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1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 TELECONFERENCE
9 February 23, 2022
10 8:34 a.m.

11
12
13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Della Trumble, Chair
18 Coral Chernoff
19 Natasha Hayden
20 Patrick Holmes
21 Richard Koso
22 Christopher Price
23 Samuel Rohrer
24 Rebecca Skinner

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27
28 Regional Council Coordinator, Katerina Wessels (Acting)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 2/23/2022)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe we'll do a roll call, Katya, and then we can determine how many people we have online.

MS. WESSELS: Okay. Just one second here.

(Pause)

MS. WESSELS: Okay, I'm ready to do the roll call. Pat Holmes.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: Pat, are you online.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: Okay, I guess not yet.

Richard Koso.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: Rick Koso, are you online.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: Sam Rohrer.

MR. ROHRER: I'm here.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

Chris Price.

MR. PRICE: Here.

MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Chris.

MR. PRICE: Good morning.

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1 MS. WESSELS: Coral Chernoff.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm here.

4

5 MS. WESSELS: Good morning.

6

7 Rebecca Skinner.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: I'm here.

10

11 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

12

13 Della, you're on, I know that.

14

15 Natasha Hayden.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Okay, we have five
20 members, Della, out of 8 seated members so we have the
21 quorum. Would you like to start or would you like to
22 wait a few more minutes.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's just give
25 it a few minutes before we get started. And just an
26 FYI I'd like to start with Jarred this morning after
27 our discussion when we left the meeting yesterday.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

30

31 MR. KOSO: I'm on here, Della.

32

33 MS. WESSELS: All right. Who was that?

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That was Rick
36 Koso.

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Okay. All right. So
39 we're just waiting for Pat and Natasha then.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, so just
42 give it a few minutes.

43

44 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

45

46 MS. SKINNER: And Natasha emailed she
47 wouldn't be able to join until 9:00 a.m.

48

49 (Pause)

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's go ahead
2 and call the meeting back to order. And basically do
3 we go into a roll call of other agencies at this time,
4 Katya, or.

5
6 MS. WESSELS: We don't have to unless
7 you want to. The only thing that we have to do each
8 morning is public and tribal comments on non-agenda
9 items.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Let's go
12 ahead, are there any public or non-agenda items that
13 anybody would like to bring forward.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Pat, did
18 you make it online I heard a couple beeps there.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Roger that.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, so it
23 looks like everybody is here and Natasha will be a
24 little late. If it's okay with everybody, we left the
25 meeting yesterday with the idea that Jarred and Robbin
26 would get some information so that we could think about
27 how we want to proceed -- how we want to proceed in
28 regard to our discussion on the closures and possible
29 proposals. So if it's okay, Jarred, do you and Robbin
30 want to go ahead with your discussion, are you able to
31 this morning?

32
33 MR. STONE: Yes, thank you, Madame
34 Chair. Good morning. And good morning to the members
35 of the Council as well. My name is Jarred Stone and
36 I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
37 Subsistence Management. Today we hope to work with you
38 on each of these closure reviews that were deferred
39 during the 2021 cycle.

40
41 Before we begin, it's important that I
42 make a clarification from our discussions yesterday. I
43 mentioned that if the closures were rescinded that the
44 regulations would revert back to the State sportfish
45 regulations. After talking with the team yesterday
46 that statement was found to be untrue. And I need to
47 clarify that when a closure is rescinded, the Federal
48 subsistence area regulations take effect. This would
49 mean that the gear types and bag limits would be much
50

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1 higher than that of State sportfish bag limits.

2

3 For example if a closure were rescinded
4 in the Aleutians area regulations would take effect and
5 Federally-qualified subsistence users would be allowed
6 to harvest 25 fish per member of the household using
7 various gear types. Most of these small fishery
8 closures would not likely be able to sustain that level
9 of harvest. So crafting a proposal for each closure
10 review gives the Council the greatest flexibility and
11 option to craft the fishery in a way that would be
12 sustainable and perhaps mirror the State sportfishing
13 regulations.

14

15 So today I present to the Council two
16 options.

17

18 One is to work through these proposals
19 one by one and draft Council generated proposals. I
20 understand that this would take a considerable amount
21 of time on your agenda today.

22

23 A second option is to allow you to work
24 with your communities and OSM Staff to submit a
25 proposal later on in the spring when the call for
26 proposals opens. This proposal would be submitted by
27 an individual. Regardless of who submits the proposal,
28 whether it be an individual or a Council generated
29 proposal, the Council will then be presented an
30 analysis in the fall and the Council would give its
31 final recommendation during that time.

32

33 I want to thank the Council for being
34 patient as we work through these. This is, you know, a
35 fairly new process that we are working with and the
36 ultimate goal is to reevaluate these closures and find
37 what works best for the Council and your users.

38

39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40

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

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

47

48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I would suggest that
49 we do it in the fall and -- because we don't have

50

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1 enough time and we've gone through it before and it's
2 taken us a day and a half or more, and I don't see that
3 we can get that done here.

4
5 I was looking at the sportfish regs and
6 we were told previously, and it's interesting that it
7 would revert totally to the Feds if it were cancelled,
8 because we were told it would go to the State but
9 there's been an error in our earlier presentations and
10 that Humpy Creek, Iliuliuk, Unalaska drainage, Summers
11 Bay Creek, parts of that are opened and closed
12 seasonally but the Humpy Bay and Iliuliuk are closed
13 year-round, and that was an error in our previous
14 presentations, that there -- that sportfishing is
15 allowed in those areas, and it's not in those two
16 systems. So that's a couple of areas. And then I
17 think we need to review also -- I got a note from an
18 old colleague on marine waters in Cold Bay area, and
19 they suggested that we look at 50 CFR 10027 and Final
20 Rule 70FR76407 December 27th, 2005 and they define that
21 Nurse Lagoon and other marine waters in the area are
22 not Federal on that, and I don't know, I haven't looked
23 it up, I just got a email note that we should look at
24 that from somebody that's been retired for a long time
25 and also it mentions that Lenard Harbor and Nurse
26 Lagoon -- I said Nurse Lagoon before, Kinzarof Lagoon
27 are excluded from Federal Subsistence Management
28 Program jurisdiction, that's in 70FR76407. So I think
29 there's some things that we need to have Staff
30 reexamine before we launch off on this right now.

31
32 Thank you, ma'am.

33
34 MR. STONE: Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
37 do you know if -- just a comment, maybe, Pat, and it's
38 nice to get this information but we do have State Staff
39 people online as we go through this and it would be
40 really helpful if they would also bring that
41 information forward. The more information we get that
42 is accurate helps us to make better decisions.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Roger that.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You know, it's
47 great you take it upon yourself to get all this
48 information and very much appreciate it, but it would
49 really be helpful if once we get to the State reports
50

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1 that they provide us more information, or be able to
2 answer questions in regards to what you basically have
3 just stated.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 Did I hear another person.

8
9 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, that was me,
10 Jarred.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
13 Jarred.

14
15 MR. STONE: I just wanted to make one
16 final comment, too. We've, in the past, have had
17 volunteers from your Council get together with OSM
18 Staff to try and provide further outreach to the
19 communities to try to generate more feedback on these
20 closure reviews. And I might suggest that if the
21 Council wishes to maybe postpone working with the
22 proposals today, if they go back to their communities
23 and begin talking with folks in their areas then what I
24 might suggest is that we maybe reconvene those
25 volunteers from the Council, and then prior to the
26 closing of the call for proposals we sit down together
27 and look at which closures we would like to craft
28 proposals for. And that's just a suggestion that I put
29 out there but I am open for all other suggestions or
30 ideas.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So maybe a
33 question, Jarred, we're putting proposals -- or
34 proposing proposals, we can't do anything except on
35 Federal waters or where you have Federal jurisdiction.
36 And so that is the question -- I think that that needs
37 to be brought forward first, exactly what are those
38 waters, or where are those waters because it doesn't
39 make sense to take time to do something that's not
40 going to -- we're not going to be able to do it.

41
42 The other question I have has to do
43 with the current closures that are under review and, of
44 course, you know, the comment's been made that some of
45 these are so far back that, you know, they had
46 different mechanisms or the way they were gathering the
47 fish and those need to be looked at because like you
48 said to take them off of there and then not have any
49 kind of a proposal on hand is not going to work either.
50

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1 So I'm going to defer a little bit to
2 Rebecca, do you have -- what are your comments.

3
4 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Della. So I
5 agree with Pat, I think trying to draft proposal
6 language time today, I'm concerned we don't have enough
7 time to do that as a Council and also get through the
8 other items on our agenda. So I think that what Jarred
9 proposed makes sense to me that the important thing is
10 getting proposed regulatory language that the Council
11 can review in the fall. If we don't have time to
12 generate that language today it's not the end of the
13 world because individuals can still submit proposed
14 language that then would get analyzed and would come in
15 front of our Council in the fall. So we would get to
16 review those and weigh in and support them or not
17 support them.

18
19 I also agree with Jarred's suggestion
20 that we could reactivate the committee and then -- or
21 it wasn't a committee, but the working group and then
22 whoever else wants to join that had previously formed
23 to talk about the closure outreach process and that
24 group could help get proposed language drafted and work
25 with OSM Staff and make sure that the proposals get
26 submitted by the deadline. And, again, the goal is
27 just to get proposed regulatory language that would
28 actually work for these areas into the system so that
29 in the fall when we're actually considering rescinding
30 the closures or not, we -- if we do decide to rescind
31 the closures, we have some regulatory language that we
32 could work with. And I think Jarred mentioned that one
33 of the huge benefits of developing these regulatory
34 proposals is it gives us a tremendous amount of
35 flexibility so we would be able to address things like
36 harvest limits, methods and means and specific areas.
37 So for example, like with Kodiak, it may make sense to
38 open up, you know, subsistence with a gillnet out in
39 the marine waters of -- out in front of Buskin, but we
40 don't necessarily want gillnets put out in the river,
41 so having the regulatory language -- or having those
42 proposals would give us a huge amount of flexibility to
43 tailor basically the regulations into something that
44 would work.

45
46 The other thing is -- the other thing I
47 like about getting these the proposed regulations into
48 the system is then it's a very public process. The
49 public has a chance to see those proposals and react to
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1 the proposals and that's going to give us a lot more
2 information in the fall when we have to vote on whether
3 to support the proposals or not.

4

5 And also if we defer the Council from
6 generating these proposals today, and actually have an
7 opportunity to go back to our communities and have more
8 input as the proposed regulatory language gets drafted,
9 I see that as a huge benefit as well.

10

11 I think that's all I had, Della, thank
12 you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Rebecca. Are there any other comments.

16

17 MR. KOSO: Della.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead,
20 Rick.

21

22 MR. KOSO: Yeah, no, I concur with
23 Rebecca and Pat there on postponing this until the
24 falltime.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just as a
27 thought everybody, the comment was brought up that we
28 could work with the committee and that committee, if I
29 recall was Chris, I know Rebecca and myself, Pat -- was
30 Pat a part of.....

31

32 MR. HOLMES: I was on it but
33 nobody.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:that
36 where.....

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me, Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: I was on the committee --
43 I was on the committee but no one ever contacted me so
44 I just worked on it by myself.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

47

48 MS. SKINNER: Pat, you were at our
49 committee meeting, yeah, you participated in our work
50

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1 group meetings.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Oh, yeah, I did. Yep, I
4 beg your pardon, but that was -- yeah, that was it and
5 then I kind of took off and did contacting as many
6 people as I could and as many ACs as I could. I beg
7 your pardon.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think you were
10 traveling a couple times, too, Pat, at least twice.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I've been having a
13 lot of family complications this year.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. So let's
16 -- maybe as a suggestion, we talked about the committee
17 going back and looking at not only the closures but
18 what potential proposals so if the committee agrees and
19 the Staff agrees, can we just kind of look at moving
20 forward and trying to get through a committee process
21 and something really clean to work on when we have our
22 fall meeting.

23

24 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
27 Katya.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Coral,
30 then Katya.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: I just have a -- I guess
33 a statement. When we were talking about having a
34 meeting, I might suggest that we have maybe meetings --
35 separate meetings for separate areas. Because like we
36 know -- those of us in Kodiak are really familiar with
37 the Buskin area and Afognak areas but I don't know how
38 many of us know much about the Cold Bay area and Dutch,
39 so either if we could make sure that there's people
40 from all these areas on the committee that's going to
41 look at these or make separate committees would be my
42 suggestion. Do we know who's on -- currently on this
43 committee and -- because I was on it, Rebecca and Pat
44 and I know we're all from Kodiak, and so we might have
45 to add some others or separate into different
46 committees.

47

48 MR. HOLMES: I wouldn't mind working on
49 whatever you get set up for out west as well because
50

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1 I've lived and worked in all those communities.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well.....

4

5 MR. HOLMES: If the folks there would
6 have me.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:so that's a
9 consideration Coral. Katya, you had a comment.

10

11 MS. WESSELS: Yes, Madame Chair, thank
12 you. I just want this Council to understand, even if
13 you form a working group to work on the proposals, the
14 way the procedure works that the working group will
15 need to bring their findings back to the Council before
16 the proposals can be submitted on behalf of the
17 Council. And this working group would not be able to
18 bring their findings to the Council until the fall
19 meeting when it will be too late to submit proposals
20 during this fisheries cycle, so you will be delaying
21 these proposals by another two years. I just want
22 everybody to understand, it's very clear. If you're
23 not going to discuss this on record, at least in some
24 detail today, and work out the details of the proposals
25 later in the working group, that might be okay, but,
26 you know, your general intent needs to be clear on the
27 record today if you want to submit proposals this
28 fishery cycle. And anyone at OSM can correct me if I
29 am wrong but I believe this is correct.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
34 Katya.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: One thing that works well
41 in the past on the different ACs that I've worked on,
42 either as a private person or with agencies and also in
43 the process in the past here, I think that working
44 groups, if you establish them to look at conceptual
45 things that they wish to achieve and then get the Staff
46 to write it up specifically and I don't know if it
47 would contacting both sides, although the State doesn't
48 have any input into this process but I think we need to
49 contact the regulation experts as we're putting this
50

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1 together so that it's done in the correct.....

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair.

4

5 MR. HOLMES:format because --
6 thank you.

7

8 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
9 Robbin.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Robbin.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, good morning and
14 Pat's correct. Your Council can convene a working
15 group, a working group from the Council, would it
16 include volunteers from your Regional Advisory Councils
17 and other agency Staff, and that can be both Federal
18 Staff, not just OSM Staff, and it can be State Staff
19 and the working group will convene, discuss and
20 certainly bring their findings back to the Council in
21 the fall. But additionally, individuals from that
22 working group can then decide based on the discussions
23 had during the working group to work with Staff at OSM,
24 to develop proposals, that can then be analyzed and
25 then be brought to the Council. So that is something
26 you could also imagine doing. It's not going to give
27 you the opportunity to forward regulatory proposals on
28 behalf of the Regional Advisory Councils, but
29 individuals, private citizens who may actually be
30 Council members, can forward proposals on their own and
31 we're here to support you in that endeavor.

32

33 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
36 Rebecca.

37

38 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. So my
39 understanding is the same as what Katya explained,
40 which is the Council just isn't going to have time to
41 review these proposals, probably does not have time to
42 generate proposals today, what I was speaking in favor
43 of is basically what Robbin just addressed, that
44 individuals from the Council, or individuals from the
45 community can submit proposals that the Council will
46 review in the fall. I did like Jarred's suggestion
47 about reactivating the working group just because that
48 would provide a group of people to talk about and look
49 at the -- each area, so I did see that as a benefit.

50

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1 But I did not intend in supporting using that working
2 group -- I did not intend to delay the development of
3 proposals for two years. So I just wanted to make that
4 clear.

5

6 And if using the working group is going
7 to be an impediment, I am comfortable with just leaving
8 it that the Council itself would not attempt to develop
9 proposals today but individuals from the Council can
10 certainly work with OSM Staff to come up with proposals
11 to submit individually. And, again, the Council is
12 going to have a chance to review those proposals and
13 support them or not at our fall meeting.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 Rebecca. Any other comments.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, if -- given if they
25 have interest in out west on the Peninsula and the
26 Aleutians and having folks join our group but it is our
27 job, as a Council, to understand and work with those
28 folks in order to come up with, you know, whatever is
29 going to be done. And so just because some Kodiak
30 folks aren't familiar, well, we all need to be familiar
31 because we're going to be making the decision and
32 thoughts so, you know, we could look forward to
33 individual proposals from the public as well as what
34 might be recommended from the working group but --
35 thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
38 other comments.

39

40 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

43

44 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I just had this
45 comment and I guess it's on the tail of this
46 conversation already where we talked about just jumping
47 right over the subsistence regulations that are in
48 place and jumping to the sport so it was kind of
49 misinformation that caused a lot of confusion so this
50

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1 morning I also heard that many of these streams cannot --
2 could not bear this additional subsistence fishing
3 thing, which I think when those kinds of statements are
4 made, I think it's difficult to get past those in the
5 conversation. Because I know in the Buskin area, like
6 I guess I have to disagree with that statement, I
7 understand people would agree, but while we have
8 sportfishing open there's no limits on sportsfishing,
9 you know, like 4,000 people could come here and
10 sportfish and take more fish than if we, according to
11 Federal subsistence regulations, went in and got our
12 subsistence fish. So I would just maybe ask that those
13 sorts of statements not confuse the issue that we're
14 working on. And I don't know if anyone needs any
15 clarification. It's early in the morning and I'm just
16 like throwing my thoughts out there. But I did catch
17 that, I did disagree with it. And I could see moving
18 forward how that could come up in conversation again
19 and someone could say, oh, this professional said that
20 additional fishing couldn't be withstood or we couldn't
21 just switch over to subsistence which, in fact, you
22 know, maybe we could. And so I would just ask that
23 those sort of statements stay out of conversations
24 moving forward.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. PRICE: Hi, this is Chris, I have a
29 couple comments.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.

32

33 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Della. I kind
34 of agree with Coral there a bit because, really, we
35 don't want to pit the subsistence versus the
36 sportsfishing, especially in our community. I mean the
37 subsistence folks, in a time of abundance is much
38 different than in time of when they're concerned about
39 the run. You know, people dial back their fishing, no
40 one would be taking 25 fish per day during a time of
41 great concern about the fishery and the run, so that
42 did feel a little bit -- it didn't feel really too good
43 to use that example about taking 25 fish, you know,
44 most -- the reason that we have these fisheries is
45 because of the Native people who have been subsisting
46 all these years and they've taken good care of the
47 fisheries and that's why we have them today.

48

49 So that's kind of my comment.

50

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1 A lot of locals would be pretty
2 offended by that concept because they've been managing
3 these fisheries for a long time and that would be, you
4 know, that type of approach -- but I understand you
5 guys have to have regulations, too, I know it's
6 complex. But, anyway, I kind of agreed with Coral a
7 little bit that we don't want to get into a big turf
8 battle and -- so anyway I'll leave it at that.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just maybe if
11 somebody could help me out. When these decisions are
12 made on any system, it involves the Federal Staff,
13 State Staff, local community, in these decision -- in
14 the time, let's say of crises, these -- they all come
15 together to come and agree on what action will be
16 taken; isn't that correct?

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anybody.

21
22 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, this is
23 Jarred.....

24
25 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
26 Robbin, can you -- oh, Jarred, please go.

27
28 MR. STONE: I'm sorry, I was just going
29 to ask if you could restate the question.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So given the
32 discussion, I think -- nobody's trying to pit one group
33 over another but let's just -- but for an example --
34 just an example, in the event that a system is in
35 crises mode, then the State biologist, or State Staff,
36 the Federal Staff and the local people in that
37 community all come together to try to make a decision
38 that's going to be -- that'll work the best; isn't that
39 still the concept of all of this?

40
41 MR. STONE: Yes, Madame Chair, and --
42 yes, I believe so. Robbin, would you mind adding
43 your thoughts and opinions.

44
45 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 This is Robbin for the record. As you all know we are
47 -- we are dual managers of precious fish and wildlife
48 with a subsistence priority and we have a subsistence
49 priority for both State and Federal management and
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1 where we can, we really benefit, all of us from working
2 together, so, yeah, you are correct. What we're doing
3 right now with these closure reviews is we are trying
4 to follow the mandate of our Program, of ANILCA, Title
5 VIII, in ensuring that we have regulations in place to
6 support a subsistence opportunity. And where these
7 closure exist right now we don't have -- we don't have,
8 under Federal regulations, an opportunity for
9 subsistence fishing in these closed areas. So we're
10 trying to remedy that. That is an additional tool we
11 bring to the table as we all try to work together to co
12 -- well, to -- to manage sustainably the resources for
13 a Federal priority. But we need that tool kit in our
14 bag, we need to -- if -- if these closures are to be
15 lifted, we need to make sure that we have sustainable
16 regulations in place that support a subsistence
17 priority.

18

19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
22 Thank you, everyone. Well, I think maybe.....

23

24 MR. KOSO: Della. Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.
27 Go ahead.

28

29 MR. KOSO: Yeah, on this whole deal, I
30 know in our area, Della, the Cold Bay area, that's
31 pretty much State managed, not so much Federal in the
32 fishery part of it. I know like Mortensens Lagoon and
33 up, like Trout Creek and north of Cold Bay there,
34 that's all pretty much managed, in my mind by Fish and
35 Game, ADF&G. So my question earlier was that, you
36 know, where does the State stand on the priorities. I
37 know that supposedly it's Federal subsistence -- or the
38 subsistence fishing is No. 1 when conservation is at
39 peril, but the way it was in Cold Bay they closed some
40 areas down to, you know, subsistence fishing and they
41 left those areas open just to sportfishing and that was
42 Mortensens Lagoon, and up in Cold Bay and in some of
43 those streams that come out there, but that's all State
44 stuff that done that. So I don't know if we're looking
45 in the wrong area here, I think we should be maybe deal
46 more with the State on this stuff, I don't think the
47 Feds, at least in our area, Della, that would make a
48 difference. Okay.

49

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, Rick,
2 that's a good point. That's why I bring these up, these
3 are State closures and why can this Council not
4 recommend that the State review those closures and put
5 back in place some subsistence regulations. It's
6 obvious, I think, that these need to be changed but
7 what is the process and maybe Lisa or somebody, if
8 you're online, Taylor, could you maybe comment to that.

9
10 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair, this is
11 Tyler Lawson with Fish and Game.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tyler.

14
15 MR. LAWSON: Yeah, so I have kind of a
16 longer set of things to talk about including the State
17 Board of Fish proposals which specifically include a
18 lot of these issues in Cold Bay so I am happy to go
19 through those now or during my allocated time here in a
20 little bit, whichever you prefer.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: What are the
23 wishes of the Council.

24
25 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

28
29 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, this is Rebecca.
30 My preference would be for the Council -- so I guess
31 the way I'm looking at this is the -- I think it would
32 help if the Council decided are we going to attempt to
33 take up regulatory proposal -- so develop regulatory
34 proposals as a Council today or not. Based on the
35 comments I've heard so far I think everyone who spoke
36 said and indicated that we probably wouldn't have time
37 to do that. If the Council is not taking up the
38 regulatory proposals and we're, you know, going to go
39 back to our communities and, you know, develop some
40 proposed language at an individual level, then we -- we
41 don't need to delve too much more deeply into this
42 issue as a Council, and we can segway back to our
43 agenda, as written, in which case I would very much
44 like to hear the bigger presentation from Fish and
45 Game, however, if there's still more discussion to be
46 had on the Council's approach to these regulatory
47 proposals I'd prefer to have that discussion and kind
48 of close it out and figure out what we're doing so that
49 then we can, you know, know where we stand before we
50

0173

1 move on to a different item.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

6

7

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

8

9

10 MR. HOLMES: I think we've chewed this
11 all around but there has been some misconceptions
12 through our meeting, and misconceptions in the prior
13 meeting and I think it would be good to find out what
14 the Fish and Game reports are and what they're trying
15 to do because they are trying to solve the problems,
16 particularly in Cold Bay. I don't know -- but the
17 thing is they were stuck, the reason why the
18 subsistence is closed in saltwater when the commercial
19 fishery is closed is because years ago there was a
20 group of fishermen, that -- commercial fishermen that
21 when the commercial season was closed they would go and
22 do commercial fishing but say they were doing
23 subsistence and it took many years to try to find a way
24 to try to bring that into -- under control and that's
25 why the problems occurred this year. But I believe the
26 Staff has some proposals to solve that and I think the
27 big question overall on the whole concept over the
28 whole region is who is managing it and who is going to
29 enforce it. Because there's not enough people with the
30 Maritimes, there's no Rangers that would be doing that.
31 They're short at the Kodiak Refuge. The State doesn't
32 go out and do the enforcement. The way it works is the
33 -- where the sportfish or commfish, they go out and
34 fly, they monitor the streams or quite often -- and I
35 know in the case out in Unalaska if I was there, if I
36 missed something Amel would give me a call or Sven or
37 somebody else and they'd say, gee, it looks really bad
38 over at Naticun and, you know, I'd try to get my tush
39 over there, or if I could get a plane and go and look.
40 So the State, once they -- they're the ones that are
41 looking to see if there's a problem and adjust the
42 harvest or close. And I know throughout the region the
43 general practice, and you should ask the Staff, is they
44 usually close up commercial fishing, if they can do
45 that -- actually they do that, and then they go ahead
46 and close sport and subsistence at the same time and so
47 there's some misconceptions, I think, that the State
48 Staff should try to address and clear up for you folks.

48

49

Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
2 And, Pat, just -- I know you brought this up before, in
3 regards to the commercial fisheries stealing the -- or,
4 wherever, and I mean 40 years ago I think it might have
5 been hard for people to determine what was going on.
6 Today, I think it's a lot easier to see and be able to
7 catch people in what they're doing. I think the theory
8 here is trying to provide for a subsistence fishing
9 regulation, is what I'm thinking here. Now maybe --
10 and it doesn't need to be a lot but, you know, try to
11 separate all of these pieces.

12
13 My recommendation, guys, is we've kind
14 of beat this to death a little bit yesterday and then
15 we're continuing on this morning, maybe we just move on
16 in the agenda with Kodiak Refuge, and given all that we
17 have basically heard this morning and will continue as
18 the reports are done, at the end of our agenda or
19 before future meeting dates, that we come back to this
20 and hopefully have some sort of idea how we proceed
21 moving forward. Would that be agreeable.

22
23 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I agree, Della, we
24 should continue on the regular agenda.

25
26 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, that's fine with
27 me.

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

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

33
34 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I also wanted to
35 let this Council know, after you hear the other reports
36 from the Federal and State agencies, if this Council,
37 you know, changes its mind and wants to discuss any
38 fisheries proposals on the record today, you still can
39 do it until the end of this meeting.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
44 Katya. That's basically what we decided a minute ago.
45 So.....

46
47 MR. JACKSON: Madame Chairman, this is
48 James Jackson from the Fish and Game in Kodiak. Could
49 I add something really quick.

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, James.

2

3 MR. JACKSON: So just to put it out
4 there but a lot of the upcoming Fish and Game reports
5 aren't going to cover a lot of these fishery reviews
6 and I can probably add a little clarity as to why the
7 State's been rather quiet during this meeting. There's
8 a whole bunch of large jurisdictional issues that are
9 covered with these fishery proposal reviews. There's a
10 lot of inconsistencies in what the proposals say versus
11 what the maps show. There's a lot of inconsistencies
12 in what the current regs, the current State regs say
13 and what the Federal proposals say, what the State regs
14 say, and that's kind of why the Fish and Game is
15 waiting for the official technical report from OSM, so
16 that we know exactly what to comment on. And that's
17 partially why we're not speaking up so much during this
18 meeting.

19

20 I just wanted to throw that out there.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
23 A lot to consider guys and it's not going to -- it
24 doesn't seem an easy answer very soon but we'll just
25 keep working on it, I guess.

26

27 Let's go ahead and move on, Kodiak
28 National Wildlife Refuge activity report, Tab 8.

29

30 MR. BRADY: Good morning, Madame Chair
31 and members of the Board. This is Mike Brady, I'm the
32 Refuge Manager at Kodiak. I would like to start at the
33 end of the activity report on the personnel vacancies
34 and then turn it over to Bill.

35

36 So firstly, our longtime employee Sinda
37 Childers* retired last year, she was an office clerk
38 that did a lot of our subsistence permits and she was
39 replaced by Fallon Windsor who is a local Kodiak
40 person. And we have a new position, Refuge Operations
41 Specialist, Natalie Velez-Suarez, it's an entry level
42 position and she's going to be helping all program
43 areas so we're excited to have that new position
44 stationed here at Kodiak.

45

46 And just a few weeks ago our, Special
47 -- our Supervisor Park Ranger, Hans Kausner, took a new
48 position with the National Headquarters so we're
49 scrambling trying to figure out how to deal with

50

1 special use permits here at the station, which we do
2 about 150 special use permits per year. So stay tuned
3 for that.

4
5 And, lastly, I just wanted to talk
6 about the Deputy Refuge Manager position is in the
7 selection process and that's been vacant for almost a
8 year. So a lot of moving with positions here, locally.
9 And with that I'd like to turn over the activity report
10 to Supervisory Biologist Bill Pyle.

11
12 MR. PYLE: Good morning, Members of the
13 Council. Madame Chair. I will be delivering some
14 highlights from our activity report for the period
15 between September of last year and last month.

16
17 Starting on Page 1, would just refer you
18 to the subsistence permit summary and down below the
19 narrative is Table 1. A couple items there that seem
20 noteworthy is -- so there's a listing of the different
21 species for which we issue permits and that first line
22 with bear, seems to be an apparent trend of a decrease
23 in -- over the last few years in the number of permits
24 -- well, there's a decrease in the number of permits
25 we're issuing and possibly that just, you know,
26 corresponds with the potential decline in interest.
27 Just as a refresher, the opportunity to hunt under
28 Federal subsistence regulations for brown bear is
29 available to six village communities here in the Kodiak
30 area and there's a total of 13 permits that are
31 distributed among those villages.

32
33 Moving down to elk, it's kind of the
34 opposite trend. Large increase in interest reflected
35 in the number of permits we've issued and also a few
36 more elk taken.

37
38 Down to brown bear at the bottom of the
39 page. Last fall to the Council we reported that we'd
40 completed our cooperative surveys involving Department
41 of Fish and Game. In May, that's our main cooperative
42 survey, looking at brown bear abundance, we surveyed
43 two areas and one of those areas, the result indicated
44 that we were within the management target and the
45 survey results from the other indicated that we were
46 below the target. Well, since we reported the results
47 we just issued a memorandum describing what we found
48 and also making some recommendations and a couple of
49 those recommendations involve, in particular, the area
50

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1 where we werenot meeting our management targetand we --
2 usually when that happens, we go back and resurvey to
3 verify what's happened with that result and then,
4 secondly, if there's another potential implication
5 we'll also state that, and what we said was, you know,
6 we need to meet up and consider imposing a potential
7 skull size limit, something that's happened before on
8 the harvest of adult females and that's primarily
9 geared to improve the survival and production as was
10 the case when it was previously instituted.

11

12 So that's all I have to say about bear.

13

14 Moving on to Page 2. Didn't have
15 anything to really report on mountain goat in the fall
16 meeting. This time around I will. And so the Refuge
17 did not have an opportunity to assist the Department of
18 Fish and Game last year, like we usually do during our
19 summer survey, but they did get out and scope the field
20 and were able to count 562 goats. And one of the prime
21 functions of that survey is to evaluate the initial
22 productivity of the herd on Kodiak Island and it's
23 pretty much a stable situation, at least for the area,
24 eastern half of Kodiak Island they looked at, about
25 24[sic]hundred[sic] kids for -- per 100 adults is what
26 they came up with in the composition. Regarding
27 harvest there's been a total of 1,565 permits issued
28 here over the last year, to-date as of 19 January, and
29 about 80 percent of those were for registration permits
30 down on the western half of Kodiak Island in the
31 Registration Unit 480. In terms of harvest there's
32 been 242 goats harvested and about 57 percent of those
33 were in the registration hunt area. It's a big area
34 and, you know, we suspect that the percentage of
35 harvest in the registration area kind of corresponds
36 with the portion of the herd that is down in that very
37 large area. It's about 60 percent of the herd is
38 represented down there.

39

40 So let's take a look at northern sea
41 otter. We receive results of harvest over the years
42 from the Marine Mammals Division of the Fish and
43 Wildlife Service and the 2021 update is listed there.
44 I would call your attention towards the bottom of that
45 Table 2, there's the total per year per village
46 community and the total indicates that there has been,
47 over the last few years, a decline in some of the
48 harvest. Another item relative to sea otter is that we
49 were just notified recently that the -- by the Marine
50

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1 Mammals Management, that it has initiated planning for
2 a Kodiak survey that would occur in '23, or no later
3 than '24. The last survey was in 2014 and typically
4 this survey -- the upcoming survey would take in the
5 large, large scope ranging from Shuyak Island down to
6 Tagedik and operates like the last one, two to three
7 weeks, depends on the weather during the summer period.
8 So that is the main survey that is used to gage trend
9 in the sea otter population around the Kodiak area.

10

11 Okay, over to Page 3.

12

13 Talking about migratory birds. So
14 there's a few items here I'd like to cover. First of
15 all is we're kind of in the wrap up stage with the tern
16 research that has been conducted over the last few
17 years cooperatively with the Oregon State University.
18 As a matter of fact this week there's a presentation
19 with Pacific Seabird Group conference annual meeting
20 that describes some of the results from that study and
21 the graduate student that was associated with it, Jill
22 Tengeres is expected to conclude her work this spring.

23

24 Robbin Corcoran, our bird biologist
25 just recently, last month, was able to publish results
26 from the common murre die-off back in 2015 and 2016 and
27 unique to Robbin's work is the fact that it combines
28 both the evaluation of near shore surveys and the
29 anomalous distribution of murrees during those years.
30 Combines Archipelago information for those surveys and
31 also supports it with extensive beach boat surveys that
32 occurred locally here -- most intensively here in the
33 local Kodiak area along the road system during that
34 period and also includes some of the reporting that
35 came in from the field from various folks that were
36 around the Kodiak Island, in particular, that were
37 reporting what was going on. So that's a significant
38 report and, of course, that die-off was associated with
39 the warm conditions and ultimately based on some lab
40 analysis that we did of the birds was related to
41 starvation as primary cause.

42

43 Upcoming and starting this year, we're
44 going to be some additional cooperative research.
45 Started a project focused on the two puffin species.
46 And so there's some concern that the puffins may be
47 declining, they're generally speaking, common, and
48 nesting in colonies in various islands around predator
49 free islands for the most part, around the Archipelago
50

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1 and so this work will occur over a three year period
2 and it will combine the near shore surveys that we do.
3 An evaluation of that data set. And puffins are one of
4 the most common species. In addition, it will also try
5 and catch birds and put GPS devices on them to figure
6 out where they're going during the winter, and also to
7 be able to study what's going on with food supply.

8
9 And then we will be doing -- I
10 mentioned the near shore surveys, this year we'll
11 conclude the third complete round of work since 2011
12 where we do surveys in different regions of the
13 Archipelago, every year take a break and do colony
14 specific work in between the surveys and this year
15 we'll be doing the surveys over on the west side. Last
16 year was Afognak, and then back in 2019 was the east
17 side.

18
19 So over to Page 4. Just a couple
20 things under salmon fisheries. Most of the narrative
21 under western area and northern area are kind of items
22 -- summary items of information that we were provided
23 by the Department of Fish and Game and we more or less
24 summarized those at the last Council meeting.

25
26 I want to kind of refer you to the
27 table on the next page, actually, this would be the
28 last page, Page 5. And so we have been doing stock
29 assessment work down on Akalura Creek, which is one of
30 the main creeks that feeds into Olga Bay down in
31 southwest Kodiak Island. And results of that
32 assessment have indicated -- it's focused on the late
33 run sockeye, a decline in the number of fish that are
34 escaping into the lake over the last few years.

35
36 One other item I'd like to cover here
37 under education outreach is the Migratory Bird Calendar
38 Contest, it's happening right now. And the topic is
39 bird and language and stories for this year. So the
40 Refuge has a supporting role in regards to that contest
41 and we sent out materials to rural schools, home-school
42 students, tribal councils and other organizations in
43 January and expect that the submissions are happening
44 and that the judging will occur sometime in March.

45
46 So that concludes the highlights of our
47 activities report for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.
48 And, Madame Chair, glad to take questions in regards to
49 that report and I also will be the one addressing the
50

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1 next topic on behalf of the Refuge regarding proposed
2 fishery regulation changes.

3

4 So questions first.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
7 Any questions at this time, or comments.

8

9 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral, I have a
10 question.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I just wanted to
15 ask about -- so the Alaska Migratory Bird Calendar
16 Contest, it is -- the kids in rural schools and home-
17 schooled students are able to participate in that and
18 so I've known -- and so the town schools are not
19 allowed to participate in that so I'm wondering is
20 there a way that we can suggest that change so that all
21 the town schools, which we have three -- do we have
22 three town schools -- so they would be able to
23 participate. I think that the kids -- it's a valuable
24 lesson, you know, to learn about the birds. I've been
25 a judge for a few years on the bird contest and to see
26 what the kids -- you can see what the kids get out of
27 it from looking at the art, I only see the art end of
28 it, but you can see how much the kids gain from that
29 and I think it's important to get that program into the
30 local schools. So I guess I'm asking, is there a way
31 that we can facilitate that. Can we write a letter to
32 somebody in support of that idea.

33

34 MR. PYLE: Ms. Chernoff, through the
35 Chair. Possibly. I don't know the specifics of the
36 exclusion for the town schools but that's something
37 that's probably front and center and understood by our
38 Environmental Education Specialist, Shelly Lawson, so
39 if it's okay with you, we would be glad to get back to
40 you with what we know about that and if we don't know
41 then we're just going to call the office that handles
42 the calendar administration. And so you can expect a
43 response as soon as we can get that to you.

44

45 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you.

46

47 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair, Sam Rohrer
48 here, I have a question.

49

50

0181

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

2

3 MR. ROHRER: Thanks. Good morning,
4 Bill. Thanks for a good report this morning. I have a
5 question on your population assessment for brown bear.
6 Just wondering about your recommendations for
7 Shearwater that was two-fold, the first part to
8 resurvey it within three years, which is self-
9 explanatory, but then you also talked about
10 reinstituting -- or I guess instituting for that area
11 a skull size minimums. I'm just curious is the Service
12 thinking about submitting a proposal for the upcoming
13 Board of Game cycle. I know the deadline -- or I think
14 the deadline for proposals for Kodiak, for Unit 8, is
15 like April 17th maybe, it's sometime in April, or are
16 you thinking about maybe running that -- having the AC
17 to do that, or asking the AC to do that, or what method
18 were you -- how were you looking at getting those
19 proposals -- or that regulation changed.

20

21 MR. PYLE: Mr. Rohrer, through the
22 Chair. So we need to work it out with the area
23 biologist and his team over at the Department of Fish
24 and Game. And, yes, to make it -- it makes most sense
25 to get it into the current cycle and to work together
26 so stay tuned. It's not resolved yet exact -- we just
27 made -- just issued this memo and so we're waiting for
28 the area biologist to get back so we can get together
29 and if we need to take rapid action and he's agreeable
30 to that, work it out with them and then also clearly
31 try and get it into the current cycle, as was the
32 previous one, which operated during the '90s down in
33 the southwest portion of Kodiak Island. So stay tuned,
34 more to come.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. ROHRER: Roger that. Okay, I
39 appreciate it, thanks.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
44 comments -- go ahead, Rebecca.

45

46 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, this is Rebecca,
47 yeah, thanks. So my questions are about the sea otter
48 -- about sea otters. In the report I see that we have
49 the harvest data and it looks like that was provided by
50

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1 the Marine Mammals Division, do we have any survey data
2 or population data about the otters, and -- and, well,
3 when I say any data, I mean data from the last several
4 years. If we don't have data is there any expectation
5 of getting survey data. So whatever information you
6 can provide about the otter population estimates would
7 be helpful.

8

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Thank you.

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MR. PYLE: Ms. Skinner, through the Chair, thank you for your question. There's two types of surveys. One is kind of the formal Marine Mammal Management Division supported survey, one that uses a certain technique that's been applied to other regions of the Gulf and out on the Chain, and it has this large -- as I mentioned, a large geographic scope. That's the main one that they supported, that's the main one that they're proposing for operation next year. And then one that they haven't supported that we've done because we're out on the water doing these around the horn surveys of the Archipelago as I mentioned in the bird part of the presentation, we are tracking sea otters, and we are evaluating the trend and that is kind of region specific. So in each of these regions, once again, the greater Afognak area, east side and west side of Kodiak Island, we have like more recent surveys for sure. And more frequent. But they're a completely different order. But nonetheless I mean the whole purpose of that both bird and mammal survey is to track trend on these systematic transects and we do that both in June and then for whatever area's being surveyed, again in August. So, you know, this ground was a little bit covered a few years ago. We reported that we were doing this and that I think there's probably some Council minutes that indicate, you know, your desire to see Marine Mammals go ahead and address that, and we do our analysis here and so we have results, we just haven't really presented those results to the Council, but they are available if you are interested. And then, you know, if Marine Mammals wants to take it up and say, well, to what extent, you know, is this valuable.

And then the other thing I would say about it is that so we're also looking at a pretty large geographic scope and I'm not sure if you parse that data into a more local area you can look at it, but I'm not, you know, that would be the other question

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1 is, you know, do you have a particular area in mind,
2 once, again, given the three main geographic areas of
3 that second type of surveys that the Refuge performs.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Okay, yeah, thanks. That
6 was really helpful. Yes, I certainly as one Council
7 member would be interested in seeing the Refuge data
8 whenever you are able to share it, that would be great.
9 And then I do appreciate that there's a difference
10 between the -- a bureaucratic difference between the
11 Marine Mammal surveys and then the, what I would call
12 more opportunistic surveys that you guys are doing,
13 which I mean I really appreciate because that is
14 providing kind of more consistent timely data.

15

16 And then my final question, based on
17 the information that you guys have, do you know off the
18 top of your head, because I understand it's not in
19 here, what are the trends for the otters around Kodiak.
20 And that's a bit unfair if you don't have it in front
21 of you but if you did have a sense that would be
22 helpful to hear.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. PYLE: All I can report on that I'm
27 aware of and what's in front of me is that the big
28 survey, the results are dated. I mean it's 2014 and at
29 that time, in comparison with the previous surveys,
30 there -- and the most recent survey there was no
31 significant change in the number of sea otters,
32 however, there was some interesting changes in
33 distribution that kind of coincided with the increase
34 of sea otter in this portion of northeast Kodiak
35 Island, particularly, the Chiniak and Womens Bay
36 vicinity. But like I said, those results are dated and
37 I don't have and I'm not looking at a copy of Robbin's
38 results from the boat based surveys but stay tuned we
39 can get that to you and you can check it out.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: Okay, yeah, and actually
42 that was the trend information that I was asking about
43 was the boat base surveys. So, yeah, I'll just keep an
44 eye out whenever that's available. I know I would very
45 much like to see it.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. PYLE: You're welcome.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
2 comments, questions.

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I've got several
9 small questions there, Bill, but I'll call you up in a
10 day or so and get those to you on the bears and goats,
11 and surveys on otters and stuff.

12
13 But I wanted to ask you a big question
14 and that revolves around the proposals that we've been
15 hashing here for about three meetings on the withdrawal
16 of the closures, Federal closures. And first off, I'd
17 like to ask you, what is your interaction with the
18 Department right now as far as the Buskin this year,
19 last year when things got weak, are you consulted on
20 that when things are closed. And then the second half
21 of the inquiry would be, if we were to implement that
22 closure to allow sportfish gear for subsistence at the
23 Buskin, Litnik, and in Womens Bay, do you have Staff to
24 monitor that and do you have people to do the
25 enforcement on that.

26
27 Thank you, sir.

28
29 MR. PYLE: Mr. Holmes, through the
30 Chair. I'd like to defer to Manager Michael Brady, the
31 In-Season Manager for the Federal subsistence in Fish
32 and Wildlife Service administered waters.

33
34 MR. BRADY: Yes, good morning. So we
35 don't -- we rely heavily on James Jackson and the State
36 to let us know where salmon numbers are and we follow
37 suit with the State. It's gotten a little more
38 difficult over the last few years but we do try to
39 close when -- when James -- we usually discuss it and
40 when the numbers start not meeting where James feels
41 that it's important we -- we do close together --
42 hopefully simultaneously. Does that answer your
43 question?

44
45 MR. HOLMES: That's the first one. It
46 sounds like things work reasonably well. I know -- but
47 then I'm thinking back as years ago when I was active
48 in the salmon but I know that's always been, make a
49 solid thing to keep Feds in -- to keep you folks
50

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1 informed and then an agreement when things -- closures
2 are going to happen. But if they were to implement the
3 closures and withdraw the limits on taking reds in the
4 Buskin, Litnik, salmon in Womens Bay, do you have Staff
5 to do that monitoring, and do you have Staff to do that
6 enforcement and management of it?

7
8 MR. BRADY: We do -- we probably don't
9 have enough Staff to do the monitoring but really the
10 State here is the expert here locally for Kodiak. But
11 we do have a new officer coming in May, which we
12 haven't had an officer for awhile, specifically for
13 Kodiak, but, yes, we would have more opportunity to be
14 able to do that this summer.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Okay. So he would -- if
17 this summer, of course, but it'll be a year or two
18 before -- a couple years before this gets implemented
19 but what I'm looking at is I talked to a State
20 enforcement officer and they said that they would not
21 be enforcing Federal rules on Kodiak or up on Afognak
22 and so that would drop into your pocket and I was just
23 wondering how -- I mean you finally got back a ranger
24 you've been missing for a long time but you obviously
25 have things to do on the Refuge and would you be able
26 to do the monitoring of those streams that I just
27 mentioned for enforcement?

28
29 MR. BRADY: Yeah, it's not easy for us
30 to do the -- you know, the assessment, we're really
31 leaning on the State to watch those populations of
32 fish, or salmon, we would have assistance with the
33 officer but it's only Federal waters so as we know,
34 like even the Buskin, it's a mix of different
35 ownerships so it's really just the Federal waters that
36 I believe our officer would be able to enforce on.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, according to
39 OSM Buskin is Federal waters and because on Federal
40 lands and the question is, is the enforcement, the
41 monitoring I'm sure that the Department would still be
42 doing that but that's a sticky wicket on this whole
43 concept of withdrawing the closures is enforcing
44 because I know doing State regs on snagging and stuff
45 I've had some difficult times with people that --
46 anyways, snagging, and that wasn't even my job to be
47 down there and the State, generally in June when the
48 sockeye are running, there's maybe one person or two
49 left and everybody else is up in Bristol Bay and then
50

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1 they don't do enforcement of Federal regs or said they
2 wouldn't, and so that would mean that you'd probably
3 need to get another ranger or something to make sure
4 that people aren't cheating, and reduce -- take more
5 than what the streams can sustain.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della.
8 Can I.....

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Sorry, I'll hang up.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:interrupt.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Okay.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I just
17 kind of -- if we can be on task here. I think we
18 talked about putting off the issue in regard to the
19 closures and anything toward -- after -- prior to our
20 future meeting date so we can move on with the agenda
21 and get the reports so if we can stick to that I think
22 we can move things along faster would be my
23 recommendation, Pat. Is that okay.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to
28 assume that that's a yes. Is there any other questions
29 for the Izembek [sic] National Wildlife Refuge report.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
34 we'll move on to the item Proposed Administrative
35 and/or Regulatory Changes to the Kodiak Fishing
36 Regulations, supplemental report.

37

38 MR. PYLE: Madame Chair, this is Bill
39 Pyle with Kodiak Refuge reporting on that. I would
40 refer Council members to the supplemental materials
41 that were posted on the website but they received
42 copies of pertaining to this topic.

43

44 So the Refuge drafted some proposals, a
45 proposal, related to this where we marked up the
46 existing regulations. And the reason we've done this
47 is, and this is the preliminary stage and we invite
48 Council feedback, of course, on this process, before we
49 actually submit an official proposal in this cycle.

50

1 The reason we did it is our office is the permitting
2 office here in the Kodiak area, and our goal is to
3 provide good customer support. The people could come
4 in apply for permits and to ensure that they understand
5 the regulations sufficiently so that they can comply
6 with those regulations. And there has been
7 considerable confusion over the years as to who's on
8 first when it comes to the way that these regulations
9 are listed in the regulation handbook. Not all of it,
10 but part of it. And so that is the basis for -- we
11 have some similar concerns about wildlife but that's
12 another day, and so given the approach of this cycle we
13 thought it was relevant to go ahead and advise the
14 Council of this -- of what we're thinking and what we
15 would like to act on and to cover that ground with you
16 as best as possible. I wish you could all see, you
17 know, the mark up that we have but if you'll bear with
18 me I'll walk through some of the main points here that
19 are referred to in one of the supplementary materials.
20 I'll give a background and then kind of talk a little
21 more specifically about the proposed areas of change
22 under consideration.

23

24 So what I'd like to do is that
25 narrative description, if we could -- and I guess I'll
26 preface it, excuse me, by saying that we have
27 consulted, as described in that narrative, with the
28 Office of Subsistence Management, had a few rounds of
29 that, and we appreciate the support that they have
30 provided addressing questions and helping us get to
31 this point.

32

33 So if you're looking at a copy of the
34 regulations I'm going to be talking about first, Page
35 53 and if we go down to the bottom of that narrative
36 where it says customary and traditional use
37 determinations, the first thing I'll address is over on
38 the left side under area. So you'll see under
39 customary and traditional use determination, it
40 describes the areas for these determinations for salmon
41 and then non-salmon species. And so the proposed
42 change adds some language to the front end where we're
43 talking about waters of the Kodiak Archipelago and then
44 we -- except those in the mainland district which
45 refers to the Alaska Peninsula area within the Kodiak
46 area, and we propose to strike out the geographic
47 lat/long information there. Simplify it down. And
48 also to prefer specifically we're talking to the
49 Federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service marine waters
50

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1 specifically in this case.

2

3

4 And then on that second line, on the
5 left side it says Kodiak remainder. Well, what does
6 that mean. Well, in reference to this determination it
7 specifically means the mainland district is, in fact,
8 that Alaska Peninsula area that's within the overall
9 Kodiak area. And so we add the mainland district. And
10 in parentheses, Alaska Peninsula. So that's kind of
11 under the C&T determinations. That's it for area.

11

12

13 If you go over to the right side of
14 that table there's that other column that's under
15 determination. And as far as we can tell, you know,
16 much of this applies to residents of the area, the main
17 distinction under salmon is exclusion of Coast Guard
18 personnel from eligibility to get a permit. But what
19 that says there, residents of Kodiak Island Borough
20 except those residing on Kodiak Coast Guard Base, well,
21 I would point out that there is a fraction of active
22 duty and dependents that don't live on base and how do
23 you address those in this case. And then there's
24 others -- other members that are here for several
25 tours, so they're long term, and many of the Base
26 members actually establish residency once they get
27 here, here in Alaska for a year, permanent residence,
28 Kodiak, off Base, on Base, and so -- and then, you
29 know, those that actually stay for multiple tours, I
30 don't know what the fraction is, but for consideration
31 of the Council, we think that there's some existing
32 discrepancy the way it stands and I'm not sure, just in
33 terms of fairness, whether this is really something
34 that, you know, I don't know what the original history
35 of the establishment of this regulation is but I just
36 wanted to point it out. Because, you know, if you were
37 to change it, one of our.....

37

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(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

MR. PYLE:suggestions is to
change it to residents of the Kodiak area. And remove
the exclusion for Coast Guard personnel, similar to
what's under the State regulations that occurs, there
is no exclusion so long as they're residents.

And so that's it under the customary
and traditional use.....

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1 MS. SKINNER: Hey, Bill.

2

3 MR. PYLE:determination so I'm
4 going to move to the next.....

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Bill.

7

8 MR. PYLE: Oh, excuse me, go ahead,
9 please.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, this is Rebecca.
12 Is it okay if we ask questions section by section, do
13 you mind?

14

15 MR. PYLE: Ms. Skinner, through the
16 Chair. No, not at all, no, please.

17

18 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So my first
19 question on the area description, I wanted to make sure
20 I understand what your proposed change was. So are you
21 essentially -- are you essentially taking out the
22 descriptive language of the geographic area so the
23 south side of the Alaska Peninsula bounded by the
24 latitude, you know, et cetera, et cetera, and you're
25 replacing that with Kodiak Archipelago; is that
26 essentially what you're doing there?

27

28 MR. PYLE: The Kodiak area -- yes, the
29 waters of the Kodiak Archipelago, except the mainland
30 district and it basically, that geographic description
31 pertains to the mainland district, you know, the area
32 over there on the Alaska Peninsula.

33

34 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Okay, yeah, and I
35 personally like that. I think it's more clear and
36 straightforward. I don't think in lat and long, so any
37 time I see it, I'm going to be honest, I just glaze
38 right over it because I don't know what that means
39 except we have the Store 58 Degrees North so I know,
40 you know, that's where we're located. So that's my
41 first comment.

42

43 And then, yeah, I guess I didn't have a
44 comment yet on your point or question about the Coast
45 Guard, I may come back to that, but I did want to make
46 sure I understood the area. That's all I had, thanks.

47

48 MR. PYLE: You're welcome. Okay,
49 moving on. Well, is there any additional questions of
50

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1 the Council at this point.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6 MR. PYLE: Okay. Moving on down to the
7 next table which addresses harvest limits. The first
8 line there refers to, under salmon, on the left side,
9 that long description on the left side specifically
10 pertains to northeast Kodiak Island and the road
11 accessible areas; in case you were wondering. And so
12 we propose to say that. Road accessible zone,
13 northeastern Kodiak Island. We also think it's
14 relevant here and in some other places to state that
15 this pertains to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
16 administered Federal public waters. There are other
17 Federal jurisdictions out in the marine environment in
18 the Kodiak area so we think it's important that we're
19 just talking about the areas that we identify on maps
20 that in the map -- in the regulation book, a pretty
21 large area, but we got that plus the specific area maps
22 where we're talking about these Federal public waters
23 that the Service administers. So we think it's
24 important that just underneath in smaller type to say
25 that.

25

26

27

And really that's the main change for
under this section of harvest limits.

28

29

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And then, you know, the same thing kind
of applies, I would say, you know, I would point out to
the Council that in terms of our process down here at
this office, maps are key. And so back in the day the
Office of Subsistence Management had prepared maps
after fishery regulations initially got established,
maps were important, and they had prepared maps of each
of the areas. The area around Afognak, Buskin vicinity
and then down off shore of Karluk. And so we provide
those maps, you know, you need more detail than what's
in the regulation book and they -- those maps do it.
But they really don't zoom in on the closed area and we
were just recently made aware of the fact that maps had
been prepared of some of the closed areas in the Kodiak
area that are, in fact, on the OSM's website and we
will be also, as appropriate, supplementing our
handouts to permittees with those maps. And so we
think it's important, you know, and perhaps under -- on
Page 54 where we're talking about closures say that,
you know, detailed area maps are available upon request
at our headquarter's office, you know, the permitting

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1 office located in Kodiak. Just let those folks know
2 that it's like, well, you know, you can read the
3 description and try and figure it out but we're also
4 going to provide you with a map that can visually show
5 you, you know, what's going on and where those Federal
6 public waters are.

7
8 So finally I'd like to conclude with
9 saying that, you know, there's this back -- the
10 shellfish regulations are at the back end, this
11 pertains to crabs and shellfish for the Kodiak area,
12 Page 89. And so under that one, customary and
13 traditional use determinations, we propose -- and this
14 is all draft, subject to Council feedback now as well
15 as more formally after we submit a proposal, to remove
16 that second line in that table and to add king crab
17 under species to the first line. And this, once again,
18 pertains to that Coast Guard exclusion. And now
19 currently, you know, there's not much of any difference
20 between the king -- with the king crab Federal
21 regulations versus the State regulations, except for
22 this Coast Guard exclusion. They're virtually
23 identical in terms of king crab and other species.

24
25 So it, once again, is relevant to, you
26 know, what -- consideration of what to do with the
27 status of the Coast Guard. And noting the
28 discrepancies I've pointed out before under the
29 existing exclusion, for those that reside on Base and
30 those that live off Base, those that are here for the
31 long term and so on. But if you remove that second
32 line, you could add king crab to the first and you'd be
33 done with it.

34
35 So that concludes my presentation here.
36 Like I said we'll be -- we invite the Council's
37 perspective on this, it's important, and we look
38 forward to developing a proposal that you can further
39 review in preparation for the fall meeting.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any more
44 comments or questions in regard to the presentation.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Pat here.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

49
50

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1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Bill, I think that's
2 good. I'll need to get with you to get that specific
3 because I misplaced my reg book until the last two
4 minutes of your talk. But anyway it seems to be a
5 pretty reasonable approach. Thank you, very much, and
6 I'm glad you got somebody there at the office to answer
7 those questions because, you know, some folks, like
8 myself, don't do so good just going to a website. So
9 thank you very much for your report and I think you're
10 on the right track. Bye.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
13 comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha, are you
18 online, I didn't doublecheck with you to see if you
19 made it online.

20
21 MS. HAYDEN: Yes, ma'am, I've been on
22 since a little before 9:00. Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yep, I figured,
25 but I wanted to make sure your name got on there.

26
27 Any other comments.

28
29 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, this is Coral.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

32
33 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I think as far as
34 the Coast Guard Base, I think probably these
35 regulations were put in a long time ago and I don't
36 know at what point the residency took on that one year
37 but, yeah, I think members of the Coast Guard Base is
38 probably no longer relevant. Also, as they said Coast
39 Guard has moved off and on the Base, and I'm not sure
40 any way that we could target and deny that Coast Guard
41 cannot use these subsistence regulations.

42
43 So I think that's just probably --
44 it'll be nice to get that changed. I think it just
45 came from another time, another era and it's kind of
46 outdated at this point.

47
48 I think there was another -- let me
49 see, I did not mark it on my -- but there was another
50

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1 area that I felt like was a little too general. Oh, I
2 think -- what was the part about -- now I'm on a
3 different page -- the Kodiak lifting something, or just
4 having the descriptor be the Kodiak Archipelago area,
5 is that a thing -- I'm not finding it right here -- but
6 if it's a thing, I feel like that's kind of a -- oh,
7 let's see, I guess before I go on about it, was that
8 said, that you wanted that change for the mainland to
9 be taken off and it just be called the Kodiak
10 Archipelago?

11

12 MR. PYLE: Ms. Chernoff, through the
13 Chair. Yes. I mean that first line is referring to
14 the areas around the Kodiak Archipelago, you know,
15 because.....

16

17 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. Yeah.

18

19 MR. PYLE:it says, you know,
20 here's the exception, right. And so we think it's
21 important.....

22

23 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah.

24

25 MR. PYLE:to, you know,
26 specifically mention, you know, here's the area and
27 it's the Federal waters that are administered by the
28 Service that we're specifically talking about. So, in
29 any case, yeah, we think it's important to state that,
30 you know, we're over here, this line and this item
31 pertains to the Archipelago, it doesn't refer to, you
32 know, but it does state what that exception is, is
33 like, hey, over on the mainland district, you know,
34 Alaska Peninsula area within the Kodiak area, that's
35 that second line. And why they ever had the Alaska
36 Peninsula described, you know, in that particular cite
37 I'm not sure, it should be -- if it was included for
38 the lat/longs it should be down on that second line.

39

40 MS. CHERNOFF: So you're talking about
41 under traditional -- customary and traditional use, so
42 you guys don't administer any permitting, and is that
43 not Federal waters over on the mainland?

44

45 MR. PYLE: Ms. Chernoff, through the
46 Chair. Yeah, we're the permitting office. And as far
47 as I know we've never issued a permit for anything over
48 there, Federal waters, of course Katmai Park's off
49 limits, and the waters over there on the other hand,
50

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1 you know, when it comes to the Alaska Peninsula,
2 Becharof Refuge, you know, it's all remote and some of
3 those waters may be included but it doesn't have any
4 Federal marine waters, okay, in contrast to the.....

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: Oh.

7

8 MR. PYLE:Kodiak Archipelago.

9

10 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay, that's what I was
11 wondering about, so there's no Federal marine waters
12 over there?

13

14 MR. PYLE: Yes, ma'am.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
17 comments or questions.

18

19 MR. BRADY: This is Mike, the Refuge
20 Manager, I'd like to make another comment.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mike.

23

24 MR. BRADY: So like the more people --
25 the better we can interpret these, especially like even
26 Litnik, people who have lived in this community for
27 years didn't even know that they could subsistence fish
28 at Litnik, so I think the clearer we make these maps
29 and things that Bill talked about, I think the
30 community would use subsistence more if they knew what
31 was available. So I think these specific clean ups are
32 going to help the community.

33

34 MS. CHERNOFF: So this is Coral.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

37

38 MS. CHERNOFF:again.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Go
41 ahead, Coral.

42

43 MS. CHERNOFF: So I'm looking at the
44 map and across here, across Shelikoff Strait is down in
45 the, I guess, it would be southwestern part of the
46 mainland, you have the National Wildlife Refuge and
47 Alaska -- oh, Becharof National Wildlife Refuge and
48 Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge. So I just
49 wanted to clarify, again -- oh, and then above that, is
50

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1 that National Park Service administered Park lands, so
2 I just want to clarify again is that Federal waters off
3 of those -- all that Park area?

4

5 MR. PYLE: Ms. Chernoff, through the
6 Chair. So, yeah, there are Federal waters but the Park
7 is closed to Federal subsistence and that explains the
8 hatching there and describes that in the legend. In
9 contrast to the Alaska Peninsula, Becharof Refuge
10 waters, yeah, those are open just like the ones on
11 Kodiak Island interior inland waters, correct.

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. I guess I'm -- I'm
14 -- I guess I would like to see the area described as is
15 since there are Federal waters and I think the reason I
16 think that -- the Kodiak Island Borough, I don't know
17 how far over that goes, but the Kodiak Island Borough
18 includes parts of those lands. Also Koniaq, who is the
19 local indigenous corporation, they also own lands over
20 there. So I think if we take those out, even though
21 people can subsistence fish and gathering or
22 subsistence gather over at the Alaska Peninsula
23 National Wildlife Refuge, I would just like to see all
24 of that left on there.

25

26 MR. PYLE: Ms. Chernoff, through the
27 Chair. Are you referring to the geographic description
28 that's.....

29

30 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

31

32 MR. PYLE:in the current
33 regulations under cust -- and would you also
34 potentially be amenable to just dropping that down to
35 the second line where we specifically refer to the
36 Kodiak area remainder, you know, I mean and
37 specifically this particular case, the only Federal
38 waters in the Kodiak area that aren't covered in the
39 first line are over there, on the mainland district,
40 the ones that we just talked about.

41

42 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess what's difficult
43 for me is that if we're talking about the whole area is
44 why don't we just talk about the whole area. Because
45 like when I look at this, you know, it's got the
46 descriptive area at the top and then it's got a
47 descriptive area, Kodiak area except the mainland
48 district and then under that it has Kodiak area
49 remainder and then it has Kodiak area, so when I look
50

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1 at Kodiak area, it's like what is the Kodiak area. I
2 think Kodiak area and Kodiak Archipelago isn't
3 necessarily clear. And even though I've never liked
4 reading the latitudes and all that, you know, maybe we
5 could call it something else that's simpler. I don't
6 know, I guess I'm opposed to just calling different
7 things different -- it's already confusing as it is.

8

9 I live in Kodiak and I still struggle
10 -- and I didn't even know you could -- yeah, that
11 there's subsistence areas in some areas that I never
12 even knew of and why you can't subsistence in some
13 areas, and then you try and read the areas and you're
14 like where is that and then like we talked about the
15 maps, you look at the maps provided and you still can't
16 tell. So I guess if I were to look at that I would
17 just want to just call it all one thing. And I think
18 using latitude and longitude numbers, as much as I
19 don't like to, but when it's clearly lined out on the
20 map then it's easy to see.

21

22 And I guess maybe -- maybe we're saying
23 the same thing, maybe I just need to read it closer.
24 But that's the difficulty, too, is like it shouldn't
25 take a week and you shouldn't have to read over this 17
26 times and still not know what's going on, you know. So
27 I agree in trying to like try and bring it to a place
28 that we can understand it but I guess maybe I'll go
29 over it and I'll have more comments later. Maybe I'll
30 understand it more.

31

32 MR. PYLE: Ms. Chernoff, through the
33 Chair.

34

35 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

36

37 MR. PYLE: Excuse me.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
40 Rebecca.

41

42 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I just wanted to
43 point out that table, the customary and traditional use
44 determination, the way I'm reading it, it has to be
45 broken into these geographic areas because the
46 different areas have different determinations. So for
47 example the Kodiak area remainder, which is, if I'm
48 understanding Bill correctly, that's the area over on
49 the Peninsula, that has a determination for all rural
50

1 residents. So all rural residents throughout the state
2 of Alaska, if I'm understanding this correctly, have a
3 customary and traditionally use -- or could fit under
4 the C&T for that. But the first area, the one that has
5 all the lat and long information, the C&T determination
6 for that area is specific to the residents of Kodiak
7 Island Borough except for people on the Coast Guard
8 Base. So I guess the way I'm looking at this, I don't
9 think it's possible to only have one geographic area
10 listed because there's three -- because there's two
11 different groups of people that have a determination,
12 and then the last line deals with fish other than
13 rainbow and steelhead trout. So we're dealing with two
14 -- I'm going to call them two different species, salmon
15 and then the trout, and then we're dealing with
16 different groups of people who have a C&T
17 determination, and those determinations apply to
18 different areas. And, Bill, if I'm interpreting that
19 let me know.

20

21 But I think part of the challenge with
22 putting this in a table is that we're dealing with, you
23 know, three and four different factors, and we're
24 trying to simplify it but you can't get around that we
25 do have different factors that have to be listed out.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MR. PYLE: Ms. Skinner, through the
30 Chair. Your interpretation is correct. And we don't
31 propose to do anything with the three different lines
32 there, you got two for salmon and then you got one for
33 non-salmon. And we recognize that those were the C&T
34 determinations and that's how it was broken up. And,
35 in fact, the Kodiak area is these two sections. When
36 it comes to Fish and Wildlife Service that are
37 administered Federal waters, you know, you've got the
38 relevant waters that are in the vicinity of the Kodiak
39 Archipelago and then you've got over there, as we
40 discussed, over there on the Peninsula there and
41 specifically just in the Alaska Peninsula Becharof
42 Refuge. And so there's these two sections, you know,
43 there's the area in the immediate vicinity of the
44 Kodiak Archipelago and then over on the other side of
45 the Shelikoff. And so you have to keep that in there
46 somehow and the idea is to try and boil it down to
47 what's the most descriptive for that and then we can
48 follow up, as we usually do, with our maps, like we
49 discussed earlier.

50

0198

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, did that
4 help.

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. Yes, I think it
7 helped.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
10 you. Any other comments.

11

12 MS. PETRIVELLI: Chair, this is Pat
13 Petrivelli with BIA.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

16

17 MS. PETRIVELLI: Bill, I was just
18 wondering, because when you're talking about the
19 descriptors, I understand that, but were you going to
20 submit a proposal to change the C&T determinations that
21 would recognize residents of the Coast Guard as having
22 customary and traditional use; is that what you're
23 saying?

24

25 MR. PYLE: Ms. Petrivelli, through the
26 Chair. We regard most of these as administrative type
27 of changes but, yeah, there are some and that's one of
28 them that would pertain to a potential rule change.

29

30 MS. PETRIVELLI: Okay. So then if you
31 submitted the proposal then in the fall the Council
32 would look at an analysis that looked at the eight
33 factors and looked at the residents of the Base and
34 maybe if you have the proposed -- well, with the
35 proposal, the wording, the descriptors of the areas
36 could be addressed through that proposal, or you could
37 indicate that, but the Council would have a chance to
38 evaluate has the uses changed because when these
39 determinations that were made, that was in 2000, so
40 it's been 20 years and people's uses change over the
41 years and patterns change, and so the Council could
42 look at the customary and traditional uses of those
43 areas. That's all, I was just curious if you are going
44 to put in a C&T proposal that would let that analysis
45 occur.

46

47 MR. PYLE: Ms. Petrivelli, through.....

48

49 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is

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0199

1 Robbin.

2

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MR. PYLE:the Chair -- excuse me.

4

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MS. LAVINE: Actually, respond, thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Robbin.

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Thank you, Madame Chair.

MS. PETRIVELLI: Excuse me for a minute, could I say something.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

0200

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: I didn't do the
2 analysis but Rachel Mason would probably have done it
3 before I got on board but I think the Council looked at
4 it and it says residents except those on the Coast
5 Guard Base. And I think what they looked at is they
6 thought the people who lived in the barracks or the
7 institutional quarters were not subsistence users.
8 When you don't have a kitchen or, you know, if you're
9 living in institutional housing is hard to consider
10 that, and I think that's what they looked at. Now,
11 probably the living situation has changed over 20 years
12 and they're not in institutional quarters as such, or
13 maybe their practices, they're able to have subsistence
14 activities without a kitchen but that could be looked
15 at. And there was a proposal written, the Council
16 looked at those factors and they made that
17 determination, it's not an administrative change. The
18 Board accepted the Council's recommendation to make
19 that determination. And I meant to look up the
20 analysis, and I apologize for not looking at that
21 proposal.

22
23 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

26
27 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess looking at
28 that too since the Coast Guard Base, it's within the
29 Kodiak Island Borough area but the Coast Guard Base is
30 not a part of the Kodiak City or Kodiak Island Borough
31 so that would be interesting to see how they look at
32 it. I don't know how that's done -- well, I guess they
33 don't do it over because there's no subsistence area in
34 the Anchorage area, but I don't know if there's
35 military within any other subsistence areas and how
36 that's dealt with, or if it's dealt with separately at
37 all. So that would be interesting, you know, because
38 we don't treat them as part of the Borough, you know,
39 as paying Borough taxes and, we, as residents of the
40 Kodiak Island Borough, we don't use Base services, so
41 that would just be interesting to hear how that works
42 into it.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MS. KEATING: Madame Chair, this is
47 Jackie Keating with the Division of Subsistence at the
48 Department of Fish and Game.

49
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0201

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
2 Jackie.

3
4 MS. KEATING: Thank you. I just wanted
5 to chime in briefly and I'll give a fuller update when
6 we get to our agency update in a moment here. But I
7 did just want to take the opportunity to say that we're
8 currently in Kodiak at the moment doing the household
9 harvest surveys since the first time 1993 and I just
10 did want to say that we were able to get access to the
11 Base and so that is one of our sub-samples for the
12 Kodiak Coast Guard population. So I just wanted to add
13 to the dialogue that, you know, in the next year we
14 will have a whole new data set on subsistence resource
15 use for the Kodiak Coast Guard residents.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
20 Jackie.

21
22 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
23 Natasha.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
26 Natasha.

27
28 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks. I just want to --
29 I have a question but before I do that I want to make a
30 comment about the Coast Guard Base, about the
31 determination about the residents. The transient, I
32 think what had been referred to as the people who
33 didn't have cooking facilities and just stationed on
34 the Base previously, and then Coral's comments about
35 the Coast Guard not being part of the Kodiak Island
36 Borough and not paying, you know, property taxes and
37 that kind of thing. Residents of Kodiak who are non-
38 Coast Guard personnel, families also do not have access
39 to resources that are provided to Coast Guard personnel
40 and families and groceries, you know, they've got a
41 full on society on the Coast Guard Base that everybody
42 else doesn't have access to. So as far as food
43 security and access to getting their food needs met,
44 they are in a slightly different category than what I
45 would consider customary and traditional.

46
47 That's my comment.

48
49 My question is, and forgive me if this
50

0202

1 is off target. But reading through the salmon -- the
2 harvest limits for salmon, and what happened last year
3 with the failure of the Buskin River, we saw what
4 appeared to be a dramatic increase in subsistence
5 harvesting -- subsistence fishing over at Litnik, over
6 on Afognak, you know, people have gotten bigger,
7 faster, higher capacity vessels and trailers and trucks
8 and a couple of times that I launched out of Antons
9 last summer there was trucks and trailers lined up and
10 down the road for a mile and a half practically. And
11 so one of the things that I'm considering in my
12 capacity both as the tribal council for the Native
13 Village of Afognak and the Vice President of Lands at
14 Afognak Native Corporation is looking at the Board of
15 Fish process to include that area as -- into the area
16 that has a bag limit right now. So reading through
17 this, areas outside of the Kodiak area, the point of
18 Saltery Cove to the northern part of Kodiak Island
19 right by, going out towards Termination Point, I
20 believe, that's the area where there's 25 salmon per
21 person bag limit and Afognak is not part of that.

22

23 So is this -- is the Federal
24 Subsistence Board the appropriate regulatory body for
25 modifying the areas where the bag limit is included or
26 is that strictly Board of Fish.

27

28 MR. PYLE: Excuse me, Ms. Hayden,
29 through the Chair. Yeah, I'm not sure. Maybe there's
30 another process with the Board of Fish but relative to
31 Federal subsistence regulations, all we're doing under
32 the harvest limits is saying, okay, well, here's this
33 area described, it starts with east of a line from
34 Craig Point and then ends with Spruce Island, we're
35 saying -- where is that area, you know, what's the
36 shorthand way of saying where that area is, it's the
37 road system, you know, including, however, waters
38 around Long Island and (indiscernible) but essentially
39 it's that road accessible area, northeast Kodiak
40 Island, and that's what we propose to change in
41 addition by referring to -- but we're only talking
42 about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administered
43 Federal public waters. It's important for people to
44 know that. Just keep on reminding, it's not
45 everywhere, it's in these specific areas, okay.

46

47 MS. HAYDEN: Isn't the area around
48 Afognak, is not the Afognak River included in that
49 area?

50

0203

1 MR. PYLE: That's correct, it's not,
2 it's on the second line. Kodiak Area Remainder.

3

4 MS. HAYDEN: Right, so maybe -- so
5 right now it's no annual limit in that area.

6

7 MR. PYLE: Ms. Hayden, through the
8 Chair, that's our understanding.

9

10 MS. PETRIVELLI: Della, Madame Chair,
11 could I.....

12

13 MR. JACKSON: Madame Chair, this is
14 James Jackson.....

15

16 MS. PETRIVELLI:say something.

17

18 MR. JACKSON:with Fish and Game,
19 I could probably add something.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, let's go
22 ahead with James and then I'm not sure who I heard in
23 the background. So go ahead James and then the next
24 person can go ahead.

25

26 MR. JACKSON: Yeah, just to answer,
27 through the Chair. Natasha. I just want to answer
28 your question there, if you wanted to amend the State
29 regulations with regard to the bag limit for
30 subsistence salmon particularly around Litnik, that's
31 just a simple Board of Fish proposal and you can come
32 in and work with us and we can show you how to put that
33 proposal in.

34

35 MS. HAYDEN: All right, thank you
36 James. Thanks, Madame Chair.

37

38 MS. PETRIVELLI: And I was the second
39 person, could I add something, this is Pat Petrivelli.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
42 And, Pat, I have a question for you after you get done.

43

44 MS. PETRIVELLI: Okay. If you put the
45 proposal in to the Board of Fish, then you could put in
46 a proposal to the Federal Board to put in a limit.
47 You could put in the proposal to the Federal Board but
48 what would happen is when it was being analyzed, people
49 would say, okay, you're making a limit for Federal
50

0204

1 users only and they could fish under State regulations
2 and still have no limit, so until the limit's passed by
3 the Board of Fish it wouldn't make any sense to put it
4 into the Federal Board. Just as an aside, so I hope
5 that helps you in the process.

6
7 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks, Pat. Yeah, so my
8 understanding is, is it would be appropriate to go to
9 the Board of Game [sic] and the Board and -- and the
10 Federal Subsistence Board, that you would need to do
11 both.

12
13 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes, but it's more
14 appropriate to go to the Board of Fish first and
15 then.....

16
17 MS. HAYDEN: I'm sorry, I keep saying
18 Board of Game, right -- I've been working on Board of
19 Game proposals, Board of Fish, I got it. Sorry. Thanks.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Pat, I
22 have one question and then, Pat Petrivelli and Pat
23 Holmes. When the determination for rural for Kodiak
24 was made, and I'm trying to remember and I just can't,
25 how did the status of the Coast Guard fit into that.

26
27 MS. PETRIVELLI: The determination of
28 rural -- I mean Coast Guard residents are residents of
29 Kodiak and the -- so they're rural residents, and then
30 the determination was of Kodiak as being rural, was
31 originally made by the Board of Fish and Board of Game
32 and then it carried over to the Federal Board. The
33 Federal Board recognized it and they still kept it
34 throughout, as the review process kept happening, the
35 Federal Board says, yes, Kodiak is rural. And the
36 Coast Guard Base was always included in that
37 determination. I know during the round-table
38 discussions there was some consideration of trying to
39 leave out residents of institutional quarters but
40 that's when the Federal Board had numbers as a way of --
41 rural numbers were like any community over 7,500 would
42 be considered non-rural unless there was an exception,
43 and Kodiak was the exception that was recognized by the
44 State before, and then the Federal Board continues to
45 recognize it.

46
47 With the new regulations there are no
48 numbers and what the Federal Board relies upon is
49 proposals submitted when they look at significant
50

0205

1 changes in an area, so there are no population numbers
2 anymore.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Perfect, that's
5 what I was looking for. Okay. Any other comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess we'll
10 wait for the draft material. Okay, Kodiak, thank you
11 very much.

12

13 MR. PYLE: Madame Chair, you're
14 welcome. Members of the Council.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I recommend we
17 take a 10 minute break and then move on to ADF&G, is
18 that good, we'll be back here at 10:50.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, everybody,
25 how are we doing, are we back to the table.

26

27 MS. HAYDEN: I'm here Della, this is
28 Natasha.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

31

32 MR. ROHRER: I'm here Della, Sam.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thanks,
35 Sam.

36

37 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm here, Coral.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Chris,
40 Rick, Pat.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Give us a couple
45 more minutes here and we'll get started.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, are you

50

0206

1 back online.

2

3

MR. HOLMES: Roger that.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Good deal.

6

7

8

Rick.

9

10

(No comments)

11

12

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris.

13

14

(No comments)

15

16

(Pause)

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24

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll just go ahead and get started and they can come online, I think we've got enough members. So the next item on the agenda is Alaska Department of Fish and Game, No. 1, Division of Subsistence Projects Updates, Tab 10 in your binder.

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MS. KEATING: Good morning, Madame Chair and members of the Council. This is Jackie Keating, Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And, thanks, as you mentioned I think our short one page update is in Tab 10. I'll keep this one pretty short just because of the fact that we're actively in Kodiak finally doing the FRMP funded project to update comprehensive subsistence harvest information for the first time since 1993.

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As you all know we are very excited to be doing this. It was already delayed one year due to Covid and so we're very, very happy to be able to be here doing it on the ground. I'd like to start with a couple thank yous, first of all to our partner, the Sunaq Tribe, they've been a huge source of support along with the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge helping us out with vehicles and housing and all of that. Amy Peterson has also been helping us out quite a bit so this is a huge group effort. It's a bit of an unknown knowing how response rates was going to be going into this with the Covid situation and all of that but very happy to report that we are halfway through our time here and exactly halfway through our surveys so people have been letting us in and we're getting great data,

0207

1 which is very exciting.

2

3

4 We're doing a geographically stratified
5 sample with a total of 250 households for our goal.
6 Just this morning we got our 110th household for the
7 Kodiak City strata, and so what we'll be working on the
8 rest of our time here is what we're calling the
9 balance, Kodiak balance, that includes everything from
10 Spruce Cape out to Chiniak. And as I mentioned
11 earlier, we're also doing a sub-sample of Kodiak
12 Station since it's a designated place, so that will be
13 capturing Coast Guard residents as well. When all is
14 said and done we will have had eight Staff flying down
15 from Division of Subsistence, from Juneau to Anchorage
16 to Fairbanks that are here on the ground helping us
17 out. We also hired four outstanding local research
18 assistants that have just been really great. So we
19 look forward to coming back at the fall meeting and
20 sharing some preliminary results from that.

20

21

22 We're also hopeful that we'll be doing
23 these surveys in Ouzinkie and Port Lyons next year, and
24 if that's the case we'll finally have updated
25 subsistence harvest information for all of the Kodiak
26 communities on the island, for the most part, with the
27 exception of Karluk for about a five year time span,
28 which is very exciting.

28

29

30 And the last thing I'll mention while
31 we're on, the Q-Tribe may have mentioned this already
32 but we're also excited that we had AKSSF funding come
33 through for the drone and another round of salmon
34 surveys so this is really great. It will provide some
35 additional subsistence harvest data for us after the
36 comprehensives that we had to do remotely last year.

36

37

38 So like I said I'll keep it short but I
39 am here and happy to answer any questions, if there are
40 any. Thank you, Madame Chair.

40

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
43 Jackie. Any questions or comments for Jackie.

43

44

45 MR. ROHRER: Jackie, this is Sam
46 Rohrer. I just was going to make a comment, it was
47 pretty funny yesterday during our meeting there was a
48 knock at my door and the subsistence Staff were here to
49 interview me and I had to tell them to come back a
50 little bit later, I was in the middle of a RAC call.

50

0208

1 So anyways they hit my house yesterday.

2

3 MS. KEATING: Awesome. We'll be back.

4

5 MR. ROHRER: Very good, thanks.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
8 comments for Jackie.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It'll be nice to
13 be able to see your report Jackie. I guess hearing
14 none, we'll go ahead and move on. Thank you, Jackie.

15

16 2021 Buskin River sockeye salmon stock
17 assessment, Tabs 11 and 12.

18

19 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning, Madame
20 Chair. Members of the Council. My name's Kelly
21 Krueger and I work for the Alaska Department of Fish
22 and Game, Division of Sportfish in Kodiak. Can you
23 hear me okay.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Loud and clear.

26

27 MS. KRUEGER: Okay, great. Today I'll
28 be giving an overview on the Buskin River salmon stock
29 assessment project from 2021. The primary objectives
30 for this study are to census the sockeye salmon
31 escapement, estimate age composition of escapement and
32 harvest and summarize the sex and length data. And
33 this presentation and written report can be found under
34 Tabs 11 and 12 and online in the supplemental
35 materials.

36

37 Slide 2. In 2021 the Buskin River weir
38 was operational on May 17th and was removed on August
39 4th. The lower Buskin weir was installed on August 1st
40 and removed on September 29th. The 2021 Buskin River
41 weir count for sockeye salmon was 2,330 (ph) fish
42 through September 16th, and this was well below our
43 current escapement goal range of 5,000 to 8,000 fish
44 and was the lowest estimated escapement on record. The
45 Department concurrently closed the subsistence and
46 sportfisheries targeting Buskin River sockeye salmon
47 and this was put in place by emergency order on June
48 15th. This graph on Slide 2 shows Buskin River and
49 Lake Louise sockeye salmon escapement from 2012 to
50

0209

1 2021. The Buskin River escapement is shown in blue and
2 Lake Louise is shown in purple. The dash line shows
3 the lower and upper bound escapement goal range and the
4 solid line shows the recent five year average
5 escapement for Buskin River.

6
7 The next slide, Slide 3, is the 2021
8 Buskin River sockeye run timing. The run timing past
9 year was late and sporadic compared to previous years
10 with a significant number of sockeye passing after July
11 31st. The peak day was June 16th with 335 sockeye
12 salmon counted and many of these later timed fish could
13 have been destined for Lake Louise, which was -- is a
14 smaller weir that we have on the Buskin River fringe.
15 This graph shows the daily count in blue and the date
16 is on the X axis, number of sockeye salmon and percent
17 of escapement are on each Y axis.

18
19 The next slide, Slide 4, is the same
20 but this is for showing the Lake Louise sockeye salmon
21 run timing. And interestingly the Lake Louise sockeye
22 salmon run was much higher than average. This weir was
23 in place from June 1st to September 13th, and a total
24 of 1,896 sockeye salmon were counted through the weir
25 through September 13th with 1,355 counted on September
26 1st. And that is that big spike in blue that you can
27 see on the right side of the graph. For comparison,
28 the recent five year average for Lake Louise is 101
29 fish and this year, like I said, we had 1,896. Many of
30 these fish were likely counted through our lower weir
31 as well but somewhere in their spawning colorations and
32 could have entered the river before our lower weir was
33 in place. In the worst case scenario, the all fish
34 counted through the lower weir were destined for Lake
35 Louise, the estimated Buskin Lake escapement would be
36 1,389 sockeye salmon.

37
38 The next slide is kind of busy but this
39 is showing the age composition and run size of Buskin
40 River sockeye salmon from 200 -- from 2009 to 2021.
41 The year is on the X axis and the proportion of the run
42 is on the Y axis, the left side, and the total run is
43 on the right side Y axis. So we have different age
44 classes. We have age 1:2 fish displayed in the light
45 blue. Age 2:2 are shown in red. Age 1:3 are shown in
46 green. And age 2:3 are displayed in purple. So this
47 graph is showing that the age composition during 2021
48 was generally similar to other closed seasons. The
49 average size of the fish was close as well to the most
50

0210

1 five year average. We had a larger proportion of age
2 1:3 fish, the green colored, however, those 1:3 fish
3 often showed the largest -- they are the largest
4 contributor to escapement. So there's really no
5 obvious indications on why our run for 2021 was so low.
6 It is important to note that the Buskin River sockeye
7 salmon run size has been on a decreasing trend over the
8 past 20 years or so. And causal factors for this
9 decline are unknown and further investigation would be
10 beneficial. And this is what I'll talk about next, is
11 if our OSM FRMP cycle is funded then we will be taking
12 salmon scale measurements, which will hopefully shed
13 some light on why we're had recent poor returns.

14
15 So just talking a little bit more about
16 our Buskin proposal, I talked about this at the fall
17 meeting but I'll just discuss it some more. We did
18 submit a proposal and we're waiting on notification of
19 successful proposals. Our highlights from this
20 proposal include removing subsistence sampling and also
21 the Lake Louise weir from our proposal. Subsistence
22 sampling was originally incorporated into our project
23 due to concerns about age differences in the
24 subsistence harvested sockeye versus sport harvested
25 sockeye, and analysis of scales did not show any
26 significant differences in the age between those sport
27 and subsistence harvested fish.

28
29 In addition, the Lake Louise weir will
30 be removed from our upcoming projects. This component
31 was originally added to our project in 2002 to provide
32 complete escapement counts of sockeye salmon returning
33 to the Buskin River drainage. And the most five year
34 recent escapement, as I said before from 2016 to 2020
35 for Lake Louise was 101 fish. The run timing for Lake
36 Louise tends to be later than that of Buskin Lake and
37 the fish really tend to push during heavy rain events.
38 The habitat for sockeye spawning and rearing in Lake
39 Catherine is marginal compared to Buskin Lake. A new
40 objective that I discussed on the previous slide for
41 our FRMP proposal is to measure sockeye salmon scales
42 for freshwater and salt water growth phases. This was
43 an FRMP priority information need listed for the
44 Southwest Alaska region. We plan to measure the
45 freshwater and salt water annual growth from
46 digitalized scales from the most prominent Buskin River
47 salmon age classes. And then the correlations between
48 our growth measurement data and various climate indices
49 will be explored as well as the relationship between
50

0211

1 ocean growth and the sibling relationships and that is
2 the proportion of fish that return after two years in
3 the ocean versus those that return after three years.
4 This will help us better forecast the Buskin River
5 sockeye salmon run. In addition, the growth
6 measurement data will be explored to evaluate the
7 relative health of the freshwater residence time, which
8 is freshwater growth that's used as an index for the
9 productivity for the freshwater environment. And our
10 cost savings in this proposal was about \$40,000
11 compared to our previous proposal.

12

13 And also on this slide I just wanted to
14 talk about forecasting as well and I know that's a
15 question that comes up a lot. We did forecast for this
16 year and unfortunately we don't have the subsistence
17 and sport harvest data yet from last year so that kind
18 of makes it difficult.....

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22

23 MS. KRUEGER:in determining the
24 size of the run. And as I just talked about for
25 sibling relationships, our forecasting is based on the
26 sibling relationships and there were lower than normal
27 numbers of age 1:2 and age 2:2 fish last year and all
28 those ages were unprecedentedly low with our really poor
29 return last year. But it seems to follow that this run
30 for 2022 will be below average as well and that's the
31 best forecast that we have so far with the limited data
32 without having the subsistence and sport harvest run
33 data yet.

34

35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participants not muted)

37

38 MS. KRUEGER: Moving on to the next
39 slide, Slide 7, is our intern program. Our intern
40 program annually employs two top qualified students
41 to work on the Buskin River projects between June 1st
42 and July 31st. Our interns gain knowledge of the
43 principles involved in fisheries management and
44 research while obtaining field experience in fisheries
45 data collection, methods and techniques. And as I
46 reported in the fall meeting, our intern program
47 continued last year, our interns were locals Audrey
48 Loneheim (ph).....

49

50

0212

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3
4 MS. KRUEGER:and Lucas Parker
5 (ph). Since the intern program was incorporated in
6 2003, 21 out of 33 interns have returned to work for
7 Fish and Game at some point, which we're really proud
8 of. And we'll be recruiting soon for two interns for
9 the 2022 season if our funding request is successful.

10

11 And with that, Slide 8, I will take any
12 questions now and thank you very much to OSM Fisheries
13 Monitoring Program for providing funding for this
14 project.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
19 comments or questions.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Kelly, that was an
26 excellent report. You answered all of my questions
27 including the one of what's going to happen next year
28 and I think that's disturbing and most unfortunate but
29 that's the way it goes. And I think you're describing
30 the sibling relationships, not particularly making
31 sense or important, and I'm really tickled that your
32 proposal has a scale analysis because, as you
33 mentioned, you can see what might be what's happening
34 in the ocean as well as the freshwater as the fish
35 mature to smolt in the lake. And then if we find that
36 there's not, after going through cycles on this, on
37 what's happening, if it's not indicative of the ocean,
38 then we have to be worried about what's going in the
39 lake and if it's crawfish and I don't know that that
40 much can be done because that's the water system for
41 the Base. But, anyway, I'm just really thankful for
42 the work that you folks are doing and how hard it is
43 and really glad that you're being preemptive and
44 readjusting your program to try and find out what's
45 going on. So thank you very much.

46

47 MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair,
48 thanks, Pat. I really appreciate that. And with our
49 new scale component -- scale measuring component in the
50

0213

1 new proposal we're going to try to go back 20 years to
2 look at scales for the past 20 years and hopefully that
3 will really help see what's going on.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, and I think we made
6 a similar proposal with the Bristol Bay RAC to look at
7 Chignik and then we've also made a request for funding
8 to do similar analysis at McLees, so having those three
9 significant systems, if the funding comes through for
10 them, that'll certainly help explain what's going on
11 here, hopefully in what's going on in the Gulf of
12 Alaska with sockeye survival and recruitment. So
13 thanks a bunch, bye.

14

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

17

18 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
21 Rebecca.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. I don't
24 think I had a question. I just wanted to recognize,
25 Kelly, your work with the Sunaq Tribe and the crayfish
26 project. And I understand the project is ongoing. I
27 don't know what to hope, whether to hope that the
28 crayfish are what's causing the salmon problem because
29 that seems localized and maybe you could do something
30 about it or that it's something out in the ocean. But
31 I did just want to recognize, I know you put years of
32 your time into that and I think that the information
33 that we've gotten so far has been helpful and I know
34 we're going to need a lot more. But, anyway, thank you
35 for that. And thank you for your report today, you did
36 an excellent job in concisely presenting really good
37 information, so thank you.

38

39 MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair.
40 Thanks, Rebecca. That was very nice of you to say.
41 And I would just -- yeah, the -- I guess we will find
42 out what's going on with the crayfish and Sunaq and
43 Matt Van Daele are still doing great work and getting
44 more grant funding to figure out what's going on
45 specifically with the crayfish. So hopefully with our
46 data and their data we'll have a better idea of what's
47 going on in a couple years.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,

50

0214

1 Kelly. Are there any more comments for Kelly.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I guess hearing none, thank you, Kelly, for your presentation.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, we'll move on update on Alaska Peninsula Aleutian Islands salmon fisheries, Tyler.

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MR. LAWSON: Yes, I'm here. Hello, Madame Chair, and members of the Council. My name is Tyler Lawson and I am the Assistant Area Management Biologist for the Alaska South Peninsula and Aleutian Islands for some updates on salmon in the region.

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And earlier this morning we sent an email to the Council members and I see on the KARAC meeting material page some of the bullet points of the things I'll discuss are also posted under the supplemental material No. 4. I'm going to start with a little recap for some of our subsistence harvest data and then the bulk of my time I'll be talking about some proposed State of Alaska Board of Fish regulations which will address some of the topics that have come up the last couple of days here.

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So to start, 2020 is the most recent year that we have comprehensive subsistence salmon harvest data for. In 2020 Fish and Game issued 124 permits for subsistence salmon fishers on the Alaska Peninsula. That is down a bit from the five year average of 137 permitholders. In 2020 the Alaska Peninsula subsistence fishers harvested about 9,700 salmon of all species, which is down from the five year average of 12,700 salmon. Unalaska, in 2020, we issued 208 permits, that is up a bit from the five year average of 199 permits, and Unalaska harvested about 2,500 salmon which is down from their five year average of 3,600 salmon.

45

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Next month the State of Alaska Board of Fish is going to be taking up an ACR proposal, which would reduce commercial fishing hours for the Shumigan and (Indiscernible) Island until the mid-point of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon goal is met or

0215

1 Chignik has its first commercial salmon opening.
2 Otherwise as far as the State Board of Fish goes, the
3 regularly scheduled State of Alaska Board of Fish
4 meeting for the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands and
5 Chignik finfish was delayed one year because of Covid,
6 and that will be held February 13th of 2023. The
7 proposals for that meeting are due this April, April
8 11th, 2022. Fish and Game Staff are willing to assist
9 in preparing these proposals for that State of Board of
10 Fish meeting. As one example, yesterday, Councilman
11 Koso was discussing some regulations on Adak and he's
12 welcome to contact us and we could help him to craft a
13 proposal that might address that. Likewise, there's
14 been some talk about rod and reel subsistence fishing
15 on Russell Creek and that could also potentially be
16 addressed the State via Board of Fish process. The
17 same thing can be said for the 500 yard restrictions
18 for subsistence fishing which have popped up a couple
19 of times the last couple of days.

20

21 One proposal of interest to the RAC
22 which is currently being worked on is from Cold Bay
23 locals which would seek to modify the bag limit for
24 sport caught sockeye and coho salmon in Cold Bay waters
25 from five fish per day to two fish per day. This would
26 mirror existing sportfish regulations on Unalaska and
27 Kodiak Island.

28

29 Fish and Game is going to submit a
30 proposal which would remove non-commercial license
31 holding subsistence fishermen from the closed water
32 regulation which has impacted subsistence fishers in
33 Cold Bay waters especially in Kinzarof Lagoon. So to
34 try to put that into plain English what it means is it
35 would allow non-commercial license holding subsistence
36 users to fish in those waters which are otherwise
37 closed to commercial fishermen during commercial
38 openers. So the regular subsistence users would not
39 have to worry about looking at the commercial opener
40 calendar or calling us to see if there is an opener
41 when they're trying to determine whether or not they
42 can fish in some of those areas so it would help to
43 ease some of that burden for specific places, which was
44 brought up at the last RAC meeting.

45

46 I would also like to briefly review
47 some of the discussion that was had regarding Cold Bay
48 subsistence harvest and regulations that we discussed
49 at the last RAC meeting. So we start -- so we hope

50

0216

1 that some of the proposals that I just mentioned are
2 going to start to address some of those concerns but we
3 continue to have some things popping up at that Swan
4 Creek outlet which are in the northern waters of Cold
5 Bay there. Historically that area only saw several
6 permit holders harvest perhaps several hundred fish per
7 year. However, in 2020 there was a huge shift in
8 harvest with 17 permit holders harvesting over 2,000
9 sockeye. For perspective, in most years that harvest
10 number is higher than the estimates we have from our
11 aerial surveys for the escapement of the systems in
12 that area combined. And as a reminder, 2020 had a very
13 poor return for sockeye in all other parts of the
14 region. So for those reasons Fish and Game started to
15 educate subsistence fishermen about existing
16 regulations which are stated on their permits. Mainly
17 that they are not allowed to fish with gillnets within
18 500 yards of that Swan Creek Stream mouth. So the only
19 reason that that had not been stressed in prior years
20 is that that harvest level was so low, it did not draw
21 attention or warrant concern from managers so it's not
22 meant to be a burden to subsistence users, it's just
23 that based on the information that we do have available
24 we feel that it's necessary to educate people on those
25 existing regulations to preserve the long-term
26 integrity of that run. This upcoming summer we do plan
27 to more intensively survey those systems to get even a
28 better idea of what is going on with those runs in that
29 area.

30
31 The primary update that I would like to
32 provide as far as McLees goes over on Unalaska is that
33 Fish and Game has had some discussions with the
34 Qwalangin Tribe related to the operation of the McLees
35 salmon weir after our current funding period ends in
36 2023. Fish and Game has continued to develop a strong
37 working relationship with the Q-Tribe, and
38 simultaneously the Q-Tribe has increased their
39 leadership and technical expertise regarding Unalaska
40 fisheries, especially out at McLees. So the plans for
41 McLees for 2024 and onwards are that the Q-Tribe is
42 going to assume the lead role when it comes time to
43 apply for OSM funding and eventually maintaining and
44 staffing that weir. Fish and Game remains committed to
45 providing assistance in any capacity the Q-Tribe would
46 need order to ensure the continued long-term success of
47 the McLees Lake salmon enumeration weir.

48
49 Elsewhere in Unalaska, we are wrapping
50

0217

1 up the review of our 2021 drone surveys of salmon
2 escapement for McLees and the Unalaska road systems and
3 we should be sending out a memo with those results in
4 the next month. In regards to Councilman Price's
5 comments yesterday about getting a charter boat to take
6 subsistence fishermen out to McLees, we have identified
7 a pathway to make that happen starting immediately and
8 I sent an email concerning that to Chris yesterday and,
9 Chris, if you have any more questions about that I'm
10 happy to discuss that now or you can give me a call at
11 a later date but I think we have remedied that
12 situation.

13

14 And, otherwise, I do have -- or we do
15 have some other details about McLees Lake, which the
16 new Q-Tribe Fisheries Coordinator Jenny Rene is going
17 to share. I imagine that there's going to be a lot of
18 discussion based on the things that I just said so just
19 please don't forget about Jenny and make sure you call
20 her back in to provide that update on McLees after
21 you're done with the questions that you have for me,
22 which I am happy to answer now.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
25 Tyler. Anybody have any questions for Tyler.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm really tickled
32 with your report there Tyler. I think you answered a
33 whole lot of questions that have been rattling around
34 with the Council here for a couple of meetings and
35 helping Rick with Unalaska and then the folks there at
36 the Cold Bay area to try and solve some of those
37 problems that evolved long ago on the commercial
38 fishing and the subsistence being the same markers
39 because of commercial fisher -- some commercial fishing
40 cheating, and so I think you really answered a whole
41 lot of questions that I wish we could have had answered
42 earlier and I'm quite tickled with you folks working
43 with the Q-Tribe and then I think their decision to
44 assume leadership and apply for funding, I hope that
45 that will come through because our Council is going to
46 continue to support McLees and we were quite saddened
47 when we didn't get funding for them for a couple of
48 years. And I think how -- what's your basic feeling on
49 recent returns on the road system, are they still
50

0218

1 pretty small and fragile, I know you haven't finished
2 this year's drones. But a few years back you told me
3 the first drone survey that looked like it was about
4 the same that I got 25 years ago so it doesn't look
5 like things approved but how do you look at stock
6 status on the road system.

7

8 MR. LAWSON: Yeah, through the Chair.
9 In general I would say that that still holds true, that
10 those systems, especially Morris Cove and Unalaska Lake
11 have pretty low returns with Summer Bay being a little
12 bit better than those two.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, very much.

15

16 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

19

20 MR. KOSO: Yeah, hi, Tyler, that was a
21 great report you gave there and thank you very much
22 that. It definitely answered lots of my questions, in
23 the Cold Bay area especially. I still -- I understand
24 that in the saltwater that subsistence doesn't apply to
25 a lot of areas, especially like in the Cold Bay area so
26 we need to deal with ADF&G as far as that goes. But as
27 far as getting permits from Cold Bay area, I don't
28 think people were having a problem getting the permits,
29 my question was and it's been answered, I think, that,
30 you know, whether or not subsistence prioritizes
31 sportfish and that was my area because sportfish
32 remained open and subsistence had been closed in some
33 of the Cold Bay areas there so that was my big
34 question. And as far as Adak goes, you know, I don't
35 have a problem at Adak, I don't see where I need to
36 write a proposal there because I think everybody there
37 in Adak is able to get their permits to get their
38 salmon and I know the ADF&G controls the saltwater and
39 that's all we have in Adak. So I don't see a problem
40 out there right now in Adak so I'll leave it at that.

41

42 Thank you, very much for your report.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there are
45 any other comments or questions for Tyler.

46

47 MR. PRICE: Hi, this is Chris, I had a
48 quick comment.

49

50

0219

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.

2

3 MR. PRICE: Hey, Tyler, thanks for your
4 report today and I do look forward to talking to you
5 about some of the issues with the charter boat thing so
6 that will be good to have a discussion. I think we can
7 do that offline.

8

9 But anyway I was going to ask you about
10 Cold Bay, so when sportfishermen are in Cold Bay, of
11 course, they got to have an Alaska license to sportfish
12 but on the subsistence side, do you have a local office
13 there, is that where they fill out -- they get their
14 subsistence permit, in Cold Bay?

15

16 MR. LAWSON: Through the Chair. Yeah,
17 Chris, so I personally Staff the Cold Bay office in the
18 summer, kind of as a one man band out there, and people
19 come to see me to get those subsistence permits. And
20 for people who are elsewhere on the Peninsula and some
21 people out at Unalaska, too, I can email them those
22 permits if they call me or email me.

23

24 MR. PRICE: Okay. And then my followup
25 question was, so then in the past so there was a five
26 fish limit in Cold Bay for sportfish and what was the
27 situation with subsistence, there was -- what was the
28 -- how do you manage the subsistence in Cold Bay for
29 fish, I guess is what I'm trying to ask.

30

31 MR. LAWSON: Sure. So currently in
32 Cold Bay and the Alaska Peninsula in general for salmon
33 there is a five fish bag limit for sportfishing. For
34 subsistence, for the Alaska Peninsula, households are
35 allowed 250 salmon. There are a couple of systems such
36 as Mortensens which do have some lower specific limits
37 for them. So in general if you're sportfishing in
38 those waters, right now you're allowed to harvest five
39 fish. The proposal which is being floated right now
40 and worked on would reduce it from five fish to two
41 fish specifically for coho and sockeye is the way it's
42 written right now, but that could change before they
43 actually submit that proposal.

44

45 MR. PRICE: Okay. And is there
46 subsistence fishing in the creek itself or is it in the
47 Lagoon, like you were mentioning?

48

49 MR. LAWSON: So at this point in time

50

0220

1 for these waters there is no subsistence fishing in any
2 freshwater. So the default State regulations for the
3 general provisions are no rod and reel subsistence
4 fishing and no subsistence fishing in freshwater. So
5 that being said there are a couple of other regions
6 like the Yukon and the Kuskokwim where they have
7 enacted some special provisions which do allow for some
8 rod and reel fishing in freshwaters. So that's what I
9 was kind of mentioning before that that is a proposal
10 that could be put out there if somebody wanted to do
11 that, for, say, Russell Creek, where this issue has
12 come up a few times now.

13

14 MR. PRICE: Okay. Okay, thank you,
15 that's all I had.

16

17 MR. LAWSON: You're welcome.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
20 Thank you, Chris, because that answered a couple of my
21 questions I had for Tyler. And then, Tyler, you also
22 mentioned that changing from five, on the sports, from
23 five to two fish per day and you also mentioned, did
24 you say that that would apply to Unalaska and Kodiak
25 also?

26

27 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair, so it
28 already is the sportfish regulation for Unalaska and
29 Kodiak for sockeye and coho specifically. They have a
30 bag limit of two sockeye and two coho per their
31 sportfish regulations. So I was just saying that the
32 proposal for Cold Bay waters would mirror those
33 regulations.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay,
36 that's what it was. All right, thank you. And then I
37 will be calling you or emailing you.

38

39 MR. LAWSON: Sounds good, I'm here.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
42 Any other comments or questions for Tyler.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
47 you for your good report. And while we have you on the
48 phone, too, somehow we've been leaving him out of our
49 agenda and we need to make sure that he gets added. I
50

0221

1 think this is the second meeting we've left Tyler out
2 so just on a rule of thumb we need to make sure we get
3 his information, and his reports in the future.

4
5 MR. PRICE: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair, I discussed
8 that with Mark Burch and I think we've remedied that
9 situation so I don't think it'll be a problem in the
10 future.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
13 Tyler. Thank you, Mark.

14
15 MR. LAWSON: You're welcome.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,
18 moving on, we've got Office of Subsistence -- oh, any
19 other comments -- forgot Rene -- oh.

20
21 MS. RENE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
22 this is Jenny Rene with the Qwalangin Tribe.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead,
25 Jenny.

26
27 MS. RENE: Good morning and thank you
28 all, members of the Council and Chair. For the record
29 my name is Jenny Rene. I live in Unalaska and work for
30 the Qwalangin Tribe as the Fisheries and Outreach
31 Coordinator. Our Fisheries Program is centered around
32 protecting the health of and access to our subsistence
33 fishing resources. Thank you for the opportunity to
34 give you an update on the McLees salmon weir in
35 Unalaska. Prior to my current role as Fisheries and
36 Outreach Coordinator for the Tribe, I was one of the
37 two technicians working out in the field last summer
38 and will be returning this summer.

39
40 So the 2021 sockeye salmon at the
41 McLees Lake outlet weir was 16,173 salmon, which
42 exceeded our escapement goal of 10,000 salmon and was
43 also an increase from 2020's escapement of 5,000. Over
44 the winter 570 scale samples were completed for aging.
45 84 percent of sockeye sampled were age 1:3 and 11
46 percent were 1:2. For comparison in 2020, 60 percent
47 of fish were 1:2 and 37 were 1:3. The mean length of
48 sockeye was 549 milliliters which is the third largest
49 length recorded in the past 10 years. 55 percent of
50

0222

1 the salmon that were sampled were males suggesting a
2 fairly healthy sex ratio. Several rounds of
3 limnological sampling were performed showing
4 zooplankton production to be consistent with the past
5 years. And to further supplement data on air and water
6 temperature at McLees, we deployed HOBO temperature
7 loggers onsite for year-round temperature monitoring
8 which will help provide more long-term data for McLees.
9 That was something that was new this year -- or last
10 year 2021.

11
12 This upcoming season we're planning to
13 have experienced technicians return to operate the
14 weir. In addition, we hope to host an ANSEP, Alaska
15 Native Science and Engineering Program intern to join
16 our field crew and as usual we intend to continue
17 maintaining and improving the living facilities.

18
19 As mentioned previously, we, at the
20 Qwalangin Tribe are planning to take the lead in
21 applying for OSM funding for the McLees weir starting
22 in 2024. In addition to continuing to monitor the
23 abundance and assessment of the most critical
24 subsistence salmon stock on Unalaska Island we intend
25 to acquire training on scale analysis of growth
26 pattern, examine how recent changes affect growth and
27 survival of sockeye salmon. We have an ever
28 strengthening and successful partnership with ADF&G and
29 we hope that the RAC will continue to see the McLees
30 project is a priority need for the region.

31
32 Thank you, very much for your time,
33 that concludes my update.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
36 Jenny. Are there any comments for Jenny or questions.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Pat.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Jenny, that's
43 excellent news, far cry from years ago trying to fly
44 that system with a Grumman Goose and keep your fingers
45 crossed and not banking into a mountain while you're
46 trying to count the fish and that's really the only way
47 to get good information is with that weir and having
48 that weir back down where you're ancestors had their
49 little weir themselves and fish trap, I think, is
50

0223

1 really splendid and being able to get that information
2 looking at your age class information and trying to get
3 funding, not only for the weir operations but to do
4 growth pattern analysis to try and determine whether --
5 what's going on in freshwater growth and saltwater
6 growth. So our Council, when we went through the FRMPs
7 were really strongly urged for your funding so really
8 want to wish you luck. And it's a place that is deep
9 within my heart so thank you very much. Have a good
10 day. Bye-bye.

11
12 MS. RENE: Thank you Council Member
13 Pat.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
16 comments or questions.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Jenny
21 for your report.

22
23 MS. RENE: Thank you so much for your
24 time.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, good
27 report. I enjoy seeing some of the pictures on
28 Facebook as people post out from Unalaska. Next item
29 on the agenda is Office of Subsistence Management
30 report, Brent Vickers.

31
32 MR. VICKERS: Yes, hello, this is Brent
33 Vickers, Supervisor Anthropologist from OSM. Can
34 everyone hear me.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Loud and clear.

37
38 MR. VICKERS: Okay, thank you. Madame
39 Chair and members of the Council.

40
41 On behalf of OSM, I want to thank all
42 Council members for your exceptional work on behalf of
43 your communities and user groups during these trying
44 times. We value your expertise and the contribution of
45 your knowledge and experience to the regulatory
46 process.

47
48 It has been very difficult for all of
49 us dealing with the Covid-19 environment.
50

1 We are holding all 10 winter 2022
2 Regional Advisory Council meetings via teleconference.
3 The DOI guidelines advises that people avoid travel and
4 refrain from meeting in person to minimize risk and
5 help prevent the spread of Covid-19. OSM received
6 direction from the Department of Interior that no
7 Federal Advisory or FACA Committee meetings would be
8 held in person in the fiscal year 2022, and all
9 Regional Advisory Councils are FACA Committees. The
10 Federal Subsistence Management Program recognizes that
11 in-person meetings are preferable, however, until we
12 can ensure the safety of all participants, we will
13 follow current guidelines and hold all meetings via
14 teleconference. We thank you again for being willing
15 to participate in the lengthy telephone --
16 teleconferences and appreciate your patience as we deal
17 with the various technical issues that arise from the
18 poor telephonic connections, the vast distances
19 involved, and differing communication systems
20 throughout the state of Alaska.

21
22 OSM Staff changes.

23
24 We are very pleased to announce the
25 following OSM Staffing changes that have occurred since
26 your last Council meeting in fall 2021.

27
28 Scott Ayers was hired as the OSM
29 Fisheries Division Supervisor in January. Scott worked
30 for three years as a Fisheries Biologist in the OSM
31 several years ago before he took a job with the U.S.
32 Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and SportFish
33 Restoration Program. We welcome Scott back to OSM.

34
35 Jarred Stone and Cory Graham have both
36 been promoted with the Fisheries Division, while two
37 additional Fisheries Biologists are now being hired.

38
39 In January, Sherri Gould-Fehrs, OSM's
40 Administrative Support Assistant was temporarily
41 promoted to the ARD Secretary position.

42
43 Kayla McKinney stepped up to
44 temporarily serve as Subsistence Outreach Coordinator.

45
46 In December and January, Liz Williams
47 and Jason Roberts were hired as OSM cultural
48 Anthropologists. Liz worked for OSM about 12 years ago
49 and is returning, welcome back Liz.

0225

1 OSM is pleased to welcome three newly
2 hired Subsistence Council Coordinators, and they are
3 Nissa Bate Pilcher, Leigh Honig, and Brooke McDavid,
4 all with a wealth of knowledge and experience in
5 working with rural users and communities as well as
6 Alaska subsistence issues.

7

8 We also had departures at OSM through
9 retirement and new opportunities.

10

11 We bid fond farewell to Administrative
12 Staff Catherine Avery and Ricky Cabugao.

13

14 The OSM Staff continues to work on
15 rebuilding our capacity and hope to advertise positions
16 in our regulatory and administrative support functions
17 soon.

18

19 DOI and USDA conduct listening sessions
20 on Federal Subsistence Policy. The U.S. Departments of
21 Interior and Agriculture conducted virtual listening
22 sessions and Tribal consultations on January 10th,
23 20th, 21st and 28th, 2022 on Federal Subsistence
24 Policy. The Secretaries requested input from Tribes,
25 Tribal consortia, and Alaska Native Organizations and
26 Corporations. The DOI Senior Advisor for Alaska
27 Affairs and Strategic Priorities met with Federal
28 Subsistence Board members prior to the consultations to
29 introduce Board members and Department of Interior
30 leadership and to provide Board members with an update
31 on DOI activities related to subsistence management.

32

33 RealID for travel and Council meetings.

34

35 Over the past two plus years we have
36 been reminding Council members about the change in
37 requirements for IDS at airports. Beginning May 3rd of
38 2023, so next year, every air traveler will need to
39 present a RealID-complaint driver's license, or other
40 acceptable form of identification, for example,
41 passport, to fly within the United States. This is
42 applicable even when you fly on small Bush carriers.
43 Please note that all Council members will need to make
44 sure that they have the required RealID fall 2023
45 Council meetings.

46

47 Lawsuit from the State of Alaska.

48

49 As you were previously briefed, on

50

1 August 10th, 2020 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit
2 against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted
3 Emergency Special Action WSA19-14. This special action
4 allowed the Village of Kake to engage in a community
5 harvest of up to four bull moose and 10 male Sitka
6 black-tailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit was
7 temporary special action WSA20-3 which closed Federal
8 public lands in Unit 13A and 13B to moose and caribou
9 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users for the 2020-
10 2022 regulatory cycle. As part of the lawsuit the
11 State asked the court to issue two preliminary
12 injunctions. One to prevent the Unit 13 closure from
13 taking effect and another vacating the Kake hunt and
14 prohibiting the Board from allowing any additional
15 emergency hunts related to the impacts of Covid19.

16
17 On December 3rd, 2021, the U.S.
18 District Court denied the State's request for a
19 declaratory and permanent injunctive relief finding in
20 favor of the Federal Subsistence Board on both matters.

21
22 The court found that, first, it lacks
23 jurisdiction over the issues associated with the Kake
24 hunt because that portion of the State's claims are
25 moot. And, two, the Federal Subsistence Board's
26 decision to close Unit 13 and 13B to non-subsistence
27 was both legally permissible and supported by the
28 information on record. The State recently filed an
29 appeal of the District Court's decision but the Ninth
30 Circuit has not yet set a schedule for briefing.

31
32 Lastly, the Federal Subsistence
33 Management Program is sponsoring its annual art contest
34 for all students in Alaska, grades K through 12.
35 Deadline for submission is April 1st, 2022. This year
36 entries may focus on either subsistence, wildlife or
37 fish and two winners will be selected. The winners
38 artwork will be published on either the cover 2022/24
39 subsistence management regulations for the harvest of
40 wildlife and -- on Federal public lands in Alaska book
41 or the 2023/22-25 subsistence management regulations
42 for the harvest of fish and shellfish on Federal public
43 lands in Alaska book. Both distributed statewide. The
44 art contest offers an exciting opportunity for students
45 to express their talent and creativity while sharing
46 their knowledge of subsistence resources. Directions
47 for submitting art and additional information on be
48 found on our website, www.doi.gov/subsistence.

49
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0227

1 I would be happy to answer any
2 questions.

3
4 Thank you, Madame Chair and Council
5 members.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
8 Brent. Are there any questions for Brent -- questions
9 or comments.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing
14 none, thank you for your report, Brent, lots of
15 information. Okay, Council, we are coming up on lunch
16 time. We've got, I think -- I know Rick isn't
17 returning after lunch he said he has an appointment at
18 1:00. Do we want to go ahead and confirm the fall and
19 winter meeting dates and then after lunch maybe we can
20 talk about the -- I guess if we are going to talk about
21 it, or either that, or we could just continue and
22 finish up the meeting, but the issues regarding the
23 closures and whether there's, I think, any possible
24 proposals -- well, I guess what our steps are going to
25 be prior to our next meeting. What are the wishes of
26 the Council.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Or break for
31 lunch.

32
33 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral, yeah, I
34 don't mind breaking for lunch and then just get back to
35 the rest of it later, after lunch, especially if --
36 yeah.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, let's go
39 ahead and break for lunch.

40
41 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
42 Natasha. I have a lunch time meeting so a lunch break
43 would be preferable for me.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All
46 right, let's go ahead and do that and break for lunch.
47 And then about -- let's do 1:15 for everybody, that
48 gives you a little bit more time.

49
50

0228

1 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I
4 think we'll just take a break until 1:15. Thank you
5 everybody for all the good reports this morning. Lots
6 of information. Thank you.

7

8 MR. ROHRER: Thanks, Della.

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (On record)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're waiting
15 for you to do a roll call.

16

17 MS. WESSELS: Oh, my apologies.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, that's okay.
20 That's okay.

21

22 MS. WESSELS: I'm doing the roll call
23 now then. Pat Holmes.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. WESSELS: Pat are you online.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. WESSELS: Okay, maybe he'll call in
32 in the next couple of minutes.

33

34 Rick Koso.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: He has an
37 appointment.

38

39 MS. WESSELS: I think he said -- yeah,
40 yes, he had an appointment. Okay.

41

42 Sam Rohrer.

43

44 MR. ROHRER: I'm here.

45

46 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Chris Price.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0229

1 MS. WESSELS: Chris, are you on.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. WESSELS: All right, we'll get back

6 to Chris.

7

8 Coral Chernoff.

9

10 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

13

14 Rebecca Skinner.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Here.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Okay, Della, you're here.

19

20 Natasha Hayden.

21

22 MS. HAYDEN: Here. Natasha Hayden,

23

here.

24

25 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Okay, thank

26

you. Pat Holmes.....

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Pat. I'm.....

29

30 MS. WESSELS:were you able to

31

call in.

32

33 MR. HOLMES:yeah, I'm here.

34

Yeah, I finally got connected.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Okay, and Chris Price,

41

were you able to call in.

42

43 MR. PRICE: I'm here. Present.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you. Madame

48

Chair, we have a quorum.

49

50

0230

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Katya. I think the next item on our agenda is the
3 issue with the closures and potential proposals and I
4 think we've had a lot of information over the past two
5 days. I know I've learned way more than I knew before
6 in regard to all of these issues and that makes id
7 definitely helpful. So I think maybe it would be nice
8 to just kind of go around to each Council member and
9 ask what your thoughts are at this point in regard to
10 this and maybe we can figure out the next steps would
11 possibly be. That would be my recommendation. And
12 maybe Jarred, and is it, Robbin, if you can kind of
13 take notes so we can kind of formulate our thoughts as
14 we go through to try to come up with some formulated
15 decision to move forward.

16
17 Given that I am going to start with
18 Chris.

19
20 MR. PRICE: Okay, thank.....

21
22 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is.....

23
24 MR. PRICE:you.

25
26 MS. LAVINE:Robbin.

27
28 MR. PRICE: Oh, go ahead.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Robbin, go
31 ahead.

32
33 MS. LAVINE: I know that Staff have
34 been working to clarify supportive language for this
35 session and I'm wondering if you might invite Staff to
36 lead off before we go through each Council member, as
37 far as directions on next steps. Thank you, Madame
38 Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, we can, I
41 guess, do that. Yes. I guess what I was looking for
42 are the different pieces and that way -- so why don't
43 we -- just go ahead, let's get through this. Go ahead.
44 Go ahead Robbin.

45
46 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, this is Scott
47 Ayers.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Scott.
50

0231

1 MR. AYERS: Thank you. As I stated
2 earlier I'm the new Fisheries Division lead and before
3 I hand this to Jarred to discuss I just wanted to take
4 a moment to speak with you about these closure reviews
5 and specifically why we're bringing them to you.
6 Hopefully this helps provide a bit of context for this
7 conversation.

8
9 We have a requirement to review all
10 closures in our regulations on a regular basis to
11 ensure that these closures are still warranted. Our
12 closure review policy was updated in the recent past to
13 ensure that half of all closures are reviewed each two
14 year cycle, both the fisheries regulations and the
15 wildlife regulations. Although wildlife has been
16 conducting these reviews for some time, this is the
17 first time that many of these fisheries closures have
18 been reviewed since the Program began in 2000. As
19 Jarred stated, many or most of these closures precede
20 the Federal Subsistence regulations and were
21 incorporated from State subsistence regulations when
22 the Federal Program began, as such, finding information
23 on the origination of some of these across the state
24 has proven challenging. Our intent is to allow you,
25 the Council, to decide how you would like to proceed
26 with this process. I also wanted to note that these
27 conversations have provided us with substantial amount
28 of information about process that we will take into
29 consideration moving forward.

30
31 And thank you again for letting me
32 speak up on this, and, unless you had any specific
33 questions I'd like to hand this off to Jarred.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think the one
38 question -- or one thing I'm wondering about, and I
39 heard this from -- or we heard this from the State
40 earlier today, is that basically they are waiting for
41 comments from Federal Staff in regard to those
42 closures. Is that correct?

43
44 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, could you
45 clarify for me, comments in what type of fashion?

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I -- and
48 maybe I heard this wrong but did not the Federal -- not
49 the Federal, but the State agency, basically a comment
50

0232

1 was made that they're waiting for information or
2 comments from the Federal side as far as these
3 closures, the State closures that are on subsistence.
4 Wasn't that what they said?

5

6 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, this is Jarred.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
9 Jarred.

10

11 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
12 believe you are correct the State had mentioned that
13 they would like to see the specific analysis that come
14 out in the fall to make specific comments directly
15 related to those analysis when they come out and so
16 they withheld any comments at this time.

17

18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
21 The reason I bring that up is because -- and it was
22 brought up earlier that technically that that whole
23 process was most likely -- I think Rebecca brought it
24 up, Pat brought it up, Rick brought it up, and Chris
25 possibly brought it up that we have to most likely wait
26 in regards to those closures until this fall and if
27 that is the case, what can we do between now and then
28 to help with this process to at least make progress
29 with it. Because it's two years now and it'll be
30 another -- you know, it's going to take more time.

31

32 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, this is
33 Jarred.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
36 Jarred.

37

38 MR. STONE: Thank you. I would like to
39 offer up some options for your Council to consider and
40 then I think that could start the discussions for, you
41 know, going across the Council and talking to each
42 Council member and seeing how you all best decide to
43 move forward, if that's okay.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead.

46

47 MR. STONE: Okay. So regarding the
48 fishery closure reviews, I'll provide some options for
49 moving forward.

50

0233

1 Option 1 is to let the closure review
2 process roll out and the Council then will prepare no
3 proposals. In the fall you will see Staff analysis of
4 closure reviews presented to you, and as a Council you
5 can decide to do any of the four actions available,
6 which include to retain, rescind, modify or defer. If
7 a closure is rescinded regulations would then revert
8 back to the Federal subsistence area-wide regulations.

9
10 A second option is to submit a proposal
11 to shape what the fishery would look like in the waters
12 that are currently closed. This option allows you to
13 determine the season dates, harvest limits, methods and
14 means of harvest, rather than reverting to the general
15 Federal subsistence area-wide regulations. Proposals
16 can be submitted by the Council but they can also be
17 submitted by private citizens, and this includes any of
18 you sitting on the Council. If you wish to submit a
19 proposal as a Council you'll have to do this today.
20 After today individuals can submit proposals with the
21 help of OSM Staff. During the fall any proposals
22 submitted for the closed waters would come to you as a
23 prepared Staff analysis and not as a closure review.

24
25 The team of folks who worked on the
26 fisheries closures outreach plan included Council Chair
27 Della Trumble of King Cove, Rebecca Skinner of Kodiak,
28 Pat Holmes of Kodiak, Chris Price of Unalaska and Coral
29 Chernoff of Kodiak. As mentioned during the meeting it
30 would be great to have more representation from the
31 Aleutians. If there are any other volunteers who would
32 like to help with these closure reviews it would be
33 greatly appreciated.

34
35 If the Council directs this group of
36 volunteers and agency Staff can arrange to meet before
37 the deadline of the next call for fisheries proposals.
38 This small group of the Council can determine if a
39 proposal is required or wanted for each closure review.
40 Staff can help volunteers draft proposals by the
41 deadline. Again, during the fall you'll be able to
42 address all closures as either a closure review or
43 fisheries proposal.

44
45 That concludes my presentation, are
46 there any questions.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any questions
49 for Jarred.

50

0234

1 (No comments)

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(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing none, I'm going to go ahead and -- I guess, any other Staff, Robbin, do you have anything to add to Jarred's presentation.

MR. ROHRER: Dell, this is Sam, I do have a question for Jarred.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead, Sam.

MR. ROHRER: Okay, thanks. Jarred, two things to clarify. No. 1 for the closure review, the closure review is strictly looking at currently closed areas, it is not looking at closing areas that are already open, correct. We're strictly talking about reviewing areas that have been previously closed; is that correct?

MR. STONE: Yes. Through the Chair, yes, you are correct in that. We are only assessing the waters that are closed to Federally-qualified subsistence users.

MR. ROHRER: Okay. And for Kodiak and Aleutians, I looked through the list that was sent out last night and I think -- I think most of those, or certainly the ones on Kodiak, I think all predate this Program as you mentioned so all of these closures have been in place for, or most of these closures have been in place for 20-plus years, some of them probably 30 years.

And then the second part of my question is, you mention when we're -- when you guys brief us at the fall meeting on the closure reviews on your conclusions, or your Staff reports on them, at that point we can recommend -- we can either vote to support them or not support them or we can, at that point, vote to modify them as well, you said; is that correct?

MR. STONE: Yes. Through the Chair, that is correct. And I would need to get with Staff to find out what is the parameters of modifying those closures. From what I understand the proposal process does allow some greater flexibilities in terms of outlining the season dates, the harvest and the methods

0235

1 and means. I am not aware or sure of the parameters
2 that surround modifications under the closure review
3 process.

4
5 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
6 Robbin.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
9 Robbin.

10
11 MS. LAVINE: Modifications for existing
12 closures are limited and they really only affect
13 closing. So you could modify a closure to say it's
14 closed for a certain window of time or it can be closed
15 to all but Federally-qualified subsistence users. So
16 it's basically a modification just to the closure
17 itself. It doesn't allow for harvest limits or gear
18 types, things of that nature.

19
20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MR. ROHRER: Hum. That was -- okay,
23 thanks.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Is
26 there any more questions for Jarred.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Now, are
31 there any other Staff members that want to speak to
32 this.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat,
37 is that you.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that was me. I'm
40 having trouble here with this phone. I would assume
41 that Staff would take a look back, because in the
42 earlier presentation on Unalaska Road System they said
43 that some of the systems are open to sportfishing for
44 salmon and they never are open above the closed mark
45 and so I think they need to do a review on Humpy Creek
46 and particularly Iliuliuk, Unalaska Lake drainage and
47 then we need to have a discussion of the existing
48 things for the other systems. They need to recheck
49 those.

50

0236

1 Thank you, ma'am.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

4

5 MS. PETRIVELLI: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, is
8 that you, Pat.

9

10 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah, this is Pat
11 Petrivelli. And with the last fisheries closure review
12 in the Western Interior region, everyone agreed that
13 one, Jim Creek in that area, should be open to
14 subsistence and so that was agreed upon, but they
15 couldn't put in the proposal that they eventually did,
16 so they ended up submitting it this cycle, so that was,
17 you know, from two years ago. But what the proposal
18 ended up being was they just doubled the sportfish
19 harvest limit from five grayling a day, they made it
20 for subsistence users, 10 grayling a day and they said
21 that the methods and means would be the same as
22 sportfishing. And so the subsistence users in that
23 area felt that then it would conserve the resource and
24 still allow for a subsistence priority. Now, whether
25 this needs to happen in the fall when this is an
26 alternative, or you just want to make a blanket
27 proposal that when conservation measures allow, double
28 the sportfish limit and use the same similar method and
29 means for subsistence users, that could be a
30 consideration. And maybe you could just ask the Staff
31 to consider that as an alternative for each of the
32 fisheries review under consideration.

33

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

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Pat. I was thinking
42 that would be good in this review to have a table for
43 each system for the average escapement and opinions
44 from Staff, both State and Federal as to the strength
45 of the runs. Because yes we can double sportfish
46 harvest but if there's not enough harvest at this point
47 to even have a sportfishery then the point would be
48 moot. So we need to know the relative strength of the
49 run if we're looking at any changes of harvest limits.

50

0237

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
4 Any other comments.

5

6 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair, Sam here
7 again.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

10

11 MR. ROHRER: Thanks. I guess I have
12 two suggestions. I'm fine with having a work group
13 continue to look at these proposals over the course of
14 the spring and the summer, that's just fine. But I
15 guess in my mind, I come back to all of these closures
16 have been in place for -- that we're dealing with, or
17 the majority of these closures that we're talking
18 about, have been in place for the last 20 to 25 years,
19 some of them may be longer, it just occurs to me that
20 we probably don't need to be in a big hurry on -- on
21 putting in new proposals to open them back up. It
22 seems to me that the best course is to wait until the
23 fall meeting, be able to see all of the comments that
24 Staff puts together on the closure reviews, be able to
25 have the State comments as well to review, we would
26 have OSM's comments to review and then at that point we
27 can make our decision on what we think of the review --
28 on the closures and if we recognize -- at that meeting,
29 if we recognize, hey, some of these areas we probably
30 should open up to some subsistence harvest then we can
31 use the normal fisheries cycle -- I know we'll have to
32 wait a little while to do it, but we can use the normal
33 fisheries cycle to open it up. As we've already heard
34 discussed, some of these can be addressed through the
35 State system, so we can do it on the Kodiak cycle when
36 that comes up, but I guess I don't quite know why we
37 need to be in a big hurry to get these proposals in,
38 again, when we're dealing with closures that have been --
39 I mean we haven't been in a hurry for the last 30
40 years to open these areas up, I'm not sure why we need
41 to be in a big hurry now.

42

43 So I would say take the slow approach,
44 let's review things in the fall at the fall meeting and
45 then go from there.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

50

0238

1 Any other comments, Council.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: Della.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry,
10 Coral, go ahead.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess in regards
13 here to Sam's comment, could we have it repeated, I
14 don't -- I can't -- maybe it was Jarred that told us
15 why we are reviewing these and why we are -- I don't
16 know why they haven't been reviewed in 20 years but
17 that's not supposed to be the case so if he could
18 repeat how often these are supposed to be reviewed and
19 maybe speak to why it's been so long. Maybe he could
20 just repeat that again.

21

22 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, this is
23 Jarred.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
26 Jarred.

27

28 MR. STONE: The intent of the closure
29 review process is to look back at all the waters that
30 are closed and see if they're still warranted. And the
31 new policy now mandates that we review these closure
32 reviews every two years. And during the off years it
33 would be on the wildlife cycle. And it's just now
34 after all of these years that the fisheries Staff is
35 taking up these closure reviews for the very first
36 time. And so I hope that answers your question.

37

38 MS. CHERNOFF: So essentially.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So it's a matter
41 of.....

42

43 MS. CHERNOFF: So essentially it's kind
44 of been either an oversight or now we're kind of, you
45 know, we're just cleaning up a bunch of old stuff that
46 hasn't happened, is that kind of what?

47

48 MR. STONE: Thank you. Great question,
49 and I would prefer the latter. I would say that we're
50

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1 cleaning up something that hasn't happened and so, you
2 know, we're trying to do our best here and allow you
3 all of the options. Today we've presented two. As Sam
4 had mentioned -- Council Member Sam he had mentioned
5 to, you know, wait things out and take the slow
6 approach and to see the closure reviews come fall and
7 there'll be associated Staff analysis with each of
8 those closures and at that point we would likely get
9 feedback from public testimony and from the State as
10 well as others. And so, you know, that's not a bad
11 approach.

12

13 Your second option is to sort of get
14 out in front of it a little bit by submitting a
15 proposal. This would require some foresight into how
16 you want the fishery to look. And as a Council we can
17 do that today. I know it's a big tall order to put in
18 front of you.

19

20 The other option, again, as
21 individuals. You can sit down and read through some of
22 the past analysis from 2020 and take time to consider
23 those analysis and then as soon as the window of
24 opportunity opens for the call for Federal fish
25 proposals, you, as an individual then can submit a
26 proposal to help shape what that fishery might look
27 like.

28

29 I hope that answers your question.

30

31 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della.
34 I think part of the process -- I mean this started two
35 years ago and we didn't make a decision and the theory
36 behind it was to try to meet with the Advisory Councils
37 in various communities and to some degree the attempts
38 were made, it hasn't really happened, or, you know,
39 completely happened. So the process -- and then the
40 issue was to advise the main Board that basically we
41 were tabling this, or needed more time to get more
42 information, and that was the last -- from our last
43 meeting, or our meeting before actually. So it's --
44 like I say we're -- my thing is there was probably no
45 rush to do it but to continue with status quo, I just
46 have a hard time with that.

47

48 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

49

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0240

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
2 Rebecca.

3
4 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thank you. I just
5 wanted clarification on a comment I think Robbin made.
6 On the closure reviews, so when we get to the fall
7 meeting and our Council is taking action on the closure
8 reviews, we would have the -- and now I don't have it
9 in front of me, but the four options that Jarred went
10 over, and it would probably really help if those were
11 in front of me, but one of the options was rescind,
12 another was don't rescind, but when.....

13
14 MR. STONE: Right.

15
16 MS. SKINNER:Robbin was talking
17 she indicated that there could be an option to modify,
18 a limited option to modify. So I just wanted to make
19 sure I understood correctly what was going to be
20 available as far as modification. And what I
21 understood Robbin to say is that a modification to a
22 closure could define the users that are allowed -- so
23 it would be closed except to this specific group of
24 people, like Federally-qualified subsistence users, or
25 we could modify it as far as timing. So the exact
26 closure would apply except during, you know, these two
27 weeks in June or something like that. Did I correctly
28 understand that and then are there additional
29 modifications we could make or is it pretty much just
30 the timing and the users and then depending on the
31 answer I may have a followup question.

32
33 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
34 this is Robbin.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
37 Robbin.

38
39 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Council Member
40 Skinner, yeah, you're correct. So modifying the
41 closure means a change directly related to the actual
42 closure. For example, adjusting the dates the closure
43 is effective, assigning an expiration date shifting the
44 closure to all but Federally-qualified subsistence
45 users, or broadening the closure to include both
46 subsistence and non-subsistence uses. So those are
47 your options as far as modification goes. Another
48 option, it's not necessarily related to the closure
49 itself, but say you rescind the closure and then at
50

0241

1 that point in time the regulations revert to the
2 general area-wide subsistence harvest regulations and
3 let's see -- let's say you want a more precise tool in
4 regards to methods and means or harvest limits, you
5 can, at that point, forward a special action request to
6 put temporary regulations in place until you have the
7 opportunity to propose permanent regulations.

8
9 Thank you, Madame Chair.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
12 Rebecca.

13
14 MS. SKINNER: Yep, that answered my
15 question, thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, are we
18 just basically -- let's see if we can -- Chris, do you
19 want to add anything to this discussion, I think
20 we.....

21
22 MR. PRICE: No, I'm good. I think you
23 guys have done a great job.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So what do we --
30 how should we proceed, do we just maybe continue
31 forward and try to take this -- not try to, but do take
32 it up in our fall meeting and I don't know do whatever
33 we can, I guess, working with Staff to try to get as
34 much information or get something done so that we can
35 proceed forward.

36
37 I don't know, does anybody have a
38 suggestion, let's put it that way. I know Jarred gave
39 us some different options.

40
41 MR. ROHRER: Della, this is Sam, I have
42 a suggestion.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

45
46 MR. ROHRER: Thanks. Yeah, I would
47 just say my recommendation is we wait until we have
48 more information at our fall meeting to move forward on
49 this. Certainly as Staff prepares their comments on
50

0242

1 this, I'd love to be able to get -- it would really be
2 nice to be able to have that information a few weeks
3 prior to our meeting so that we have some time to
4 digest it and to talk to community members about it.
5 So that would be helpful but it's just -- it's hard to
6 make any concrete decisions until we can see all the
7 Staff analysis, and it's important for me to be able to
8 read the State's analysis and the Feds analysis, and I
9 know there's jurisdictional issues here that the State
10 probably is going to disagree with the Feds on and so
11 there's -- I just feel like we need more information.
12 So I would propose we wait to make -- take any more
13 action until the fall meeting.

14
15 Thanks.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

18
19 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

22
23 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I think that it's
24 difficult because it seems like to me, I'm not sure
25 what people are waiting for or what information, and I
26 think if we're waiting for some particular information
27 we need to say exactly what that is because I have a
28 feeling we're going to come to the fall meeting and
29 we're not going to have any more of what we need. I
30 think one thing to me is clear, is that, on these
31 closures they are closures and however many there are,
32 six, or seven, sportfish is open and subsistence is
33 closed in these areas. So I think.....

34
35 MR. HOLMES: Not true.

36
37 MS. CHERNOFF:that is one.....

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Not true.

40
41 MS. CHERNOFF: Can -- who was that.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead and
44 finish Coral.

45
46 MS. CHERNOFF: Can I not.....

47
48 REPORTER: So excuse me, this is Tina.
49 Could I just have one person talk at a time and I
50

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1 believe Coral was talking, so, Coral could you
2 continue.

3

4 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you.

5

6 REPORTER: You're welcome.

7

8 MS. CHERNOFF: And I think in our
9 justifications, you know, we've had this paperwork in
10 front of us and it does say that -- it does talk about
11 not -- let's see what does it say, nothing in this
12 title shall be construed as authorizing a restriction
13 on the taking of fish and wildlife for non-subsistence
14 uses on public lands other than National Parks and
15 Monuments unless necessary for the conservation of
16 healthy populations of fish and wildlife for the
17 reasons set forth in Section .816 to continue
18 subsistence uses of such populations or pursuant to
19 other applicable law. So to me it's clear that we don't
20 have conservation of healthy population because sports
21 is still open -- sportfishing is open in these areas.
22 So to me that's very clear. It seems like the issue
23 we're having is maybe we need to put in -- some people
24 feel like they need to have time to make modifications
25 to the times, dates, harvest and means.

26

27 So to me I guess if we're going to push
28 this forward, we just need to determine should
29 subsistence be opened and is that the issue, yes or no,
30 and then No. 2, do we need to modify the rules and
31 regulations that we already have in place in these
32 areas.

33

34 We have had this in front of us for
35 over a year and hopefully people will read their
36 materials and come to meetings so if we need more
37 preparation -- if they need more preparation for the
38 fall, will be prepared. But I think if we need more
39 information, we need to specifically -- if people feel
40 like they don't have enough information they
41 specifically need to contact someone and let them know
42 what that information is so we'll all be prepared in
43 the fall to hear all the information we need to hear.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
48 Coral.

49

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0244

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Can I say.....

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

4

5 MS. CHERNOFF:one more thing.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, can you
8 take over the meeting for a minute, I've got a call
9 I've got to take here.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Yes, I sure can. Coral,
12 go ahead and make your final comment and then I'll go
13 to Pat.

14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: So I guess I would just
16 like to say, too, that when we're discussing these, I
17 think I mentioned it before, if we could just stick to
18 the information that we have in front of us. I think
19 there's been some reference to some other areas that
20 are not these Federal fisheries closure reviews that we
21 have in front of us right now, which are FCR21-08,
22 FCR21-09, FCR21-11, FCR21-13, FCR21-16, and am I
23 missing one -- and FCR21-18. It seems like this is --
24 oh, and FCR21-19. So it seems like there's already
25 confusion in this issue so if we are throwing other
26 areas in it becomes even more confusing.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Coral. Pat,
31 go ahead.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Yes, I'll just make a
34 general statement and then a specific one calling for a
35 motion. I believe that I've identified some errors that
36 have been presented to us, there are -- in Kodiak, when
37 the Buskin is closed for subsistence, sportfish is
38 closed, always happens. Same on Litnik. And the same
39 out west. And we were told that out west that some of
40 these systems are open for sportfishing, there might be
41 a couple of them, I'm probably wrong on that, but -- or
42 I'm -- but Humpy Creek is closed all the time to
43 sportfishing and Unalaska Lake and Iliuliuk is closed
44 all the time, Summers Bay is partial and so -- I don't
45 agree with the fact that sportfishing can go in our
46 region when the subsistence is closed. I do think that
47 we've had some good discussions and I would propose
48 that we just -- when Della gets back is for Sam to take
49 what he was proposing as a motion and then we vote on

50

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1 it and decide whether we're going ahead or not because,
2 you know, we're just going around in circles.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Pat.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm back
9 Rebecca.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Okay. And then.....

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: i'm back, thank
14 you.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: I have a comment whenever
17 I'm next in line.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.
20 Because I just stepped back into the meeting so go
21 ahead.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: Okay, yep, thanks. So
24 first of all I agree with Sam, I don't think we're
25 prepared to develop proposals as a Council today. I am
26 comfortable, you know, whether we have a work group or
27 not is -- I guess is somewhat irrelevant to me because
28 individuals will have an opportunity to develop and
29 submit proposals. What I liked about the idea of
30 having a working group is it would provide more
31 transparency in our group, so within the Council, about
32 proposals that are going to be, you know, targeted for
33 development and what those proposals would end up
34 looking like. However, it doesn't sound like that's
35 the direction the working group is going, it sounds
36 like the working group would meet, come together and
37 talk about information that may be needed for the fall
38 meeting for decisions to occur into the future.
39 Personally, I'm less interested in that so I'm leaning
40 toward individuals will develop proposals working in
41 conjunction with OSM and submit them into the process
42 and those proposals will come before the Council at the
43 fall meeting.

44

45 I generally -- and I've said this
46 before, but so that everyone understands where I'm
47 coming from, I do support a subsistence priority. So I
48 will say that in areas where Alaska sportfish is
49 allowed and Federal subsistence is not, that doesn't
50

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1 make sense to me, and just because it's been in place
2 for 20 or 30 years, does not make it right, and doesn't
3 mean it should continue that way.

4
5 I agree that we have kicked the can
6 down the road for over two years now on these -- on
7 what I think was our role with these closures. We
8 specifically asked for a delay and now it sounds like
9 we're coming up to another meeting where we are going
10 to, again, either ask for a delay or impose a delay
11 because of our decisionmaking and lack thereof, so I'll
12 just note that in the sense of this is an emergency
13 that needs to be dealt with right now, I would agree it
14 is not, however, I'm thinking about subsistence users
15 throughout our region who don't have the priority that
16 they're supposed to have and I'm not sure I can justify
17 delaying that if we don't -- if I, as an individual,
18 don't have to.

19
20 I do also want to highlight that
21 there's a difference between the in-season management
22 decision. So in-season if a run is in -- and I, not
23 being a fisheries manager, I'm probably going to botch
24 the wording on this, but in-season, if a run isn't
25 making escapement the managers will make a decision to
26 close the fisheries, and I agree that in that instance,
27 if it's closed, usually subsistence is the last thing
28 that is closed and so you wouldn't have a case where
29 sport is open and subsistence is not. However, that
30 process, that in-season management is not what we're
31 talking about here. What we're talking about here are
32 about regulatory closures that are baked into the
33 regulations that just flat out close an area for
34 Federal subsistence. So I just want to make sure to
35 highlight that difference.

36
37 And then I understand that there are
38 apparently jurisdictional disputes. We didn't get
39 specific presentations on that but it's clear from the
40 comments that have been made today and at previous
41 meetings that there's some dispute going on between the
42 Federal managers and the State managers or the Federal
43 government and the State government about how has
44 jurisdiction over what and who has prime responsibility
45 and who's in control, I can accept that that's the case
46 that's beyond our pay grade, we're not in charge of
47 determining jurisdiction or arguing jurisdiction and if
48 it goes to litigation we have nothing to do with that.
49 What we can do is make sure that the things that are
50

0247

1 within our control, we are making sure that we put a
2 structure in place that recognizes the subsistence
3 priority for the Federally-qualified subsistence users.
4 So I have no problem if the Council supported
5 regulatory changes that allowed -- that opened up -- so
6 open up one of these closures, we put in some
7 regulations, if there was concerns about -- if we felt
8 we needed limitations and then down the road if it
9 turned out that the Feds didn't actually have
10 jurisdiction, well, what are we out, we will have
11 wasted maybe a few hours of our time, but we would have
12 done our job to get the structure in place so that,
13 again, there is an opportunity for Federal subsistence.
14 And like I said, to me that approach makes sense.
15 Again, the jurisdictional issues are not up to us but
16 what I think we can do is do our job, talk to our
17 communities and then if, based on that discussion, it's
18 appropriate to put forward and approve or recommend
19 regulatory changes, then that's what we should do.

20

21 Thank you, Madame Chair. Those are all
22 the comments I had.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
25 Rebecca, that was pretty amazing. I think one of the
26 things that keeps coming to light for us and I know
27 Rick brought it up and I know it's been in the back of
28 my mind because when -- the question was asked in
29 regard to Cold Bay area, who has jurisdiction over
30 those waters and the answer was they both -- somebody
31 had said they both do. But from the State side that's
32 not necessarily what -- you know, the case. And I know
33 for the most part we have done our subsistence
34 harvesting through State regulations, so how -- so the
35 issue of a map that shows who has what authority over
36 where and is -- is helpful because otherwise, like you
37 said, we're wasting time. I know Kodiak has areas on
38 the Buskin, Womens Bay and there's other areas that do
39 have -- that are under Federal jurisdiction and then
40 there's also the combination of different areas that
41 are State and so without really knowing those and what --
42 you know, what exactly those areas are, I'm wasting --
43 I feel like then we're wasting -- I'm wasting my time
44 in a sense when I need to be talking to Tyler or Lisa
45 about trying to figure out something else that works in
46 our area, which appears they are starting to and I'm
47 grateful for. So there's just -- every time I think
48 we've discussed this stuff I end up with more questions
49 but at least I am a little more knowledgeable than the
50

0248

1 last meeting so that helps.

2

3

4 Given that, I think is it possible to
5 go with Sam's recommendation, however, to add the idea --

6 I know we talked about the committee, but I fully
7 agree with Rebecca, we don't want to have committee
8 meetings and not be meaningful and do what needs to be
9 done, and to keep moving forward, so we don't end up at
10 this place again in the fall. Staff, do you think
11 there's a need to continue with the committee process
12 or just work individually with communities to try to
13 get the information you need.

13

14

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

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Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair, this is Sam.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Before we do
that.....

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1 MR. ROHRER: Okay, go ahead.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:Sam, can I ask a question first. So I'm going to ask this again to Staff, Jarred, Robbin, do you see a benefit, continuing with the committee and if you do what would that be, how do you foresee that.

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

MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is Robbin.

MR. STONE:Jarred.

MS. LAVINE: Jarred.....

MR. STONE: Robbin. Robbin, go ahead, thank you.

MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair, this is Robbin. And, thank you, Jarred. I think as your Council members have noted, this is -- these waters have been closed for a very long time, the majority of the subsistence harvest that fills the freezers of these communities and Federally-qualified subsistence users, they happen outside of these closed areas. There is always a benefit to working with your Council here during these Council meetings and also during small groups, and we're here for you. And we're also here for you if any one of you reach out and want to review the closures in your area, in order to assess, whether you think a proposal would be really helpful come this fall. Again, like many of you have noted, between now and the fall we'll have the opportunity to conduct closure reviews on all of these closures in your region, every single one now is on the agenda. And our closure reviews, the analysis that are conducted, they address the regulatory history, they address jurisdiction, they address the biological background and any cultural knowledge and traditional practices, harvest histories and they assess effects. And through that review process other Federal agencies and the State will be able to look at the same data and make their recommendations.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

MS. LAVINE: So, again, I think it's

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1 use -- all of it's useful, but I don't see that there
2 may be a great urgency if we are together, we're
3 playing the long game, in order to ensure we do things
4 right.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

9 Jarred, did you want to add to that or are you good?

10

11 MR. STONE: I'm good, thank you, Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,

14 Jarred.

15

16 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Sam --

19 okay, Coral.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I just have this
22 comment on whether or not a group would be useful and I
23 think what Rebecca said is that it sort of provides
24 this transparency and, again, I think even through this
25 meeting we came to, if we had not been together in a
26 group we wouldn't have realized that part of when we
27 rescind we already have -- like we're not just jumping
28 to adopting sports regulations. so I think that's the
29 benefit of having a group, is that when someone has a
30 question about what's going on, it gets answered to
31 everybody, whereas if there is not a group, people --
32 there's information that gets disseminated that may or
33 may not be correct and I think, for me, that is the
34 benefit of a group, is that we have people in the room
35 who will ask clarifying questions and then we have
36 people in the room who can find us those answers and
37 then we're all on the same page with all the correct
38 information and that doesn't happen if we don't have a
39 group. So that's why I was asking earlier, what
40 answers are we looking for when we're coming together
41 in the fall or next spring or whenever, like, if we
42 don't know what we're looking for then I fear we're
43 that we're just going to be in this same place at our
44 next meeting.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

47

48 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair.

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

2

3 MR. ROHRER: Okay, thanks. I'd like to
4 make a comment -- I'll make one quick comment and then
5 a proposal, or make a motion. My comment is, you know,
6 just hearing some of the different Council members talk
7 about the closure reviews, it sounds like some of them
8 feel that there's some that they would like to see open
9 and so I would say absolutely 100 percent if you look
10 at any of these closure reviews, these areas that have
11 been brought up by the closure review process, if you
12 see an area in there that you think should be open, put
13 in a proposal in the next fisheries cycle, Staff will
14 work with you and help you, the ADF&G Staff will give
15 you input, OSM will help you on it and absolutely 100
16 percent put in a proposal and the RAC can look at that
17 and decide whether or not we support it or not. That
18 makes 100 percent -- I mean that just makes good sense
19 and that's a process that any one of the RAC members
20 can do.

21

22 I would say, as a RAC, as a whole
23 though, I would make a motion that we take no further
24 action on the closure reviews until our fall meeting.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I second.
27 Pat.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Sam I
30 believe you made a motion and it's been seconded by
31 Pat.

32

33 MR. ROHRER: Yep.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Discussion.

36

37 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
38 is Rebecca. If I could just clarify, did Sam mean
39 regulatory proposals, because, in fact, we're not
40 taking action on the closure reviews at this meeting,
41 that is planned for the fall, but I thought what we've
42 been discussing today is whether to work on fisheries
43 proposals.

44

45 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair, this is Sam,
46 I can clarify.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

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0252

1 MR. ROHRER: Yes, Rebecca, so I was --
2 or Member Skinner, yes. My recommendation is
3 individual RAC members, if they feel strongly about one
4 of these closures should -- that there's nothing to
5 stop them from submitting a proposal on their own, but,
6 as a Council, I think we should wait until -- to take
7 any further action until the fall meeting, that we
8 don't do any proposals as a RAC at this point.

9
10 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thanks.

11
12 MR. ROHRER: Hopefully that does.....

13
14 MS. SKINNER: Because that does clarify
15 -- so you didn't mean closure review, you meant fishery
16 -- or regulatory proposals, that does clarify thank
17 you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Just
20 maybe for the record, Sam, could you rephrase your
21 motion. I just kind of wrote two different things
22 here.

23
24 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair. Yeah, I
25 guess I'm referring to both of them. So my proposal is
26 that the RAC -- or my motion would be that the RAC
27 takes no action on making fisheries proposals at this
28 meeting, fisheries regulatory proposals at this meeting
29 and in addition -- well, no, I'll just -- I'll leave it
30 at that.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The reason --
33 then there was a comment or something then no action
34 also on closure reviews until the fall meeting.

35
36 MR. ROHRER: Correct. That's my
37 intention. My intention is that we take no action on
38 this issue, whether further discussion and review of
39 the fisheries closure -- of the closure review process
40 or -- or making any proposals to try to head off the
41 closure review process.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay, so
44 basically then Pat had seconded that. And what this
45 also means is as an individual you can still make a
46 proposal.....

47
48 MR. ROHRER: 100 percent, yep.

49
50

0253

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:in the
2 interim. Okay, is every -- any other discussion.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
7 question. Katya, can we get a roll call vote, please.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Sure, yes, we can do the
10 roll call.

11
12 Pat Holmes.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Rick Koso is absent.

17
18 Sam Rohrer.

19
20 MR. ROHRER: Yes.

21
22 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

23
24 Chris Price.

25
26 MR. PRICE: Yes.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Coral Chernoff.

29
30 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

33
34 Rebecca Skinner.

35
36 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Okay, that's not.....

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Natasha
41 Hayden.

42
43 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

44
45 MS. WESSELS: Chair Della Trumble.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

48
49 MS. WESSELS: The motion passes
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0254

1 unanimously.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Thank you, everybody. I think, as a Council, we did due diligence on this subject the last couple of days and there's still so much more to learn and understand. I know, I, for one, will be calling Jarred and Tyler, so -- but that's a good thing. I think everybody really put their foot forward on this one, it's a tough one. But I think we can do good to resolve this and get this completed.

Anyway, I think the next item on the agenda is the meeting dates on Tab 13.

MS. WESSELS: Yes, this is correct, Madame Chair. Madame Chair, right now the Council's selected dates for the fall 2022 meeting is September 20th and 21st and if we meet in person the Council was going to try to have a meeting in Cold Bay. You can approve these dates or select different dates, or different location at this time. I also would like this Council to think if you're going to -- you know that you're going to have 14 closure reviews on your agenda, besides maybe additional proposals, and you'll have to develop the annual report for Year 2022 so the Council may want to consider if they want to have this meeting extended for longer than two days or if you think that you can handle this agenda in two days, it's fine to leave it at two days. Just suggestion for food for thought.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Does anybody have any comments to those days, or adding another day.

MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair, I have a question.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rebecca.

MS. SKINNER: Thanks. I should have asked this, I think Brent Vickers, in his very last report, the Office of Subsistence Management report, I thought I heard him say that meetings would be virtual through all of fiscal year 2022, but I may have

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1 misheard because nobody asked about that either so like
2 could we just get clarification, is an in-person
3 meeting even possible or are there currently policies
4 in place that would preclude meeting in person.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
7 Katya, I can clarify.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

10

11 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Thank you,
12 for the question. That was actually a, you know, a
13 typo in our report, what we meant to say is that all
14 the winter 2022 meetings were going to be via
15 teleconference. Obviously no decision has been made
16 about the fall meeting and as it's looking right now
17 people are returning back into the offices, you know,
18 starting this spring at some point so barring any
19 other, you know, difficult circumstances we are going
20 to have the meetings in person in the fall. There's no
21 prohibition from having in-person meetings in the fall
22 at this point.

23

24 MS. SKINNER: Okay, perfect, that
25 answers my questions, thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I'm
28 hopeful we can meet -- have an in-person meeting this
29 fall. I'm just about Covid out. Should we look at
30 three days in case.....

31

32 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:we need to.
35 Go ahead, is that Natasha.

36

37 MS. HAYDEN: Yeah, thanks, Madame
38 Chair. I would request that we consider moving the
39 meeting one or two weeks earlier. I don't know if it'd
40 be possible for us to meet the week of Labor Day -- the
41 Labor Day holiday, September 6th and 7th, that would be
42 my preference, but the week before the 13th and 14th
43 would do.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Labor Day is
46 tough because we do big functions to raise monies for
47 different programs in the community. We all do the
48 silver salmon derbies, I think all our communities do
49 it, including Cold Bay. So that's kind of a tough one.

50

0256

1 And I'm trying to recall, Sam, did you have any
2 conflicts with the dates, is that why we picked later
3 in September or were you able to even -- were you even
4 able to make those dates.

5

6 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair, thanks for
7 that. Man, fall is always hard for me because of --
8 because of schedules, definitely Labor Day weekend
9 there's no way I could make it. Later in September or
10 early October is always best for me. So, yeah, I don't
11 know 100 percent what my fall schedule is going to be
12 yet, it really has to get worked around some -- some
13 goathunts I have scheduled, but, certainly Labor Day --
14 you know the first two weeks of September would be
15 super hard for me, the 20th and 21st and even a week
16 later would be better options for me at this point.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
19 Katya.

20

21 MR. ROHRER: But also I'm only one
22 member so don't plan it entirely just around me.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. Katya, is
25 that you.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I just also wanted
28 to say that the Staff will need to develop the analysis
29 for all the closure reviews and any possible proposals
30 for your region, or any crossover, any statewide, so
31 the earlier you start the meetings, although we have
32 the windows open pretty early starting August, but it
33 would just shorten the Staff time to be able to develop
34 these analysis, is just one thing to consider. I mean
35 I'm not saying they won't be able to do it but it's
36 just, you know, one of the things for consideration.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
41 Rebecca, Coral, do you want to -- what are your
42 thoughts on these dates.

43

44 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral, I'm fine
45 with any dates.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

48

49 MS. SKINNER: Sorry, I was on mute. So

50

0257

1 I'm okay with the dates that are currently listed,
2 September 20th or 21st, I can go earlier in September
3 although it sounds like for a variety of reasons that
4 may not be a good idea. Going later in September, it
5 starts getting over into the North Pacific Fisheries
6 Council meeting and that is going to be very
7 problematic for me. So I guess right now just looking
8 at this calendar, I don't know, I was planning around
9 the dates that were listed but, yeah, as long as it's
10 not overlapping with the Council meeting then I'm fine.

11

12 Thanks.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Chris.

15

16 MR. PRICE: Yeah, hi, thank you. I
17 like the dates we have, third week of September. The
18 following week is not good for me. I do have
19 flexibility within the week, we could move it, you
20 know, to Thursday/Friday if we had to, but I think that
21 would work for me, yeah.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. Pat,
24 did you have any comments in regards to the dates.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Well, I'd really like to
27 get Sam at one of our fall meetings, that's the whole
28 reason that the Federal government changed all
29 regulations on participants for Councils, was for us to
30 have a person that's in the game harvest and also
31 involved in sportfishing and so usually we miss him.
32 And the 20th and 21st would be okay with me but I was
33 wondering what folks possibilities would be doing it
34 later on. I mean if the 26th, October 1st is the
35 Council meeting, then we can overlap with Nome, I don't
36 know, are they October. Anyway I could go with what
37 we've got but I'd really like to find some way to get
38 Sam involved because, you know, every once in a while
39 members will miss and, you know, if we do it earlier
40 odds are that we'll be down with our grandkids in
41 Oregon and I like to do my silver fishing, you know,
42 around mid-September 15th, 14th, is often good for me.
43 So that's my rambling thoughts, Madame Chair, doesn't
44 answer anything.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
47 I have no problems with the 20th and 21st date and I
48 can do the following week if need be. But year-end on
49 all of our companies is September 30th so actually that

50

0258

1 last week does not work for me. But yeah the 20th and
2 21st, that week there probably works the best for me.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, then.....

5

6 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. ROHRER: I was just going to say
11 I'll just do my best to try to make those dates work.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

14

15 MR. ROHRER: So, yep.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sounds good.

18

19 MR. PRICE: Sam, why don't you go bear
20 hunting in Cold Bay with us.

21

22 MR. ROHRER: I would love to come back
23 -- I did that hunt back in 2001, I guided a fall season
24 down there, that was a lot of fun, I would love to come
25 back.

26

27 MR. PRICE: Well, there you go.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So that puts us
30 to the winter meeting. Any idea on or a
31 recommendation.....

32

33 MS. WESSELS: Yes, Madame Chair, this
34 is Katya.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:on dates --
37 go ahead, Katya.

38

39 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, the window for the
40 meetings during the winter 2023 cycle is open from
41 February 21st to April 7th. The only week that's taken
42 completely is March 13th through March 17th, there are
43 already two Councils having a meeting that week and we
44 can only handle two Council meetings per week. So
45 February 21st through April 7th, the week that's out is
46 March 13th through 17th.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0259

1 MS. SKINNER: I'm sorry, can you repeat
2 that again. The dates that are out?

3
4 MS. WESSELS: 13th through 17th of
5 March.

6
7 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: What about the
10 28th and then the March 1st, that gives Monday for
11 travel and then -- or the 22nd and 23rd of February.

12
13 MR. ROHRER: Can I check the Board of
14 Game schedule for the spring real quick. Kodiak is
15 going to be in cycle and they're going to be pretty
16 important meetings to be at, I want to make sure we
17 don't conflict with that.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. Yeah, no
20 problem.

21
22 MR. PRICE: Della, this meeting is in
23 Kodiak, correct, the winter meeting.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, it is
26 normally in Kodiak. We've tried to get to the smaller
27 communities but it's been a challenge.

28
29 MR. ROHRER: I'm not seeing the meeting
30 dates for next year listed so I don't know what
31 they're going to be, sorry.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe we can do
34 tentative dates and if those dates -- when that
35 schedule comes out maybe let Katya know and then we can
36 kind of do a -- poll the RAC and figure out other dates
37 that might work because we don't want to conflict with
38 those dates.

39
40 MR. ROHRER: That would make sense
41 to.....

42
43 MS. WESSELS: Even doing -- you can
44 also change the meeting dates during your fall meeting
45 but just remember, you know, the other Councils will be
46 selecting dates so the schedule will fill up.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, and so
49 it'll.....

50

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1 MR. ROHRER: Della, this is Sam.
2 Normally Board of Game meetings are either going to be
3 -- they'll do two meetings in a year, one will be
4 generally in January and one will be sometime in March
5 and I don't know which one Kodiak, Unit 8 will be for,
6 but if we stick with dates around this time we probably
7 will be good.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

10
11 MR. ROHRER: So, you know, February
12 22nd to 23rd or 28th to March 1st, somewhere in there
13 we'd probably be good.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think
16 we could go with those dates, the 22nd, 23rd, 24th if
17 we need it, but the 22nd and 23rd, that gives us travel
18 dates of Tuesday and Friday so that should work.

19
20 MR. ROHRER: That works for me.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Everybody good
23 with that.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Roger.

26
27 MS. SKINNER: Do you want a motion for
28 both of these or is our discussion enough.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, the
31 discussion is enough.

32
33 MS. SKINNER: Okay.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: No, we don't need a
36 motion.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So that
39 brings us -- basically we are down to closing comments.
40 I will start with Pat.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think it certainly
43 has been a good meeting for discussions. I appreciate
44 everybody's points of view and it's unfortunate we
45 can't get together. Maybe we can -- when things calm
46 down with the Covid -- I know at one time when Mr. Zuch
47 who was from St. Paul, we were looking for optional
48 meetings and he got us free room and board there and
49 then I talked to Lawrence Siebert and he said he'd give
50

0261

1 us a discount on the flight out but it got vetoed so
2 maybe some day we can get somewhere exotic again, maybe
3 like Dutch Harbor. But anyway it's been a good meeting
4 and I appreciate everybody's thoughts. And did a good
5 job, Della, you get four stars and sorry I wasn't there
6 to give you some chocolate, traditional chocolate, so
7 take care.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
10 I've been on the Keto diet so no chocolate for this
11 gal.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

16

17 MS. SKINNER: Sorry I was having
18 trouble finding the mute button. Yeah, I think that we
19 did have good discussion this meeting and I just thank
20 everyone for their time, that includes RAC members, all
21 the agency Staff and any members of the public that
22 called in. And, hopefully, at some point we will be
23 back to meeting in person. And that's all I had.

24

25 Thanks.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
28 Rebecca.

29

30 Coral.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I just want to
33 thank all the agencies for their reports. It's always
34 good to find out what is happening and I'm happy that
35 everyone is still with us through Covid and I hope
36 everyone has a great spring and summer and stays
37 healthy. See you in the fall.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
40 Coral.

41

42 Chris.

43

44 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Della. And if I
45 had chocolate to give you I would give you, I don't
46 care if you're on Keto, you could have a couple, you
47 could have some chocolate.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

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1 MR. PRICE: Maybe by the fall you'll
2 be.....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: They actually do
5 have a chocolate that's called Fat Bombs and they are
6 so good when you love chocolate.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. PRICE: Okay, that sounds good.
11 That's what I need. Okay. I would just like to say
12 thanks to everybody for these meetings and it has been
13 tough not being in person with you guys. That last
14 time we were in Cold Bay was one of my best meetings
15 ever with everyone, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Every
16 time I get stuck in Cold Bay now I just run over to the
17 airport and check things out and I heard fish were
18 running late up the rivers in Cold Bay, I mean I love
19 Cold Bay so I'm glad we get to go back.

20
21 So thanks everybody for the effort you
22 put in, and, Della, you especially for Chairing these
23 kind of wild and crazy guys like us who are on your
24 Board, so thanks again.

25
26 And, you know, the Aleutian Islands,
27 you know, we're thankful to have a seat and a voice
28 here and you guys supported us when we really needed it
29 back when we were trying to get the McLees grant and we
30 really appreciate all that support and you can see
31 we've made some good progress with it and we're looking
32 forward to continuing that so thank you guys for all
33 your support, appreciate it.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
36 Chris.

37
38 Natasha.

39
40 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks, Della. Yeah, I
41 also would like to thank all of the Staff people and
42 everybody who's worked so hard to prepare the materials
43 and present to us and really take the time to
44 thoroughly explain everything and give us an
45 opportunity to talk through any questions or concerns
46 we might have had. I'm looking forward to a meeting in
47 Cold Bay in the fall, I've never been there so this
48 will be first for me, I'm super excited. I'm grateful
49 that I was reappointed to the RAC. I had just gotten
50

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1 notification last week so super thankful for that.

2

3 I hope everybody stays healthy and safe
4 and has a good spring and summer. Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
7 Natasha.

8

9 Sam.

10

11 MR. ROHRER: Thanks, Della. I just
12 want to first thank all the Staff and agency folks for
13 hanging in there with us these last two days, thanks
14 for your excellent reports and your comments,
15 suggestions, input, that's all invaluable so thank you
16 for that and thanks for all the work you guys do.

17

18 I want to thank our RAC members -- the
19 other RAC members, just I appreciate all the time and
20 effort everyone puts in and appreciate that our RAC can
21 work together. We don't always agree on everything but
22 in the end I think we do a good job of always coming
23 together and doing what we feel is best for our region
24 so I just appreciate our other RAC members and thank
25 you guys for -- guys and gals for all the time you put
26 in.

27

28 And, lastly, I just want to thank you,
29 Della, you continue to be willing to be serve as
30 Chairman, that is no easy task, and so really
31 appreciate you be willing to do that and thanks for all
32 the work you put in, and that's all I have.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.
35 I just want to thank everybody, the RAC members, Staff,
36 not only the Federal Staff, but the State agency Staff,
37 the Refuge. There's a lot to this and I have to say
38 the last two days have been very educational, I think
39 informative, I've learned a lot and I still have more
40 questions but I feel much better walking away from this
41 meeting than I have the last two in regards to these
42 closure reviews. And I appreciate the efforts that are
43 being made. I understand that we've taken a lot
44 longer, but maybe that's with good reason, that
45 whatever decisions we do coming forward will be solid
46 and be there for, hopefully, for 30 years.

47

48 And, yeah, thank you, Katya, for
49 helping and we look forward to working with our new RAC

50

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1 [sic] member, and I hope she's not running away, and we
2 look forward to do that.

3

4 I hope everybody has a really good
5 spring and summer and harvest-wise that everything is
6 good and look forward to seeing everybody face to face
7 this fall in Cold Bay.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 A motion to adjourn.

12

13 MS. HAYDEN: So moved.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm not sure who
16 made a motion, maybe Natasha.

17

18 MS. HAYDEN: Yep, it was me, Natasha.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

21

22 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca will second.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
25 Natasha, a second.

26

27 MR. PRICE: Second.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca will
30 second. All right, all in favor signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
35 Thank you so much.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

40

41

42

43

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