations.

46

47 So OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
48 support Proposal FP 23-06a. The justification is going
49 to sound familiar from previous closure reviews we had
50

0248

1 talked about this morning. Section 802 of ANILCA
2 requires that subsistence uses by rural residents of
3 Alaska shall be the priority consumption uses of all
4 such resources on public lands of Alaska. Currently
5 Federally-qualified subsistence users are not allowed
6 to harvest salmon in the waters that the State sport
7 fish harvest is allowed.

8

9 Harvest levels again would likely
10 remain unaffected as Federally-qualified subsistence
11 users already likely participate in the very same State
12 sport fishery. So matching harvest limits with the
13 State sport fish regulations would reduce regulatory
14 complexity while providing a priority consumptive use
15 for rural residents of Kodiak.

16

17 And that concludes my presentation. I
18 will add real quickly that if the Council chooses to
19 support this Proposal FP 23-06a, that we would then
20 recommend the Council take no action on the closure
21 review that accompanies it. That is FCR 23-15.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
24 Jarred. Report on Board consultation, tribes and ANCSA
25 corporations.

26

27 Orville.

28

29 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Board members,
30 this is Orville Lind, Native Liaison, OSM. There were
31 no questions or comments on this proposal.
32 Thank you, Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
35 Orville. Agency comments.

36

37 ADF&G.

38

39 MR. JACKSON: Madame Chairman, this is
40 James Jackson, Kodiak Fish and Game. The current
41 Women's Bay closed waters for subsistence are to
42 protect the small coho up to streams of the Soloni,
43 Sergeant and Russian Creek. Because of the Fish and
44 Game gear you can only fish with seine and set gillnet
45 and because those sockeye runs are or those coho runs
46 are relatively small it's been common practice to keep
47 those closed waters where the commercial markers are so
48 that there's harvest and there's a limited sport
49 fishery in the area and Tyler can probably speak to
50

0249

1 that.

2

3

4 MR. POLUM: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is
5 Tyler Polum with Sport Fish Division. There is a
6 limited sport fishery that takes place mostly below the
7 highway bridges at Russian, Sergeant and Soloni Creeks,
8 and mostly in the freshwaters, however there is a
9 little, a very, very small amount of effort in the
10 saltwater. But as many people probably know that's a
11 huge area of tidal flats and there's not a lot of area
12 to fish. Also one of the challenges that may exit with
13 this is that the tide can move from up to the highway
14 just about to almost a half mile off -- out of the bay,
15 essentially most of the bay drains at low tide. So,
16 you know, there's a potential for significant confusion
17 about boundaries of Federal waters. That's sort of
18 illustrated right now because the Bola area is closed
19 to all subsistence -- or all users right now including
20 Federal subsistence users due to the low coho run at
21 Buskin. And the closed waters include the area in
22 front of Buskin and Women's Bay which you're discussing
23 now and those boundaries are somewhat ambiguous and I
24 don't think many people know much about these fisheries
25 in the areas.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
27 Tyler. Federal agencies.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal entities.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory group
36 comments, other Regional Councils.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
41 Advisory Committees.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
46 Resource Commissions.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0250

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any summary of
2 written public comments.

3

4 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, there were no
5 written public comments submitted for this proposal.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Is
8 there any public testimony?

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
13 recommendation. Motion to adopt.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Move to adopt.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
18 Pat Holmes. Is there a second.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: Second.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by
23 Rebecca. Discussion.

24

25 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

28

29 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I'll go ahead and
30 speak to this since it -- this was a proposal that I
31 put in. I -- it's probably clear from the previous
32 proposals that I definitely support a subsistence
33 priority and didn't support Federal subsistence
34 closures where there were State harvest opportunities
35 in the same area. For Women's Bay and for Buskin as
36 well the reason I included or the reason the proposal
37 is specific to rod and reel fishery is to recognize
38 concerns there might be about the conservation of the
39 fish and if you're fishing with a gillnet then you do
40 have the potential of catching a lot more fish than if
41 you're using rod and reel. So I was trying to
42 recognize uncertainty and conservation concerns while
43 also ensuring that we do have a Federal subsistence
44 priority or Federal subsistence fishery in place for
45 the area.

46

47 Thanks.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Just

50

0251

1 so we're clear, making a motion to approve FP 23-06a
2 and then no action on FCR 23-15, we need to take that
3 as a separate action item.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. So the FP 23-06a
6 is to rescind the closure and then put in regulatory
7 restrictions that make the fishery more conservative.
8 If we approve the Proposal FP 23-06a which rescinds the
9 closure then there would be no need to take any action
10 on FCR 23-15 which was simply to rescind the closure
11 with no additional protections for the fish stock.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
14 you.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Uh-huh.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Discussion.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, question first to
25 Becky and then I have one for Jarred. What would be
26 implemented that's more conservative and I guess I'll
27 take the one back from -- and then will the gillnet
28 restriction still be in place for Women's Bay and then
29 the variability on the Buskin remain?

30

31 MS. SKINNER: I think I heard the first
32 part of the question, I didn't catch the last part.
33 But the first part having to do with what's more
34 restrictive and would gillnets be allowed in Women's
35 Bay. No, the proposal is to only allow harvest by rod
36 and reel. So that's the more restrictive part, it's
37 allowing a gear type that has been discussed at length
38 yesterday and today as being more conservative or
39 taking -- it's a slower -- it's a less efficient way of
40 harvesting so it's a more conservative method and
41 means. And I didn't catch the very last part of your
42 question.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: I think you got -- pardon
45 me. I think you got most of it, I kind of lost my
46 train of thought so I'll be quiet for a while.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0252

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other.....

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, Coral.

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: I have a question and
8 then I may make an amendment, offer an amendment, make
9 a motion. When you say -- when it says in here
10 implement a new rod and reel fishery that matches
11 current State sport fish regulation, are you just
12 matching it to the rod and reel or are we talking about
13 limits also, like daily limit?

14

15 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
16 Chair. To answer your question we are talking about
17 both limiting the fishery to rod and reel and matching
18 the harvest limits currently set by State sport fish
19 regulations. And so that again speaking to Council
20 member Mr. Holmes' earlier question about the -- how
21 the fishery is limited, not only goes to speak to the
22 terms out of the rod and reel portion, but again being
23 limited in harvest going from 25 fish -- because
24 currently on your permit you're allowed to harvest 25
25 fish down to the State harvest limit of I believe two
26 fish. That might change in the fall, I believe August
27 15th for coho, they go down to one fish.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Could you repeat that,
30 please.

31

32 MR. STONE: Sure. Through the Chair,
33 Mr. Holmes. Earlier you had mentioned or had a
34 question about how this proposal is limiting or
35 conserving the fishery and Rebecca spoke to restricting
36 the gear types down to just rod and reel, but
37 additionally currently as it states now this proposal
38 seeks to match the harvest limits of the State sport
39 fish regulations. And so that again is also a
40 reduction. On your Federal permit currently right now
41 you're allowed to harvest 25 salmon. And so this would
42 be quite a bit less than what is allowed on the harvest
43 of the permit, the permit stipulations.

44

45 Did that make sense? Sorry.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: So the gillnet on the
48 Federal would -- it would drop back to the same as the
49 State, rod and reel would be the same limit; is that

50

0253

1 correct or am I hearing you wrong?

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Gillnet in this area
4 would not be allowed, but it's not allowed now. It
5 would continue to not be allowed.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess the point is
8 is that those markers move in and out on the Buskin and
9 Women's Bay I'd certainly strongly agree about it
10 because those are such small stocks that you'd never
11 want to have gillnets in there and you'd never want to
12 increase harvest at all. And there's a couple streams
13 that weren't mentioned and I won't mention either, that
14 have 10 or 15 fish returning. And so that -- that's
15 the whole reason the Women's Bay is closed is to
16 protect those on the State regs for subsistence.

17

18 MR. STONE: Through the Chair and thank
19 you, Mr. Holmes. You're correct. And what this
20 proposal seeks to do is to again match the current
21 State sport fish regulations. And a majority of the
22 people that participate in this fishery are locals I
23 believe and there's some, you know, out of state,
24 nonrural folks that come in to harvest fish, but the
25 intent of this proposal again is not to allow gillnet,
26 not to allow seine, but to allow the same gear that's
27 allowed under State sport regulations so that
28 Federally-qualified subsistence users can again harvest
29 fish in these waters.

30

31 I hope that answers your question.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Okay. And then a further
34 question. There is closed waters off the mouth of the
35 Buskin for the gillnet subsistence fishery, but that
36 moves in and out. And so sometimes when they reopen or
37 they extend it when they have a good run, then it moves
38 all the way up to the mouth. And so that -- what
39 you're proposing that would remain closed to people
40 that normally would fish that area.

41

42 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. I
43 believe the waters that you're speaking to and that
44 boundary's changing, that's under State regulations.
45 We're -- once we get through this proposal for Women's
46 Bay we will transition into that closed area that you
47 mentioned at the mouth of the Buskin River and that's a
48 triangle of water that is adjacent to the mouth of the
49 river. So again just for a point of clarification this
50

0254

1 proposal seeks to open up a rod and reel fishery that
2 would match the State regulations for Women's Bay and
3 we're not to the point yet of discussion on the closed
4 marine waters of the Buskin River.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
7 Jarred. We are basically talking about the Women's
8 Bay. In the next one, 23-15, we will take action
9 following the action on the 23-06a.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: I guess I'm confused
16 because the descriptive materials in here relate to the
17 fisheries at the Buskin and I know that we're talking
18 about Women's Bay, but what's in the reg -- in our book
19 is talking about harvest at the Buskin. And so are we
20 dividing up this proposal into Women's Bay and the
21 Buskin or are they lumped together?

22

23 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
24 Chair. We are taking them up separately, however the
25 materials that are referenced in this analysis uses the
26 Buskin River because we felt that the Buskin River is
27 the primary source of salmon for Women's Bay. We
28 understand that there's Sergeant Creek and Russian
29 River and other rivers in Women's Bay, but we felt that
30 we had access first to the Buskin River data and it's a
31 long term, robust data set that we have access to. And
32 so we used that particular data set to reference the
33 status of Women's Bay, if that makes sense.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I can see your
36 present -- giving that presence to give us an idea on
37 the potential there of the -- I would hope on Women's
38 Bay that if this is -- goes through that the -- all
39 parties, State and Federal, would be discussing it and
40 checking for escapements. I know that Sport Fish does
41 periodic checks on those systems. When I was with the
42 department I walked every stream on the road system for
43 coho in the fall every week and so there was some
44 really strong observations. I don't know if that
45 exists, but I would think that the small size in
46 Women's Bay of those runs would merit some considerable
47 effort to make sure that they're not overharvested.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0255

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Oh, I think Coral has a
6 question.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Or Coral. I'm
9 sorry.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: So I'm not sure what to
12 do here. If I want to make a language change to kind
13 of do -- to clarify the limits, do I make an amendment
14 or do we just talk about her wording?

15

16 MS. SKINNER: You move to amend.

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. I guess I would
19 -- I don't know, give me a second.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: In the meantime could I
22 ask another question, Madame Chair.

23

24 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. I think -- I
25 think I could just at the end add limits, implement a
26 new rod and reel fishery. I'd like to amend it to say --
27 do I have to read the whole thing?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. CHERNOFF: I'd like to amend it to
32 read Fisheries Proposal FP 23-06a, request to rescind
33 the closure to harvest salmon by Federally-qualified
34 subsistence users in the closed marine waters of
35 Women's Bay and implement a new rod and reel fishery
36 that matches current State sport fish regulation
37 limits.

38

39 MS. SKINNER: That's what it says.

40

41 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, but it's not
42 clear. I was just trying to.....

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I thought
45 that's what this is doing.

46

47 Jarred, go ahead.

48

49 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair and

50

0256

1 thank you for pointing that out Council member
2 Chernoff. You caught it. So under the general
3 description listed on page 49 it is somewhat vague, but
4 in that same executive summary down in the proposed
5 regulation you'll see bold language and that bold
6 language I think will capture the intent of what you're
7 seeking. It lists harvest limits directly.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.
10 Council.....

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: One brief question. And
17 by implementing this and let's say that the runs were
18 looking weak and then the Federal government preempted
19 State management on rod and reel sport. Would I need
20 to go and get a Federal subsistence permit to sport
21 fish or to use rod and reel in Women's Bay?

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You're not sport
24 fishing, your Federal permit for a subsistence -- rod
25 and reel subsistence fish.

26
27 MR. STONE: You're right. Yeah, if
28 the fishery were to exclude non-Federally-qualified and
29 you wish to gain access to that fishery and participate
30 in it still you would still need to be required to get
31 a Federal permit.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

34
35 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

38
39 MS. CHERNOFF: Jarred, I have a
40 question and I don't know if you can answer it more
41 quickly, but are -- currently are there season date
42 differences because in this clarification, you know, it
43 says harvest limits -- season dates and harvest limits
44 shall be the same as taking fish, whereas I would just
45 like the limits to mirror the State, but perhaps if
46 there's different season limits. Do we know if those
47 are the same or different?

48
49 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
50

0257

1 Chair. The only difference that I know about for the
2 Kodiak road zone for State regulations, from September
3 16th through December 31 the bag and possession limits
4 for coho changes. It goes from -- for fish 20 inches
5 or greater in length you can only keep one fish except
6 that in the following stocked waters the bag and
7 possession limits for coho, so any of the stocked lakes
8 in Kodiak area is generally a little bit more
9 liberalized, but that doesn't pertain to the area that
10 we're talking about today. So in short under Federal
11 regulations I believe the season would be open year
12 round, there would be no season dates, no parameters
13 around that. If this proposal were to be adopted it
14 would mirror the State regulations and so it would --
15 it would adopt this same restriction for coho salmon in
16 the fall starting September 16th going down to one
17 fish, one coho.

18
19 MS. CHERNOFF: Can I withdraw my
20 motion?

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, you can.

23
24 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. I wish to
25 withdraw my motion.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: To amend?

28
29 MS. CHERNOFF: To amend and add the
30 word limits at the end

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we got
33 -- we need to get this figured out and in -- because
34 we're taking a lot of time again. We're not -- well,
35 it's important.

36
37 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So.....

40
41 MS. CHERNOFF: So what I plan to do is
42 withdraw my motion to amend and then I plan on voting
43 against this proposal and then on the Federal closure
44 review that goes with it I plan to vote to rescind that
45 with the same provisions, limits and regulations of
46 Federal subsistence. So my idea is I don't want to
47 match the State regulations.

48
49 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. One
50

0258

1 recommendation I would make is not to make that
2 modification to the closure review, but to take action
3 on this proposal and modify this proposal to your
4 liking.

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: Well, I wasn't going to
7 modify the proposal.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And then.....

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF:I mean, the Federal
12 closure review.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:two things.
15 The motion on the floor was to approve it. She made a
16 motion to modify, then rescinded it and she can make a
17 motion again to remodify it.

18

19 MS. CHERNOFF: No. I didn't make that
20 motion. No.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

23

24 MS. CHERNOFF: No.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So basically at
27 this point we are voting on the first motion.....

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:now and
32 that's what we're going to do. We need to -- yeah, go
33 ahead.

34

35 Lisa, roll call, please.

36

37 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Just for
38 the record can we restate what the motion was.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The motion was
41 to approve -- yeah, FP 23-06a.

42

43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Patrick
44 Holmes.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: I'd vote in favor of that
47 if it's to maintain the State limits because those are
48 to provide for conservation in serious situations. And
49 I think that the point on the seasonal one limiting it
50

0259

1 to one fish above 21 inches is that those fish are the
2 spawners, the ones underneath. And so if we went to
3 taking two fish that are big because there's no
4 restriction then that could impact the escapements. So
5 I'd stick with our first one and vote yes.

6
7 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca
8 Skinner.

9
10 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

11
12 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral
13 Chernoff.

14
15 MS. CHERNOFF: No.

16
17 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Chris
18 Price.

19
20 MR. PRICE: Yes.

21
22 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della
23 Trumble.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

26
27 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard
28 Koso.

29
30 MR. KOSO: Yes.

31
32 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha
33 Hayden.

34
35 MS. HAYDEN: No.

36
37 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha,
38 would you repeat that, please.

39
40 MS. HAYDEN: Sorry. I voted no.

41
42 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
43 Madame Chair, it passed, five in favor and two against.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So now
46 procedurally where are we at, do we move on to the FCR
47 23-15 or to what Coral was.....

48
49 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. The
50

0260

1 next -- so the fisheries closure review, 23-15, I won't
2 give the analysis for time's sake, it is going to cover
3 the exact same material and presentation that I gave
4 for the Fisheries Proposal FP 23-06a. What I would
5 recommend considering now that this has been supported
6 by the Council is to put another motion forward to take
7 no action on fisheries closure review 23-15.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: I move to take no action
10 on FCR 23-15.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a
13 second to the motion.

14

15 MR. PRICE: Second.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Chris.

18

19

20 MS. SKINNER: So just speaking to the
21 motion I think it's appropriate for the Council to take
22 no action on the fishery closure because what we just
23 voted on in the regulatory proposal rescinded the
24 closure and then added in some protections to make the
25 fishery more conservative. So in essence we have
26 already rescinded the closure in that area.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any discussion.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I'm a little
37 confused. What gets accomplished by rescinding the 23-
38 15 and then.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Take no action.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry, just getting
43 tired and.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah.

46

47 MR. HOLMES:lost.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It's taking no

50

0261

1 action on it, Pat, on FCR 23-15. It's not rescinding
2 it, it's taking no -- the motion was to take no action.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: And so then the existing
5 State regulations would continue?

6

7 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. To
8 answer your question, Mr. Holmes, by the Council
9 supporting the previous proposal to rescind the closure
10 it nullifies the closure review process. And so we are
11 just having a formality of having the Council put
12 forward a motion to take no action on the closure
13 review since it's been now rescinded.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
18 discussion.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
23 question.

24

25 MS. CHERNOFF: Question.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's
28 been called. I'm going to go ahead and -- all in favor
29 signify by saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any nays.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carries.
38 I -- it is lunchtime, guys, and I think we are ready
39 for a break. We will resume at 1:00 o'clock. We've
40 got a lot to do and I don't know that we're even going
41 to get to this agenda.

42

43 See you at 1:00.

44

45 (Off record)

46

47 (On record)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Good

50

0262

1 afternoon, everyone. We'll call the meeting back to
2 order. Can I check to see, Natasha and Rick, are you
3 online?

4

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

6

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

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We will
13 continue on number 9, being 9, FP 23-06b and FCR 21-16.

14

15 Jarred.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 Madame Chair and members of the Council. As we move
19 forward this proposal is very similar in nature to the
20 last in that it's a proposal to address the Closure
21 Review FCR 21-16 for the marine waters of the Buskin
22 River. Again for the record my name is Jarred Stone
23 and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
24 Subsistence Management. The analyses of Fisheries
25 Proposal FP 23-06b for the Buskin marine waters begins
26 on page 70 of your Council meeting materials.

27

28 And again just as a reminder, FP 23-06b
29 is a parallel fisheries proposal for Fisheries Closure
30 Review FCR 21-16 and requests to rescind the closure
31 and modify the regulations to match the State sport
32 fishing regulations and harvest limits.

33

34 The current events for the area are the
35 same as what I had presented for Women's Bay. There
36 had been emergency special actions taken this summer,
37 both on sockeye and on coho and in previous years as
38 well in 2019 and 2021.

39

40 A lot of the biological background is
41 the same that I had presented in the analyses as the
42 previous fisheries proposal. And so I'll move past
43 that because it's already been stated.

44

45 Again a lot of the harvest history was
46 covered in the previous analyses of FP 23-06a and so I
47 won't cover any of the harvest history, that is the
48 same information.

49

50

1 And now I'll go into the effects of the
2 proposal. The Fisheries Proposal FP 23-06B is adopted
3 Federally-qualified subsistence users would have
4 additional opportunity to harvest fish closer to town
5 in the nearshore marine waters under Federal
6 regulations. It is unlikely that harvest rates would
7 increase if this closure were rescinded. Rural
8 residents of Kodiak are already harvesting salmon under
9 State sport fish regulations and this change would
10 allow Kodiak residents to choose which fishery they
11 elect to participate in. Additionally the boundaries
12 of this closed area is somewhat confusing and hard to
13 distinguish while fishing in the marine environment.
14 So by adopting this proposal the area boundary would no
15 longer exist.

16
17 If FP 23-06b is not adopted there would
18 be continued inconsistency between State sport, State
19 subsistence and Federal subsistence regulations.
20 Federally-qualified subsistence users would not be
21 eligible for a priority consumptive use in times of
22 resource restrictions.

23
24 So OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
25 support Proposal FP 23-06b. The justification for
26 doing so is that under section 802 of ANILCA requires
27 that a subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska
28 shall be the priority consumption uses of all such
29 resources on the public lands of Alaska. Currently
30 Federally-qualified subsistence users are not allowed
31 to harvest salmon under Federal subsistence regulations
32 in the same Federal public waters where the State sport
33 fish harvest is allowed. Aligning State and Federal
34 regulations would prevent Federal subsistence
35 regulations from being more restrictive than State
36 sport fishing regulations. And overall the harvest
37 levels again would likely remain unaffected as
38 Federally-qualified subsistence users are already
39 harvesting fish in the State sport fishery.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
42 Jarred. Report on Board consultation, tribes and ANCSA
43 corporations.

44
45 Orville.

46
47 MR. LIND: Afternoon, Madame Chair, RAC
48 members. I thought I had something earlier, but
49 according to my notes on August 23rd during the tribal
50

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1 and ANCSA consultations we had no questions or comments
2 on the proposal.

3
4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
7 Orville. Agency comments.

8
9 ADF&G.

10
11 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 This is James Jackson, Kodiak Commercial and Salmon
13 Subsistence Fisherman or Fisheries Biologist. Yeah,
14 the current closed waters are there to provide a small
15 sanctuary for sockeye and coho and pink salmon. The
16 gillnet and seine effort on the outside if we open it
17 up to the mouth which we do sometimes when the run is
18 doing well it significantly increases the harvest in
19 that area.

20
21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
24 Federal agencies.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal entities,
29 Native, tribal, village or other.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory Group
34 comments, other Regional Councils.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
39 Advisory Committees.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
44 Resource Commissions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of
49 written comments.

50

0265

1 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
2 Chair. There were no submitted public comments for
3 this.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Public
6 testimony.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
11 recommendation. Motion.

12
13 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

16
17 MS. SKINNER: Move to support FP 23-
18 06b.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a
21 second.

22
23 MR. PRICE:

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second made by
26 Chris. Discussion.

27
28 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Question for Jarred. If
33 this proposal's implemented what would the affects on
34 dropping the closed area for gillnetting be because
35 that -- is that area going to be deleted and then if it
36 is what's going to be the affect to -- for State or
37 Federal fishing with gillnets in the areas that are
38 closed now?

39
40 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. To try
41 to answer your question, Mr. Holmes, to my
42 understanding that area boundary would still remain.
43 Let me check on that for you and get you a better
44 answer.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. Madame Chair,
47 I had one comment on public input. And I know we all
48 try to get feedback from the communities and I --
49 whenever we had our meetings before that I would brief
50

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1 the Sun'ag an NVA and let them know what was up, same
2 with the Advisory Committee. For Kodiak I talked to
3 three of the Advisory Committee members before the
4 meeting. They and Sam are also from our Board are all
5 doing their business guiding. And so -- or flying.
6 And their comments to me which is -- you have to take
7 verbatim, were that they thought it should be left the
8 way it is.

9

10 So thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

13

14

15 Jarred.

16

17 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
18 Chair. To again Pat Holmes' previous question, the
19 latitude/longitude coordinates for the description of
20 the area would remain in the regulation and so the area
21 boundaries would not go away. And I think I had stated
22 that in my analyses and in my talking points, but that
23 was incorrect, that the area boundaries would remain.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. An important
26 point.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
29 comments.

30

31 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

34

35 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I would like to
36 make a motion to amend this proposal to say -- I guess
37 to remove the rod and reel so it matches the current
38 State sport fish regulations. So my amendment would be
39 -- would read as follows. Fisheries Proposal FP 23-06b
40 requests to rescind the closure to harvest salmon by
41 Federally-qualified subsistence users in the closed
42 marine waters of Buskin River and follow the general
43 provisions for the Federal subsistence taking of fish.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a
46 second to the amendment.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0267

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
2 the amendment fails. We're back to the main motion.
3 Any other discussion.

4
5 Natasha, were you able to get online?

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
10 question.

11
12 MS. HAYDEN: Yes, ma'am, I'm here.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh.

15
16 MS. HAYDEN: Sorry for the delay.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Natasha,
19 do you have any comments in regard to this, I don't
20 know how much you have -- were able to hear.

21
22 MS. HAYDEN:at this time.
23 Thanks.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I -- we didn't
26 -- we couldn't hear you, Natasha.

27
28 MS. HAYDEN: Sorry, Madame Chair. I
29 said no comments at this time.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

32
33 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

36
37 MS. CHERNOFF: I would like to comment
38 on the reason I made my amendment is because much of
39 this area is open water. So that's one reason. So I
40 believe that so much of the area is open water so many
41 times we use rod and reel, you know, from -- it's kind
42 of a land based fishery. Then number 2, I think that
43 using rod and reel doesn't often -- it's often kind of
44 in conflict with the way customary and traditional
45 fisheries go, it doesn't provide -- it's not the most
46 efficient way to gather the fish in the ways that many
47 of us use it. Many times we -- it's beneficial weather
48 wise, timewise and inefficiency to, you know, for
49 drying fish or putting them in the smokehouse to get
50

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1 them in greater numbers as we would in the 25 fish per
2 permit fashion. So I guess those are the two main
3 reasons that I really have an issue with implementing
4 the rod and reel. I think it kind of veers off the
5 course of being customary and traditional. And I do
6 realize that -- I mean, you can -- if we remove that
7 you would still be able to fish by rod and reel. So
8 but with the rod and reel implementation, you're
9 limited to only that.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

12

13 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

16

17 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I just wanted to
18 say on the record again that I strongly disagree with
19 the concept of that rod and reel should not be
20 recognized as a subsistence method and means and the
21 household that we actually grew up in was very much a
22 subsistence dependent household where all of the fish
23 was caught with rod and reel. And I feel very strongly
24 that ultimately the access to subsistence resources
25 should be flexible and should be -- you should be able
26 to use the means that you have because especially in
27 remote areas that's what you do. And I really disagree
28 with the narrowing down of what is considered to be
29 traditionally used by Native people or subsistence
30 users.

31

32 All of that being said I appreciate
33 Coral's comments on the concern with limiting the
34 fishery in that area and I think as I said to my last
35 proposal, I propose the rod and reel trying to be
36 responsive to the conservation concerns -- the fear of
37 conservation concerns that had been raised in previous
38 discussions, just recognizing that rod and reel is a
39 more or a less efficient way of harvesting the fish.

40

41 I guess Coral didn't speak to raising
42 the limit, but I think because the bag limits are so
43 low it's -- it kind of matches using a rod and reel,
44 but if you were to raise the limit to 25 it would make
45 a lot more sense to have a additional method and means.

46

47 Those are my comments. Thanks.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other

50

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1 comments.

2

3

MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

6

7

MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. Thank you for that. And Rebecca did kind of reiterate my point which was if you're doing rod and reel you're limiting the means of catching fish. If you go by the provisions of the Federal subsistence rules it's all inclusive, you get to choose your method, what works for your lifestyle.

14

15

16

17

18

19

And then I guess second I would like to make a motion to amend that so that you can fish with rod and reel, but that you can fish your 25 limit, you get your permit for your 25 -- limit 25.

20

21

MS. SKINNER: Second.

22

23

24

25

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Motion made to amend to utilize rod and reel, but the limit be up to 25. Discussion.

26

27

(No comments)

28

29

30

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for question on the amendment.

31

32

MS. CHERNOFF: Question.

33

34

35

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's been called. All in favor.....

36

37

MS. HAYDEN: Sorry, Madame Chair.

38

39

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Natasha.

40

41

42

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46

MS. HAYDEN: I just wanted to get -- ask for some clarification about 20 -- it would be what, the amendment would be for 25 fish per person per year to match the existing Statewide or the State subsistence limit; is that correct?

47

48

49

50

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Jarred or maybe someone from the State. Currently if you had -- to get a permit for 25 and you utilized it, can you not go

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1 back and request another 25?

2

3 MR. POLUM: Yeah, this is Tyler and
4 James from Fish and Game. Yeah, you can go back and
5 request it. And it's also 25 per household member, so
6 it's not just 25, it's 25 and then you get an
7 additional 25 for each member of your household.

8

9 MS. HAYDEN: But that's -- I mean, to
10 clarify the contrast between that and having the rod
11 and reel match the State limit regulations would be --
12 there's a daily bag limit with no annual cap on rod and
13 reel for State sport fishing; is that correct?

14

15 MR. POLUM: That -- that's correct.
16 There's a daily limit of two sockeye or two coho per
17 day, a total of five salmon per day of which there's no
18 annual limit for those species. There is a possession
19 limit so you have to -- you only get one bag limit
20 before you have to preserve it in some way, freeze,
21 can, smoke, you know, preserve it in some fashion.

22

23 MS. HAYDEN. Okay. Thanks. I would
24 just ask Coral if her intention was to keep the up to
25 five fish per day and then add the annual bag limit to
26 the proposal?

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, to -- no, Natasha.
29 My amendment to this proposal is that we implement rod
30 and reel, but we still follow the allowed whatever --
31 the regulations that Federal subsistence allows. And
32 what that allows is you get a harvest report, you can
33 list up to two, three people in the household. Your
34 harvest report is limit 25 plus the additional
35 household members, each get 25 and then you can also go
36 back and request another permit. So -- after you've
37 filled that permit, that's allowable. So that's --
38 that was my request is that we -- for our limits that
39 we follow the subsistence guidelines, the Federal
40 subsistence guidelines.

41

42 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. I think I'm saying
43 the same thing. But you're not -- your proposal isn't
44 eliminating the daily bag limit as well or is it, is it
45 just jump following the Federal subsistence annual bag
46 limit?

47

48 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I am doing nothing
49 and this Advisory Council is doing nothing about State
50

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1 sport regulation or State permit. My amendment to
2 Rebecca's proposal only has to do with the Federal
3 Subsistence fishing regulations.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

6

7 MS. HAYDEN: I understand that. I --
8 the way that I read the proposal is that this is
9 proposing include rod and reel as a gear type in the
10 Federally managed subsistence fishery and then have
11 them -- have them mirror ADF&G sport fishing
12 regulations which currently have a daily bag limit, but
13 no annual bag limit. And so the amendment that you're
14 proposing, is that in place of portion of the State
15 regulations that have a daily bag limit and only having
16 it -- have it -- the constraint to be the annual bag
17 limit.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Jarred.

20

21 MR. STONE: Through the Chair and
22 Council member Natasha Hayden. So I think that the
23 intent of this modification is to keep the rod and reel
24 gear type, but then to allow the harvest of 25 salmon
25 per head of household. So it would be the same as the
26 Federal permit -- the Federal permit is now stated. So
27 from the original proposal there would be a
28 liberalization. There would be an allowance of more
29 salmon. And from a management perspective that could
30 be easier to track than having the difference between
31 having one area of water be limited to a couple fish
32 and then another area being allowed to harvest up to 25
33 fish. And so and keeping it the same and using the
34 areawide regulations of 25 fish the In-Season Managers
35 don't have to try and distinguish where these fish are
36 being caught if that makes sense.

37

38 MS. HAYDEN: It does. And I understand
39 that. What I'm -- I guess maybe the scenario that I'm
40 picturing is if the bag limit is up to 25 fish per
41 person that somebody would be able to go out and get
42 all 25 at the river in one day versus if somebody was
43 using a boat and a gillnet, if they -- it -- that's
44 what I'm wondering, is it -- under the amendment it is --
45 would allow for an individual to harvest their
46 subsistence limit in one day at the river.

47

48 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, that is correct.

49

50

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1 MS. HAYDEN: And I think you did say
2 something else about.....

3
4 MS. CHERNOFF: Natasha. Natasha, you
5 did mention adding rod and reel. We would not be
6 adding rod and reel, rod and reel is already accepted
7 under subsistence methods and means. What this is is
8 we would -- in this area we could only fish by rod and
9 reel. So it actually eliminated nets and spears and
10 all kinds of other stuff. So I just wanted to clarify
11 that.

12
13 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Thank you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Anymore
16 discussion on the amendment.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I -- maybe we
21 need to number -- let's do this Jarred and Lisa. Read
22 the motion as it stands and then read the amendment so
23 we're clear on -- when we vote on it -- the amendment
24 we know exactly what we're voting on.

25
26 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
27 Chair. I'll try my best. So the motion then would be
28 to support Fisheries Proposal FP 23-06b which requests
29 to rescind the closure to harvest salmon by Federally-
30 qualified subsistence users in the closed marine waters
31 of the Buskin River and implement a new rod and reel
32 fishery and I think we could strike out the rest of the
33 language because they would revert back to the areawide
34 regulations. We wouldn't have to reference harvest
35 limits.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
38 you. And the amendment would read.

39
40 MS. CHERNOFF: That was the amendment.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, that was the
43 amendment. Okay. All right. I think let's take a
44 roll call vote on this amendment and then we'll
45 take.....

46
47 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. Roll
48 call vote for voting on the amendment to FP 23-06b.

49
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0273

1

Patrick Holmes.

2

3

MR. HOLMES: No.

4

5

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Is that a

6

no?

7

8

MR. HOLMES: That's correct. No.

9

10

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.

11

Richard Koso.

12

13

(No comments)

14

15

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral

16

Chernoff.

17

18

MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

19

20

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca

21

Skinner.

22

23

MS. SKINNER: Yes.

24

25

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha

26

Hayden.

27

28

(No comments)

29

30

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della

31

Trumble.

32

33

MS. HAYDEN: Yes. Sorry about that.

34

35

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.

36

Sorry. So Natasha yes.

37

38

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Della Trumble.

39

40

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I -- yes.

41

42

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher

43

Price.

44

45

MR PRICE: Yes.

46

47

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard

48

Koso.

49

50

0274

1 MR. KOSO: Could you say that again,
2 please.

3
4 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Looking for
5 Richard Koso.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: He's online now.

8
9 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm here. I just
10 didn't hear that part, my phone doesn't come in very
11 loud at all.

12
13 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Sorry. Do
14 you know what we're voting on, Richard?

15
16 MR. KOSO: No, I'm not sure. I
17 couldn't hear.

18
19 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. So
20 we're moving to support Fish Proposal 23-06b with an
21 amendment and that is to -- could somebody actually
22 say.....

23
24 MR. KOSO: Is there an amendment?

25
26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah, I'm
27 going to have Jarred tell us what the amendment is.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
32 Chair. Council member Mr. Koso, the amendment would
33 only be to allow the areawide harvest limit to apply.
34 So it would be -- this is -- I'll restate the motion.
35 The motion is to support Fisheries Proposal FP 23-06b
36 which requests to rescind the closure to harvest salmon
37 by Federally-qualified subsistence users in the closed
38 marine waters of Buskin River and implement a new rod
39 and reel fishery.

40
41 MR. KOSO: Okay. I vote yes on that
42 amendment.

43
44 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. The
45 amendment passed, six for and one against.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam was absent.

48
49 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah, with
50

0275

1 one absence. Same was absent.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
Moving on to the main motion. I'm going to go ahead
and do a -- we don't do a discussion again, do we. We
can do one final discussion, but I honestly think we
are ready to vote.

9

10

11

12

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
We're voting on the main motion so on FP 23-06b to
support the proposal.

13

14

15

Rebecca Skinner.

16

17

MS. SKINNER: Yes.

18

19

20

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha
Hayden.

21

22

(No comments)

23

24

25

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral
Chernoff.

26

27

MS. CHERNOFF: So.....

28

29

MS. HAYDEN: Can you hear me?

30

31

32

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Go ahead,
Natasha.

33

34

MS. HAYDEN: My vote was yes.

35

36

37

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral
Chernoff.

38

39

40

41

42

43

MS. CHERNOFF: Can we clarify what
exactly I'm voting on, what is the original -- it's the
original with the last part scratched and the
amendment. Like I'm not sure what I'm voting on.

44

45

46

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Jarred,
would you explain.

47

48

49

50

MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
Chair. From what I understand the motion is to
basically keep the same language, but essentially

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1 strike out the last part that says current State sport
2 fish regulations and so get rid of that mirror --
3 mirroring part of it.

4
5 MS. CHERNOFF: My vote is yes.

6
7 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher
8 Price.

9
10 MR. PRICE: Yes.

11
12 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Patrick
13 Holmes.

14
15 MR. HOLMES: No.

16
17 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard
18 Koso.

19
20 MR. KOSO: Yes.

21
22 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della
23 Trumble.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

26
27 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. The
28 motion passed, six for, one against with one absent for
29 FP 23-06b.

30
31 Thanks.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So now
34 we're at the FCR 21-16 and that's basically -- go ahead
35 and discuss what happens with that one.

36
37 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
38 Chair. On FCR 21-16 because the Council had
39 recommended to rescind the closure with Fisheries
40 Proposal 23-06b with the modification, I recommend to
41 the Council that you take no action on Fisheries
42 Closure Review 21-16.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do I hear a
45 motion to -- in regard to FCR 21-16.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

50

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1 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I'd like to
2 move that we take no action on FCR 21-16.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
5 Do I hear a second.

6
7 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Coral.
10 Discussion.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
15 question.

16
17 MS. CHERNOFF: Question.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's
20 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
25 sign.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
30 Thank you, Jarred.

31
32 MR. STONE: Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Justin,
35 maybe what we'll do with Alaska Peninsula region --
36 Rick, what we're going to do up next on the agenda is
37 Alaska Peninsula region which is FCR 21-13 and 23-13
38 and possibly recommend we just go ahead and take them
39 together unless you want to separate them.

40
41 Okay. Next on the agenda will be 21-13
42 and 23-23.

43
44 Justin.

45
46 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Madame Chair,
47 members of the Council. For the record my name is
48 Justin Koller, I'm a Fisheries Biologist with OSM,
49 Office of Subsistence Management. So these next seven
50

1 closure reviews are very much the same as the other
2 closure reviews. The recommendation is to rescind
3 because these are Federal public waters with sport
4 fishing allowed and they're closed to Federally-
5 qualified subsistence users.

6
7 So I'll try to keep this brief. I know
8 Tyler from Fish and Game gave an excellent presentation
9 on the escapements, populations of fish, harvests in
10 these area. He did a really nice job so I'll keep that
11 information brief too.

12
13 So with that FCR 21-13. We'll move on
14 from the Kodiak area to Cold Bay. There's two
15 fisheries closures being reviewed. First up is FCR 21-
16 13 and the analysis begins on page 142 of your meeting
17 book.

18
19 FCR 21-13 is a routine review of
20 Federal closure to salmon fishing at Russell Creek and
21 Nurse Lagoon near the community of Cold Bay. Russell
22 Creek consists of Federal public waters within and
23 adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Alaska
24 Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge. Nurse Lagoon was
25 at one time considered Federal public waters. The
26 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture later
27 determined that some marine waters including Nurse
28 Lagoon wee mistakenly added to Federal regulation.
29 Mention of Nurse Lagoon persists in this Federal
30 subsistence regulation and should be removed. Russell
31 Creek is closed to subsistence fishing under both
32 Federal and State regulations, however it is open to
33 sport fishing. Since there are currently these
34 nonsubsistence uses permitted in the area the currently
35 situation is not in compliance with title VIII of
36 ANILCA.

37
38 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
39 rescind this closure.

40
41 The Russell Creek drainage is currently
42 closed to the harvest of salmon by Federally-qualified
43 subsistence users and remains open to other uses.
44 Federal subsistence opportunity should be provided to
45 comply with the rural preference mandated by ANILCA.
46 If the closure is rescinded the Federal In-Season
47 Manager could use delegated authority by the Board to
48 set provisions for the fishery such as limiting gear
49 types and setting conservative harvest limits to
50

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1 conserve vulnerable fish populations.

2

3 If this closure is retained reference
4 to Nurse Lagoon should be removed because it is not
5 Federal public water. Also the word drainage should be
6 added after Russell Creek to clarify that the closure
7 applies to the entire drainage.

8

9 Those last two items are only if this
10 closure is retained.

11

12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. If
15 you want to go ahead with the next one we'll take them
16 up together.

17

18 MR. KOLLER: Okay. The analysis for
19 FCR 23-13 begins on page 164 of your meeting book. FCR
20 23-13 is a routine review of a Federal closure to
21 salmon fishing in Trout Creek and within 500 yards
22 outside its mouth near the community of Cold Bay.

23

24 Federal public waters comprise the
25 Trout Creek watershed which is within and adjacent to
26 the exterior boundaries of Izembek and Alaska Peninsula
27 National Wildlife Refuges. The marine waters of Cold
28 Bay were at one time considered Federal public waters,
29 but the Secretaries later determined that Cold Bay was
30 added by mistake. So mention of Cold Bay persists in
31 this Federal subsistence regulation and should be
32 removed.

33

34 No subsistence harvest has occurred in
35 the Trout Creek drainage including within 500 yards of
36 its mouth because the area is closed to State and
37 Federal subsistence harvest. Trout Creek is open to
38 harvest under sport regulations, but harvest is
39 combined and reported with all Alaska Peninsula area
40 harvest and so therefore exact numbers of this harvest
41 are unavailable.

42

43 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
44 rescind this closure for reasons just stated for the
45 last Closure Review, FCR 21-13.

46

47 Once again if this closure is retained
48 the regulatory language referring to marine waters
49 should be removed as Cold Bay is not considered Federal
50

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1 public waters. And we're also recommending to add the
2 word drainage after Trout Creek to clarify that the
3 closure applies to the entire Trout Creek drainage.

4
5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
8 Justin. Report on Board consultations, tribes and
9 ANCSA corporations.

10
11 Orville.

12
13 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Council
14 members. We did not have any questions or comments on
15 this proposal.

16
17 Thank you, Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
20 Orville. Agency comments.

21
22 ADF&G.

23
24 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair and members
25 of the Council, this is Tyler Lawson with the
26 Department of Fish and Game. The Department of Fish
27 and Game agrees with OSM about them not having
28 jurisdiction over Nurse Lagoon and the marine waters of
29 Trout Creek. And otherwise for these two proposals
30 Fish and Game recommends that the status quo be
31 maintained. We feel that any Federal changes to
32 existing subsistence salmon fishing regulations in the
33 region would increase the complexities of regulations
34 and burden our subsistence users.

35
36 Over the last couple of days and the
37 last couple of years in these discussions we've heard
38 professional biologists from the agencies try to sort
39 all these out as well as the Council members who have a
40 lot of expertise on this matter and we -- you know,
41 there are still a lot of questions about how this is
42 going to impact everything and what the final result
43 will be and it's not something that we wish to burden
44 our users with while -- whatever the result may be. We
45 also feel strongly that we already have a clear
46 preference for subsistence users in these systems to
47 harvest fish.

48
49 Additionally we have conservation
50

0281

1 concerns in these systems. We talked yesterday about
2 some of the strengths and weaknesses that we have with
3 monitoring these runs and sometimes we're able to get
4 great surveys in, have great escapement data, whereas
5 other times it's a bit more of a challenge for various
6 reasons so that can make it a little bit more
7 challenging for us to have the right data there. And
8 that would especially be a concern if you're trying to
9 allocate between Federally-qualified users and the non-
10 Federally-qualified users if any of these regulations
11 were to be put into effect.

12
13 Additionally if some of these various
14 possible regulations were instituted Trout Creek and
15 Russell Creek are these very small, narrow systems and
16 if you had gillnets or seines in there you could
17 possibly harvest a lot more fish than had been done
18 historically. If rod and reel subsistence, especially
19 if snagging were allowed in some of those systems
20 there's some parts of that run early on where there's a
21 lot of mixing of coho, pink and chum and when the
22 water's low and you can see it's not a problem you can
23 kind of pick and choose your coho out from these non-
24 target species, but if that water is higher and it gets
25 murkier which it definitely does then there would
26 probably be a lot of non-targeted salmon that would be
27 caught by mistake and our users don't always keep those
28 non-targeted salmon the way that they are supposed to.

29
30 We're also a little bit concerned that
31 if these new regulations were put into effect it would
32 basically serve as an advertisement to increase some
33 harvest. I think that's probably more of an Unalaska
34 thing than Russell and Trout Creek, but I do also know
35 of two different instances in freshwaters where there's
36 been ghost nets left in place in Cold Bay waters. And
37 so if nets were to be used in those waters a little bit
38 of concern that they were handled properly, if they
39 were lost in a strong current people don't always
40 retrieve them and get them out of the water the way
41 that they are supposed to do.

42
43 As far as the enforcement goes we have
44 enforcement concerns for this region. It's a very
45 strong concern of ours, similar to what we talked about
46 with the Mayor of Unalaska yesterday, similar
47 situations exist here in Cold Bay waters. Della and
48 myself took a call regarding Russell Creek during
49 lunchtime and so we do have situations there which are
50

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1 challenging and we don't have the enforcement Staff out
2 here that we need. I am cross credentialed to do
3 enforcement, but it's not my main duty and I don't have
4 a lot of time, I don't have enough time to do it the
5 way that I should. And so we're really stretched thin
6 when it comes to trying to enforce it when enforcement
7 is the mechanism that we need to go through with there.

8

9 This would be really complicated if we
10 have more users who are using these new regulations.
11 If I were to approach somebody and they just tell me
12 that they're a Federally-qualified user, they don't
13 want to show me any identification, as a State
14 Biologist it gets really tough for us to actually try
15 to do anything about that, it's not really in our
16 bailiwick.

17

18 Just as a couple of practical
19 implications in sorting out Russell versus Trout as
20 well, as you spoke about yesterday for subsistence
21 purposes there's not a really strong preference for
22 coho salmon for -- in Cold Bay waters, mostly you all
23 target ceca. In general when people do what coho they
24 can use the existing sport fishing regulations to
25 harvest the coho that they want. There are some people
26 who do like to get additional coho and they can do that
27 putting out gillnets in waters where it's already able
28 to do so.

29

30 We would recommend to the Council that
31 in supporting the status quo they would also maybe work
32 with OSM and ourselves to use the State Board of Fish
33 process to dial in these regulations and get them into
34 alignment the way that everybody would hopefully agree
35 on. And if you do otherwise I think it would kind of
36 go against decades of local State managers with local
37 expertise trying to dial these things in, more
38 importantly with the local subsistence users who often
39 use that Board of Fish process and they themselves
40 asked for some of these different closures and such
41 which have been put in place in our regulations
42 historically.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
47 Thank you, Tyler. And maybe as we continue through the
48 process so if you can just stay there I'd appreciate
49 it.

50

0283

1 Thank you. Federal agency comments,
2 federal agencies.

3
4 Justin.

5
6 MR. KOLLER: Madame Chair, I just
7 received an email from John Gerken who's the Federal
8 In-Season Manager and he provided some general comments
9 for Alaska Peninsula fisheries closures that I'll just
10 read into the record.

11
12 Thank you. Again this is from John
13 Gerken, he's the Field Supervisor for Fish and
14 Wildlife.....

15
16 MR. GERKEN: Hey, Justin, I'm online
17 here. So.....

18
19 MR. KOLLER: Oh, wonderful. Thank you,
20 John. Go ahead.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, John.

23
24 MR. GERKEN: My comments that I sent to
25 Justin were pretty general to a majority of the
26 fisheries closure stuff that's being reviewed for the
27 Alaska Peninsula area so many of my comments would
28 mirror much of what Tyler was indicating so that, you
29 know, from my perspective we don't have much of a
30 presence in the AK Peninsula area. We've never
31 received any requests for a Federal subsistence permit
32 in that area and at least in my tenure which began in
33 2015. So we have no assessment projects out there in
34 that area so we are -- we work with the department for
35 any assessment information. I think Tyler did a very
36 good job yesterday talking about the different types of
37 assessment information and not only I guess the -- not
38 only the types of information, but also the difficulty
39 in collecting annual information and we would work with
40 the department with much of this and the local users to
41 gather any information.

42
43 And then I think that one of my just
44 general comments when it comes to Federal management
45 when it's different from the State is that typically
46 it's coming from an abundance concern or a lack of
47 subsistence fishing opportunity for Federally-qualified
48 users on Federal waters. And so -- and then again
49 because we don't have good assessment information with
50

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1 which to make those decisions as well as subsistence
2 harvest information. So as an example in Chignik we
3 have an escapement goal and we've got a weir that takes
4 -- provides a lot of that information for which we can
5 make decisions, it's going to get a little bit more
6 difficult in the Peninsula when there's more sparse
7 assessment information.

8

9 So again when the State and the Feds I
10 guess diverge in their decision-making at least from my
11 standpoint there has to be an abundance estimate or
12 future abundance or subsistence harvest opportunity for
13 Federal users not being available. So those decisions
14 are hard to make when there's not much assessment
15 information for which to rely upon.

16

17 So all of that is general comments and
18 if there's any other specific questions on Nurse and
19 Russell Creek, I'll wait for questions.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
24 We'll leave the questions when we get to the Council
25 recommendations.

26

27 So agency comments, tribal entities,
28 Native, tribal, village or other.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory Group
33 comments.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
38 Advisory Committees.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
43 Resource Commissions.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of
48 written public comments.

49

50

0285

1 Justin.

2

3 MR. KOLLER: Madame Chair, there were
4 no written public comments for these two proposals.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
9 Public testimony.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
14 recommendations. Motion to adopt.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: I move to rescind the two
21 closures, FCR 21-13 and FCR 23-13.

22

23 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
26 Motion made by Rebecca and seconded by Coral.
27 Discussion.

28

29 MR. PRICE: Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris.

32

33 MR. PRICE: The gentleman who just
34 spoke, what was his name from Fish and Game.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: John Gerken.

37

38 MR. PRICE: John Gerken.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: He's with what,
41 Fish and Wildlife.

42

43 MR. PRICE: Oh, he's with Fish and
44 Wildlife. So he's saying if we don't have enough.....

45

46 MR. GERKEN: Madame Chair, I apologize.
47 John Gerken, I'm the Federal-In-Season Manager.

48

49 MR. PRICE: Okay. He made a comment

50

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1 that because we don't have enough data that that's a
2 good reason to not have the Federal subsistence
3 priority, is that what he said?

4

5 Is that what you said, John?

6

7 MR. GERKEN: I guess what I was trying
8 to get at was typically when I as a Federal Manager are
9 going to make restrictions to non-Federally-qualified
10 users, the reason behind that is because abundance
11 numbers are low or local users, Federally-qualified
12 users are expressing concern that they're not getting
13 subsistence harvest opportunity. In many instances, at
14 least in the fishery closure reviews that we are going
15 to talk about later today, being able to choose that
16 out is difficult. So the assessment information is
17 hard to interpret or we don't have really strong
18 Federal subsistence harvest numbers with which to rely
19 upon.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I'm going to
22 take a shot at this. For the past couple years I --
23 you know, I get a lot of calls, I get pictures sent to
24 me of people harvesting salmon on Russell Creek and
25 some of our other areas and lands that belong to the
26 King Cove Corporation. I've been requested by people
27 and there were people in Cold Bay too are asking why do
28 we not have a subsistence fishery for the community
29 when there's a large amount of sport activity that
30 takes -- that is, you know, and trust me, I come over
31 here and I love to sport fish too in Russell Creek. I
32 also take advantage of the subsistence harvest, I
33 haven't for probably three years, but in the past I
34 have when, you know, because if I had a choice I'd
35 rather just go within the State subsistence and get my
36 fish and process it and be done with it.

37

38 However my concern I think in listening
39 to people the past couple of years is the amount of
40 pressure that is being put on these systems. When I
41 look at Mortensen's Lagoon and the lack of salmon,
42 there's no salmon there. As we continue on with the
43 amount of activity that is -- and pressure that's put
44 on these systems, where are we going to be, one after
45 another. I get requests to go on various lands of ours
46 to go to other systems.

47

48 The enforcement issue and, Tyler, you
49 said it yourself, we hear it not from only here, but

50

1 from Kodiak, from Unalaska, it's not there. I get word
2 in the past couple days of my being here of people
3 going out to Russell and taking salmon and then their
4 limit, I mean, 20 people down the line, a quarter mile
5 down the line on Russell Creek on King Cove Corporation
6 lands and taking fish. And then leaving and then
7 coming back later. And you, Tyler, basically heard the
8 same thing I did today. I'm aware of it, you're aware
9 of it and I appreciate you taking that time and talking
10 with me.

11

12 My concern on all of this, you know, as
13 a resident of this region, I get a lot of -- being I'm
14 part of this process have gotten many, many concerns
15 and people that have -- are discouraged just basically
16 coming over to Cold Bay and hunting bird, they felt
17 like those guys will fly over them while they're in
18 certain a certain area and the birds fly off. I get a
19 comment made to me that, you know, we're over here
20 picking berries and you got a five gallon bucket full
21 of berries and somebody comes up to you and digs in
22 that berry bucket to look to see if you got a bird on
23 the bottom of it. That's the treatment of people I
24 hear from King Cove.

25

26 My -- when I look at this particular
27 ability that maybe somewhere down the line we may need
28 this, if things keep shutting down, what are we going
29 to do, where are we going to be. I want to be able to
30 -- like the people that are able to get their 10, 15
31 salmon under this Federal subsistence thing if it's
32 necessary and that where I look at this opportunity too
33 because under 804 that's why we are here. I don't want
34 to basically cut anybody down, trust me that I've --
35 Refuge people have heard my complaints time and time
36 again and they're going to continue to hear them
37 because I just don't feel like some of this stuff is
38 right and fair. And it's the reality of things and I
39 have no problem bringing that forward and today I bring
40 it to put on the record.

41

42 So where I am today is I would
43 appreciate this being passed. Tyler, I really want to
44 look forward to working with you closely. I didn't
45 realize you were here for the whole summer, had I
46 realized that -- I just thought you were here for a
47 couple weeks, I would have probably called you more
48 often than not. But I do look forward to working with
49 you or whoever's over here and continue to work with
50

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1 the Wildlife Refuge because as I stated in the
2 beginning of our meeting we are here and we have to
3 work together because at some point in time when things
4 start going backwards we can't point fingers, we got to
5 hold hands together whether we like it or not. And
6 that's the comments I have to say.

7

8 But, Rick, I'm going to ask for your
9 comments at this point given that you're probably the
10 most close -- closely to this particular -- these two
11 particular proposals.

12

13 MR. KOSO: Can you hear me?

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick.

16

17 MR. KOSO: Can you hear me now?

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, we hear
20 you.

21

22 MR. KOSO: Can you hear me?

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Go ahead,
25 Rick.

26

27 MR. KOSO: Darn thing wants to keep
28 shutting off, how do you hear me?

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We hear you,
33 Rick. We can hear you. Go ahead.

34

35 MR. KOSO: Oh, okay. The thing kept
36 clicking off there. Anyway, you know, I concur with
37 Della on the -- pretty much everything that she just
38 said there. I -- we were able to get a lot of
39 information on it yesterday on the area from the -- you
40 know, it -- that was some revelation about the
41 difference between ADF&G and the Feds there as far as
42 regulation and area, but I understand the Feds, they
43 don't have any jurisdiction over Russell Creek or Nurse
44 Lagoon, but they do have it up further toward Kinzarof
45 Lagoon. And I think that was the spot I was most
46 concerned about because there was kind of a conflict
47 there with subsistence and rod and reel here a while
48 back, a year ago or so, maybe two years, but we did
49 have some problems there, mostly that are rectified
50

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1 now. But I'm glad to see that the State has taken over
2 the Russell Creek and Nurse Lagoon area because
3 sometimes they're a little easier to deal with, you
4 know, for getting our subsistence and whatnot to Cold
5 Bay.

6
7 I guess I got another question for OSM.
8 And could you give me a reason for rescinding FCR 21-
9 13?

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Justin.

12
13 MR. KOLLER: Madame Chair, this is
14 Justin Koller again for the record with the Office of
15 Subsistence Management. Our justification for
16 rescinding many of these closure reviews including this
17 one is that there are sport fishing opportunities in
18 these Federal public waters and Federal users are
19 currently excluded from salmon fishing in these waters
20 under Federal regulation. ANILCA title VIII mandates
21 that Federal -- Federally-qualified subsistence users
22 have priority in Federal public waters for the take of
23 fish and that's currently not happening here. So
24 that's our justification for wanting to rescind this
25 closure. And it's been on the books for -- oh, since
26 the beginning of the program and nobody's really taken
27 a look at it and we're now tasked with reviewing these
28 closures. And our conclusion for all of them again is
29 that we need to provide priority for Federal --
30 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do you have
35 anymore questions, Rick.

36
37 MR. KOSO: Thank you, Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
40 discussion.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I was
47 listening to everything you said, but our -- what is
48 your feeling on this, are you going to rescind it or
49 accept it?

50

0290

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So you're asking
4 what -- how I'm going to vote; is that correct?

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Well, I'm just wondering
7 -- I tried to scribble down all your little.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, okay.

10

11 MR. HOLMES:everything you said.
12 But evidently I missed your.....

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, okay. So
15 Rebecca made the motion. My conclusion is if that's
16 what you're asking is I will support it. And because
17 we've gone through all of these and for the past two
18 years the Federal Board has asked that we address this
19 and we've asked two times, two years in a row, to have
20 a little bit of extra time and we've taken that time.
21 We spent a tremendous amount of time, this -- a day --
22 going on almost two days, not even hardly touching this
23 agenda, just going through this process when we should
24 have gone through it in the last couple years. But the
25 bottom line is the reason I sit here is I represent the
26 subsistence users in our communities. I know we have
27 people that represent sports hunters, people that
28 represent other areas and that's part of the makeup of
29 this whole process here and one you're here to bring
30 forth your opinion based on what you represent. I do
31 represent the communities of the region and I -- also
32 Cold Bay and I've heard a lot from people in Cold Bay.
33 So yes, I do support this, whether this is something
34 we're going to need right now, I've had residents of
35 Cold Bay ask for this, so yes, I do support it, Pat.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 Okay. While I still have the floor is
40 there any other discussion.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
45 question.

46

47 MR. KOSO: The question's been called.
48 Can we have a roll call vote, please, Lisa.

49

50

0291

1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Could you
2 please repeat the -- your motion.

3

4 MS. SKINNER: The vote is going to be
5 on a motion to rescind two closures, FCR 21-13 and FCR
6 23-13.

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard
9 Koso.

10

11 MR. KOSO: Yes.

12

13 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della
14 Trumble.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

17

18 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher
19 Price.

20

21 MR. PRICE: Yes.

22

23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Patrick
24 Holmes.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: I think the input that
27 Della and Jeff are getting from their community for
28 years and I'll have to vote yes.

29

30 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral
31 Chernoff.

32

33 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

34

35 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca
36 Skinner.

37

38 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

39

40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha
41 Hayden.

42

43 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

44

45 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame
46 Chair, the motion passed, seven yes, zero no with one
47 absent.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

50

0292

1 Thank you. And I realize how touch this is, guys, but
2 we will get through it and we will work together.

3

4 So, Tyler, I guess you can still stay
5 in the hot seat with Justin.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We move on for
10 Aleutians region, Unalaska, Adak and Kagalaska. I'm
11 not sure what the desire would be on these, to try to
12 work with them altogether or basically individually.
13 Do you want to separate them between Unalaska and then
14 to Adak and Kagalaska?

15

16 Chris, I know, Vince, you're on -- I
17 heard you online, what would you like us to do
18 possibly?

19

20 MR. PRICE: Yeah, I think we're going
21 to go -- each one of ours separate because they're
22 different. I don't think we can combine them
23 altogether because of the different needs at the
24 different locations.

25

26 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I would tend to agree.
27 The population is a factor regarding these issues.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. That's
30 fine. So we'll go ahead and move on to FCR 23-11.

31

32 Justin.

33

34 MR. KOLLER: Good afternoon. Once
35 again this is Justin Koller with the Office of
36 Subsistence Management. The analysis for FCR 23-11
37 begins on page 184 of your meeting book.

38

39 FCR 23-11 is a routine review of a
40 Federal closure to salmon fishing in all freshwater
41 systems, streams rather, flowing into Unalaska Bay.
42 Federal public waters of Unalaska Bay drainages
43 comprise all freshwaters within and adjacent to the
44 exterior boundaries of Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge
45 flowing into Unalaska Bay south of a line from the
46 northern tip of Cape of Cheerful to the northern tip of
47 Kalekta Point. And this is on figure or excuse me,
48 illustrated on figure 1 on page 191.

49

50

1 There are many anadromous fish streams
2 flowing into Unalaska Bay. Anadromous species present
3 varies by drainage, but includes chum, coho, pink and
4 sockeye salmon and dolly varden char. Subsistence
5 harvest is reported on State issued subsistence fishing
6 permits. Subsistence fishers around Unalaska primarily
7 target sockeye salmon in Reese Bay that are returning
8 to McLees Lake which is outside of this area. However
9 in 2020 the subsistence fishers reported harvesting an
10 equal amount from other locations category probably due
11 to low return of sockeye to McLees Lake. Most of this
12 harvest in other locations occur at Volcano Bay which
13 is not located within Unalaska Bay. Some subsistence
14 coho salmon were harvested from Captain's Bay and Broad
15 Bay in 2020. There is little information on sport
16 harvest from streams flowing into Unalaska Bay.

17
18 The preliminary conclusion is to
19 rescind this closure. These drainages are currently
20 closed to the harvest of salmon by Federally-qualified
21 subsistence users, but remain open to sport harvest.
22 Federal subsistence opportunity should be provided to
23 comply with the rural preference mandated by ANILCA.
24 The closure broadly covers all streams flowing into
25 Unalaska Bay and overlaps with the Federal subsistence
26 salmon closures of the outlet streams of Unalaska,
27 Summers and Morris Lake drainages. There's no evidence
28 to suggest that it's necessary to close all Federal
29 public streams in Unalaska Bay to salmon fishing.
30 Rescinding this closure would not affect the Federal
31 subsistence salmon closures at Unalaska, Summers and
32 Morris Lake Drainages because they do overlap. So
33 we'll get to those in a few minutes.

34
35 That's my presentation. Thank you,
36 Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
39 Report on Board consultation, tribes and ANCSA
40 corporations.

41
42 Orville.

43
44 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, this is
45 Orville. There were no comments or questions on this
46 proposal.

47
48 Thank you, Madame Chair.

0294

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Orville. Agency comments.

3
4 ADF&G.

5
6 MR. LAWSON: For the record again this
7 is Tyler Lawson with the Department of Fish and Game.
8 I'll provide some general comments that we have for all
9 Unalaska Island and then kind of piece by piece talk
10 about some of the individual systems here.

11
12 The Department of Fish and Game again
13 recommends that the Council maintain the status quo for
14 these systems for all of these same reasons I discussed
15 for the Alaska Peninsula, those apply to Unalaska
16 Island as well, perhaps more so though. Specifically
17 for the conservation concerns we heard from Chris Price
18 and the Mayor yesterday of Unalaska that those runs
19 tend to be even smaller and under more pressure and we
20 have even more of a challenge getting good surveys to
21 monitor escapement especially for all those roadside
22 systems including the Unalaska ones that we're talking
23 about here. Although we're doing really well with the
24 drone surveys that we do every year. We don't tally
25 those numbers until after the season so you don't have
26 any in-season management numbers to try to allocate
27 between users with, it's not possible right now.

28
29 As far as the enforcement concerns, we
30 also have concerns out there whereas in Cold Bay it's a
31 little bit more kind of equal between the sport users
32 and subsistence. We actually have a lot more reports
33 from subsistence users doing violations out there
34 reported by the community and asking if not begging us
35 to try to help them out. And again we don't have the
36 resources that we need to adequately do that
37 enforcement.

38
39 An important point that I wish I would
40 have mentioned during the last talk here is aside from
41 the State not having enforcement out there in adequate
42 supply there's very little and typically no Federal
43 help when it comes to enforcement on the Peninsula or
44 on Unalaska at least when it comes to these nearshore
45 salmon runs. And so if you're going to start shifting
46 things over to Federal management I think you should
47 keep that in mind that at this time there hasn't been
48 much help from them to try to do any enforcement with
49 the nature that these things are -- these regulations
50

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1 are being followed. And it is absolutely a critical
2 huge issue on Unalaska Island.

3

4

5 And additionally a point that I
6 mentioned before about the users playing a role in
7 crafting the regulations for subsistence which we see
8 now from the State. I think those are a little bit
9 more recent and maybe Chris and Pat can chime in a
10 little bit on how they played a role or if they've
11 known people who have played a role in crafting those
12 regulations. And those are largely regulations that
13 the users out there have asked the Board of Fish to put
14 in place just the way that they would like them. So as
15 we start to have these conflicting regulations here
16 we'll probably have to go back and rework a lot of
17 these and it could cause issues here as we move
18 forward.

18

19

Thank you, Madame Chair.

20

21

22

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
Tyler. Federal agencies.

23

24

(No comments)

25

26

27

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal entities,
Native, tribal, village, other.

28

29

Vince, are you online?

30

31

MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yes, I am.

32

33

34

35

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do you want to
speak to this or do you want to wait until public
testimony?

36

37

38

MR. TUTIAKOFF: You want to hear my
statement or.....

39

40

41

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. We sure
do.

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. TUTIAKOFF: Well, thank you for the
opportunity and thanks, Chris, for reminding me to get
on this afternoon. I'm very busy with other meetings.
But I support what Tyler had brought forth regarding
the issue of Unalaska Island and other streams that are
being affected. We're being forced to go further and
further away from our homes because of overfishing or

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1 (indiscernible - distortion) fishing if you want to
2 call it that. Even though they have a permit that
3 doesn't in my opinion give them the right to clean out
4 the bays. Systematically over the past three to five
5 years that has been happening and we saw a great loss
6 of our primary fish, red, silvers. We had kings in
7 there for the first time since the war and about five,
8 six years ago they started showing up so we do have a
9 small run of kings here. Well, actually people have
10 caught them in the estuary or in the stream at Broad
11 Bay. So we know that they're going up at least one of
12 these streams. It used to be in Summers Bay, but with
13 the spill after '86 or '89 we had a great drop in
14 salmon in that particular lake off Summers Bay. It's
15 starting to build back up, but it's being overfished.

16

17 I think we need to look at doing
18 something, work with the Unalaska Advisory Board and
19 come up with a solution that takes care of sports
20 fishermen. There's more subsistence going on than
21 there is sports in the Unalaska Bay area, Captain's
22 Bay. But the biggest sports fishing area is Summers
23 Bay and like I mentioned yesterday they -- it's a
24 battleground to be down there I guess is the way to put
25 it. There'd be 30, 40 people lined up right at the
26 mouth of the creek and snagging salmon as they try to
27 get up the stream.

28

29 So keeping things at the status quo is
30 where I'm sitting -- speaking as an elder and also as a
31 tribal member. As a city official, you know, I want
32 people to be able to enjoy themselves, bring their
33 families to Unalaska like they do now and they come for
34 a couple of weeks to sports fish and like I appreciate
35 that, you know, they get -- they follow the rules.
36 It's the people who have been here 15, 20 years and
37 they're causing our anxiety to our Native population.

38

39 So that's kind of where I'm at on this
40 issue and I appreciate the Council taking this up and
41 we hope to have -- maybe rewrite the fishing rules for
42 Unalaska at some point down the road and they'll be in
43 contact with the Regional Advisory Board on these
44 issues.

45

46 That's all I've got and I'll answer any
47 questions you might have.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,

50

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1 Vince. What we'll do is go through the process and if
2 you can continue to stay online for any Council members
3 that may have any questions or comments for you.

4
5 With that we move on to Advisory Group
6 comments.

7
8 MR. TUTIAKOFF: We'll do that, Madame
9 Chair.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
12 Vince. Other Regional Councils.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
17 Advisory Committees.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
22 Resource Commissions.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of
27 written comments.

28
29 MR. KOLLER: Madame Chair, this is
30 Justin Koller. There were no written public comments
31 on this proposal.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
36 Public testimony.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
41 recommendations. Motion to adopt.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Move to adopt, Madame
44 Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
47 Pat. Do I hear a second.

48
49 MR. PRICE: Second.

50

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1 MS. HAYDEN: Second.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Chris
4 and sounded like Natasha.

5

6 MR. KOLLER: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Justin.

9

10 MR. KOLLER: Yeah, Madame Chair, Justin
11 Koller again. I think just a point of order. It
12 should be a motion to rescind.....

13

14 MR. AYERS: Or status quo.

15

16 MR. KOLLER:or something of the
17 sort, an action motion.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, may I amend
22 my motion to make it I move that we rescind this
23 proposal and not adopt it.

24

25 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
28 Rebecca. He made a motion to rescind the.....

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. So I just want a
31 clarification, I think the motion is either to rescind
32 the closure which means remove the closure or to
33 maintain status quo which leaves it the way it is. I'm
34 confused as to what the intent of what the motion was.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Me too. Thank you so
39 much, Becky. It's good to have your precise mind set
40 particularly at this stage of our meeting. I think
41 what I would like to say is that I think it should be
42 as Vince had commented that we stay with the status
43 quo. And so does that I assume would imply not taking
44 any action. Would that be the appropriate statement?

45

46 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I think of the
47 options that were preferred that would be a motion to
48 maintain status quo because if we do -- if we take no
49 action then we're not discussing anything, but if we're
50

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1 moving.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It's so moved.

4 Yeah.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. But if we maintain
7 status quo then we can get all the discussion about why
8 that's important. That would be my recommendation.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I'll back up again.
13 Let's main -- move that we maintain the current
14 regulations and status quo.

15

16 MR. PRICE: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris.

19

20 MR. PRICE: Let me just try to help on
21 that. I think we can move in the direction of all
22 three of these here together. So I would make a motion
23 to put FC.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on. Hold
26 on. Point of order. First of all when we first
27 started we brought that to the table and the idea was
28 to go through them individually. Right now we have a
29 motion on the floor to maintain status quo. So I need
30 a second on that motion.

31

32 MS. SKINNER: There was a second.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. There was
35 a second. Chris, actually you seconded and.....

36

37 MR. PRICE: Okay.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So now
40 given that is there any discussion on the motion.

41

42 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

45

46 MS. SKINNER: Similarly to the
47 proposals we just did for the Alaska Peninsula I am
48 giving a lot of weight to what the Council members from
49 that region ask for and recommend and so in this case

50

0300

1 since Chris who's from Unalaska and the testimony that
2 we just heard as I think I understood it is a request
3 to maintain the status quo for at least the one closure
4 that we've talked about so far. So my intent is to
5 follow Chris' lead. That being said I am a little bit
6 concerned that there are missed opportunities if these
7 closures aren't rescinded, but I do understand at this
8 point I think the people that we've got here or that
9 have called in and spoken from Unalaska, I don't think
10 it's clear yet what the best path forward would be as
11 far as additional limits if the closure were rescinded.
12 So while I do think from what I understand of where
13 they're trying to go, that rescinding the closure
14 probably does make sense, I think it puts additional
15 tools on the table that ensure access to the Federal
16 subsistence resources for the Federally-qualified
17 subsistence users.

18

19 However I am going to support where we
20 are in the process right now and what our RAC members
21 and members of the public from Unalaska have asked for.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

26

27 MR. PRICE: Madame Chair.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just hold on,
32 Pat. Chris and then Pat.

33

34 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Council member
35 Skinner for that. I did want to ask -- so there was
36 this comment that the -- what would be the Federal
37 approach to enforcement in Unalaska under the -- you
38 know, the Federal subsistence system. What was the --
39 what would that look like, the enforcement.

40

41 MR. KOLLER: Yeah, Madame Chair, Mr.
42 Price. I don't want to speak for the Refuge law
43 enforcement, but I can say that it sounds like there is
44 no law enforcement down there right now or at least not
45 continuous. But our -- the Federal system program does
46 not deny opportunity for Federally-qualified
47 subsistence users based on lack of enforcement. There
48 are many places in the State that have a severe lack of
49 enforcement and yet have Federal subsistence fisheries.

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0301

1 Thank you.

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MR. PRICE: Okay. And then secondly

I'd just like to say that, you know, I understand really that the community is really satisfied in a lot of ways with how the State has worked in the community and I'm hearing that loud and clear from Vince that the process that we have we like and that the default anyway is that the Federal system will override in a time of.....

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, they won't (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

MR. PRICE: No, I mean.....

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe can we -- this is kind of what I was asking for a clarification on before Chris gets into this next step. In the event that they decide to not pass this and I know this is brought by the big Board that these have gone on too long, that we -- that, you know, under 804 we should have a form of some subsistence priority in the event everything crashes. So if they don't -- if we by recommendation of Unalaska don't pass these what happens in the event the system crashes and even under the State guidelines or if -- including everything. What he's saying then it wouldn't -- it doesn't default to Federal because you don't have a Federal preference in -- on record.

Maybe correct me or help me understand that.

MR. KOLLER: Yeah. Thank you, Madame Chair, Mr. Price. Right now all Federal public waters in this area are closed, there is no Federal subsistence fishery. Now the State can speak to what would hypothetically happen if there was a population crash there, they would -- they would manage their fisheries, but we would have zero option to keep a limited fishery open for Federally-qualified subsistence users in Federal public waters. That is the -- you know, we have the system in place, the Federal in-season management to manage conservatively should these be rescinded. And but otherwise if the status quo is maintained there's just no Federal fishery so whatever the State did would be the way -- the regulations everybody would follow.

0302

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.

4

5 MR. PRICE: Okay. So what if an
6 individual or user says hey, my rights are not being
7 upheld to be a Federal user?

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's your
10 fault.

11

12 MR. PRICE: That's my fault.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. PRICE: One person on a Board's
17 fault.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Blame it on.....

20

21 MR. PRICE: Blame it on Pat. But that
22 doesn't sound right to me either.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But that's why
25 these are on the table, Chris.

26

27 MR. PRICE: Okay.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Scott, did you
30 have a comment or Justin? We were kind of joking here
31 so.....

32

33 MR. KOLLER: Yeah. Madame Chair, I
34 just wanted to make one further point on this. If we
35 do maintain status quo with this we are charged by the
36 Federal Subsistence Board with revisiting these
37 closures every few years. So we will be revisiting
38 this in the future. And anybody at any point in time
39 during a fisheries proposal cycle could submit a
40 proposal to shape the fishery the way the Federally-
41 qualified subsistence users that use it want. So they
42 can craft a regulation for this specific system if
43 their -- if it's not closed.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris and Pat
46 and Vince. Is it possible we take a 10 minute break.
47 There's a couple things I think maybe we need to chat
48 about a little bit. And, Vince, we can get you on the
49 phone.

50

0303

1 So we'll take a 10 minute break.

2

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(Off record)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So before we go too much farther where we're at with this basically is we have a motion on the floor and we have a second, but can we get clarification on two things again. The first one being in the event that everything crashes, I know you explained it, but I want to make sure I get this in my head right, and there is not a Federal preference or subsistence for fish then basically there is no mechanism until we as a Federal Board went back and rescinded the -- this action; is that correct or approve to rescind the closure?

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MR. KOLLER: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is Justin Koller again with the Office of Subsistence Management. If this closure remains in place, status quo, and the other fisheries are closed in these areas there is no Federal fishery so nobody could fish in these locations. The method to open these areas to Federally-qualified subsistence use is through this closure review process and also by submitting a proposal. Anybody could submit a proposal during a fisheries regulatory cycle to open these areas up to whatever methods and means and basically parameters that they want or propose.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And then maybe the other step because I guess, Vince, I'm kind of wanting you to hear some of this so we all are clear. In the event that -- hold on a second. So in the event that, you know, we have this in place saying we can open this, you can have a Federal fishery and then you have your regulations for say 25 fish or whatever the -- you know, some of the regulations said rod and reel. Now in a particular community that said well, you know what, we don't need this this year and we want to keep the status quo so you go to your manager and say hey, we'll just stay where we're at for this year, we're fine with it. And you can -- and that can basically stay as not allowing for a subsistence use for that particular time frame, let's say we're looking at next summer and they -- the community says we don't need this subsistence use permit ability this year. However let's say in about two months all of a

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1 sudden there's big crashes and hypothetically they say
2 oh, maybe we need this and then the mechanism is there,
3 can it be used then?

4

5 MR. KOLLER: Madame Chair, I think I
6 understood your question. If there -- if this closure
7 was rescinded and there was some sort of Federal
8 opportunity in these Federal public waters then yes.

9

10 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

13

14 MS. SKINNER: Yes, I have a follow-up
15 question to Della's question and then a different
16 question. I want to make sure I -- the first part of
17 Della's question, if the closure was rescinded, but the
18 users in the area liked how things worked now and they
19 didn't want to see something different, I understood
20 Della to ask -- to be asking could the members of that
21 community go to the In-Season Manager and say hey, we
22 really like how it works now, yes, we do have a Federal
23 subsistence fishery, but don't like -- I guess don't
24 open it or put these temporary closures on it so that
25 things would continue to look just as they do now, but
26 that would be an in-season decision I guess. That's
27 what I thought she was asking.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: (Indiscernible -
30 simultaneous speech) utilize it.

31

32 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. So basically you
33 have the option, but you're not utilizing it because of
34 in-season management decisions. Is that something that
35 is possible?

36

37 MR. KOLLER: Madame Chair, Ms. Skinner.
38 Yeah, it's possible. Anybody can approach the Federal
39 In-Season Manager and request changes to the fishery
40 and the In-Season Manager has a broad swath of things
41 to change in regulations. So yes, that can happen in-
42 season.

43

44 MS. SKINNER: And then my second
45 question had to do with if the closures remain in place
46 my understanding is there's still an opportunity for
47 the Federal Subsistence Board to close Federal waters
48 to all users and I was hoping you could describe that
49 and speak to that a little bit?

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1 MR. KOLLER: Yeah, Madame Chair, Ms.
2 Skinner. These are -- we're talking about Federal
3 public waters here so yes, there are mechanisms where
4 it -- in times of conservation concern these areas
5 could be closed to all users. And that can happen
6 through a special action process, somebody could submit
7 a special action to the Board requesting it be closed
8 to all users.

9
10 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tyler.

13
14 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. I just
15 want to make a reminder here that for Front Beach and
16 these other Unalaska systems that we're talking about,
17 the State does not survey them in-season and so we have
18 no way to define crash in-season and make a management
19 decision. So in turn if the Federal government is
20 going to take over the responsibilities we have nothing
21 to share with them for them to define crash and make
22 those decisions in-season.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: Could you come again?

25
26 MR. LAWSON: For those smaller systems
27 such as the Front Beach run, that is not a system where
28 we even do drone surveys, it's maybe every two to three
29 years we might get over there for an aerial survey and
30 it may or may not be kind of during the peak time and
31 fishing is occurring at that time. So we kind of lack
32 any quantitative data to make fisheries decisions on at
33 that time. The State can't just take comments from
34 people about what they're seeing and make management
35 decisions based off of that. I'm not sure if Fish and
36 Wildlife Service takes a different approach there, but
37 we need some sort of a quantitative variable to have in
38 order to make a management decision such as when it
39 comes to opening and closing the fishery there.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: How about the drone
42 surveys of Unalaska Lake because the locals feel that
43 Front Beach is a main function and so the escapement up
44 Iliuliuk to the Unalaska Lake, you folks -- I saw
45 something on some drone surveys there on counts and I
46 was shocked to see that it was at levels that it was 25
47 years ago. And that's definitely not good. Would that
48 be a piece of information that could be used in a
49 discussion.

50

0306

1 MR. LAWSON: Yes. So for the longer
2 term discussion those drone surveys certainly are
3 valuable and we do look at them and use them for making
4 these regulations, but again like typically for surveys
5 that were done recently on Unalaska, I'm not going to
6 see that video for another couple of months and I won't
7 tally those numbers until some time this winter. So if
8 you're talking about a really critical run where, you
9 know, in the middle of August the user is seeing that
10 it's crashed and there's nothing there, at this time
11 the way those drone surveys work we can't pull them off
12 fast enough to get data back and make a decision. I
13 mean, to start we'd have to find somebody to pay for
14 that drone contractor out there, I mean, maybe the
15 tribe or somebody else could do that and then Fish and
16 Game would kind of have to reshape the way we do our
17 in-season management and at that time it's very
18 challenging for us during that time to review the drone
19 video. It takes a lot more time than our traditional
20 aerial surveys, it's higher quality, but it's more
21 time. And if we make that a precedent for all these
22 systems, I don't know that we can promise that we can
23 actually do that for all these systems.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think maybe,
26 Tyler, I think the question here is mainly and it's
27 being done now. In the event there is a crash the
28 State and Feds have been working together with local
29 communities and/or region. So it's not like you need a
30 drone survey immediately to do it. That's kind of what
31 -- kind of not where we're really -- I think the
32 question was. I know they're being utilized, you know,
33 but if this is a matter if something were to, you know,
34 happen the next week to 10 days, you know, it's kind of
35 what action is taken. And that action in my experience
36 has been with the collaboration of the State and the
37 Federal and the local communities to make a decision.
38 And I.....

39
40 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

43
44 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, and I apologize for
45 prolonging this, but this seems relevant and important.
46 So out of curiosity it's clear to me based on what
47 Tyler said that the State can't make decisions that are
48 not based on data and you have a lack of data. On the
49 Federal side with Federal in-season management can they
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1 make decisions based on -- just back on feedback from
2 the community, so if the community called the In-Season
3 Manager and said hey, we are having 20 boats out here
4 hauling in, you know, hundreds of salmon in their
5 subsistence nets or however they're doing it, we need
6 an in-season closure. Is that sufficient on the
7 Federal side or is the Federal side also -- is it also
8 dependent on having data like weir counts or drone
9 surveys or something like that?

10

11 MR. KOLLER: Madame Chair, Ms. Skinner.
12 At that -- in that scenario we would go into data
13 collection mode, you know, the In-Season Manager would
14 be talking to members of this Council, including the
15 Chair and affected -- members of the affected
16 communities, the Department of Fish and Game would be
17 consulted, our office would be consulted. So there
18 would be a concerted effort to gather the best
19 available data and make a decision based on that.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I think
24 basically we're hearing all the way around that it's
25 not only here, but in Unalaska, is the lack of
26 enforcement not only from the State side, but from the
27 Federal side. And that in itself is something that
28 this Council needs to address in our year -- our
29 report, yearly report. I think it's important for us
30 to not continue because this discussion's been going on
31 for probably as long as I've been on this Board. So
32 I'm going to retire and be an enforcement officer.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So anyway I
37 guess at this particular.....

38

39 MR. GERKEN: Madame Chair, this is John
40 Gerken, the Federal In-Season Manager.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, John.
43 And then we do have a motion on the floor after this.

44

45 MR. GERKEN: Yeah, I was just getting
46 back to member Skinner's question. Typically there are
47 -- you know, there's -- we look at escapement first so
48 that's conservation of the species. If there's no
49 assessment project there it's hard to really evaluate
50

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1 that, whether that be an indices, an escapement goal or
2 Board generated OEG. You know the Federal Subsistence
3 Board, the Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM, we do not
4 generate escapement goals. We have indices and other
5 places in the State that we -- we generate escapement
6 goals, that's a Department level, Board of Fish thing.
7 So we manage -- we manage on those goals or if there's
8 an indices existing. So Tyler already spoke to, you
9 know, the drone sites and how those are hit or miss and
10 that those data are not always readily available in-
11 season.

12
13 But the second part I think was if
14 Federal users can provide information directly to the
15 Federal Manager to make changes and that is something
16 that I would take into account certainly and that users
17 can generate special actions on their own as well. But
18 typically we want to compare that to some level of
19 information. So if we were to go to a fishery that has
20 no information and then next year users were saying
21 that there needed to be closure, it -- we'd like to
22 kind of keep it in context here or at least I do. So
23 that's kind of back to my general comments earlier was
24 if the State and the Fish and Wildlife or the Feds
25 disagree and there's going to be a decision made to
26 restrict users, typically it would be, you know, non-
27 Federal users, then it's based on sort of those two
28 things, there's a lack of subsistence opportunity or
29 there's, you know, an abundance concern. So in both
30 instances having information to compare to is a good
31 thing. But, you know, local traditional knowledge if
32 one thing that I would take into account.

33
34 So it's hard to say, you know,
35 abstractly what that would look like, but certainly I
36 agree with Tyler, having, you know, data to compare it
37 to is really the best way to do it and I guess I'll
38 leave it at that.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: I'll be really brief. It
49 seems to me there's already some data on page 193 of
50

0309

1 the Federal thing. There's three escapement indexes
2 for Iliuliuk and like I said that's -- 400 is an
3 abysmal escapement and it's like we were seeing 25
4 years ago. And also in the last subsistence report to
5 the -- the State one, there's a comment in there not
6 only about lack of enforcement, complaining about gear
7 types, but the local AC reducing subsistence harvest on
8 Front Beach which is why I asked the question could
9 that get rolling someday on getting a more conservative
10 harvest on that beach because what I've heard from
11 Chris and folks out there is that they're thinking that
12 they would like to be more conservative on the Front
13 Beach harvest. So there is a few things that indicate
14 that. You could go back and look at the.....

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to
17 interrupt, Pat.....

18
19 MR. HOLMES: I'm done. Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:if I may
22 because we're kind of -- we're going off track here.
23 So we can go back to the main motion was to maintain
24 status quo, there was a second, we had discussion. Do
25 I have a call for question?

26
27 MS. CHERNOFF: Question.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's
30 been called. I guess we can do a roll call vote,
31 please.

32
33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
34 We're voting to maintain the status quo of FCR 23-11
35 for salmon in Unalaska Bay freshwater drainage closure;
36 is that correct?

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

39
40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
41 Christopher Price.

42
43 MR. PRICE: Yes.

44
45 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della
46 Trumble.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

49
50

0310

1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Patrick

2 Holmes.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

5

6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard

7 Koso.

8

9 MR. KOSO: Yes.

10

11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral

12 Chernoff.

13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

15

16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca

17 Skinner.

18

19 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

20

21 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha

22 Hayden.

23

24 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

25

26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. The

27 motion passed.....

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

30

31 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH:seven

32 voting for and one absent.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And

35 I did vote deferring to the recommendation of the

36 community. '

37

38 I'd also like to ask at this time,

39 Chris, on the following 13, 14, 15 and 16, whether you --

40 is it possible to go ahead and lump those together to

41 make a decision on -- based on the action of number 12?

42

43 MR. PRICE: Yes, I believe you're

44 saying 8, 9 and 11.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And 12.

49

50

0311

1 MR. PRICE: And 12.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And not -- and
4 not 12, not 12.

5

6 MR. PRICE: Yeah, 8, 9 and 11.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: 8, 9 and 11.

9

10 MR. PRICE: Yes, that's correct.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, let's
13 combine 8, 9 and 11, that's correct. 12 is for Adak.

14

15 Is there a motion.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, a motion to
18 combine FCR 21-08, 09 and 11 as one group and then have
19 whatever to maintain the status quo.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
22 Pat. Do I hear a second.

23

24 MR. PRICE: Second.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Chris.
27 Okay. So, Justin, do you want to go through the three
28 proposals.

29

30 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 This is Justin Koller again with the Office of
32 Subsistence Management. The analysis for FCR 21-08
33 begins on 208 of your Council books.

34

35 FCR 21-08 is a routine review of a
36 Federal fishery closure to salmon fishing in the
37 Unalaska Lake drainage. Federal public waters comprise
38 Unalaska Lake, it's outlet stream and tributaries which
39 are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of
40 the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. The
41 exterior boundaries of the Refuge described in ANILCA
42 were drawn along the entire coastline of the island and
43 Federal subsistence regulations apply to waters within
44 or adjacent to these exterior boundaries.

45

46 Unalaska Lake. Tyler once again had a
47 nice presentation on the populations and harvest at
48 Unalaska Lake yesterday. A State subsistence fishery
49 for fish returning to the system exists in the marine
50

1 waters near the mouth at Front Beach and beyond Channel
2 Bridge connecting to Little South America. There's
3 also a State sport fishery that takes place in Margaret
4 Bay in close vicinity to the mouth of the Unalaska Lake
5 drainage. The primary fish species targeted in the
6 snag fishery is sockeye salmon. Although other sockeye
7 salmon exist in Unalaska Bay much of the harvest from
8 this fishery was probably returning to Unalaska Lake.
9 The marine waters harvest is primarily sockeye salmon,
10 but some coho salmon are also caught. Subsistence
11 harvest in this area has contributed only a small
12 percentage to the overall subsistence harvest in the
13 Alaska Island area in the past few years. Most harvest
14 has historically taken place in Reese Bay near McLees
15 Lake. Sport fishing under State regulations is the
16 only salmon harvest currently allowed in the Unalaska
17 Lake system. The entire drainage is closed year round
18 to fishing for sockeye salmon. Sport fishing for other
19 salmon is allowed only downstream of the ADF&G
20 regulatory marker located at the Church Hole which is
21 at the top of the intertidal zone near the Russian
22 Orthodox Church. This limited fishing area is
23 approximately 200 yards long and the standard sports
24 regulations in the area apply for salmon other than
25 sockeye salmon. Reported harvest from these areas is
26 low enough that they're lumped into a general Alaska
27 Peninsula/Aleutians Lakes category. If the closure is
28 rescinded the Federal subsistence regulations for the
29 Aleutian Islands area would apply which could lead to
30 overharvest and conservation concerns. Salmon could
31 be taken by seine or gillnet and in the Unalaska
32 district the harvest limit is 25 salmon plus an
33 additional 25 salmon for each member of the household
34 listed on a permit. To conserve fish populations the
35 Federal In-Season Manager could issue a special action
36 to set provisions for the fishery such as stipulating
37 gear types and setting conservative harvest limits. If
38 anybody's interested the delegation of authority begins
39 on page 218 of your books.

40
41 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
42 rescind this closure. The Unalaska Lake drainage is
43 currently closed to the harvest of salmon by Federally-
44 qualified subsistence users, but remains open to State
45 sport fishing. And there are State subsistence salmon
46 opportunities in adjacent marine waters. Federal
47 subsistence opportunity should be provided to comply
48 with the rural preference mandated by ANILCA. The
49 Federal In-Season Manager has been delegated authority
50

0313

1 to open or close Federal subsistence fishing periods or
2 areas provided under codified regulations and to
3 specify methods and means, to specify permit
4 requirements and to set harvest and possession limits
5 for Federal subsistence fisheries. The In-Season
6 Manager can use this authority to manage the fishery in
7 the short term. A proposal outlining desired
8 parameters for this fishery may be submitted during the
9 next fishery cycle so they can be put into regulation.

10

11 That concludes my summary of FCR 21-08.
12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Justin. Now continue on to 09.

16

17 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
18 The analysis for FCR 21-09 begins on page 219 of your
19 meeting book. FCR 21-09 is a routine review of the
20 Federal closure to salmon fishing at Summers and Morris
21 Lake drainages in the Aleutian Islands area.

22

23 Summer Lake and Morris Lake drainages
24 have been surveyed and found to contain coho, pink and
25 sockeye salmon. From 2018 to 2021 aerial drone surveys
26 were conducted to count sockeye salmon in Unalaska area
27 drainages. These surveys yielded minimum annual
28 escapement estimates of 1,500 to 4,500 sockeye salmon
29 and 4,000 to 7,500 pink salmon at Summer Lake and
30 minimums of 40 to 375 sockeye salmon and zero to 350
31 pink salmon at Morris Lake. Coho salmon were not the
32 target of the drone survey so there are no reliable
33 estimates for coho. These minimum annual escapement
34 estimates indicate that while these lakes have
35 relatively small runs there's considerably more salmon
36 returning to Summers Lake compared to Morris Lake.
37 There's no subsistence harvest to report in either
38 system as both are closed to subsistence fishing,
39 however both drainages are open to sport fishing and
40 salmon destined for these drainages are caught in
41 adjacent marine sport and subsistence fisheries.
42 Summer Lake is open to sport fishing January 1st to
43 August 15th, but Summer Bay Creek, the outlet stream,
44 is closed to sport fishing year round. Morris Lake and
45 its drainage are open to sport harvest year round.
46 Sport harvest limits for salmon in both locations are
47 the same. Reported harvest from these areas is low
48 enough that they are lumped into a general Alaska
49 Peninsula/Aleutians Lakes category so there's no
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1 specific sport harvest information for these systems.

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The OSM preliminary conclusion is to rescind the closure. Summer's and Morris Lake drainages are currently closed to the harvest of salmon by Federally-qualified subsistence users, but remain open to other uses.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Justin. And I would recommend to continue on to 21-11.

MR. KOLLER: Excellent. Thank you, Madame Chair. The analysis for FCR 21-11 begins on page 240 of your meeting book. FCR 21-11 is a routine review of the Federal closure to salmon fishing at McLees Lake drainage in the Aleutian Islands area.

McLees Lake is mainly sockeye salmon and estimates of escapement have been conducted since 1974 starting with aerial surveys and switching to a weir at the outlet of the lake in 2001. Sockeye salmon escapements have ranged from a high of over 100,000 sockeye salmon in 2002 to a low of about 5,000 in 2020 with a recent five year average of about 19,000 sockeye. There's a State managed subsistence fishery targeting the sockeye salmon returning to McLees Lake which take place in the marine waters of Reese Bay near the lake outlet. Subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon returning through Reese Bay to McLees Lake are typically taken by set gillnet in Reese Bay during the months of June and July. Participation requires a State subsistence permit and estimates of harvest for this fishery between 1985 and 2020 have ranged from 436 to 4,694 fish. There were 23 permits issued for the first year of the fishery in 1985 and a high of a 129 permits issued in 2013. This fishery is often the primary Unalaska Island subsistence salmon fishery providing between 45 and 94 percent of the annual sockeye salmon harvest in the community.

The OSM preliminary conclusion is to rescind the closure for reasons stated for the last closure review.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,

0315

1 Justin. With that we'll continue on to report on Board
2 consultations, tribes and ANCSA corporations.

3

4 Orville.

5

6 MR. LIND: Afternoon, Madame Chair,
7 Council members. As for FCR 08, 09 and 11, there were
8 no questions or comments.

9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
13 Orville. Agency comments.

14

15 ADF&G. Tyler

16

17 MR. LAWSON: For the record Tyler
18 Lawson with the Department of Fish and Game. Most of
19 the same comments that I made for the last system stand
20 for all of these as well. One additional point that I
21 would like to make is that the Department does feel
22 when it comes to the discrepancy between subsistence
23 and sport fishing in these systems, it's a little bit
24 more of a technicality where on paper sport fishing is
25 allowed, but over time the harvest by sport fishing has
26 been so low that it hasn't really registered and
27 otherwise there's kind of indirect protections that
28 keep people from catching a lot of fish via sport
29 fishing. I'll give you a couple of examples here of
30 what I mean.

31

32 So to start in watching the drone video
33 that I've watched for these lakes over the past few
34 years, what you see are these outlets are relatively
35 small, the sockeye tend to move in fairly quickly and
36 then they'll stage in the deeper waters of those lakes
37 where it's difficult to actually catch them if you're
38 sport fishing for them. By the time they do get into
39 the shallower waters where you can get them they're
40 more colored up. Chris can correct me if I'm wrong,
41 but I don't think there's as much of an incentive for
42 people to come to harvest red fish there when they're
43 all colored up. And also important to know that
44 snagging is not allowed in freshwater via sport fishing
45 so that's an important protection there, that's the
46 main way you would actually be able to get any number
47 of sockeye in those systems.

48

49 Speaking specifically about McLees Lake

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0316

1 where I've spent a fair amount of time, that system is
2 -- it also is a protection for the tiny outlet that is
3 there because we have a weir in place for the duration
4 for the run and sport fishing is not allowed within 300
5 feet of a weir. That outlet, I measured it, it's about
6 350 feet long. If you're a sport fisherman you can
7 literally stand in about one place and cast. I
8 supervise the technicians that staff that weir, in 2020
9 there were two fly fishermen that showed up and they
10 stood in that exact spot. In 2021 I think there were
11 two or three people, each time they got two or three
12 fish. I'm not aware of any sport fishing there last
13 year. If you wanted to go past that outlet and get to
14 the lake proper, Chris can tell you it's a nightmare.
15 It is like six foot tall grass, and rumbling tussock
16 and when you get to the beach it's all these boulder
17 size, slippery riprap and it really doesn't encourage
18 anybody to go back there and try to sport fish if for
19 some crazy reason they actually wanted to go and do so.

20

21 There are a couple of other additional
22 restrictions there for sport fishing. Tyler Polum
23 might want to jump in at this point to give the
24 perspective of the Division of Sport Fish, but that's
25 all that I have to say about this.

26

27 MR. POLUM: Madame Chair, this is Tyler
28 Polum in Kodiak Sport Fish Division. I can -- I'll
29 just give a quick summary of some of the regulatory
30 history of the area. As Chris and Vince have probably
31 been involved in this, you know, a lot longer than I
32 have, but a lot of these regulations were driven or
33 asked for by the community, especially as the community
34 began to increase in population in the 1990s. And then
35 we've refined some of these regulations over the years.

36

37

38 As Tyler Lawson mentioned there's
39 really only a handful of places that are open to sport
40 fishing right now in the freshwaters which -- even the
41 places that would overlap with Federal subsistence in
42 freshwaters, there's -- there are some saltwater snag
43 fisheries in Summer Bay and off Front Bay like Vince
44 mentioned earlier. But the only place for instance in
45 Unalaska Lake drainage, there's only about 200 yards of
46 creek that is open to fishing -- to sport fishing, just
47 basically the intertidal zone below the Church Hole.
48 And the whole drainage is closed to sockeye fishing
49 already for sport fishing so you can't even fish for
50

0317

1 sockeye in the sport -- in the sport fishery in that
2 drainage.

3

4

5 Summer Bay as was mentioned earlier is
6 only open until -- the drainage itself is only open
7 until August 16th annually and it's closed outright to
8 protect the coho run just recognizing that it's fairly
9 small whereas the sockeye run's a little bit bigger
10 there. And then Humpy Creek is another one that's
11 closed entirely. And then you already looked at the
12 other drainages in Unalaska Bay, but there's markers
13 upstream in Nateekin and Broad Bay that close portions
14 of the drainage to protect spawning salmon in those
15 drainages.

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So all of those were driven primarily
by the community. We've consolidated some of the
regulations, for instance there's a general bag limit
of two sockeye and two coho per day within the Unalaska
Bay area, but those have all pretty much been driven at
the request of the community primarily because there's
a lack of in-season monitoring as Tyler mentioned. So
rather than do in-season management on those small
drainages because of the potential for harvest we
worked with the community to craft regulations that
were extremely conservative for both the sport and
subsistence fishery, but the place that would overlap
with Federal subsistence fishery we've worked to create
extremely conservative regulations to protect those
runs given the potential for harvest and that's been --
you know, the community of Unalaska is -- should get
the credit for that. They've taken the proactive
measure of wanting to protect their own resource and so
we will continue to work on that. However our -- you
know, the State's position is always to start off
conservative and then if we have data to manage
something more liberally then we could in that case.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
Federal agencies.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal entities.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Native, tribal,
village or other.

0318

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory Group
4 comments, other Regional Councils.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
9 Advisory Committees.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
14 Resource Commissions.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Written -- oh,
19 summary of written public comments.

20

21 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 For Fisheries Closure Review 21-08, 21-09 and 21-11
23 there were no comments received.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
28 public testimony.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We are on a
33 roll. Regional Council recommendation. The motion was
34 made to combine the three and maintain status quo. So
35 motion made and seconded. So at this point we are on
36 Council member discussion. Any comments or questions
37 or discussion.

38

39 MR. PRICE: Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris.

42

43 MR. PRICE: Yeah, and I won't belabor
44 this much, but I've really appreciated that this is a
45 process here and I've got a big respect for this Board
46 here now that I -- I've always had, but even more, that
47 there is a process here that can be -- your community
48 can really have a voice. And I've got to listen to the
49 folks from my community and hear you guys and what you
50

0319

1 got going on. So appreciate your -- all your testimony
2 today and help on this.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
7 Chris. Any other comments.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: I thank you folks. I
14 think finally we got a presentation on these closures
15 that included the history of the closures and why
16 they're there and the community support which is so
17 definitive of Unalaska as well as the discussion of why
18 the freshwaters are closed to red fishing in-season.

19

20 So thank you, I think it was a good
21 overall summary.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
24 discussion.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
29 question.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Call for question.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. The
34 question's been called. All in -- at this point let's
35 go ahead and do a roll call vote, please.

36

37 Lisa.

38

39 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. We
40 are voting -- the motion was to vote on FCR 21-09, FCR
41 21-11 and FCR 21-08 combined.

42

43 Christopher Price.

44

45 MR. PRICE: Yes.

46

47 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della
48 Trumble.

49

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0320

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, in
2 deference to the community of Unalaska.

3
4 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha
5 Hayden.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha
10 Hayden.

11
12 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

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14 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca
15 Skinner.

16
17 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

18
19 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard
20 Koso.

21
22 MR. KOSO: Yes.

23
24 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Patrick
25 Holmes.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

28
29 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral
30 Chernoff.

31
32 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

33
34 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. The
35 motion passed, seven for and one absent.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Lisa.
38 Moving on.

39
40 Rick, we'll put you on the spot this
41 time for you or your help. This is FCR 21-12, salmon,
42 Adak and Kagalaska freshwater drainages closure review.

43
44 Justin.

45
46 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Madame Chair,
47 members of the Council. Once again this is Justin
48 Koller with the Office of Subsistence Management.
49 We'll go ahead and finish up the closure reviews with
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0321

1 the Adak area. The analysis for FCR 23-12 begins on
2 page 258 of your meeting book.

3

4 FCR 23-12 is a routine review of a
5 Federal closure to salmon fishing in all freshwaters on
6 Adak and Kagalaska Island. Federal public waters --
7 excuse me, Federal public freshwaters on Adak and
8 Kagalaska comprise all freshwaters within and adjacent
9 to the exterior boundaries of Alaska Maritime Wildlife
10 Refuge and that's figure 1 on page 263. Notable
11 Federal public waters of interest on Adak and Kagalaska
12 Island include drainages in Hidden Bay on Adak Island
13 and Quail Bay and Galas Point on Kagalaska Island.
14 None of the fish populations in these freshwaters are
15 monitored so there's little abundance information
16 available.

17

18 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
19 rescind the closure for reasons stated in the last
20 closure review presentation. These drainages are
21 currently closed to the harvest of salmon by Federally-
22 qualified subsistence users and remain open to other
23 uses. The closure broadly covers all Federal public
24 freshwaters on Adak and Kagalaska Islands. There's no
25 evidence to suggest it is necessary to close all these
26 Federal public freshwaters to Federal subsistence
27 salmon fishing. Providing opportunity for Federally-
28 qualified subsistence users is not likely to lead to a
29 conservation concern because subsistence harvest in
30 recent years has been very minimal and occurs primarily
31 in marine waters.

32

33 Thank you, Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
36 Justin. Board consultation, tribes and ANCSA
37 corporations.

38

39 Orville.

40

41 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Orville Lind,
42 Native Liaison, OSM. There were no questions or
43 comments on the proposal.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
48 Orville. Agency comments.

49

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0322

1 ADF&G. Tyler.

2

3

4 MR. LAWSON: For the record Tyler
5 Lawson with the Department of Fish and Game. The
6 Department again recommends maintaining the status quo.
7 As we talked about yesterday similar conservation
8 concerns and that we haven't monitored this system in
9 decades, we have no idea what the escapement is. That
10 being said there is a much lower population there so
11 certainly not nearly the pressure that we're going to
12 have on Unalaska and Cold Bay. We do have some similar
13 enforcement concerns for ADAK as we do in other
14 regions.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
16 Federal agencies.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal entities,
21 Native, tribal, village or other.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory Group
26 comments, other Regional Councils.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
31 Advisory Committees.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
36 Resource Commissions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of
41 written public comments.

42

43 MR. KOLLER: There were no written
44 public comments.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
49 Public testimony.

50

0323

1 (No comments)

2

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
4 recommendations. What action we deem. Rick, I'm going
5 to go ahead and ask you to possibly start on this.

6

7

MR. KOSO: I didn't copy you, Della,
8 could you repeat that.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're at the
point of Regional Council recommendations, basically a
motion to adopt, to rescind or to maintain status quo.
What are your -- would you like to speak to this FCR
23-12.

MR. KOSO: Yeah, I would like to speak
to this. Can I speak to this, Della?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Go ahead,
Rick.

MR. KOSO: Yeah, I would like to see
this rescinded. I've been working on -- for Lake
Andrew which is a freshwater lake and the way they have
it now is that you may not subsistence fish for -- in
any of the waters that are freshwater on Adak or
Kagalaska. And Lake Andrew is a freshwater lake as far
as I understand. And that if that went through we
wouldn't be able to fish on Lake Andrew and I've been
working with the Aleut Corporation and with -- getting
them on that particular lake with the Navy and the
contractors to try to see if we can't open up that
stream so the red salmon could get back into the lake.

So I would like to see this rescinded
also.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I assume
that's a motion, Rick?

MR. KOSO: Yeah, you can make that a
motion, please.

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

MS. SKINNER: I'll second.

0324

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by
2 Rebecca. Discussion.

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4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mr. Holmes.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: Rick, I -- isn't the bay
9 where the outlet to Lake Andrew's at, is there a
10 closure there or is it just a hundred yards or what is
11 it because I think there is an outlet and the
12 fishery.....

13
14 MR. KOSO: What?

15
16 MR. HOLMES:and does fishing take
17 place in saltwater, I mean, or in the lake?

18
19 MR. KOSO: No, I think a lot of people
20 would like to fish in the lake because it's a loss less
21 dangerous for them and I think with the -- if we could
22 get that stream open to Lake Andrew, there's been
23 thousands and thousands of red salmon that congregate
24 outside of that creek every year. And this year was no
25 exception, there were thousands of them outside there.
26 And if we could get that back open, it's been closed
27 since the Navy and the contractor's been working out
28 there for the unexploded ordinance and the cleanup.
29 And so we -- they had it all blocked off and we're not
30 able to get there or anybody get there and they will
31 not open it. I don't know why we had the Adak
32 Community Development Corporation, the people working
33 for us in Juneau trying to see if we can't get that
34 open this year, but they were not successful in that.
35 So this year is pretty well shot because the fish are
36 already gone. And so we're going to work on it for
37 next year, but Lake Andrew is a freshwater lake and it
38 would be a real good subsistence area for a lot of our
39 local folks on Adak.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
42 you, Rick. We did have -- I did have a Jeff Williams I
43 think that would like to make a comment from the
44 Maritime Refuge. I -- we kind of bypassed him.

45
46 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair, Jeff
47 Williams, Deputy Manger, Alaska Maritime Refuge. I
48 don't necessarily have a comment regarding this
49 proposal. We are aware of conditions that Mr. Koso
50

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1 talked about. But I have no additional comments to
2 offer.

3

4 Thank you.

5

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

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mr. Holmes.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: This is a question to OSM
14 and Fish and Wildlife Service. When I was out there in
15 '82 Fred Zylermaker was the manager and we did an
16 exchange, I gave him a day's worth of helicopter
17 flights and he said that they would try to maintain at
18 least monitoring on Finger Bay which is -- then was
19 probably the major sport fishery for humpies. And I
20 was just wondering has there been any effort done by
21 Maritime for looking at any escapements out there
22 because, you know, he said it would go on, but I doubt
23 that he had the money or continued to do it, but I just
24 wondered if it ever happened.

25

26 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair, Jeff
27 Williams.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Jeff.

30

31 MR. WILLIAMS: (Indiscernible -
32 distortion) in regards to Pat's question there. Pat,
33 there's been a few study in the '90s by Fish and
34 Wildlife Service.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Jeff, I'm going
37 to interrupt you for one second, can you move away.....

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS:(indiscernible -
40 distortion).....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Jeff, can you
43 move away from the mic just a little bit and rephrase
44 your points, please.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure. Is this fine now?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, that's
49 good.

50

0326

1 MR. WILLIAMS: In regards to Pat's
2 question, Fish and Wildlife said it doesn't engage in
3 any active military (indiscernible - distortion) as he
4 (indiscernible - distortion) a few surveys in the 1990s
5 by Fish and Wildlife Service and that they
6 (indiscernible - distortion) that.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So
11 over the 40 years, 1982. Okay.

12

13 Any other comments or questions,
14 discussion.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
19 call for question.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Question.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's
24 been called. Can we have a roll call vote, please.

25

26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
27 We're voting to rescind FCR 23-12 for salmon, Alaska,
28 Kagalaska freshwater drainages and closure reviews.

29

30 Richard Koso.

31

32 MR. KOSO: Yes.

33

34 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher
35 Price.

36

37 MR. PRICE: Yes.

38

39 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della
40 Trumble.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

43

44 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha
45 Hayden.

46

47 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

48

49 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Patrick

50

0327

1 Holmes.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: I guess my biologist side
4 says no, but my Council side says if, you know, that's
5 the recommendation of -- from Rick for the community
6 wants then I would vote reluctantly yes.

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca
9 Skinner.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

12

13 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral
14 Chernoff.

15

16 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

17

18 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame
19 Chair, the motion passed, all voting yes and one
20 absent.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
23 Well, after two days.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we
28 managed to survive that. I don't know that I really
29 have.

30

31 I'm looking at this agenda and one of
32 the things -- if we have to come back I think it's like
33 a housekeeping thing, dates of meetings or things if we
34 don't get it done before dinner. But I'm wondering
35 what the Council's recommendation is because I know I
36 for one would like to hear agency reports. I think
37 it's important and it's one of the main reasons I come
38 to these meetings is to be able to get updated on the
39 various species and what is going on in our regions.
40 So if it's okay with everybody and you don't mind I
41 wouldn't mind moving on to the agency reports, number
42 12, and then go back to the 2024 Resource Monitoring
43 Program. And if we can try to basically I think keep
44 our time to -- basically it says 15 minutes as much as
45 we can. I don't know if I -- what your thoughts are.

46

47 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

50

0328

1 MS. SKINNER: I just want to make sure
2 that we have time to address some of our action items.
3 So we need to vote on the priority information needs,
4 we need to get the list of issues for the annual report
5 which I think could be fairly brief if we have a list
6 pre-prepared. I would very much like to discuss the
7 Board of Fish proposals. So we had two listed there,
8 98 and 103. I had intended to ask to add 69 which had
9 to do with the crayfish, but I think particularly for
10 the crayfish it's really important to me that the
11 Council issue a letter. So the time to do that within
12 the comment period would be -- we'd have to do that
13 today. And then, Della, said obviously talking about
14 our next meeting dates is important. So as long as we
15 have adequate time to address those items then I'm fine
16 with rearranging the agenda.

17
18 Thanks.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I think
21 what I -- I guess my point was if we get to that and
22 then if we have to break for dinner at 6:00 because I
23 don't want to hold Mary up and take a little bit of a
24 break and then come back if we have to if that's what
25 we have to do to get through this agenda. Otherwise we
26 just keep going and let Mary know we're going to be
27 late.

28
29 So I don't know. And the reason I
30 asked for the agency reports, it already quarter to
31 4:00, I mean, if we can get through these really fast I
32 think -- I don't know, it's -- I think we got into this
33 the last two meetings, we're going to start needing a
34 three day meeting here.

35
36 Let's do this. Take a five minute
37 break, let's figure out where we're going with the next
38 item on the agenda and go from there. Take five
39 minutes.

40
41 (Off record)

42
43 (On record)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
46 Let's go ahead and move on. I guess we'll just ahead
47 and follow this agenda and try to go as fast as we can
48 to try to get as much as we can done. The next item on
49 the agenda will be the 2024 Fisheries Resource
50

0329

1 Monitoring Program.

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3

Justin, Jarred and Jason.

4

5

MR. ROBERTS: All right. Madame Chair, members of the Council, this is Jason Roberts from OSM, Anthropologist, speaking. I'm going to talk a bit about the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, give you an update on the 2022 Monitoring Plan which was finalized during the spring of 2022. The following five projects for the southwest region were funded. The Buskin River Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment and Monitoring Plan. That was with a partnership with ADF&G Sport Fish Division. The Chignik River Subsistence Harvest Surveys and Escapement Indexing. USFWS is in charge of that one. The False Pass and Nelson Lagoon Subsistence Harvest Monitoring and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Investigation by ADF&G which our own Council Coordinator knows quite a bit about. Subsistence Harvest and Uses and Other Wild Resources in Manokotak. Also ADF&G. Reliable Estimates of Subsistence Harvest and Uses in Ouzinkie and Port Lions. That's another ADF&G project.

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And just a quick note about research

0330

1 topics and issues that are not eligible for funding.
2 Those include projects on habitat protection,
3 mitigation restoration and enhancement; hatchery
4 propagation, restoration and enhancement; and
5 contaminant assessment, evaluation and monitoring.
6 These activities are more appropriately addressed by
7 the responsible land management or regulatory agency.
8 In addition projects for which the primary objective is
9 education or outreach like science camps, technician
10 training or intern programs are also not eligible for
11 funding through the Monitoring Program.

12

13 A work group composed of members of
14 this Council and the Bristol Bay Regional Council met
15 to discuss priority information needs for the southwest
16 region. The work group discussed priority information
17 needs in three categories, those that were southwest
18 region-wide, those specific to the Kodiak and Aleutian
19 Islands and those specific to the Bristol Bay area.
20 We'll discuss the results of those meetings today and
21 then ask the Council her to finalize and adopt priority
22 information needs for the Kodiak/Aleutians region. And
23 the results of today's discussion will be combined with
24 the results of the Bristol Bay Council's discussion in
25 early November to make up the final list of 2024
26 priority information needs for the southwest FRMP
27 region.

28

29 And so thank you, Madame Chair. This
30 concludes the program update and if there are any
31 questions before we begin reviewing the priority
32 information needs that volunteers from the Council have
33 already kind of come up with, I'd welcome to take those
34 questions now or hand it off to Justin.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
37 this -- I know Pat and Rebecca and myself have been
38 involved in these meetings.

39

40 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I've been working
47 on these almost every time and you toss out lots of
48 ideas and then you get somebody that has enough gusto
49 to go for it and give a reasonable price for doing the
50

0331

1 work. And of course the Buskin's been our number 1 for
2 years. And I did participate in this year's list, but
3 I was thinking maybe, I don't know if it would go in
4 this year's list or the future, but two of the areas
5 that we've had a discussion on during this meeting is
6 Unalaska Lake, it's really stressed, but we need to
7 have some really ongoing means of counting the fish,
8 seeing what their age is, you know, those basic
9 dynamics and then in Della's area in Cold Bay it was
10 discussed quite a bit, Mortensen's Lagoon and being a
11 subsistence area, but that it's had some really radical
12 changes in escapement. So that would be another one
13 I'd like to suggest gets added into the list sometime.
14 Lord knows when it would get funded, but I think
15 getting in the list then that would allow the tribes
16 and other people to say or corporations we'd like to do
17 this.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I think, Pat,
22 if you look at the list, the draft, it does have McLees
23 Lake, Mortensen's Lagoon and Kodiak archipelago stocks.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I didn't see it.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. So any
28 other comments or questions or can we continue moving
29 on.

30

31 MR. STONE: Just real quickly. You're
32 right, I included Mortensen's Lagoon, but did not
33 include Unalaska Lake. Just a point of clarification.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Would it be appropriate
36 for me to make a motion to our Council to include
37 Unalaska Lake or is it too late in the process.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I don't think we
40 need a motion, we can just add it, Unalaska Lake slash
41 McLees Lake. That's the two from Unalaska.

42

43 MR. STONE: If you like I can put the
44 list up on the screen and we can just one by one work
45 through these and when we feel good about it then the
46 final motion to adopt the list would be appropriate.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Talk fast.

49 Rebecca.

50

0332

1 MS. SKINNER: I was part of the working
2 group that worked with Bristol Bay on this list so I'm
3 pretty comfortable with it, but I think going over it
4 for other Council members is important.

5
6 I did want to bring up that yesterday
7 the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak specifically asked us to add
8 a priority I believe related to enumeration of fry in
9 the Buskin system because, I mean, one, the Buskin
10 system is important for subsistence and two, it goes
11 hand in hand with the work they're currently doing
12 related to crayfish. So I think that's a good, kind of
13 leveraging of resources. So I just want to note that
14 I'd like to throw that on there as a potential new
15 priority for discussion. Maybe you can add it at the
16 end of something.Federal

17
18 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame
19 Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Lisa.

22
23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I just
24 wanted to just mention for those of you who are online
25 if you wanted to look at what we're talking about it's
26 in the supplemental folder on tab three.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: On Becky's suggestion I
35 think that's excellent, but the thing you want to
36 identify is smolt out migration and not fry because fry
37 would be a lot of limnology in the lake, but smolt was
38 what they were asking for, kind of the juveniles headed
39 to the ocean.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
42 Jarred, do you want to go -- are you ready to proceed.

43
44 MR. KOLLER: Okay. This is Justin with
45 the Office of Subsistence Management. Now that I have
46 a microphone in front of me I'll go ahead and read
47 these off.

48
49 The first bullet point is Bristol Bay
50

0333

1 specific and it reads reliable estimates of chinook
2 salmon escapement and evaluation of quality of
3 escapement in Alagnak River, Big Creek, Meshik River,
4 Naknek River and Togiak River, including egg
5 deposition, sex and size composition of spawners and
6 habitat -- excuse me, spawning habitat quality and
7 utilization for determining the reproductive potential
8 of spawning stocks.

9
10 Number -- the second bullet was
11 originally on the list and we've recommended to remove
12 it because it's actually covered a little bit more
13 thoroughly in a bullet below this. So we can return to
14 that, but I'm going to skip it for right now.

15
16 Kodiak/Aleutians is the -- specific to
17 the next bullet point here. It's comparative
18 ecological evaluation of lake rearing habitats of
19 sockeye salmon stocks in southwest Kodiak Island,
20 including Olga Lake and Akalura Lake watersheds and the
21 assessment of one, the declines of salmon stocks and
22 associated subsistence harvest opportunities and number
23 2, affects of climate change on salmon production in
24 these lake systems.

25
26 The fourth bullet is Bristol Bay
27 specific and it reads annual estimates of sockeye
28 salmon escapement in the Lake Clark watershed.

29
30 The next bullet is also Bristol Bay
31 specific. It reads evaluation of chinook and sockeye
32 salmon populations in the Chignik River area to
33 understand the decline in salmon stocks and associated
34 subsistence harvest opportunities such as reliable
35 estimates of escapement, quality of escapement and
36 environmental impacts.

37
38 These next -- those previous bullet
39 points were sort of taken directly from past priority
40 information needs lists that either went wholly
41 unaddressed in past cycles or partially unaddressed in
42 past cycles. The next few or the final few that I'll
43 read were added by the work group.

44
45 The first one is Kodiak/Aleutians
46 specific. It's the reliable estimates of abundance of
47 salmon populations in the Kodiak archipelago and
48 Aleutian Islands areas important for subsistence use
49 and assessment of changes in these populations.

50

0334

1 Specific areas of concern are McLees Lake, Mortensen's
2 Lagoon and Kodiak archipelago stocks. And I believe
3 we've decided to add Unalaska Lake to this one.

4
5 Next is a Kodiak/Aleutians and Bristol
6 Bay specific. It reads using scale analyses of fresh
7 and saltwater growth patterns over multiple years,
8 examine how recent changes in the ocean affect growth
9 and survival of chinook and sockeye salmon within their
10 range and habitats of the Kodiak/Aleutians drainages of
11 particular concern include the following drainages,
12 Buskin, Karluk, Ayakulik and McLees Lake drainages.
13 Also drainages of particular concern in the Bristol
14 Bay/Alaska Peninsula are Chignik, Nushagak, Big Creek,
15 Alagnak, Meshik and Togiak. And the last part is kind
16 of emphasizing that the Chignik drainage is of
17 particular concern.

18
19 The next priority information need is
20 also specific to Kodiak/Aleutians and Bristol Bay. It
21 reads evaluate effects on subsistence users in the
22 southwest Alaska region resulting from changes in fish
23 populations including biological considerations of run
24 timing, run quality, sex ratios, and age composition
25 and incorporating local observations and knowledge.
26 Research should include a multidisciplinary approach
27 and include elements of traditional ecological
28 knowledge as well as stock status and trends.

29
30 The last PIN that was developed during
31 our meetings with Council members and the PIN
32 development team is a multi-region PIN. It reads gain
33 a better understanding of ecosystem factors negatively
34 impacting subsistence salmon runs and harvest practices
35 in Alaska, including ocean conditions, freshwater
36 conditions and changing climate conditions.

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
41 there any comments or questions at this point from the
42 Council.

43
44 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

47
48 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I see Jarred
49 starting to type so I think that would be the Kodiak
50

0335

1 area enumeration of salmon smolt in the Buskin.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Out migration.

4

5 MS. SKINNER:River system or.....

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It's a out
8 migration.

9

10 MS. SKINNER: Yes. Yeah, I don't know
11 if anyone from Sun'ag is listening and they have
12 someone's phone number and they want to text or email
13 better language that would be helpful.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: I think for the Council to
20 know and also the Staff is I think about three, four
21 years ago Dan Dunaway from the Bristol Bay RAC and I
22 got together and started talking and so this developed
23 list is something that has gone back and forth between
24 the representatives from our Council and Bristol Bay so
25 that we can identify things that are of mutual interest
26 and end up not having one component of the -- our
27 assigned area getting disproportionate funding. And so
28 I think that this is a really well developed list to
29 provide for the -- some research on some really, really
30 important things.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

35 Any other comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Next
40 report.

41

42 MR. PRICE: I had.....

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry,
45 Chris. Go ahead.

46

47 MR. PRICE: I was talking to the
48 Federal guys the first night and I was kind of serious
49 when I brought up like why didn't Fish and Wildlife and
50

0336

1 OSM get funding for infrastructure with the Bell Act
2 and all these other agencies got a lot of funding. The
3 weirs themselves and the infrastructure that it takes
4 to do the fisheries management I think should be
5 eligible, vehicles, those kinds of things, they should
6 have been included and you guys should have got some
7 help. But anyway I just wanted to point that out that
8 you guys do have some -- a lot of costs associated with
9 running these management and they should be considered
10 by the Federal government as part of some of these
11 infrastructure bills.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
14 Chris. Okay. Do I -- oh. Go ahead.

15
16 MS. SKINNER: I would make a motion to
17 approve the priority information needs draft as
18 amended. So it's what was passed out and what's on the
19 screen with the changes that we just briefly discussed.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Second.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
24 Motion made by Rebecca, second by Pat. Discussion.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
29 question.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Oh, Madame Chair. Did we
32 get Mortensen's Lagoon in there, I mean, that's kind of
33 your area, but did that make the list somewhere?

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mortensen's was
36 about right there.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: All right. Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. Call
41 for question.

42
43 MS. CHERNOFF: Question.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's
46 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50

0337

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
2 sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

7
8 MR. STONE: Thank you, everybody and
9 thanks for meeting this last summer to help draft this
10 list and make this as painless as possible.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
15 all your help, all of you. It's great. And if
16 somebody could turn on the lights.

17
18 All right. So I guess we're at the
19 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Notice of Funding
20 Opportunity. Is that where we're at?

21
22 MR. STONE: Yes. For the record my
23 name is Jarred Stone and I am a Fisheries Biologist
24 with the Office of Subsistence Management. The meeting
25 materials in your book, you can find the Partners
26 Program update on page 279.

27
28 So in October we hope to be posting the
29 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Partners for
30 Fisheries Monitoring Program. This is a competitive
31 grant for Alaska Native and rural nonprofit
32 organizations. The intent of the program is to
33 strengthen Alaska Native and rural involvement in
34 Federal subsistence management by providing salary
35 funds to organizations so that they can hire
36 professional biologists, a social scientist or an
37 educator. The grant also provides funds for science
38 and culture camps and paid student internships. From
39 our information on this funding opportunity -- more
40 information on this funding opportunity will be posted
41 to our website. You can also contact Karen Hyer via
42 email or phone and you can find her contact information
43 at the bottom of page 279.

44
45 And this concludes the Partners for
46 Fisheries Monitoring update. Do you have any
47 questions?

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any questions.

50

0338

1 MR. HOLMES: I think it's swell.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we're
4 good. Thank you.

5

6 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair and
7 members of the Council.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. The next
10 item on the agenda will be identify issues for FY 2022
11 annual report.

12

13 Lisa.

14

15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,
16 Madame Chair and Council members. It is time for the
17 Council to decide what issues to include in its annual
18 report. For your information guidelines for the annual
19 reports can be found on page 280 of your meeting books.
20 This is an action item.

21

22 ANILCA established the annual report as
23 a way to inform the Federal Subsistence Board of
24 regional subsistence uses and needs and to provide
25 recommendations for regional fish and wildlife
26 management strategies, policies, standards, guidelines
27 and proposed regulations.

28

29 I would like to emphasize that your
30 annual report ensures that the Board has the most up-
31 to-date awareness of issues, concerns and current
32 events that impacts your subsistence way of life. With
33 your report and recommendations the Board can make
34 informed decisions on regulatory policy actions.

35

36 So this is the time for your Council to
37 share items or information that you would like to see
38 raised to the Federal Subsistence Board's attention in
39 your fiscal year 2022 annual report and have a
40 discussion on what you would like OSM to include under
41 this topic. I'd also like to note these items at this
42 time. After the meeting is over I will draft the
43 topics of your annual report based on information
44 provided in your discussion. Then the Council will be
45 able to review the draft report at the winter 2023
46 meeting and provide edits and additional information.
47 If you cannot think of the topics to include in the
48 report now and remember them later throughout the
49 duration of this meeting you can share them at a later
50

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1 time with permission from your Chair.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Lisa.
6 Are there any items that the Council would like added?

7

8 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

11

12 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I have a list of
13 potential topics. Number 1, enforcement concerns.
14 We've had a lot of discussion the last two days about
15 the need for enforcement in the communities and I guess
16 I assume this would be directed toward fish -- well,
17 actually I'm not going to assume, but for Federal
18 enforcement.

19

20 Number 2. I wrote down King Cove Road.
21 I think this is still an issue that is important and if
22 appropriate I'd like the RAC to voice support for the
23 road.

24

25 Number 3. Our RAC meeting locations
26 and hub communities. This has to do with what we've
27 understood to be OSM policy that we are limited to
28 having meetings in certain hub communities. I think
29 one, perhaps we disagree with that. Also I think we
30 disagree with the identification of the current hub
31 communities. And generally here we would be stressing
32 the importance of meeting in some of the smaller
33 communities or maybe more remote communities where more
34 subsistence users actually live so that they have the
35 benefit of being able to attend a meeting. That was
36 number 3.

37

38 Number 4. If there -- this isn't
39 anything the agency heads can do something about, but
40 changing ocean, ocean conditions and climate change. I
41 think that's having a big impact on our communities and
42 on our fishery resources. And it may just be noting
43 that fact and that this is an ongoing issue, it's a
44 reality that we're having to deal with, it's making
45 things more challenging.

46

47 And then number 5. I did note down
48 that the infrastructure action fund weirs, that's not
49 something the agency heads can probably control, but I

50

0340

1 think that it is a worthwhile message and there's lots
2 of things with the Infrastructure Act that from an
3 Alaskan perspective it would have been nice if they
4 funded certain kinds of infrastructure or funneled
5 money towards certain agencies or entities and that
6 didn't happen. So I think the weirs -- we've talked
7 about today the importance of having that hard data to
8 do good in-season management which impacts access to
9 subsistence resources if you're talking about closures.
10 So I think there's a very strong tie between the need
11 for the infrastructure and the impact on subsistence --
12 access to subsistence.

13

14 And those were the five things I had
15 written down. Thanks.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 Rebecca. Any other Council?

19

20 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

23

24 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm not sure if this the
25 place to address this, but I think that an effort needs
26 to be made to be able to increase access to subsistence
27 permits. In Kodiak you can access them at the Fish and
28 -- at the Buskin -- Fish and Wildlife office there.
29 I'm blanking what it's called right now. We have I
30 think six villages, five or six villages around the
31 Island so according to what happens now those people
32 would have to fly in to obtain a subsistence permit.
33 So yeah, looking at other ways to offer the public
34 access to getting Federal subsistence permits.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So this is a
37 suggestion and what we do -- and we do it and sometimes
38 things work better than others and sometimes we don't
39 get our mail to King Cove for two weeks. However, the
40 Izembek Refuge does send us the -- like in this
41 particular case the hunting permits for caribou and/or
42 designated hunters. And over the years it's been touch
43 and go depending on how busy whoever is and when we get
44 our timing on some of this stuff. But we will be
45 working on that. Next year we're going to start
46 February, I already have these done. And so what
47 Izembek does, they basically for King Cove they send
48 them to me and I think the other communities and they
49 send them maybe to the tribe in False Pass and I'm not
50

0341

1 sure where you send them in South Point or Nelson
2 Lagoon, but they are available from -- the Federal
3 permits in various places within our region and that's
4 actually been a good practice. I've been working on
5 getting the paperwork filled out and then -- and the
6 reporting done. And interesting enough the last couple
7 years prior we didn't have a lot of like locals in
8 caribou permits, they did utilize the State process.
9 And so, but that is I think something maybe that Kodiak
10 Wildlife Refuge can work with the communities on
11 providing those permits.

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. I said like
14 that's why I don't know if this is the appropriate
15 place to deal with it or somebody could let me know
16 where to go. Also, you know, I'd get my fishing permit
17 from Buskin and then I go to Alaska Department of Fish
18 and Game to get my permit for crab for Federal
19 subsistence. So I think tidying up that process of
20 where you get your -- so, you know, having access to it
21 and then tidying up the process so that it's not
22 cumbersome to have your subsistence licenses.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
25 Coral. Any other comments for our annual report? I
26 kind of feel like we're missing something.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, go ahead.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Let's see. Get right back
33 to you. I've lost my sheet.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We can
36 add to this as we go before we basically adjourn. So
37 just keep.....

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I recall. It was a
40 concern raised by Rick Koso and I think we should
41 identify that the outlet of Lake Andrew on Adak Island
42 is closed off from access and that's probably the most
43 desirable red subsistence thing for the folks on Adak
44 and that we need some coordination to get the stream
45 mouth reopened because it's totally on Federal lands
46 and Federal fishery and everything. So I think they
47 need some help out there to get that lake outlet
48 reopened.

49

50

0342

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

3
4 MR. KOSO: Thank you, Pat.
5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha, do you
7 want to add anything to this list for now? We can add
8 to it before we close or adjourn.

9
10 MS. HAYDEN: Not at this time, Madame
11 Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
14 Natasha. Yeah, go ahead.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya. I just
17 would like to request the Council to generate a little
18 bit more discussion on a few topics that have been
19 mentioned. Like you mentioned King Cove Road for
20 example and law enforcement. We just need to have a
21 little bit more discussion on the record so this way we
22 can use it to develop the annual report. Doesn't need
23 to be anything lengthy, but just a little more mention
24 on the topic.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can do that.
29 All right. We'll go ahead and continue on. At this
30 point we have fall, 2022 Council application open
31 season.

32
33 Katya.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair,
36 members of the Council. That will be really brief. I
37 just would like to inform you that the Council
38 application and nomination season has been opened and
39 it's going to be open until February 21st of 2023. We
40 really -- your Council is really in need of the
41 applications from your region because you have vacant
42 seats and if you're not going to -- not you, but if
43 your region will not get more applications there will --
44 might be even more vacant seats next time around.
45 There's three of you, your seats are expiring in -- on
46 December 2nd, 2023 which means that you need to reply
47 if you want to continue to serve on the Council before
48 February 21st. And Lisa can hand out to you the
49 incumbent applications. And I really encourage you to
50

0343

1 fill out these incumbent applications before you
2 actually leave Cold Bay and hand them to Lisa. This
3 way you're done with it and it -- that's only if you
4 want to reapply to serve on the Council. But also if
5 you can talk with people in your communities and
6 encourage them to apply or if you know someone that
7 would be a good person to serve on the Council you can
8 even nominate them, but just let them know that you're
9 nominating them so it's not a surprise to them when
10 they're called for an interview.

11

12 But that's all I have, thank you,
13 unless you have any questions.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
16 Katya. Yeah, I did try to get a few people last round
17 and it's a tough one. So we will continue to make that
18 effort.

19

20 Next item on the agenda, joint meeting,
21 North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate
22 Conference in May, 2023.

23

24 Kendra Holman.

25

26 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair, this is
27 Kendra Holman. Can you hear me all right?

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just maybe stay
30 close to the mic and not too close, but close enough
31 that we can hear you good.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. That's what I was
36 trying to find that balance for. As long as this is
37 okay I'll go ahead and continue.

38

39 My name is Kendra Holman and I'm a
40 Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
41 Management. I'm presenting an announcement about a
42 caribou/ungulate conference next year that will
43 hopefully be of interest to Council members. I'll be
44 asking -- I will be seeking input on a couple matters
45 related to the conference.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Kendra, you
48 might be a little too close to the mic.

49

50

0344

1 MS. HOLMAN: Is that better?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Much better,
4 yes. Thank you.

5

6 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. So an informal
7 flyer about the conference can be found in your meeting
8 book on page 282. A joint meeting of the North
9 American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate
10 Conference will be held in Anchorage on May 8th through
11 the 12th of 2023. The meeting will bring together an
12 international group of managers, researchers and
13 indigenous and local knowledge holders who want to
14 share their knowledge about caribou, muskoxen, dall
15 sheep, moose and reindeer.

16

17 The theme for this meeting is crossing
18 boundaries. Arctic ungulate regularly cross landscape
19 boundaries connecting ecological processes between
20 different systems. This necessitates corroboration
21 across geographical boundaries and also across -- and
22 also for crossing boundaries between western science
23 and local and indigenous knowledge. The conference
24 will include a planning session on co-management, the
25 status of caribou globally, integrating western science
26 and indigenous knowledge and the affects of client
27 change on caribou. Field trips, workshops, research
28 talks, symposiums and a poster session will also be
29 part of the conference. The conference website is
30 included on the flyer in your meeting book and I
31 encourage you to visit that website for more detailed
32 information.

33

34 Before I move on are there any
35 questions?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Questions.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

40

41 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. Next I'd like to
42 ask you for your input as a

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on, Kendra.
45 Pat, go ahead.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was just -- I know
48 we're not in the Arctic and they don't list goats, but
49 our Council for, I don't know, close to 20 years has
50

0345

1 been working with the tribes on Kodiak and the Fish and
2 Game Advisory Committee and the Federal government on
3 Fish and Wildlife Service on mountain goats. And so
4 we've had quite a history of cooperative work coming up
5 with solutions and finding which agencies can manage
6 it. That might be -- mountain goats might be a topic
7 for a meeting sometime in the future.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, member Pat. I
12 have made a note of that.

13

14 Are there any other questions?

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, but please
17 continue on.

18

19 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. Next I would like
20 to ask for your input as a Council. One of the events
21 that will take place during the conference is a
22 facilitated discussion on Alaska State and Federal
23 ungulate management. This session is intended to be a
24 neutral forum for Council member such as yourselves,
25 State Fish and Game Advisory Committee members, Federal
26 and State agency Staff and other interested parties to
27 discuss ungulate management in Alaska specifically
28 regarding harvest regulations. My question for the
29 Council is what topics and issues would you like to be
30 discussed during the session. It could be anything of
31 concern related to harvest regulations of ungulate
32 management.

33

34 Madame Chair, now I wish to turn the
35 discussion over to you on the topic. Your suggestions
36 will be very important in setting your discussion
37 agenda.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anyone have
40 any comments or suggestions for Kendra?

41

42 Pat Holmes.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: The topic of predator
45 control is something that we've had bounced around for
46 our region before. That might be a topic that would be
47 of interest.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other topics

50

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1 that you'd like to add.

2

3 Rebecca.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I'm not sure how
6 specific these topics have to be, but in our meetings
7 it seems as though having consistent, timely, complete
8 surveys or assessments of the condition of the stock or
9 the herd is very important and sometimes doesn't happen
10 because of funding constraints. So I guess I would
11 highlight the importance of funding the science and
12 survey work or however you call that in relation to
13 caribou.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
16 comments in regard to this.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just as a
21 question, Kendra, maybe if somebody -- we're trying to
22 rush through this at this point and we're pretty well
23 brain dead, I think if you can make sure possibly that
24 Lisa has your email address and she can let us know,
25 anything we think of in the next couple weeks or
26 something maybe we can add to it or if you have any
27 questions or things that we might want us to consider
28 to let us know.

29

30 MS. HOLMAN: Absolutely, Madame Chair.
31 She should have my email and we can do that. I will
32 finish this up then real quick and you can move on.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And the only
35 other question I guess I have is was the joint meeting
36 was appointing someone and I think we can do that in
37 our winter meeting, nominating a council member.

38

39 Rebecca.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: It sounded like earlier I
42 was talking to Katya that timing might be an issue, do
43 we need to have this decision today?

44

45 MS. HOLMAN: I believe the timing could
46 potentially be an issue. We do have a date for
47 preregistration for registration for the conference
48 that could run into an issue with the -- with the
49 conference. I'm looking for the schedule for the
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1 winter meetings.

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MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I think that Kendra is saying that their preregistration for the conference requires the name of a person prior to May so you might -- they might not be able to register you for the conference if you leave it until your winter meeting cycle. And also, you know, for us to get the person ready for the travel, it might take quite a while with our aspects of the government invitational travel.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This may be a suggestion, Rick, I'd like to nominate you to attend this. You're very familiar with the caribou on 90, 10 and Adak and you've also participated in Advisory Council and have been part of this process for quite a number of years.

(No comments)

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

MR. HOLMES: I'm not much of a four legged critter person, but I was wondering also if the -- your suggestion isn't available I wonder if you might be because you kind of led the way on the whole caribou harvest discussion, served many years here on the Peninsula and I think you're the brightest start on the topic.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Katya.

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, may I suggest that you maybe elect one person and then an alternate.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

MS. SKINNER: Yeah, if we need a motion I would make a motion that Rick Koso be our primary and I think Pat was recommending you, Della.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah.

MS. SKINNER: Della as our -- Della Trumble as our alternate.

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That works for
2 me. It works for Rick too whether he likes it or not.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MS. KOSO: I hear you, Della.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: That motion has been
9 seconded.

10
11 MS. HOLMAN: So, Madame Chair, I just
12 wanted to make.....

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.
15 Someone was talking, you're cutting out.

16
17 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair, this is
18 Kendra. I just wanted to make sure that there is one
19 expectation of the nominated Council member and that is
20 that they will be an active participant in the State
21 and Federal management symposium for which you will
22 help provide input. And the dates again are May 8th
23 through the 12th of next year.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, Kendra, we
26 -- the Council selected Rick Koso and me as an
27 alternate in case Rick can't go. So we basically have
28 set that.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: I think Rebecca made a
31 motion and that needed to be seconded if it's going to
32 be a motion.

33
34 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Motion
37 made by Rebecca, seconded.....

38
39 MS. CHERNOFF: Question.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's
42 been called. All in favor signify by saying any.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Nay same sign.

47
48 (No opposing votes)

49
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You have no time
6 to oppose.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
11 Council reimbursement for excess phone and internet
12 expenses.

13

14 Lisa.

15

16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Sorry,
17 Madame Chair, Council members. Yes, if you look at tab
18 -- your very last tab, tab seven in your supplemental
19 folders there's a letter that's included. And this --
20 anyway I'm just going to present the information on how
21 you can get reimbursed if you had any
22 telephone/internet expenses associated with your
23 participation in the Council meetings over the last two
24 and a half years. The materials for this agenda again
25 are in your last tab there.

26

27 This issue is brought up to the Board's
28 attention by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council during
29 their winter, 2020 meeting -- 2022 meeting. So OSM
30 reviewed the policies regarding reimbursement and would
31 like to provide you with the information on the types
32 of expenses you can be reimbursed with. For the time
33 period when the Council meetings were held via
34 teleconference you can be reimbursed for your internet
35 and phone charges that are in excess of their normal
36 bill. Council members who have internet or cellular
37 plans that charge a flat monthly fee are not eligible
38 because they're already covered for reimbursement. In
39 order for the Council members to receive reimbursement
40 for excess charges you need to submit a copy of their
41 bill that covers the time period during which the
42 virtual Council meetings took place and indicate the
43 excess charges for attending the virtual Council
44 meetings. Council members can submit this information
45 to their -- to me, their Council Coordinator, or mail
46 their bills to the Office of Subsistence Management.
47 It also includes people who are continuing to do
48 teleconferences so Rick and Natasha.

49

50

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1 This concludes my presentation. Any
2 questions?

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Lisa.
5 Any questions or comments.

6
7 MR. HOLMES: I think this is probably
8 important for the future, but all the meetings that
9 we've attended by phone and computer, I -- it would be
10 pretty much impossible to figure out what the charges
11 were on two or three different phones and half a dozen
12 different computers.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, you need
17 to make it one phone and one computer, Pat.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other
24 comments.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
29 that. Next item is announcement of Alaska Board of
30 Statewide Fishery Proposal Book. I do believe, Lisa,
31 that will be you. Was there something that you were
32 going to pull on those?

33
34 Rebecca.

35
36 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. So there were at
37 least three specific proposals that members of the RAC
38 wanted to discuss. So Proposals 98, 103 and then 69.
39 And I'm not sure how you want to proceed. I'm prepared
40 to make a -- I mean, I can give you my summary of
41 Proposal 69 and make a motion as to what I would like
42 the Council to do on that, but I'm not sure how you
43 want to proceed with this.

44
45 Okay. So I'll go ahead and talk about
46 Proposal 69. Proposal 69 related -- relates to signal
47 crayfish. And there was discussion about this
48 yesterday. So there are signal crayfish in Buskin Lake
49 on Kodiak and it looks like there's a possibility or
50

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1 there's some indication that those signal crayfish are
2 consuming sockeye salmon at some parts of their
3 lifecycle. So this is a concern because of the
4 importance of sockeye salmon. I think it was last year
5 the Department of Fish and Game issued regulations that
6 banned the harvest of signal crayfish in -- well,
7 everywhere. And that has a negative impact of stopping
8 removals of these crayfish from Buskin Lake.

9
10 And as a response to that there's now
11 proposal -- I'm sorry, not 69, it's Proposal 169. And
12 this proposal separates these invasive species into two
13 categories. So category class A species remain
14 completely banned, you can't harvest them, possess them
15 at all. But they've moved the signal crayfish down
16 into the class B of invasive species which is intended
17 as I read the proposal to allow the harvest of crayfish
18 which from a subsistence perspective I view as removing
19 those animals from -- the ability to remove those
20 animals from Buskin Lake.

21
22 So what I would like is for the RAC to
23 write a letter of support or comment in support of
24 Proposal 169 because it has I think a pretty good
25 potential of helping the sockeye resource that uses the
26 Buskin system.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
29 Rebecca.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, do you have
34 a comment.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I would trust Becky
37 to do a splendid job on that and I'm glad that she
38 brought it to our attention. I'd say just for writing
39 a letter.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
44 comments.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I have no
49 problem with that. I can't even find it. I don't
50

0352

1 think I picked.....

2

3 MR. POLUM: Mrs. Chair, this is
4 Tyler.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Somebody.....

7

8 MR. POLUM: Madame Chair, this is Tyler
9 at Fish and Game. Just so you guys know I am on the
10 line if anybody has questions about this. Ms. Skinner
11 did a great job of summarizing it, but if there's
12 questions I am here.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
15 you. Appreciate it.

16

17 Go ahead.

18

19 MS. SKINNER: So does there need to be
20 a Council -- a motion and a vote since we would be
21 generating a Council letter, a comment letter. Is that
22 correct?

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So I guess I move
27 that the RAC submit a comment letter in support of
28 Proposal 169 which is going to be in front of the Board
29 of Fish.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do I hear a
32 second.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Second.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Pat.

37 Discussion

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
42 call for question.

43

44 MR. PRICE: Question.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's
47 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

0353

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
2 sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
7 And, Rebecca, I'm just going to have you keep going on
8 these if you don't mind.

9
10 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So the next
11 proposal is Proposal 103. And this was submitted by
12 Candace Neilson of Cold Bay. And Proposal 103 seeks to
13 reduce the bag and possession limit for coho and
14 sockeye salmon in the saltwaters and freshwater
15 drainages of Cold Bay. And it's a reduction, I think
16 it started out -- if someone wants to jump in and help
17 me, I think there's currently a five fish limit.

18
19 MR. POLUM: Ms. Skinner, through the
20 Chair. This is Tyler.

21
22 MS. SKINNER: Thank you.

23
24 MR. POLUM: There's a five fish limit
25 for all the Alaska Peninsula which can be any
26 combination of pinks, chums, coho, sockeye. And so
27 this proposal would essentially align the regulations
28 with what we have on the Kodiak road system and the
29 Unalaska Bay road system area.

30
31 MS. SKINNER: And -- yeah, thank you,
32 Tyler. And my understanding is this is seeking to
33 lower the limit to something that would be more
34 conservative management for the saltwater and
35 freshwater drainages of Cold Bay due to some of the
36 concerns we've talked about over the last two days
37 about just high usage in this area and particularly
38 high sport usage, high usage under the State sport
39 regulations.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Thank you,
42 Rebecca. And also the concern of the condition
43 Mortensen's is in right now. Also Candace is here and
44 if -- we'd be really happy, Candace, if you can come
45 forward and maybe speak to some of the reasons why and
46 then we'll take an action -- it's an action item after
47 you speak.

48
49 Thank you.

50

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1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Candace, if
2 you could just please give your full name.

3
4 MS. NEILSON: Okay.

5
6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you.

7
8 MS. NEILSON: Yep. So I'm Candace
9 Neilson from Cold Bay. And I brought this proposal in
10 for the reasons listed within, the low escapement
11 numbers and the increase of use of Russell Creek for
12 sport fishing. And right now it doesn't seem that it's
13 managed as much as it should be as far as getting those
14 counts and seeing how many people are actually in the
15 creek and using it and sport fishing in it.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 Candace. Any questions for Candace at this time?

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We did get a lot
23 of comments the last couple days and both Tyler and I
24 did get calls today. And I think we'll be making an
25 effort I think to try to figure some of this out and
26 work better on how we can address it, but there
27 definitely appears to be an issue is what I'm
28 understanding. And I wish I would have heard sooner to
29 the extent that something was going on. And today
30 basically when it's the end of season, but people in
31 Cold Bay have been pretty good about getting in touch
32 with me if they have a concern and I do make every
33 effort I can to try to address it. And so I really
34 appreciate you coming forward with this and we'll be
35 happy to help.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MS. NEILSON: Thank you.

40
41 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I'd like to make a
42 motion to support this Proposal Number 103.

43
44 MS. SKINNER: Second.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
47 Coral, second by Rebecca. Discussion.

48
49 MS. SKINNER: Oh, Pat has his.....
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: I would like to commend
4 you, I think this is a really rational way about going,
5 solving the allocation problem and getting a better
6 distribution for local residents.

7

8 And would we need to have another
9 motion for Becky to write the letter on this one or
10 just a letter on all three.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think at this
15 point, Pat, we're making motions to approve what our
16 position is on this and then we will work with Lisa on
17 getting the letters as she is our Coordinator. And I'm
18 sure Becky would be more than happy to help.

19

20 Any other discussion or comments.

21

22 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

25

26 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I just want to
27 thank.....

28

29 MR. KOSO: Della, this is Rick here.
30 Yeah, I want to thank you, Candace for that, I think
31 it's needed and we should support it.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
34 Coral.

35

36 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I wanted to also
37 thank Candace for coming in today. And I'm happy that
38 we can help support the continuation of stocks for and
39 subsistence for the local residents.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So also,
42 Candace, just for the record, we did vote to rescind to
43 allow for subsistence priority today also.

44

45 Okay. Call for question.

46

47 MS. CHERNOFF: Question.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's

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1 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

2

3

IN UNISON: Aye.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same sign.

(No opposing votes)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried. Thank you very much, Candace.

MS. NEILSON: Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

MS. SKINNER: All right. And then the final proposal going in front of the Board of Fish that was asked to be discussed is Proposal 98 which modifies waters that are currently closed to subsistence fishing. Currently the regulation reads, it's number 6, the waters specified in 5 AAC 09.350 and 5 AAC 39.290 during an open commercial salmon fishing period. And I think the issue here is that when commercial salmon fishing was open because of the wording subsistence fishing was not allowed at all. So what Proposal 98 does is it modifies the wording to limit -- to specify that the prohibition on fishing is specific to people who hold a commercial fishing permit. And if -- I'm going to defer to Tyler.

Thanks.

MR. LAWSON: For the record this is Tyler Lawson with the Department of Fish and Game. And, yeah, Council member Skinner did a great job of summarizing that, we're basically trying to increase opportunity for subsistence users who are not commercial fishermen. There's a long history of different regulations which tie together commercial openers with subsistence fishing and this one in particular closes certain areas during commercial openers to commercial fishing and it lumped in subsistence fishermen as well. And in this case this proposal will effectively make it so that if you are not a commercial fisherman, you're just a straight up subsistence fisherman, you'll have access to these areas. And the one in particular which our users asked about is Kinzarof Lagoon. So if this proposal were to

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1 pass all of the users here in Cold Bay and King Cove
2 would be able to go subsistence fishing in Kinzarof
3 Lagoon anytime, they wouldn't have to look at our
4 commercial fishing schedules or call us to ask us if
5 there's an opener.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
8 Tyler. Rick, I'm going to ask you have you had an
9 opportunity to review this proposal?

10
11 MR. KOSO: You know, Della, I'm in
12 favor of it for sure. I didn't have a chance to review
13 it, but just listening to the remarks and stuff on it
14 there, you know, changing the wording there. I think
15 that, you know, it's always been closed 24 hours before
16 and 12 hours after a commercial opening and I think the
17 people in Cold Bay and King Cove and other places that
18 are not commercial fishermen, they shouldn't be, you
19 know, penalized because of an open commercial fishing
20 when they can go out and do their subsistence. Because
21 there's a lot of weather conditions and stuff that, you
22 know, people are restricted by and I think is just
23 another restriction that doesn't have to be.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
26 Rebecca.

27
28 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I would move that
29 the Council submit a comment in support of Proposal 98.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Second.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
34 Rebecca, second by Pat. Discussion.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: I think this is absolutely
41 a splendid solution to a problem that has existed for,
42 I don't know, at least 40, 50 years. And it's a great
43 solution. And I give 150 percent support for it.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
48 Coral.

49
50

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1 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I like this
2 proposal because it promotes access to subsistence
3 users and I think that's always a good thing.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
6 I agree. I think them guys -- people don't get in
7 trouble for going in there to get their subsistence
8 fish. So yeah, it is a good change.

9
10 All right. Call for question

11
12 MS. CHERNOFF: Question.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's
15 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
20 sign.

21
22 (No opposing votes)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
25 All right. Moving on. Find my agenda. All right.
26 We'll go ahead and go into agency reports. We're going
27 to give everybody 15 minutes or less. So I think we
28 should be able to -- we got tribal governments,
29 Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska and Alaska Department of
30 Fish and Game, estimation of sockeye escapement into
31 McLees Lake.

32
33 Tyler Lawson.

34
35 MS. HAYDEN: Hello, are we still on.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, we're
38 getting ready for Tyler to do a Qawalangin Tribe
39 report.

40
41 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Thank you, Madame
42 Chair.

43
44 MR. LAWSON: For the record this is
45 Tyler Lawson with the Department of Fish and Game. And
46 you'll be happy to know that this talk will be much
47 more concise than the last one. So I'll be presenting
48 here real quickly on kind of a recap of the FRMP
49 project that we have for the McLees Lake sockeye salmon
50

1 enumeration weir. This is a good photo that I'll kind
2 of walk you through. So to the left there you are
3 looking at Reese Bay also known as Wislow Bay so those
4 are the saltwaters where most subsistence fishing
5 occurs. Towards the center you can see the weir as it
6 is setup and then to the right you have the freshwaters
7 there of McLees Lake. So kind of a snapshot of the
8 lake, it does no justice as far as how steep the hill's
9 on that this photo was taken from or how steep that
10 beach is down there. It's quite a challenge to get
11 gear and stuff up it into the cabin which you can see a
12 little bit kind of up and to the right of the weir and
13 I'll show you some closer up photos of that later on.
14 Also we were hoping to have the Qawalangin Tribe take
15 the lead on presenting this, but unfortunately Jenny
16 Renee departed a couple of weeks ago, but hopefully
17 this time next year we'll have a new Fisheries Outreach
18 Coordinator in place and they'll be taking the lead on
19 it in the future.

20

21 So quick recap, I showed this during
22 our talk yesterday, but as far as making your way to
23 McLees Lake if you're not familiar with the area, once
24 you fly into Dutch Harbor there it's a 30 to 50 minute
25 skiff ride to the north and then the west kind of
26 around Cape Cheerful there to get over to McLees Lake.
27 The weir itself has been in operation from 2001 until
28 2017, we had a hiatus in 2018 and 2019 when there was
29 no funding for the weir. And under the current FRMP
30 it's been operating since 2020 and we have at least one
31 more year of that funding left which will take us
32 through next summer. So you got kind of a close-up
33 shot here of the weir after it was probably 99 percent
34 install it looks like. I got a picture top left of our
35 technicians doing some ASL sampling of the sockeye
36 there. And on the bottom left it is showing a photo of
37 our regulatory marker sign which is our primary
38 management tool that we use for that weir based on if
39 it has hit the escapement or not. And I'll talk more
40 about that here as we go.

41

42 And here we have a look at our historic
43 escapement for McLees Lake up through this current year
44 of 2022. You notice that kind of little squiggly break
45 there for 2018 and 2019 where again we didn't have
46 escapement numbers unfortunately. The black dash line
47 there represents our sustainable escapement goal of
48 10,000 sockeye and so that is the number that we're
49 looking to reach. And so once we hit July 1st there's
50

0360

1 a regulation automatically put into effect which was
2 after the -- passed by the residents of Unalaska, and
3 that will put out 500 yard markers to push gillnets to
4 that point until that escapement goal of 10,000 is
5 reached. And then at that point we'll put out an EO
6 which would then reduce the markers all the way down to
7 the stream mouth so that people could put out nets all
8 the way at the mouth once that escapement goal is
9 reached.

10

11 Let's look at these numbers a little be
12 more. We can see the yellow dashes there are 10 year
13 average so last couple of years they'll be kind of near
14 that value. 2020 of course was a pretty bad year for
15 not just McLees, but across the region here for sockeye
16 salmon and we'll talk a little bit more here about this
17 current year for 2022 as we go because it had a couple
18 little quirks to it.

19

20 So with that quirk in mind this is our
21 chart looking at the 2022 McLees Lake sockeye run
22 timing. I'll start with the yellow line, that would be
23 our historical percent of cumulative escapement. And
24 you go across the X axis on the bottom there, it's
25 going by date. So we typically install the weir
26 sometime the first week of June and it operates until
27 the end of July. And then the blue bars there are
28 going to represent the escapement each day. So if we
29 pass 10 sockeye one day or five the next day or on our
30 big day there we got almost 3,000 sockeye. So you can
31 see how it kind of bounced around quite a bit during
32 the course of the run. Now if you look at the black
33 dashes there that's for our 2002 percent of the
34 cumulative escapement. And if you look over to the
35 right Y axis it correlates with those numbers right
36 there. So what we're trying to show here basically is
37 if you compare that yellow line to the black dashes,
38 the run this year was incredibly late. And actually
39 about a week before that July 1st regulatory date that
40 we use to put out the markers, we're only at 1 percent
41 of the historic run for that date. And so with that in
42 mind we actually did put out a special executive order
43 which put out those 500 yard markers early just to help
44 to maintain what few fish were passing at that time.

45

46 That being said it was not great for a
47 few weeks there when there was very few fish and
48 afforded little fishing opportunity for the residents,
49 but later in July, I think July 10th, a whole mass, a
50

0361

1 swarm of sockeye showed up all of a sudden. And you
2 can see there's a big spike there a couple days after
3 they arrived on I think July 13th those fish after
4 staging made one big push and then a couple weeks later
5 it's kind of a similar story when we had a big push of
6 sockeye that showed up and pushed through as well. So
7 sometime kind of mid July there was when we finally hit
8 our sustainable escapement goal of 10,000 and we were
9 able to reduce those regulatory markers.

10

11 And this is a photo, I'm not sure if
12 it's in the version of the book, it might be a more
13 recent one, but this photo was taken on July 10th, this
14 is by the gentleman who does our drone surveys out
15 there and we're also doing some drone surveys out at
16 McLees that I can talk about more later. But I got a
17 very excited call from our technicians one morning that
18 finally after several weeks of just looking at the
19 water a whole bunch of salmon were finally there. And
20 so we're looking at a few thousand sockeye just
21 downstream of the weir and at this point we're just
22 kind of waiting for them to finally pass through that
23 weir and count for the escapement values there.

24

25 There's another shot here looking at
26 our two main technicians and then the ANSEP intern that
27 we had out there as well. You can see a little pile of
28 sockeye off to the left of them and if you look closely
29 those sockeye have some little disk tags that the
30 technicians were putting in them. We acquired some
31 special AKS funding to do a mark recapture study and
32 we're going to -- with the drone surveys we did at
33 McLees basically to see how many of those tags that we
34 can find. And again these drone surveys are kind of a
35 more newer experimental technology and so the mark
36 recapture study is a more validated ecological method.
37 And so we're hoping that by incorporating those we can
38 kind of help to validate our drone surveys further and
39 see just how accurate they are compared to the other
40 survey methods that we use.

41

42 Also I'd point out that the technicians
43 there are standing in and around the trap, that's where
44 the salmon would go into so that they can collect them.
45 And you can kind of see there's right in the middle
46 there is kind of a measuring board they'll use to do
47 their measurements. And on the top left you've got a
48 couple of pictures through a microscope looking at our
49 sockeye scales which I'll age in Kodiak later on this
50

0362

1 winter to see how old the sockeye are, how many years
2 they spent in freshwater and saltwater.

3

4

5 And with that in mind this chart is
6 showing you the age composition for those McLees
7 sockeye for the years we have those data available. So
8 we can see that in general McLees tend to be dominated
9 by what we would call one/three sockeye so these are
10 sockeye which spend one year in the freshwaters of
11 McLees, they'll migrate out to the ocean and then
12 they'll spend three years out in the ocean before they
13 return back to spawn. 2020 is kind of an exception
14 there, that was the year that had that really bad kind
15 of run failure. Those one/threes didn't come back
16 nearly as strong. So mostly likely something to do
17 with the ocean conditions and if you heard about the
18 blob that was occurring back in 2016/2017, that
19 probably had an impact on those salmon and whether or
20 not they got back. And I'll just mention that if you
21 look at 2022 it says N equals 772 and that's just a
22 sample size for how many of those scales our
23 technicians were able to collect and those are what
24 I'll age later on this winter. And hopefully by the
25 next RAC meeting I can provide you an update of how the
26 2022 age composition looked. And now a great
27 correlation between the run size and what the age class
28 is here in the situation and also kind of unfortunate
29 we don't have that 2018/2019 data as well to draw on to
30 see what was going on there and what it could possibly
31 tell us for the next couple of years here.

31

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There's a couple of quick mentions. We also do perform some limnology at the lake, mostly doing some plankton tows and YSI measurements of temperature and oxygen throughout the water column there. And in general as kind of a long story short, those measurements that we've been taking over the last decade don't show anything too crazy or new, they seem to be pretty stable for the most part.

OSM and ARRI have also engaged in kind of some longer term temperature monitoring projects. If you look in the bottom left there's a little black thing and in the hand is a HOBO unit and those take continuous temperature measurements either in the water or on land. On the far left there you can see a picture of the most beautiful outhouse in the Aleutians and that little kind of white honeycomb thing there is where the air temperature logger is. And then we had

0363

1 two different HOBO loggers deployed in the water and
2 they were in place for a little over one year. So
3 where usually for limnology we just get a couple of
4 measurements every summer, those HOBO loggers were
5 going continuously 24/seven for over a year so it gives
6 a better snapshot of kind of the yearly fluctuation
7 there for temperature.

8
9 And I just want to say thank you to all
10 of our partners, OC Corporation leases us the land,
11 they were a really critical help, they gave us this
12 massive landing craft to take up several tons of
13 construction supplies to refurbish our facilities. If
14 you look at that far left picture that is how our cabin
15 looked when we showed up in 2020 after a few years of
16 the weir not being in operation and suffice to say it
17 wasn't really liveable. Rats had chewed through the
18 sides, the roof there was caving in, the heater did not
19 work, the outhouse that was there was totally blown
20 over.

21
22 Jarred, you can click again. That's
23 show us how the cabin is looking after this year when
24 we were able to get some new plywood up, T1-11 siding,
25 we did a new roof a couple years ago and we have like a
26 real window in place for the ocean facing side of that
27 cabin as well, it's not some kind of rinky-dink
28 fiberglass thing that they had in there before. So our
29 technicians greatly appreciate that, it keeps them
30 warmer and happier and keeps them around and will
31 hopefully help us keep recruiting the same people back
32 and back year after year.

33
34 I also want to mention that the
35 Qawalangin Tribe did a great job in helping us to
36 recruit an ANSEP intern, Emily, who's got -- she's
37 originally from Bethel and has Yup'ik family and she
38 was a great help, she kind of showed up, got really
39 into all the sampling, learned a whole bunch from our
40 technicians and she can kind of take all that knowledge
41 she learned about the sampling and send them back with
42 her. I believe she's a biology major who will be the
43 kind of folks that hopefully in the future here.

44
45 And on the far right just a quick shout
46 out to Mark Witteveen who made the trip all the way out
47 from Kodiak and gave some special training on the
48 tagging that was going on and also helped to finish up
49 the installation of a new weather port and some other
50

0364

1 odds and ends out there. So thank you to Mark for his
2 help in doing that.

3

4 And with that I will take any questions
5 that anybody has.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
8 Tyler. Any comments or questions for Tyler.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, Pat.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: I am overwhelmed, that is
15 fantastic. I mean, it just is so super compared to
16 trying to fly that system in a Grumman Goose. That's
17 just incredible. I think the partnership with the
18 Qawalangin Tribe is just super, I mean, that's the way
19 we need to be working on escapements all over the
20 place. And great report.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tyler.

23

24 MR. LAWSON: Yeah. So I need to make
25 sure I give a special shout out to Chris Price and the
26 Qawalangin Tribe. Sorry, I'm trying to be concise
27 here, but they're probably the most important people.
28 So a big thank you to Chris, he kind of moved mountains
29 to help us get that landing craft and get all that
30 stuff out there. And he's played a really big role in
31 all this so he's kind of humble in talking about it,
32 but he deserves a lot of credit for the success of this
33 project. In addition Chandra Poe with the Tribe and
34 the Tribe also kind of stepped up this year and offered
35 a lot of logistical support at Dutch Harbor which can
36 be challenging out there as you can imagine. So they
37 helped out Fish and Game with some of that on the
38 ground stuff. So thank you to those guys especially.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
41 if you could back up one slide. So the young lady down
42 there in the red hat in the far left corner, that is
43 Chris' daughter.

44

45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: My cousin.

46

47 MR. LAWSON: Yeah. I'll just add that
48 she is incredible as well. She's been the technician
49 for three years and it's great to have her on the Fish

50

0365

1 and Game Staff because we walk around Dutch Harbor and
2 she's just like this rock star that everybody loves and
3 they're all thrilled that Kanesia's out there, that the
4 DFW here in -- yeah, kind of -- it's good for morale
5 and people are kind of happy to see her out there when
6 they do go fishing out there. So we're really grateful
7 to have Kanesia on our team.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, thank you.
10 And thank you, Chris. And you should be proud, your
11 daughter's pretty amazing and you have a lot to be
12 proud of and she's just a wonderful girl.

13

14 Thank you for the report, that's a
15 great report. Any other comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good job in
20 collaboration.

21

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

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
26 Natasha.

27

28 MS. HAYDEN: I apologize, but I have
29 got to go. I've got another commitment coming up at
30 5:30. I just want to express my gratitude to everybody
31 who made the trip and put in all the time and effort in
32 this meeting.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
35 Natasha. And I'm glad you were able to hang in there,
36 this meeting's been a pretty tough one. We're getting
37 a lot accomplished and I appreciate your effort.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 All right, Tyler.....

42

43 MS. HAYDEN: All right. Take care.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You too.

46

47 MS. HAYDEN: See you soon.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You too. Okay.

50

0366

1 Sounds good. Aleut Community of Saint Paul, activity
2 report to the Council. Looks like it says Lauren Divine.

3

4 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: She's on
5 the phone.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Lauren, are you
8 online?

9

10 MS. DIVINE: I am, Madame Chair. Can
11 you hear me?

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I can hear you,
14 Lauren. Go ahead.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Lauren, are you
19 still there?

20

21 MS. DIVINE: Okay. I am. And thank
22 you. I apologize, it's -- I know it's been a very long
23 day, I've been on the phone listening to all of the
24 exciting discussions and what we've been doing. My
25 name is Lauren Divine and I direct the Ecosystem
26 Conservation Office for the Aleut Community of Saint
27 Paul Island. I was asked to bring an issue that we
28 have been trying to work through within our tribal
29 council, we're the tribal government of Saint Paul, for
30 quite a while and it was recommended that this might be
31 an issue that would be of interest to this Council.
32 And we have contacted and talked with several
33 representatives at Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
34 we also have PBX (indiscernible - distortion) our
35 village corporation as a landowner. We've had
36 conversations with that organization as well as
37 landowners on Saint Paul Island that include the
38 National Oceanic Administration, NOAA. and the U.S.
39 Fish and Wildlife Service owns land as part of the
40 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

41

42 I don't have a very clear ask as I'm
43 not super familiar with the -- this Subsistence
44 Advisory Council process. And we have been interested
45 in getting more involved and so I think my ask is to
46 seek input on this issue. I'll be as quick as I can
47 because I know it is getting late in the day and
48 members might have to drop off soon.

49

50

1 But just quickly we have a opportunity
2 for our tribal members subsistence marine mammal
3 hunters, mostly hunting steller sea lion and northern
4 fur seals during the winter months on Saint Paul. We
5 have several locations that are accessible to animals
6 and these are animals that are critical for salmon
7 assisted subsistence during the winter months. So we
8 have some high harvesters of marine mammals who often
9 have the same and additional hunters that are taking
10 winter ducks for subsistence. We have harlequin ducks,
11 long-tail, we have geese, we have eiders and we have
12 users in our community, tribal member users, that
13 really rely on these resources to feed their families
14 throughout the winter. We also are a popular location
15 for maybe a few dozen nonresident duck hunting
16 individuals that come through from all over the U.S.
17 going through a bicompany that rents housing and then
18 bring in their own equipment, zodiac vessels, to get
19 out onto the water and they -- this also bring in
20 nonresident hunters.

21
22 In more recent years we've had a build
23 up of negative interactions between nonresidents
24 hunters that are coming in with their partner,
25 Jefferson James duck stamp, to hunt specifically for
26 trophy eiders, but also other ducks are taken and other
27 birds are taken, waterfowl. And these interactions can
28 be tense as subsistence hunters are approached in their
29 hunting blinds in areas where -- or shorelines where
30 nonresident hunters also want to occupy to be able to
31 duck hunt. We've had several dangerous situations that
32 have required (indiscernible - distortion) of some of
33 these groups from very remote locations of the island
34 offshore.

35
36 And we've struggled to interact
37 correctly with the groups that are out there, you know,
38 in and out very quickly, there's a nonresident guide
39 service that brings people in. We have had
40 conversations with the guides, they're lovely when we
41 speak with them in person, but we have been seeking to
42 maybe improve the education and outreach component that
43 might be undertaken or required in some way and look at
44 any way that we could work with the landholders to
45 require specific areas to be used or not used as
46 priority subsistence hunting grounds or blinds. And we
47 just aren't sure the proper process for getting those
48 kinds of actions undertaken and what the process might
49 be and were recommended to bring this issue to this
50

0368

1 Council as a way to figure this out with us.

2

3

4 We did produce a tribal brochure that
5 explains the importance of subsistence hunting on Saint
6 Paul, provides maps with very important hunting
7 vacations recommends how, you know, specific behaviors
8 and how to respect subsistence hunters in the area and
9 the culture and traditional ways of life that are --
10 that hunting embodies. And to extend to nonresidents
11 of the more understanding of the importance of not
12 asking hunters to leave their blinds or occupying
13 blinds that hunters need to be occupying to be able to
14 hunt marine mammals. We've even had a few unfortunate
15 incidents of brandishing firearms or pointing, you
16 know, shotguns at subsistence hunters which our tribal
17 council's very justifiably, you know, concerned about.
18 And short of developing this tribal brochure, we are
19 editing it now, we're trying to put the best thing
20 forward to ADF&G and ask them to give this to hunters
21 that might be applying for duck stamps, make it
22 available if there are hunters that indicate they're
23 coming to Saint Paul. We've asked if this educational
24 brochure could be given out to all these people, but we
25 don't quite know how to track something like that and I
26 was wondering what else we could do hoping maybe you've
27 had some kind of situation like this in the past that
28 you've advised on or worked with tribes on.

28

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And that's kind of my overview. I'll
end it there and see if I can answer any questions or
agency input on this issue.

Thank you so much.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
Lauren. Just out of curiosity the people, is it --
you're under Alaska Marine Maritime and Marine Mammals.
Marine mammals would be -- let's see, but you've done
the birds. Okay. So we -- and somebody's going to
have to help us out with jurisdiction on the land issue
here. And then we've got a couple -- a number of
marine mammals and migratory birds and I'm not sure
where we're at with subsistence as far as Federal lands
if that's under Alaska Maritime. Does anybody want to
help out with that?

Jeff, are you online?

MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair, Jeff

0369

1 Williams. Can you hear me fine?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can hear you
4 good. Go ahead.

5

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Just a point
7 of clarification. So some of the land for Unalaska,
8 three major landowners, the tribe, the -- NOAA has
9 significant holdings there, you know, and Alaska
10 Maritime Refuge also does. So the subsistence rules
11 would apply certainly on those Alaska Maritime lands
12 and the NOAA lands which are really just (indiscernible
13 - distortion) are also Federal lands so they apply on
14 those lands too.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, for Saint
17 Paul. Yes.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: That's correct for both
20 islands.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think I wish
23 we would have had a letter or something, Lauren, before
24 this meeting to try to figure out.....

25

26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Maybe she
27 can submit it from the tribe.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. Maybe if
30 you can submit a letter for the winter, we've got this
31 on record.

32

33 MS. DIVINE: Yes.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Also.....

36

37 MS. DIVINE: I could. Absolutely.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And we also have
40 someone on our Council that is involved with migratory
41 birds. I think that she'd be very helpful in this
42 process too because the issue that I think you're
43 talking about has to do with the hunting of birds
44 basically and also the potential illegal interactions
45 which I'm not exactly even sure who that would go to,
46 but there appear to be a number of issues here that
47 need to be resolved and not only for the community
48 safety issues, but.....

49

50

0370

1 So the -- I'm also curious, this is
2 Della, that people that are taking these hunters out,
3 are they a nonresident of the community?

4
5 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's what she
6 said.

7
8 MS. DIVINE: That is correct.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
11 you. Yeah, it would be really helpful I think if you
12 can get a letter, send it to Lisa, I think, at her
13 email and then we can start looking at the process. In
14 the interim between now and the winter meeting I think
15 we can kind of take some time to look at this and
16 figure out who we need to forward the letter to so
17 we're able to address some of your concerns at our
18 winter meeting in Kodiak.

19
20 And while we have you on the phone you
21 might want to fill out an application for -- we've got
22 a few Council openings.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We used to have
27 Richard Sahara many years ago.

28
29 MS. DIVINE: Thank you. I
30 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech) I did not want to
31 admit (indiscernible - distortion) I have been trying
32 to convince some of our residents, I am no longer a
33 resident of Saint Paul, I reside in Anchorage for most
34 of the year and so I'm not sure if I qualify, but we
35 have been trying to get full-time residents to apply
36 for the position. I will speak with them.

37
38 Again I apologize for not having
39 something written, I didn't quite know what the proper
40 route would be for this kind of issue, it is a complex
41 issue, we have been talking to our co-management
42 council, but recommend a lot of different interested
43 parties and stakeholders that would be in --
44 necessarily involved in this. And so I will submit
45 more written documentation for that, maybe it will be
46 easier for the group to kind of see all the
47 complexities and may be able to help with this.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
50

0371

1 you, Lauren. Any other comments or questions for
2 Lauren.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat Holmes.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Again you're very precise
9 in your presentation and outlining the problems and
10 discussions, it's really good. Have you considered the
11 tribe and the community approaching -- if the major
12 landowners are Federal, they're required to consult
13 with you folks, have you talked with them about land
14 use permits or access permits, letter of understanding
15 on how those things would be -- nonresidents would be
16 utilizing those areas and that might give you a little
17 more strength in presenting your arguments to the
18 nonresident entrepreneurs.

19

20 MS. DIVINE: Yeah. Thank you for that
21 question. I -- we have discussed this with members of
22 PBX and other corporations and through NOAA as a co-
23 manager of marine mammals (indiscernible - distortion).
24 Many of these permits I believe it has to go through
25 our village corporation, but I think that is something
26 that we could look at and I'm happy to explore that
27 option between now and the winter meeting and perhaps
28 maybe have a little bit more information in writing to
29 be able to provide you on that as well, I can explore
30 that as a potential option.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
33 you, Lauren, and we'll be in touch. Appreciate you
34 taking time.

35

36 MS. DIVINE: Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

39

40 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi, I want to thank you
41 for calling in with this. I have a few comments. I
42 think that if we can submit letters anywhere I think
43 it's a good idea stating like concerns of conflict and
44 interference in subsistence, things like that. With
45 the fish with the guides I think you can report
46 probably to the big game guide organization as well as
47 enforcement, whoever enforces with that. I'm not quite
48 sure how it works, but I think a particular number of
49 particular level of conflicts will get them ejected

50

0372

1 from the area. So that's kind of another route to go.
2 I know in our area there was a guide, a bear guide, and
3 he got ejected from one of the Parks on the mainland
4 because he was harassing other hunters. So I think
5 that's an option also. So that would be like reporting
6 to Fish and Game particularly and the big game guides.

7
8
9 And then as far as the birds go the
10 hunting -- when you would have interference with
11 hunters would be the fall sport hunt. So while we
12 don't take up any fall hunting issues usually, in -- we
13 do take up issues of interfering in subsistence. And
14 there of course are proposals you could submit to the
15 AMBCC also.

16
17 There is also a sea lion and I think
18 sea lion and seal commission. You could if your
19 hunters are having issues with those sorts of hunting
20 things and interference with duck hunters, nonresident,
21 you can report to them also.

22
23 And that's all.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
26 Coral. Okay. I think we will continue -- oh, Pat.

27
28 MR. HOLMES: Very briefly, I don't know
29 if he still is, but one of our very active Council
30 members is a guide in Kodiak, Sam Roher [sic], R-O-H-E-
31 R [sic]. If you want to get in contact with me I can
32 get you his numbers, but he may still be the chairman
33 of the State Guides Association. And so being as he's
34 a Council member he would understand those types of
35 problem as well as the things from the professional
36 guide service. And if he doesn't he would know who
37 would, who you could contact. So I will -- once I get
38 a way to connect with you I'll get his phone numbers
39 for you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
42 you. And I think, Pat, once we get the letter we can
43 forward that to all our Council members and Sam will be
44 on that list.

45
46 All right. We are going to move on.
47 12B, Fish and Wildlife Service Maritime National
48 Wildlife Refuge activity report to the Council, Jeff
49 Williams, supplemental tab four.
50

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame
2 Chairman and members of the Council. My name's Jeff
3 Williams, I'm the Deputy Refuge Manager for the Alaska
4 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. I want to respect
5 your time, I'll be brief. I've picked just a few kind
6 of highlights of things that the -- of the many things
7 that the Refuge is doing that might be of interest to
8 the Council, we'll spend a few minutes on that. It's
9 on tab four on your supplemental materials and report.

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First, one of the last meetings we had with the Council there was a fair bit of discussion on Adak caribou herd. And the Refuge got a group of folks together, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Refuge Staff and Adak member. We had a teleconference on March 1st and I had a good discussion, great presentation by ADF&G with its (indiscernible - distortion) management plan, opportunity for community members to ask questions. It went very well, there was a big (indiscernible - distortion) and I think it provided a common ground for everyone to kind of understand with key information on topics and provided a good forum for the public to provide input on that. As a result of that the hunters are aware of a lot of the logistics that happen in the region.

We made arrangements with the Alaska Volcano Observatory that was going to have a helicopter out later in the summer and put them in touch with Biologists from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And everything was ready to go for a caribou count and kind of at the 11th hour the Volcano Observatory decided they didn't have enough resources to push west with their helicopter and so they kept it in eastern Aleutians and so we weren't able to complete a count of caribou at thistime. And those opportunities come up -- well, opportunities to (indiscernible - distortion) and we will continue to look for those opportunities and work with Alaska Department of Fish and Game to do that. But we don't have any new information to provide on the Adak caribou herd as far as numbers or crossing.

An area that could be another topic of interest is the continuing feasibility study for the removal of rodents in Refuge land where primarily rats have been introduced. And this year a team of USDA researchers and people from Island Conservation and even later in the year the Alaska Department of Fish

1 and Game who I recall now were able to visit the
2 island, but the researchers earlier were able to spend
3 about two weeks on the island and they studied topics
4 such as bait degradation. That's (indiscernible -
5 distortion) it's just kind of a formulation of how long
6 bait would persist if rat eradication was to be
7 conducted, they looked at movement in freshwater also
8 without the (indiscernible - distortion) just a
9 formulation of what we would need. Fish presence in
10 streams and lakes, deposition of the rat carcasses and
11 distribution in upland areas when they were trapped on
12 the snapshot (indiscernible - distortion) and rat
13 habitats around the island. out of the fold. The Great
14 Sitkin is a huge volcano, over 5,000 feet tall, lots of
15 different habitats and things to explore. It's in the
16 areas where eradication has happened -- has been
17 attempted in the past and so we don't have a good
18 handle on that. The result of those studies are just
19 kind of being worked up and it's winter and so
20 hopefully we'll have something later that can be
21 distributed at a later time.

22

23 Seabird monitoring. We're happy to say
24 that we were able to visit all of our eight sites for
25 the first time in a couple of years because of covid
26 and it's great to be out. Seabirds are indicators of
27 what happens in the environment, they're upper level
28 predators of a lot of different species out in the
29 ocean, but they go out and forage from a central place
30 and sample what's happening in the environment and
31 indirectly they can learn what happened in that marine
32 environment to the health, population, abundance,
33 speed, survival of the species. So we did it at
34 (indiscernible - distortion), we had camps on Saint
35 Paul, Saint George, we had camps in the (indiscernible-
36 distortion) conditions at Ikpak by Unimak Pass,
37 Chowiet southwest of Kodiak in the (indiscernible -
38 distortion) and all the way outwest in (indiscernible -
39 distortion) the Aleutian chain. It didn't appear that
40 there were large problems within the environment this
41 year. Staff are still seriously working by the end of
42 next week to get things together. We have an awesome
43 report card that we may be able to distribute
44 (indiscernible - distortion) it's just a simple one
45 page report card of all of the different species that
46 forage all across Alaska, they forage on the surface,
47 at depths, on different fish and on zooplankton. So
48 they'll provide this great picture of what's happening.
49 We're compiling that now, we'll be able to distribute
50

1 that in the near future.

2

3

4 Culture camp. We're super excited to
5 continue our long term support to tribal events and
6 also through participation from our environmental and
7 education Staff and through culture camp at Sand Point,
8 in the Pribilof Islands and also at Unalaska. This
9 year the Izembek Staff just did a -- went to camp,
10 culture camp, at Sand Point we're happy to say and that
11 would be awesome if (indiscernible -distortion) step
12 things up in the future (indiscernible - distortion)
13 and some of our folks who have been going up since
14 (indiscernible - distortion) were able to work with the
15 Izembek crew also on that.

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So great program, super well received
and we really enjoy doing it, it's a big part of our
program and we look forward to continuing our
participation in the camps in the future.

And one other thing, our Refuge vessel,
the research vessel Tiglax. And (indiscernible -
distortion) 36 years now and so we have a significant
contract in place now for it to go to a shipyard in
Seattle basically one year from today pretty much so in
early October next year we hope to be in the shipyard
and replace all the major components that
(indiscernible - distortion) are well past their time
to be replaced there. The aging effects the
refrigeration, the navigation. The ultimate goal is
for conservation and to keep it moving safely. So we
(indiscernible - distortion) moving 10 miles -- 10
knots rather, it's gone from earth, around the moon and
all the way back in 36 years all at 10 knots.

Those are the main highlights I thought
would be of interest to the Council. I'd be happy to
answer any questions on our work, on any of the topics.
And we just did have a follow-up from Lauren's talk
before there on Saint Paul. There are no permitted or
-- that is under a special use permit guide activities
allowed on the Island of Saint Paul. See us, Alaska
Maritime Refuge so if some of these activities are
occurring on Refuge land (indiscernible - distortion)
and if they did occur we certainly have enforcement
capabilities for that and we should be giving
subsistence uses priority concern and we also have
(indiscernible - distortion) law enforcement, but also
through the permit process (indiscernible -

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1 distortion). So even better if you can address where
2 things happen on the Island, that would be super
3 helpful.

4
5 Through the Chair. That's all I have.
6 I'm happy to answer any questions if any of you with
7 the Council have any.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Jeff.
12 Are there any comments or questions for Jeff, Unalaska
13 Maritime.

14
15 Pat.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Jeff, I'd like to
18 compliment you on your report, that's very illuminating
19 to know what's going on there. And your science and
20 culture camps are great. And I think you're helping
21 out the folks at Saint Paul with their problems, I
22 think that'll be splendid. And I'd like to thank you
23 again for a few years back when you took the folks from
24 Atka, particularly the folks with the Attu relatives
25 out to Attu so they could go to the old village site.
26 A couple folks I ran into, they're just still talking
27 about it as being incredible reconnection to their
28 tribal and family past.

29
30 So thanks a bunch.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
33 Coral.

34
35 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, thank you for your
36 report. I just want to ask about do you have like
37 population surveys for rats in the Aleutians or are
38 they particularly on.....

39
40 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm sorry, the
41 connection is a little -- is dropping kind of every
42 other word. Could you repeat the question, please.

43
44 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I had questions
45 about do you have -- have you had population surveys of
46 the rats that you're talking about eradicating and what
47 are those numbers?

48
49 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't have the numbers
50

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1 right now, but there are -- there were transects that
2 were run through different types of habitat and from
3 that they can stratify the different types of habitat
4 and the number of trapped mice in capture
5 (indiscernible - distortion) based on area. But I
6 don't have those right now, but if you see one there's
7 a lot more, right so many thousands upon thousands of
8 rats on the climate of Great Sitkin which is somewhere
9 in the vicinity of 27,000 acres right now which is
10 (indiscernible - distortion). So it's really just a
11 feasibility study right now, is it possible
12 (indiscernible - distortion) freshwater environment on
13 bald eagles in the area, top level predator, if they
14 sat on carcasses. So it's really just -- it's not a
15 foregone conclusion, it is a fact finding activity to
16 inform future decisions.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Jeff.
21 Thank you for your report.

22

23 With time constraints we'll go ahead
24 and move on to the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
25 activity report, Mike Brady and supplemental tab number
26 5.

27

28 MR. BRADY: Good evening, everyone.
29 This is Mike, I'm the Refuge Manager here. For time's
30 sake I'll go through quickly and just try to hit some
31 of the highlights and take any questions that folks
32 have.

33

34 On page 1 we are still trying to do our
35 Akalura Creek salmon escapement weir. And Bill hopes
36 to get some data and Kevin to you guys on the next RAC
37 meeting. But it appears to be a decline there.

38

39 We did complete with ADF&G -- let's
40 see, go down the page, the brown bear survey, we are
41 seeing a dip, but it's not a significant dip. And this
42 year we did the Karluk area for the intensive area
43 survey for bears.

44

45 For mountain goats we did -- we have
46 got the data in even though it's kind of preliminary.
47 Twenty-three kids per hundred adults and that's
48 slightly lower than the last two years which was
49 between 26 and 29 so we are seeing a slight dip in the
50

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1 amount of kids per adults in the mountain goat
2 population. We do that with ADF&G as well.

3

4 Robin did the nearshore bird survey
5 this year was from Viekoda to Middle Cape and it's a
6 three year rotation and that area was in this year's
7 rotation.

8

9 We started a puffin project on -- a new
10 puffin project on page 6 and that's with OSU. And
11 that's going to be looking at horned and tufted puffin.

12

13 If we go down to visitors services I'll
14 just alert you that we did have an ANSEP student this
15 year, Ashlynn Christensen and she got to work on the
16 puffin project and some of the bird projects that we
17 have going here.

18

19 And on page 9 we did support Dig
20 Afognak, we had our salmon camp and we also did some
21 mobile classrooms and got to Old Harbor, Ouzinkie and
22 Port Lions this year. Hope to do some more -- go back
23 to the southern area and do Old Harbor and Akhiok and
24 Larsen Bay next year.

25

26 And the other thing I really wanted to
27 let you folks know was that we did finally get a law
28 enforcement officer. We haven't had an officer here
29 since 2017. And James Reynolds started on May 30th.
30 So he's been out in the field quite a bit and
31 interacting with the Troopers and the Coast Guard and
32 figuring out his way around. So that was of great
33 interest.

34

35 The Deputy position did close, the
36 Refuge Manager Deputy. I've been without a Deputy for
37 almost a year and a half now. And that position just
38 closed so hopefully I'll have a Deputy as well soon.

39

40 So that's all I have to report, but I'm
41 willing to take any questions you might have.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mike.
44 Any questions for Mike.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

49

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1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Good report, you
2 folks cover a lot of ground with pretty limited Staff
3 and all the cutbacks you had. And I think it's great
4 that you've got a new ranger. It seems to me 25 years
5 ago that you had two. So it's hard you've gotten
6 cutback on that. And I just really appreciate all the
7 things that you do with the various communities on
8 Kodiak and interaction with the Department.

9
10 I have one question or comment on the
11 mountain goats and the slight decline in kids per
12 hundred. That perhaps is desirable isn't it because
13 I've been on the Mountain Goat Study Group since it
14 started and that was part of their rationale in trying
15 to modify State regs to allow hunting of females or two
16 goats at the same time when they're on a hunt. So I
17 think that might be a positive -- slight positive
18 reflection that might help the habitat down in the
19 islands where the mountain goats have moved into in
20 recent years.

21
22 Thank you, Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
25 Any more comments.

26
27 MR. BRADY: Yeah, I think we would
28 agree with you, Pat, but it's one data point.....

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

31
32 MR. BRADY:and we'll wait and see
33 what the data -- what the next few years show us.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mike.
36 And it definitely is encouraging to hear this increase
37 in Staff after the last couple years. Encouraging.

38
39 All right. We are going to move on.
40 Izembek Refuge.

41
42 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: You're on
43 either tab five or six. I think we're on -- for those
44 that are online and want to look at their supplemental
45 materials.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Maria,
50

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1 Leticia and Alison. We'll go ahead and start with you,
2 Maria.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

MS. FOSADO: Good evening, Madame
7 Chair, members of the Council. Thank you for having us
8 here. You have three of our four permanent Staff in
9 front of you. We will be reporting on our next --
10 excuse me, on our activities and we're going to tag
11 team so I'll report on the subsistence and the outreach
12 and Alison, our new -- well, relatively new Wildlife
13 Biologist will report out on all the biological
14 activities.

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So our 2022/2023 Federal subsistence
caribou hunt is currently ongoing, it started August
1st and runs through September 30th. The second half
of the season runs from November 15th through March
31st of 2023. The dates do run concurrently with the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game sport hunt and after
consultation with ADF&G they supported us continuing to
mirror the State resident harvest regulations. The
harvest limit of caribou in unit 9D is three per
hunter. And to date as I mentioned the season is still
ongoing and we have not received any harvest reports.

For unit 10 the residents of Cold Bay
and Nelson Lagoon have been added to the Federal
registration hunt, that is unit 10, Unimak Island. The
hunt period runs from August 1st through September
30th. In consultation with ADF&G we did increase the
hunter harvest from a total of five bulls to 10 bulls
in unit 10 and we have issued -- excuse me, we have
sent 15 permits to the community. At this point I'm
not sure how many have been issued and we have not
received any harvest reports to date.

MS. WILLIAMS: All right. Good
evening, Madame Chair and members of the Council. For
the record my name is Alison Williams. So first I will
report on our winter, 2022 caribou survey. Izembek
conducted the annual winter survey of the Southern
Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd on game management unit
9D from the 26th to the 28th of February, 2022. In
total we observed 1,055 caribou in the range of the
SAPCH. The population estimate has fluctuated widely
over time as has the number of caribou that have been
counted during the winter survey. The results from

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1 2022 further demonstrate the dynamic nature of this
2 herd as the count is lower than the last winter of
3 2,091 which was last conducted in 2020. For a highly
4 dynamic population such as caribou these high inter-
5 annual variability in counts may not be as important as
6 the long term population trend. While all winter
7 counts since the high in 2002 have been at or around or
8 below 2,000. The long term trend over the past 18
9 years has been relatively stable.

10

11 Furthermore since the fall composition
12 count on this herd was not able to be completed in 2021
13 the age composition and structure for this population
14 is not precisely known. However the fall, 2020
15 composition survey suggested that the calf to cow ratio
16 was moderately high, it was estimated at 32 calves per
17 a hundred cows and the bull to cow ratios have been in
18 excess of the target since 2011. And they've been
19 anywhere from 40 to 62 bulls per hundred cows. So
20 without these known metrics it's difficult to
21 understand how the population may be changing, but
22 known data suggests that the herd is still in a
23 relatively healthy status.

24

25 Some incidental wildlife observations
26 during our survey included 10 moose including a cow
27 with two calves.

28

29 A survey was also planned for Unimak
30 Island to survey the Unimak Caribou Herd, but it was
31 unable to be completed due to weather and time
32 constraints. Izembek plans to survey Unimak Island and
33 the southern Alaska Peninsula for caribou again in the
34 winter of 2022 and '23.

35

36 And our figure 1 here shows the winter
37 counts that Izembek has conducted since 1986 and
38 demonstrates how variable they can be over time.

39

40 Our next survey is the annual tundra
41 swan population survey that we conduct. We completed
42 the tundra swan population survey in May 21st through
43 the 23rd and the survey covers the wetlands on the
44 Alaska Peninsula south of Herendeen Bay. So over the
45 entire area we observed a total of 1,003 swans which
46 was higher than the count in 2021. Within the area of
47 Izembek Refuge the 2022 total count was lower and the
48 proportion of breeding pairs was lower than in 2021.
49 However north of Izembek the total count of swans was
50

1 higher and the proportion of breeding pairs was similar
2 to the 2021 count indicating that there were more
3 flocked and nonbreeding birds in the area than there
4 were in 2021.

5
6 We also had some effort focused on
7 highly pathogenic avian influenza. In May of 2022 we
8 received several reports of sick, dead and dying birds
9 around Izembek Lagoon that were exhibiting some
10 neurological symptoms. We conducted a survey of
11 multiple beaches in the area and found some dead brant,
12 emperor geese and glaucous gulls. Fresh carcasses were
13 collected, one brant and one glaucous gull and they
14 were sent to the Alaska State Veterinarian's Office for
15 testing for avian influenza. Both of these carcasses
16 were confirmed to have H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic
17 avian influenza that's been seen across the country.
18 While no further reports were received throughout the
19 summer, several reports of sick and dead gull have come
20 through in the past few weeks and we're working on
21 investigating those.

22
23 We also conducted a breeding bird
24 survey on June 28th of this year. It's a long term and
25 international monitoring program that's operated across
26 North America and they first began at Izembek in 1993.
27 The survey covers 25 miles of roads across the Refuge
28 and through Cold Bay and is focused on documenting
29 breeding birds. During the survey we detected 31
30 unique species of birds and the observations of note
31 included one whimbrel and two Pacific golden-plovers
32 which have not previously been recorded during this
33 survey at Cold Bay.

34
35 We also were able to complete an
36 eelgrass survey of Izembek Lagoon August 13th through
37 19th of this year. This survey is a long term
38 monitoring study that is designed to assess changes in
39 the status and trends of distribution and abundance in
40 the eelgrass in the lagoon. This was the first year
41 that we've been able to do a complete survey since 2019
42 just due to the covid-19 pandemic. So Staff from the
43 USGS Alaska Science Center traveled to Izembek to
44 assist with the surveys. And during the survey we
45 visit about 118 systematically selected points across
46 the lagoon and at each of these points we record
47 information on eelgrass cover and length, seaweed
48 cover, water temperature, water salinity, water depth
49 and the presence of invertebrates. The data are
50

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1 currently being processed and analyzed by USGS
2 scientists in the Alaska Science Center.

3

4

5 We had a -- we also had some focused
6 efforts this year on looking at invasive species. So
7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff from the Invasive
8 Species Program visited Izembek from July 11th to July
9 30th of this year. During their visit we conducted
10 surveys for invasive species on and around Izembek and
11 the surrounding areas including the towns of Cold Bay
12 and King Cove. Invasive species can be an issue
13 because they compete with native plant and wildlife
14 species and disrupt the ecosystems that subsistence
15 users rely on. So during the visit to King Cove Staff
16 identified some isolated population of invasive plants
17 including creeping buttercup and oxeye daisy.

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We also set traps for crab in the areas
of high use in King Cove Harbor to survey for the
invasive European green crab which can have significant
and devastating effects on native aquatic plants and
crustaceans and which was just discovered in southeast
Alaska for the first time recently. During our efforts
no green crabs or sign of green crabs were detected.

Cold Bay was previously known to have
populations of creeping thistle and orange hawkweed as
well as oxeye daisy. And so during the 2022 field
season we also identified a few isolated populations of
the creeping buttercup. So during July the Invasive
Species Program Staff began treatments on the creeping
thistle, the orange hawkweed and on some of the oxeye
daisy. These treatments will continue through 2024
under the direction of the Invasive Species Program.
Since these populations are relatively small in scale
and isolated addressing them over the next few years
offers the possibility of eradication within Cold Bay.

We also conducted surveys for invasive
plant species along the Cold Bay road system onto the
Refuge as well as surveys for aquatic invasives at some
of the larger lakes in the area and also did some crab
trapping along the Cold Bay pier. No evidence of green
crab or aquatic invasives were detected at this time.

MS. MELENDEZ: Madame Chair and
Council, my name is Leticia Melendez and I'm going to
touch and start our portion of the outreach. Izembek

1 National Wildlife Refuge hosts an annual migratory bird
2 calendar contest for the Aleutians East Borough schools
3 and villages. Participating villages include King
4 Cove, False Pass, Akutan, Sand Point and Cold Bay. The
5 theme for the 2023 calendar contest was Fill Your Bill,
6 the Neat Beaks of Alaska's Migratory Birds. Residents
7 in the community of Cold Bay volunteer each year to
8 participate in the local judging. This year we had 50
9 posters, four literature submissions across four age
10 categories from which first, second and third place
11 winners were chosen. The winners were then sent to the
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office in
13 Anchorage for the Statewide contest. The State winners
14 of the contest were published in each year's calendar
15 and every student that participated received a
16 certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Fish and
17 Wildlife Service.

18
19 MS. FOSADO: For the record we're back
20 to Maria Fosado, I'm the Refuge Manager and I'll finish
21 out the outreach portion. It was previously mentioned
22 Izembek Refuge in partnership with Alaska Maritime
23 National Wildlife Refuge traveled to Sand Point to
24 assist with the annual culture camp event. It was held
25 July 11th through the -- through July 21st. The two
26 week program provided children from Sand Point and
27 other nearby communities with an experience to learn
28 about culture and natural history of the area through
29 arts and crafts, outdoor education and daily classes on
30 language, song and dance. Izembek Biological
31 Technician James Fess and volunteers Colby Banks and
32 Paige Gray assisted Alaska Maritime Park Ranger Betsy
33 Rogers. They led environmental science lessons and
34 activities on food chains and food webs, flowering
35 plants, tide pools and macroinvertebrates.

36
37 In addition Izembek Refuge hosted
38 artist in residence Lindsay Carron. She arrived in
39 Cold Bay on August 5th and came to Izembek as part of
40 an ongoing within the Refuge lands project. Ms. Carron
41 is an artist, muralist and educator. During her artist
42 in residency at Izembek Refuge she participated in a
43 week long King Cove culture camp where she immersed
44 herself in and learned about the Unangax culture and
45 traditions. Lindsay's passion for art and her
46 experience as an educator allowed her to work closely
47 with other culture camp instructors and to actively
48 engage with culture camp participants through
49 sketching, painting and nature hikes. Lindsay spent
50

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1 the remainder of her time in the community of Cold Bay
2 where she participated in Izembek Refuge fieldwork,
3 learned about the biological importance of the area and
4 spent time getting to know the community. She was
5 instrumental in facilitating a community art outreach
6 even for Cold Bay during which youth sketched and
7 painted wildlife and adults collaborated on a panoramic
8 painting for the community. And for those of you in
9 the room that poster is hanging on the back wall. So
10 that was actually a painting that materialized from
11 collaboration from local members of the community as
12 well as Lindsay's talent, she's a very talented artist.

13

14 And then moving on to the ferry tours.
15 It's a welcome return to precovid times. Izembek
16 Refuge has once again started giving Refuge tours to
17 ferry passengers traveling through on the Tustumena.
18 Izembek Staff coordinate with the Alaska Marine Highway
19 System to provide the tours.

20

21 MS. WILLIAMS: All right. For the
22 record this is Alison Williams again, Wildlife
23 Biologist for Izembek. And I am just going to talk
24 about some of the current work that we have going on as
25 well as some upcoming work.

26

27 So we had our annual brown bear stream
28 survey scheduled for late August to early September,
29 unfortunately this year we were unable to do it because
30 of the significant weather challenges we experienced
31 this year with lots of wind and rain. So we are
32 planning on trying this again next summer and are
33 excited to see what we find.

34

35 Currently we also have active efforts
36 for avian influenza monitoring. USGS Staff are here at
37 Izembek and they will be here through the end of
38 October for research and monitoring projects focused on
39 avian influenza. They are taking samples from hunter
40 harvested birds in the area as well as taking fecal
41 material samples at roosting sites and samples from
42 waterbodies to detect the presence of avian influenza.
43 These samples are then sent to Anchorage and they will
44 be tested and there's about a one to two month lead
45 time to get results back on these. And so this is more
46 to understand the prevalence of avian influenza.

47

48 One of our upcoming projects is our
49 brant age ratio or brant production survey that we do

50

0386

1 each year. The 2022, I just noticed this typo in here,
2 the brant age ratio survey is scheduled for the October
3 3rd through 14th and this will be the sixth consecutive
4 year that brant productivity data has been collected at
5 Izembek. Accurate estimates of the age composition can
6 inform the past reproductive success and future
7 population trajectories. And this is generated from
8 ground and boat based count ratios of adult to juvenile
9 birds in flocks in the Izembek Lagoon and adjacent
10 areas each fall when the birds are staging for
11 migration. These data are shared with USGS, are run
12 through a model and then shared with managers to aid in
13 management decisions. In 2021 the proportion of
14 juveniles was higher than in previous years and this
15 year the survey might be important in understanding how
16 this outbreak of avian influenza has influenced
17 nestling survival and fledgling.

18

19 I believe that concludes our report.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Much
22 appreciated, ladies. Any questions or comments for
23 Izembek.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat Holmes.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, ladies I think this
30 is a really good report and I was really impressed with
31 your outreach program and what you're doing. And
32 compared to 40, 50 years ago it's incredible and I just
33 have the feeling that you gals get more done with your
34 people than some of the other Refuges, a lot of them.
35 And I would like to also give you some support that our
36 Council will help and lobby whenever you're having
37 difficulties particularly on planes and pilots for
38 surveys because I know previous Refuge Manager have
39 been distressed, so have we, when some of the critical
40 surveys haven't happened. One thing you might bear in
41 mind and I'd probably suggest the same thing to
42 Maritime is talking sometime to the air station in
43 Kodiak because I found in my years working out here
44 that sometimes calling them up and saying well, if
45 you've got a training session it would be really nice
46 to get X amount of weir stuff to this camp, if you're
47 out in the neighborhood please give us a call or I know
48 other Biologists have hit them up for oh, if you're in
49 the area I want to go count some wolves or caribou or
50

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1 whatever. And so if they have the time and
2 availability they usually can be very helpful.

3

4 But once again thank you for what you
5 do, you ladies are great.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, yesterday before we
10 had the windows covered I was looking out the window
11 and watching the white flowers blowing in the wind and
12 I was like oh, those are nice flowers. And then today
13 after lunch I walked back and I saw these really pretty
14 pink flowers and I went and looked and I'm like oh, I
15 think those are thistles, those are really neat. So I
16 think your outreach program as far as invasive species
17 is very important because I -- you know, not knowing
18 they were invasive I was super excited at the new
19 flowers. So but all disappointed that they are
20 invasive.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
25 Rebecca. So I am going to comment on this. As -- so
26 they did come over and spend some time and I got to
27 meet with them and talk with them and then they very
28 nicely reported on invasive species in my yard.....

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:the daisies
33 and the buttercups. And so yeah, and I spend a lot of
34 time planting things outside and so I'm not too
35 thrilled that my pretty flowers are invasive. So but
36 we'll deal with that as we go soon as somebody allows
37 me time to kill. Anyway thanks for the report. The --
38 Lindsay did an amazing job in King Cove and her art
39 back there is beautiful. Her paintings didn't get in
40 there because we have issues of mail so they weren't
41 able to do the mural that they had planned in the
42 culture center, but hopefully their plan is to bring
43 her back and some point. I also did talk to her about
44 doing some sort of a painting for the King Cove
45 Corporation who is celebrating our 50th anniversary
46 this year and we plan to do something along those -- in
47 either November or early December. So we look forward
48 to hopefully getting that, but if it's not complete we
49 are still going to work with her to have something
50

0388

1 done.

2

3

4 We did get the permits and I got the
5 subsistence permits. And Leticia will tell you this
6 has been an issue, I mean, from the time we started.
7 Sometimes it gets in the mail, sometimes it doesn't,
8 sometimes it's forgotten and sometimes it -- like last
9 year we got everything in time, but not one person came
10 up and asked for a permit. So but I think we will work
11 on that. I'm trying to think, looking at April remind
12 ourselves we need these done, I need to have them, you
13 know, third week in July at the latest because I
14 actually had people in the office this year on August
15 1st. So yeah, and I didn't have anything. And she did
16 send them and of course the mail, sometimes you don't
17 get mail for two weeks. So anyway we will work on
18 that.

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I think the issues around the Unimak
caribou are very encouraging and I hope that trend
continues. I'm a little concerned on the numbers on
the caribou on 9D and I'm hoping that's just -- there's
an issue of these things being counted because it looks
like nothing was counted in the prior year to see if
there's a trend or something happening from the 2,000
to the 1,000 over 2022. So hopefully we can get some
counts done on that.

I know we've seen lots of bears this
year, lots of bears.

And so hopefully, you know, you will
get this report done. Other than that thank you for
your report, it was a good report, appreciate it.

And I will turn things over to Mr. Koso
if he has any comments.

MR. KOSO: Well, Della, I don't have
any comments. It was a good report, I thank the ladies
for that.

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

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you very
much. Good job.

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1 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sorry, Coral, go
4 ahead.

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I just want to
7 thank you all for your report and I just wanted to say
8 that the theme for the 2023 calendar, I love it, Fill
9 Your Bill, the Neat Beaks of Alaska's Migratory Birds.
10 It's great, great theme. And when do those calendars
11 come out, November or something, October?

12

13 MS. MELENDEZ: Typically they come out
14 in November, but the mailing process has been kind of
15 an issue. But to remedy that they have decided to
16 execute the middle man which would be Izembek National
17 Wildlife Refuge. They used to send us the calendars
18 and then we would count the amount of calendars for
19 each community that wanted a certain amount and then
20 we'd mail them. Now what they're doing is they're
21 sending the calendars directly to the communities and
22 so we're hoping to expedite it. So you should be
23 receiving them sometime between November, December. If
24 you don't we tell the communities that if they don't
25 have them by January to give us a call and we can track
26 them down for them.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think the only
31 thing -- before I forget because of covid there wasn't
32 a lot of traveling directly into the communities for
33 you specifically and I think it would be nice to -- you
34 know, to have you guys come to the communities and meet
35 people, you know, False Pass would be great, King Cove
36 would be great, happy to set some time. And getting
37 over to Sand Point I think is important, Nelson Lagoon.
38 We need to try to make an effort I think to be able to
39 hit people face to face and I'll be more than happy to
40 coordinate those efforts with you if you need.

41

42 MS. FOSADO: Thank you, Madame Chair,
43 members of the Council. I would absolutely take you up
44 on that offer. And I was a covid manager so I came on
45 in June of 2020 and as you mentioned travel has been
46 very limited. So now that we're returning hopefully to
47 similar precovid conditions I look forward to traveling
48 to these communities and meeting the folks in the
49 communities and seeing where folks live. I feel as
50

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1 though I've become familiar with Cold Bay, I may not,
2 you know, have spent as much time as other residents
3 here, but I have been here for a couple years now and I
4 think I have a pretty good understanding and
5 appreciation for the area.

6
7 So thank you, Della.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. You
10 broke a couple of records.....

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

15
16 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, in the report it
17 was mentioned that some dead birds were found, but no
18 numbers were given. Can -- do you have those numbers
19 and maybe explain why of the numbers only two were sent
20 off?

21
22 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Through the
23 Chair. Certainly. So it is hard to quantify and
24 understand the scale of events like this because we're
25 really only able to search small areas. So I think
26 overall we walked close to three miles of various
27 beaches and within that we found I believe nine brant,
28 two glaucous gulls and one emperor goose. And the
29 reason only two of those were collected and sent was
30 because those were the only ones that were fresh enough
31 to be tested. The other ones foxes and other predators
32 had already started to eat. And once it's degraded a
33 bit and been torn open it's really -- you're really not
34 able to get reliable results. And so and that -- just
35 because of the scale of what we saw, it appears to be
36 that those other deaths might have been similarly
37 related to these positives, but it -- it's hard to
38 know, but just because they were all in a similar area.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maria.

41
42 MS. FOSADO: Through the Chair. I just
43 wanted to add a little bit. We did receive similar
44 reports from the local communities and as Alison noted
45 a lot of the birds that we had found were too far
46 deteriorated for testing. And so and in order to get
47 the word out to the communities we did mail out -- we
48 did complete a mailing to all of our surrounding
49 communities asking individuals if they did see what
50

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1 appeared to be sick or dying birds to please let us
2 know immediately so that we could have a more rapid
3 response and possibly get and collect birds sooner and
4 increase those numbers that we could send in for
5 testing. And so I would just say if you get any
6 questions about avian influenza you can feel free to
7 provide them our office number and we can put them in
8 contact with the proper person that can answer their
9 questions. But then also if you want to spread the
10 word that if folks are still seeing dead or dying birds
11 to please let us know immediately and we'll do what we
12 can to get out and collect these samples.

13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think
17 we will move on. We've got -- Mary said we have to get
18 over there to eat at 7:00 o'clock so we are going fast.

19

20 MS. FOSADO: Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. The
23 next item on the agenda is Alaska Department of Fish
24 and Game, Division of Subsistence.

25

26 Jackie Keating.

27

28 MS. KEATING: Good evening, Madame
29 Chair. This is Jackie Keating with the Division. I'll
30 keep things brief, I know you all have had a long day.
31 We provided our usual one page update and I believe
32 it's on page 288 of your meeting materials.

33

34 I want to just briefly go over the FRMP
35 projects that we currently have. The first one is 18-
36 450, those were the comprehensive harvest surveys out
37 in Unalaska. We're in the final stages of writing the
38 technical paper and the report will go to OSM this
39 December, the data will be available shortly after that
40 in the community's subsistence information system along
41 with the full technical report available for download
42 on our website.

43

44 Tyler Lawson mentioned a project that
45 we're collaborating on through AKSSF funding in
46 Unalaska. This is a collaboration with Tyler in the
47 Aleutian area. The funding is for two additional years
48 of drone surveys and an additional year of household
49 harvest surveys specifically for salmon. So our
50

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1 Division Staff will be conducting those in person
2 household harvest surveys this coming March. And then
3 we actually have a Kanuti scoping meeting next week, so
4 Monday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unalaska
5 Community Center conference room. We'll be hosting the
6 meeting to talk about the project and our new
7 subsistence resource specialist for the region, Chance
8 Wilcox, will be there over the weekend to promote the
9 project.

10

11 For FRMP 2020-450, this would be
12 subsistence trends for Kodiak city road connected
13 areas. We gave the preliminary data review yesterday.
14 As we discussed then we were able to conduct 269
15 comprehensive household harvest surveys on the road
16 system between February and April of this year, 2022.
17 And also as I mentioned we'll be hosting a full public
18 data review meeting at the Kodiak Refuge Visitor's
19 Center on Thursday, November 3rd at 6:30 p.m. And it
20 would be great if RAC members are able to attend that
21 to see the full presentation and provide feedback.

22

23 And then we have two new FRMP projects
24 that are starting this year. The first is 2022-454,
25 that's the reliable estimates of subsistence harvests
26 and uses in Ouzinkie and Port Lions. We'll be
27 conducting those community scoping meetings most likely
28 in January of 2023 and the full comprehensive surveys
29 which includes us hiring local researcher assistants
30 will happen in the Port Lions and Ouzinkie hopefully
31 sometime between February and March of this year. And
32 the data review meeting for those surveys will take
33 place the following fall.

34

35 And lastly we're also starting work in
36 False Pass and Nelson Lagoon, that's FRMP 2022-452. We
37 have researchers going out there sometime this fall for
38 community scoping meetings and the surveys will take
39 place not this winter, but the following winter in
40 2024.

41

42 And that's all I have, but I'm happy to
43 answer questions.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
48 Thank you, Jackie. Any comments for Jackie at this
49 point.

50

0393

1 MR. HOLMES: I think that you deserve a
2 really big thank you from our Council and from the
3 folks in all the villages that you work in, you're
4 doing admirable work.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
9 Any other comments.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MS. KEATING: Thank you very much, we
14 appreciate that. We couldn't do it without our
15 partners.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
18 you, Jackie, much appreciated.

19
20 Okay. So the next item we have is
21 Kodiak Area Wildlife Conservation Office. Bill Dunker.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Bill, are you
26 online.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So the Buskin
31 River report, we have Kelly Krueger or is that Tyler.
32 Are you going to present that report.

33
34 MS. KRUEGER: This Kelly Krueger. I am
35 here and I am ready.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
38 you, Kelly. Go ahead.

39
40 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you. So this is on
41 the supplemental materials on tab eight. And our
42 written report is on tab nine. I'm not sure if you
43 guys have the presentation pulled up there.

44
45 Can you hear me still?

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I think
48 they're trying to pull up the report online.

49
50

0394

1 MS. KRUEGER: Okay. Great. I can wait
2 or I can just start, whatever you would prefer.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Kelly, I
5 do believe we are ready.

6
7 MS. KRUEGER: Okay. Great. Thank you
8 very much. Madame Chair and members of the Council, my
9 name's Kelly Krueger, I work for the Alaska Department
10 of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division in Kodiak. And
11 today I'm going to give you a very brief summary of our
12 Buskin River sockeye salmon stock assessment from this
13 year. So as I said this is tab eight, the presentation
14 is tab eight of the supplemental materials and the
15 written report is in tab nine.

16
17 Next slide, slide two. This is a graph
18 of the Buskin River escapement from 2012 to 2022. So
19 this is the past 10 years. In 2022 the Buskin River
20 weir was operational on May 16th and was removed on
21 August 3rd. Our lower Buskin weir was installed on
22 August 3rd and remains in place and will remain in
23 place until the end of this month. Through July 31st
24 the Buskin River weir count for sockeye salmon was
25 7,427 fish. This is near the upper range of the
26 escapement goal which the range is five to 8,000 shown
27 with those dotted lines on the graph. And we're
28 reporting through July 31st, but we have exceeded our
29 upper range of the escape goal as of the last day and
30 (indiscernible - distortion) before today. The
31 escapement on the graph is shown in blue and the
32 average from the past five years from 2017 to 2021 is
33 shown in the solid black lines.

34
35 We are currently aging scales and
36 summarizing our data and so by the next RAC meeting in
37 the spring we'll have age data available.

38
39 The Louise Lake tributary weir that was
40 monitored in our previous budget cycle, we removed that
41 weir this year with the new FRMP budget cycle, but we
42 were approved for the spring. We did go down to Lake
43 Louise when we had high water events and we observed
44 very few sockeye salmon. In previous years normally we
45 had pretty high escapement of sockeye salmon during
46 these flooding events so we did anecdotally go down
47 there and see if there were fish and there weren't
48 really very many fish this year, just a couple here and
49 there.

50

0395

1 Slide three. This shows the sockeye
2 salmon run timing this year. Our run started fairly
3 slow this year, you can see we really didn't get any
4 fish until a little bit later in June. The
5 subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries were closed
6 for a period of about three weeks during June and then
7 once it reopened and we have the -- our peak day was
8 June 28th with 744 sockeye salmon counted. So this
9 graph shows date on the X axis and then on the Y axis
10 it's our percent of escapement through the end of July
11 on one axis and then the number of sockeye salmon
12 counted on the other axis.

13
14 The next slide, slide four. This is
15 talking about our new OSM project with this new funding
16 cycle. We received our funding in the spring and as
17 mentioned at previous RAC meetings, subsistence
18 sampling and the Lake Louise weir were removed from the
19 project. Our new objective which is priority for the
20 project is including scale measurements to estimate
21 growth at various life stages and to explore that
22 variability with climate conditions.

23
24 This fall -- later this fall once we're
25 done doing fieldwork we're going to purchase the
26 equipment and begin scale measurements this winter.
27 And over the course of the next four years we're going
28 to be analyzing five years per winter and hopefully
29 analyze up to 20 years or more of scales by measuring.
30 And so this will help with forecasting and it'll help
31 try to answer some of those questions on how's the
32 productivity in the freshwater, if we can see what's
33 going on in the saltwater, if they're growing different
34 amounts versus two years in the ocean and three years
35 so hopefully this will help get us some answers on the
36 questions that we've been asking for the past couple
37 years.

38
39 Slide five. Our intern program is part
40 of our FRMP project. Annually we employ two qualified
41 interns to work on the Buskin project between June 8th
42 and August 8th. The interns gain knowledge of
43 principles involved in fisheries management while
44 obtaining field experience in our data collection
45 methods.

46
47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted).

49
50

0396

1 MS. KRUEGER: It sounds like somebody's
2 phone is not on mute. So if you could just check to
3 make sure that would be great.

4
5 So this year our intern program
6 continued and we had one intern who's pictured in this
7 slide. Her name is Serenity Bushell and since 2003 22
8 of 33 interns have returned to work for Fish and Game
9 at some point which we're pretty proud of that number.

10
11 And with that, the next slide.
12 Questions. Thank you to the OSM FRMP project for
13 providing funding for this project and I will happily
14 take questions.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
19 Kelly. Any questions or comments for Kelly.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Kelly, excellent
26 report. Your capacity building and intern program are
27 exceptionally good. I think that that should be a
28 standard for other agencies. I would like -- let's
29 see, you're doing a great job on that, that's just
30 incredible. And I was wondering if -- oh, the other
31 compliment is you're planning ahead, adjusting your
32 program and dropping the two little puddle leaks and
33 using that time to go for a scale analysis. That kind
34 of gets a jump on the whole rest of our region on
35 trying to see what's going on in the ocean and in
36 freshwater. So I would like to extend our compliments
37 on that.

38
39 And then I'll give you my regular
40 question that I ask Mark every year, what's your best
41 guess, doesn't have to be -- we won't quote you, but
42 what's your best guess return for next year, is it
43 going to be good or bad. Almost looks like from that
44 one draft that two ocean fish seem to be moving the ups
45 and downs, but I don't know in abundance.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

50

0397

1 Any other comments.

2

3 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you. Through the
4 Chair. Thanks, Pat. Thank you very much for the
5 compliments and hopefully we can share once we get our
6 system set up for a scale measurement and we get the
7 kinks worked out this winter we can help other people
8 set up similar projects in the future because I know
9 there's -- we've had some interest from other regions
10 who are interested and for other species as well.

11

12 For the forecast for next year, I have
13 only looked at a couple of our scale cards from this
14 summer so unfortunately I don't have enough data to
15 forecast what next year is going to look like, but we
16 will definitely have that at the winter meeting once we
17 age all the scales, we're just kind of behind on that
18 and we'll have that done definitely before the spring
19 RAC meeting.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

22

23 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Kelly, for
24 that report. I was wondering about Pillar Creek and
25 White Sands, the streams out there. Do you guys do any
26 sort of monitoring since there's a lot of sport fish
27 that happens there. And if you do any monitoring what
28 can you tell us about the fish that go up in there or
29 populations?

30

31 MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair.
32 Thanks, Coral. Yes, we do stream surveys for coho, we
33 will start those at the beginning of October so we'll
34 go out to White Sands, I will go to Pillar and Monashka
35 and we'll survey those. We try to get peak escapement
36 for coho in the -- probably mid October. We are
37 actually going out to Monashka tomorrow, some of us
38 are, they're going to look and see what -- what kind of
39 fish are milling about in the bay just because the coho
40 returns have been pretty minimal to both Pillar and
41 Monashka this year so far. And it seems like
42 everything is late this year, but they're going to go
43 see -- we have -- it's not quite (indiscernible -
44 distortion) but we have equipment attached to our skiff
45 for sport fish and we can look and see how many fish
46 are swimming by when we have the boat going at a little
47 bit less than trolling speed. And that's what we used
48 kind of as a preliminary method this year when Buskin
49 was shut down, we went out there every week and we were
50

0398

1 just driving along the shore by the mouth of the river
2 and trying to get an estimate of how many fish were
3 outside of the river. So we're going to do that
4 tomorrow and then hopefully the fish will start moving
5 up the creek. But there is data and I can always share
6 that with you later on of our peak coho counts in those
7 two systems. Stream surveys have been done in those
8 two for the past at least 20 years so I'm happy to
9 share those too.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Kelly. And
12 then just to tag on to that, is there any thought of
13 closing those systems right now after the Buskin has
14 closed?

15

16 MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair. No,
17 not as far as I know. I think tomorrow will help us
18 get a good idea of what's going on because we use
19 Pillar Creek as the root source for the coho that are
20 stocked into the four different systems on the road
21 system. I think tomorrow we'll get a better idea of
22 what's going on, but we don't have -- we don't have
23 escapement goals for either one of those systems, but
24 after tomorrow we'll know more and I can mention it to
25 Tyler tomorrow and he can always get ahold of you too
26 and I can share your concerns with those too.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
29 you, Kelly. Any other comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess we will
34 move on. Thank you very much for your report, Kelly.

35

36 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So is -- it was
39 Kodiak Area Wildlife Conservation Office, Bill Dunker,
40 are you available?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We will
45 continue on. So the next item I have on the agenda is
46 confirm winter, 2022.....

47

48 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: OSM.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:oh, what --
2 oh, I've got too many notes on my paper here.

3
4 Office of SubsistenceManagement, Scott.

5
6 MR. AYERS: Good evening. Okay. We're
7 going to do this quick. So on behalf of OSM I would
8 like to thank all the Council members for the exception
9 work that you do on behalf of your communities and user
10 groups during these trying times. We value your
11 expertise and the contribution of your knowledge and
12 experience to the regulatory process. Thank you for
13 sticking with it through this long meeting.

14
15 I'm going to cover four topics for you
16 today. The first one is in person Council meetings
17 this fall following the covid-19 requirements. So we
18 are holding all 10 winter, 2022 Regional Advisory
19 Council meetings in person this fall. OSM Staff are
20 happy that we can finally see you all face to face. We
21 thank you again for bearing with us over the past two
22 and a half years during the pandemic and teleconference
23 meetings. The Federal Subsistence Management Program
24 recognizes that in person Council meetings are
25 preferable.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Somebody mute
28 your phone, we can hear a phone ringing, please.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We might just
33 have to continue, I don't know what else we can do with
34 that.

35
36 REPORTER: I can have the operator cut
37 it off, but it'll take a minute or two.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

40
41 (Off record)

42
43 (On record)

44
45 REPORTER: Go ahead, please.

46
47 MR. AYERS: Council meetings must
48 follow Federal guidelines. We're hoping that covid-19
49 levels are low enough in each of the communities where
50

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1 Council meetings are planned at the time of the
2 meetings so that we'll be able to meet this
3 requirements. We're working with each of the Councils
4 to conduct the meetings in person and safely.

5

6 So changes to staffing since the
7 winter, 2022 Council meetings. OSM is pleased to
8 welcome two newly hired subsistence Council
9 Coordinators. The wonderful Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough
10 and Jessica Gill Both have a wealth of knowledge and
11 experience in working with rural users in communities
12 as well as Alaska subsistence issues. Eva Patton has
13 transferred to the National Park Service, Carry Crow
14 has returned to OSM as a Budget Analyst. Bernard
15 Shavings joined us as an Administrative Support
16 Assistant and Michelle Andrews joined us as OSM's
17 Executive Secretary. The OSM team continues to work on
18 rebuilding our capacity.

19

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

31

32 And the last item, lawsuits. As you
33 were previously briefed in 2021 the State of Alaska
34 filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence Board
35 after it adopted Emergency Special Action WSA 19-14.
36 This Special Action allowed the village of Kake to
37 engage in a community harvest of up to four bull moose
38 and 10 male Sitka black tail deer in response to covid-
39 19 related supply chain disruption that had created a
40 public safety concern for the village. Also included
41 in the lawsuit was Temporary Special Action WSA 20-03
42 in which the Board closed Federal public lands in units
43 13A and 13B to moose and caribou hunting by non-
44 Federally qualified users for the 2020 to 2022
45 regulatory cycle for reasons of public safety and to
46 continue subsistence uses.

47

48 As part of the lawsuit the State asked
49 the court to issue two preliminary injunctions, one to
50

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1 prevent the unit 13 closure from taking effect and
2 another vacating the Kake hunt and prohibiting the
3 Board from allowing any additional emergency hunts
4 related to the impacts of covid-19 which the court
5 denied. On December 3rd, 2021 the court then ruled in
6 favor of the Federal Subsistence Board on both matters.
7 The court found that one, it lacks jurisdiction over
8 the issues associated with Kake hunt because the
9 State's claims are moot and two, the FSB's decision to
10 close units 13A and 13B to nonsubsistence users was
11 both legally permissible and supported by the
12 information on record. The State has filed an appeal
13 of the District Court's decision to the Ninth Circuit.
14 Briefing is currently underway.

15

16 With poor salmon returns to the
17 Kuskokwim Rivers in recent years the Federal
18 Subsistence Management Program has issued closures to
19 nonsubsistence fishing and severely limited subsistence
20 participation in the fishery on the waters within the
21 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. In spite of this
22 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced
23 openers in 2021 and 2022 allowing all Alaskans to
24 harvest salmon on Refuge waters. The Department of
25 Fish and Game's action undermined ANILCA, title VIII
26 priority to rural residents and preempted the Federal
27 conservation based actions. In response to calls for
28 action from the subsistence community and at the
29 request of the Federal Subsistence Board the
30 Solicitor's Office drafted a complaint and began
31 seeking litigation against the State of Alaska. The
32 Department of Justice filed the complaint in May of
33 this year. On June 23rd the U.S. District Court issued
34 a preliminary injunction after concluding that the U.S.
35 is likely to prevail on the merits of the case. The
36 court also found irreparable harm to the Federal
37 government's ability to enforce ANILCA's rural
38 subsistence priority. This injunction prevents the
39 Department of Fish and Game from unlawfully interfering
40 with the Federal government's implementation of ANILCA
41 subsistence priority and efforts at conservation on the
42 Kuskokwim for the duration of the lawsuit. This case
43 is proceeding.

44

45 And that concludes my report and I'd be
46 happy to answer any questions.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0402

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Scott. Any questions for Scott.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
7 Okay. I believe we are at future meeting dates,
8 confirm the winter, 2023 meeting date and location.

9
10 Rebecca.

11
12 MS. SKINNER: Would this be the
13 appropriate time to comment that I am actually not
14 available on the February 22nd and 23rd which is what
15 we're currently down for.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: What about the
18 March 8th and 9th.

19
20 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. March -- that
21 whole week that has March 8th and 9th is fine.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So do you want
24 to go ahead and try for that. And then location. It's
25 some suggestion can we try a rural community on Kodiak
26 and then a second alternative as Kodiak for location.
27 Doesn't hurt to try.

28
29 Rebecca.

30
31 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Della. I
32 would propose then if we're going for March 8th and 9th
33 that our first choice by Larsen Bay with the fallback
34 of Kodiak if we're not able -- if for some reason we
35 can't get to Larsen Bay or Larsen Bay doesn't work.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that good for
38 everyone. Lisa.

39
40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: This is
41 more of a question for Katya. If we move it to March
42 8th and 9th, my other Council is scheduled to meet
43 right before that, is that going to be a problem for
44 us.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: How about March 29th and
47 March 30th and that would avoid the conflict for Lisa.
48 And then it would also avoid the conflict for Becky
49 earlier in the month.

50

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1 MS. WESSELS: Yeah. To answer your
2 question, yeah, that would present a problem because
3 Lisa's other Council is Northwest Arctic. So she
4 wouldn't be able to fly that quick from one meeting to
5 the other.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Pat, you
8 suggested the 28th and 29th; is that correct?

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, the middle of the
11 week.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: 29th and 30th?

14
15 MR. HOLMES: That would be swell. And
16 I'd like to maybe -- I don't know if we can do it,
17 Becky suggested Larsen Bay which would be great because
18 I haven't been there in years, but maybe Larsen Bay
19 slash Old Harbor because I think possibly at Old Harbor
20 they probably more facilities going than Larsen Bay
21 from what I hear of the folks moving out.

22
23 Just a thought.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I've been
26 told Larsen Bay has a facility, Pat.

27
28 MR. HOLMES: Okay.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I know at
31 one point in -- the last time we tried to go we
32 couldn't get to Larsen Bay so it -- I think weather
33 wise if you can't get into Larsen Bay there's a good
34 chance you're not going to get into Old Harbor.

35
36 MS. SKINNER: Or Kodiak.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, you -- we
39 got to Kodiak, we just couldn't get out of Kodiak.
40 That was the issue.

41
42 MS. CHERNOFF: Woody Island.

43
44 Okay. Larsen Bay or Woody Island.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I bet we might be
49 able to get the Baptist Mission out there. I know the
50

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1 guy who is the operator.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So let's go
4 ahead if it's okay Larsen Bay and then Kodiak. We got
5 to move on, guys.

6

7 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So the 29th
8 and 30th?

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: 29th and 30th.
11 All right. So that puts us to the fall meeting and
12 then we can look at dates and then location. I think
13 that middle of September, the 19th to the 22nd, are
14 probably good days. And then the next question would
15 be location. Any suggestions.

16

17 MR. PRICE: Pribilof.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, did you
20 have a suggestion.

21

22 MR. PRICE: I did. I said Pribilof.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Saint Paul Island to be
25 specific. We almost had that 10 years ago.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I have a
28 feeling, Pat, they're not going to let us. There
29 wasn't always issues of jurisdiction with Fish and
30 Wildlife. We've got to get that.

31

32 MR. PRICE: How about Adak.

33

34 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, or Sand Point. It
35 seems like we have a lot of people in -- at Sand Point
36 or in King Cove. It seems like we've gone to Unalaska
37 more recently than we've gone to a Sand Point or a King
38 Cove. That's the only reason I suggest that.

39

40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Where do
41 you want to go, tell me.

42

43 MR. PRICE: King Cove.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Chris
46 says we're going to King Cove.

47

48 MS. WESSELS: So what are the dates?

49

50

0405

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: September.....

2

3 MS. WESSELS: You know the plane
4 schedule.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:19th and
7 20th. You've got a Tuesday/Thursday thing. That
8 schedule may change by then and also the airlines.
9 Hopefully Aleutian Air is flying out here by then.

10

11 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: 19th and 20th.
14 Rebecca.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: I'll expect birthday cake
17 on the 19th.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I will bake for
20 you. All right. Sounds good. I don't think we need a
21 motion, it's just Council consensus.

22

23 The next item on the agenda will be
24 closing comments. Go ahead and start with Coral.
25 We'll start with you.

26

27 Oh, Rebecca, do you have a comment. Go
28 ahead.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Sorry I didn't mean to
31 shout. I -- well Coral and I were saying we wanted to
32 recognize Tyler Lawson as the person who probably spent
33 the most time at the table today.

34

35 So thank you for that.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
38 Rebecca. Coral, do you have any closing comments.

39

40 MS. CHERNOFF: No, I just want to thank
41 everybody who was here with reports and testimony. And
42 then I also want to thank the J team for all the work
43 they've done in the last year with all those closure
44 reviews.

45

46 MS. SKINNER: Plus Scott. The J team
47 plus Scott.

48

49 MS. CHERNOFF: Oh, plus Scott. J crew

50

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1 plus Scott. Yeah, thanks a lot. I know we made a lot
2 of phone calls, you guys made a lot of stops and we put
3 a lot of work into that. And thank everyone here for
4 all the work that they do and their patience and their
5 willingness to try and understand things that can be
6 hard to understand sometimes.

7

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

10

11 MS. SKINNER: I'm very glad that
12 hopefully we're done with closure reviews for a while.
13 I do appreciate the time and the effort that all of the
14 Council members put into working through those. They
15 were not easy in the sense that it was a new thing,
16 they were confusing. They were also not easy because
17 as you saw it -- there was not full consensus on how
18 each closure should be handled. And I really
19 appreciate the -- everything that the Council put in to
20 getting through that process. And I hope that the
21 Federal Subsistence Board approves our work so that we
22 don't have another 12 closure reviews the next time we
23 meet.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
28 Rebecca. Pat.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I have a
31 couple little business questions and then I'd like to
32 be last because I have a special award for the OSM
33 folks. My question was yesterday I inquired about
34 writing a letter on behalf of our Council that I'd send
35 through you for enforcement needed particularly at
36 Unalaska Bay and then some of the folks here in Cold Bay
37 mentioned that they don't have enforcement, but not
38 that anything would happen. At least sending it the
39 State agencies and, you know, a note to the Board that
40 that's a problem in our area. And the other would be a
41 letter to the appropriate agencies on Lake Andrew
42 outlet rehab on Adak. So I'd like to have your
43 permission if that's okay.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think that'll
46 be fine if nobody disagrees. And I think you can
47 coordinate that effort with Lisa and then copy the
48 Council members and we can get that process going.

49

50

0407

1 MR. HOLMES: Roger that.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And it's also in
4 our annual report.

5

6 Chris.

7

8 MR. PRICE: Thanks, everybody. I
9 learned a lot and got more leaning.

10

11 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thanks a lot. Well, I
12 just wanted to compliment everybody for what a good job
13 they did today and yesterday. We have a pretty tough
14 Chairman there that keeps the whip on up there all the
15 time. So I want to thank Della for her good. My phone
16 has 10 more minutes left on it so my phone barely made
17 the meeting. So anyway I think we had a good meeting
18 and I wanted to thank all of the Staff and the people
19 that participated. I think everybody's done a real
20 good job.

21

22 And one more thing, Della, can you tell
23 me you got September -- can you give me those dates in
24 September and I guess it was King Cove that you agreed
25 on.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct.
28 We have September.....

29

30 MR. KOSO:for the fall meeting?

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:19th and
33 20th.

34

35 MR. KOSO: And that's King Cove?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

38

39 MR. KOSO: Okay. Thank you then. I
40 don't really have anything much more to say. I know
41 this is probably my last meeting until -- unless I'm
42 reapproved here. I guess we'll find out here, and
43 it'll take quite a while before we get a letter of
44 approval as to whether or not we're still on this Board
45 or not. So we'll see what happens I guess in the next
46 month or two.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
49 We'll keep in touch. You take care.

50

0408

1 Chris.

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MR. PETERSON: Thanks, Rick and Natasha too for putting in all that time being on the phone. I know how hard that is. And thanks for all the Staff to help us with all these meetings and all the really good food that you guys put together and the potluck.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And thank you, everyone. This has been quite the meeting. I'm so glad we got through most of the closure reviews. I think Chris will have to stay until the next meeting to get through with this. I'm just kidding.

Anyway.....

MR. HOLMES: Can I give my special award?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on, let me finish. Anyway I do want to thank everybody and, Tyler, I thank you and you all have done a wonderful job, the Refuges with their reports, there was a lot of information in this meeting. And it was quite the learning process for all of us. And just getting past these reviews and the amount of work, it took two years to get to this point today.

Thank you very, very much. And I look forward to our next meeting and hopefully we'll get to go to Larsen Bay.

Katya, thank you. Scott, really appreciate all your efforts. And Glenn back there, good to see you. And so with that I'll go ahead and let Pat close up the meeting and then we can make a motion to adjourn.

MR. HOLMES: We're all tired, I agree with all the comments from my colleagues here. I'm really proud to be part of this organization. One of the things after discussing things with George Pappas and a few other people, I thought I would give an award to Jason and you can hang it on the wall or something for your team. And this is a really special thing. And it's a -- it's called the Aleutian fishing fly. And so what it is is you take three halibut hooks and

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1 weld -- put a little swivel on it, attach it to a spark
2 plug with a few strands of yarn. (Indiscernible - away
3 from microphone).....

4

5 MR. HOLMES: So this is a Aleutian fly,
6 it's made with three halibut hooks welded together,
7 mounted on a swivel, on to a spark plug with a stout
8 pilot and a few pieces of yarn and so that it fits the
9 description of a lure or a fly. And so this is not
10 sometimes an uncommon thing to find out in the
11 Aleutians and even occasionally on Kodiak and other
12 places. But we thought this might add a little bit of
13 levity to the end of the program.

14

15 (Applause)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. With that
18 can we have a motion to adjourn.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: Move to adjourn.

21

22 MR. PRICE: Second.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
25 Rebecca, second by Chris. Discussion.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question.

30

31 MS. SKINNER: Q
R: Question.

32

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

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
39 sign.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yay, we are
44 adjourned.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

49

