

0001

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE  
September 27, 2021  
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

0002

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 9/27/2021)

(On record)

MR. MATHEWS: Good morning everyone this is Vince Mathews. I'm calling from cloudy Fairbanks. I'll just do a reality check of who's on line. So if I miss somebody please chime in.

So, Pat, are you online?

MR. HOLMES: Roger that.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Richard Koso.

(No comments)

MR. MATHEWS: And, again, I apologize if I don't pronounce your name right.

Sam Rohrer.

(No comments)

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

Chris Price.

(No comments)

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Coral Chernoff.

MS. CHERNOFF: Good morning, I'm here.

MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

Rebecca Skinner.

MS. SKINNER: Yes, I'm here.

MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

Chair Della Trumble.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm here.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

0003

1                   Natasha Hayden.

2

3                   MS. HAYDEN: Good morning, I'm here.

4

5                   MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

6

7                   And Melissa, I'll say Berns, but it  
8 could be Berns.

9

10                   MS. BERNS: Yes, it is Berns, and I am  
11 here. Good morning.

12

13                   MR. MATHEWS: Good morning. So not  
14 that the meeting has officially started, but right now  
15 we have six of nine members and if I did the math right  
16 we need six for a quorum. So I'll turn it over to you,  
17 Della.

18

19                   Thanks.

20

21                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I  
22 think for the record we have Pat Holmes, Rick Koso,  
23 Coral, Rebecca, Melissa and I'm missing one person  
24 here, Natasha. And then absent is Sam Rohrer, he said  
25 he probably wasn't going to make this meeting, he was  
26 busy with his business. And then Chris, I'm hoping can  
27 call in, he said he was pretty busy and trying to work  
28 around his schedule but hopefully he gets to call in  
29 today.

30

31                   So with that I guess we can -- Pat,  
32 would you be able to do -- or would you do the  
33 invocation, please.

34

35                   MR. HOLMES: Yes, Della. Normally at  
36 this point I hold up a carving of one of the Alutiig  
37 Supreme Entity Llam Sula, and then there's a  
38 counterpart LeaSula, who is a female entity. And I  
39 talked to an old timer once here and he thought that  
40 probably one of the reasons that the folks in this neck  
41 of the woods adopted the Orthodox Church when the  
42 Russians showed up was because of some of the great  
43 similarities and spirituality.

44

45                   And, so, with that, usually I say the  
46 Lord's Prayer, but I think that I hope our group here,  
47 we're able to pursue things the best we can to try to  
48 represent the folks that need subsistence. And I think  
49 just a moment of quiet instead, and reflect on all of  
50

0004

1 those elders and folks that passed away this last year,  
2 more than I have fingers and for those who had Covid  
3 and passed away and for those that have it and are  
4 struggling to survive. So I think we should just have  
5 a moment to wish that we can achieve the best good for  
6 all of those folks.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 (Moment of Silence)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
13 I guess with that we will call the meeting to order.  
14 The time is 8:38. We did a roll call. We do know  
15 which Council members are online and I think maybe with  
16 that we might do -- we do have a quorum. So I'd like  
17 to welcome everyone to the Kodiak/Aleutian Federal  
18 Subsistence Advisory Council. Unfortunately we weren't  
19 able to hold this face to face in Cold Bay as we had  
20 hoped and it would have been a good meeting, there's a  
21 lot going on I think. And I think with that, maybe, we  
22 might kind of go around and see who else is online.  
23 I'm not sure the best way to start this, I think maybe  
24 with Federal Staff -- we'll maybe start there. If you  
25 could just say your name, introduce yourself and say  
26 who you are with.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, Madame Chair. This  
31 is Lisa Grediagin. I'm the OSM Wildlife Division  
32 Supervisor with OSM and I'll be serving as the LT lead  
33 for this meeting.

34

35 Thanks.

36

37 MR. LIND: Cami. (In Native)  
38 Everyone, Della, and Board members, this is Orville  
39 Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence  
40 Management.

41

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

45

46 MR. BRADY: Good morning. This is Mike  
47 Brady. I'm the Refuge Manager at Kodiak National  
48 Wildlife Refuge.

49

50

0005

1 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. This is  
2 Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist with the Office of  
3 Subsistence Management.

4  
5 MS. LAVINE: Good morning. This is  
6 Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator with the  
7 Office of Subsistence Management. Hi everyone, and  
8 happy Monday morning.

9  
10 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning. This is  
11 Greg Risdahl representing the USDA Forest Service, ISC  
12 Member.

13  
14 MS. KLEIN: Hello. My name is Jill  
15 Klein. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
16 Also the InterAgency Staff Committee member and  
17 Regional Subsistence Coordinator for the Regional  
18 Office.

19  
20 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Madame  
21 Chair. George Pappas, OSM State Subsistence Liaison.  
22 Good morning Team.

23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning, everyone.  
25 This is Vince Mathews. I'll be facilitating this  
26 meeting from Fairbanks, which is the ancestral lands of  
27 the Dena Athabascans. I didn't get a chance to  
28 introduce myself to all the Council members so bear  
29 with me.

30  
31 My history in Alaska is I served as a  
32 regional coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish  
33 and Game for 14 Advisory Committees. I also served for  
34 14 years as a Regional Council Coordinator for Eastern  
35 and Western Interior. My regular job, since I'm acting  
36 in this position, is Refuge Subsistence Specialist  
37 assisting with three Federal Regional Advisory  
38 Councils, North Slope, Eastern and Western Interior.  
39 In addition, my duties include assisting the Tanana  
40 Chiefs Conference with their Tribal Resources  
41 Commission and their involvement with Alaska Migratory  
42 Bird Comanagement Council, and you will be looking at  
43 some of those proposals relating to migratory birds.  
44 And I assist with TCC, or Tanana Chiefs Conference's  
45 Hunting and Fishing Task Force.

46  
47 I want to share that right now that  
48 myself, and all the Staff with OSM and other agencies  
49 are here to help you and I'd please request everyone  
50

0006

1 just to pause a little bit. This is going to be kind  
2 of a challenging meeting so don't hesitate to ask where  
3 are we at, where are we going, or anything else, and  
4 I'm sure there'll be either myself or other ones to  
5 chime in. And as, Tina, your court recorder said,  
6 please note star six to mute, and star six to unmute.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
11 Vince. And thanks for assisting our Council. It  
12 sounds like you've got a pretty full plate but we're  
13 happy to work with you. I'd like to ask right now,  
14 maybe, if there's any public online that would like to  
15 introduce themselves.

16

17 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. This is  
18 Kelly Krueger with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
19 Game, and I have Mark Witteveen with me also with the  
20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning  
23 Kelly.

24

25 MS. FOX: .....with the Department of  
26 Fish and Game and Tyler Lawson is also on the line with  
27 the Department of Fish and Game.

28

29 REPORTER: So I missed your name, could  
30 you repeat it?

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Could the last  
33 person repeat their name, we caught Tyler, but we  
34 didn't catch the first name.

35

36 MS. FOX: Yeah, good morning, Della.  
37 This is Lisa Fox with Fish and Game. Can you hear me  
38 okay?

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, we can  
41 hear you fine, Lisa. It just cut out when you first  
42 started. Thank you.

43

44 MS. FOX: Yeah, thank you. Sorry, I'm  
45 learning the star six thing.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other from  
48 the State or.....

49

50

0007

1 MS. MELENDEZ: Good morning, Della.  
2 Sorry, we didn't get to introduce ourselves. This is  
3 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. My name is Letecia  
4 Melendez, Deputy Refuge Manager. And I also have our  
5 biologist Allison Williams online as well.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
8 Letecia. Is the Refuge Manager available for this  
9 meeting at any time?

10  
11 MS. MELENDEZ: To my knowledge I do not  
12 believe she will be attending the meeting via  
13 telephone. She left Cold Bay unexpectedly and do not  
14 know whether or not she'll be returning within the next  
15 week or so. So she will not be in the meeting.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, sounds  
18 good, thank you.

19  
20 MS. MELENDEZ: Sure.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there  
23 any.....

24  
25 MS. PETERSON: Good morning. This is  
26 Amy Peterson. I'm the Koniag Community Affairs  
27 Liaison. I'll be working with the village tribal  
28 council, corporation boards and the Refuge.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Amy.  
31 Anyone else online?

32  
33 MS. KEATING: Good morning. This is  
34 Jackie Keating with the Division of Subsistence, Fish  
35 and Game.

36  
37 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning everyone.  
38 This is Dillon Patterson with the National Park Service  
39 Subsistence Program in the Regional Office.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,  
42 Dillon. Anybody else online.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing  
47 none. What I've asked people to, if you're from the  
48 public and would like to make comments, if you're able  
49 to text me or just even break in during the course, we  
50

0008

1 can add you to the agenda. It's not an easy thing to  
2 do doing this by conference call but we can do it. So  
3 at this time.....

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I need to just make  
10 a statement on public comments before you get into  
11 review and adoption of the agenda. So the statement  
12 is: The Council meetings provide an opportunity for  
13 public and tribes to provide oral and written testimony  
14 and comments. There'll be several opportunities  
15 throughout the meeting. One, or A, is at the beginning  
16 of each day there's an opportunity for provide  
17 testimony on non-agenda items. The Chair will announce  
18 these opportunities, and this is probably substituting  
19 for that announcement. And then there'll also be an  
20 opportunity to provide oral comments on the wildlife  
21 proposals and closure reviews during and after the  
22 analyst presents proposal analysis. The order of  
23 receiving the comments is outlined on Page 27 of your  
24 meeting booklet. The Chair will also call for public  
25 oral testimony. There is also an opportunity to submit  
26 written comments on the proposals. If you have a  
27 written comment, please email them to  
28 subsistence@fws.gov. Please clearly indicate the  
29 number of the proposal or closure review you are  
30 commenting on in the title of the email. The comments  
31 need to be mailed prior to the proposal you are  
32 commenting on as presented to the Council. If you  
33 emailed your comment, your written comment to your  
34 Council Coordinator prior to the meeting, please  
35 resubmit to subsistence@fws.gov now. If less than 10  
36 written comments are received we will read them into  
37 the record. If there are more than 10 written comments  
38 received, they will be tallied and the result will be  
39 presented to the Regional Council prior to their  
40 deliberation.

41

42 And, again, I want to -- well, I should  
43 ask two things. Hopefully the Council members online  
44 have a copy of the meeting booklet and supplemental  
45 materials, if not you're going to either go to the  
46 email I sent with the supplemental materials or go to  
47 the website. And I apologize for that but we will work  
48 through this.

49

50



0009

1 So, finally, remember star six to mute  
2 and star six to unmute.

3  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 REPORTER: And just one more thing,  
7 this is Tina. If you're just going to start talking,  
8 if you could just please say your name, that's  
9 appreciated, especially when we're making motions or  
10 seconds. Okay, thanks.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tina.  
13 Vince, I know you haven't worked with us directly, for  
14 this Council, but this Council, whether we're meeting  
15 face to face or online, try to accommodate the public  
16 as well as we can and work them into the schedule as we  
17 go since sometimes they are just able to stop in for a  
18 bit or be able to call in depending on what their  
19 schedule is at work, so we do try to work at  
20 accommodating the public. But thank you so much for  
21 reminding us.

22  
23 With that, I guess we're at review and  
24 adopt agenda. And I'm assuming that we're using.....

25  
26 MS. SKINNER: Della.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....the last  
29 agenda that was sent out. There's a lot of red  
30 additions on here.

31  
32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Madame Chair.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I can try to get  
37 you up to date on this. Because of some challenges  
38 with the meeting book and other things I provided the  
39 Council members a working agenda and so I will go  
40 through possible additions and corrections to that  
41 working agenda. So if you're looking at the working  
42 agenda with all the red lettering, I apologize, there's  
43 two annual report topics, so that should be separated.  
44 The first one is .805c report -- oh, excuse me, I'm  
45 sorry. It's B in there, basically the first one is the  
46 Board, the Federal Subsistence Board reply to your  
47 annual report and then there's an annual report reply  
48 process that the leadership team will do. And when we  
49 get to that I'll refer you to what file was sent to you  
50

0010

1 in an email, in case you did not get a hard copy.

2

3 Okay. I'm looking at Page 2 -- let me  
4 see what has to be had here. Well, it's just a note  
5 for the update from the Adak Island Caribou Management  
6 Plan, which is on Page 23. Jeff Williams will be  
7 presenting that. The Refuge Manager, Steve was pulled  
8 away for a family situation. And to save time, if  
9 you're looking at this agenda, F, Division of  
10 Subsistence Report on Unalaska and Kodiak is at Page  
11 172 in your book. I'll try to remind you on that, but  
12 it's not in the order of the agenda.

13

14 Okay. So now we look at all the  
15 proposals. There's no changes there that I'm aware of.  
16 There is an addition to your agenda that was -- an  
17 addition to the one in the book and it's in red, it's B  
18 under 11, new business. B under 11. Is optional  
19 review of Board of Game statewide proposals. It would  
20 also be statewide and central Southwest Board of Game  
21 proposals.

22

23 And another item added to your agenda,  
24 it's a new item, it's D under 11, which is Partners  
25 Program. That'll be presented on the Partners Poster  
26 narrative, so that's an addition.

27

28 Now, we move over to agency reports.  
29 Yes, I hope I pronounce it right, Koniag Corporation is  
30 listed there, I believe they may be online, or they may  
31 be providing written comments. And under U.S. Fish and  
32 Wildlife Service, I apologize, I don't know what  
33 happened there but you were not listed, so you are now  
34 listed under C under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
35 section.

36

37 Okay. And then the other thing that  
38 happened in the meeting booklet -- so for all those who  
39 are listening, some are using the meeting booklet and  
40 it had some missing pieces. So what was missing in the  
41 meeting book, which is in this working agenda, is  
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, so I apologize that  
43 did not get into the book. It appeared to be a  
44 formatting, but we're here now. And so underneath that  
45 would be Mark Witteveen, update on the Buskin River  
46 sockeye salmon fishery and stock assessment project.  
47 And then Tyler Lawson will be giving, to my knowledge,  
48 a verbal update on the McLees salmon weir. And then  
49 finally after all this, Rick Merizon, of Alaska  
50

0011

1 Department of Fish and Game, he's the small game  
2 biologist, requested time specific for Proposal WP22-  
3 39, which deals with hare in Unit 9 and 17, he asked  
4 for a time specific at 2:15 today. So we may need to  
5 honor that or you just may be approaching it at that  
6 time, at 2:15.

7

8 So, again, I apologize for all this red  
9 ink. But I think if we follow the working agenda it  
10 should flow well.

11

12 So, Madame Chair, that's the additions  
13 and notes for your agenda.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
16 Maybe just a question. Under the ADF&G, Lisa, were you  
17 going to give a report, Lisa Fox, I didn't see you on  
18 this list?

19

20 MS. FOX: This is Lisa Fox. I was not  
21 going to give an update. But Tyler Lawson was going to  
22 give an update on the McLees weir.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay, I  
25 was just curious on the fisheries, any kind of report  
26 on fisheries. And I do believe before we started,  
27 Vince, Rebecca, was that you with a comment?

28

29 MS. SKINNER: Oh, it was. I was just  
30 going to move to approve the working agenda whenever  
31 you're ready for that.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Are there  
34 any other comments or additions to the agenda?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing  
39 none, go ahead, Rebecca.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. This is  
42 Rebecca Skinner, I move to approve the working agenda.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Pat, second.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.  
47 Discussion.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0012

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for  
2 question.

3  
4 (No comments)

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

8  
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.  
12 Okay, review and approve meeting minutes. Let me see  
13 if I can figure out what page those are on. Okay, the  
14 minutes start on Page 5. Do I hear a motion to approve  
15 the minutes.

16  
17 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca  
18 Skinner. I'll make that motion to approve the minutes.

19  
20 MR. HOLMES: Pat, second.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by  
23 Rebecca, Pat second.

24  
25 Discussion. Is there any changes or  
26 comments in regards to the minutes.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,  
31 call for question.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All in favor  
36 signify by saying aye.

37  
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

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

42  
43 (No opposing votes)

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

46  
47 Moving down. Council member reports.  
48 We'll go ahead and start with -- how about we start  
49 with -- Pat, let's start with you.

50

0013

1 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
2 I think Covid really changed things for a lot of folks  
3 here. I know I was finally able, because the Buskin  
4 was so terrible, it was closed quite early and so a lot  
5 of people had to go to Litnik or Port Lions or  
6 Pasagshak. Andso my buddy that helps me and my wife --  
7 I promised my wife I'd go out with somebody that was  
8 20 years younger than me and not by myself, so, anyway  
9 we made four trips to Pasagshak but got our minimum  
10 goal of five cases of reds put up plus plenty to  
11 distribute out around to other people. But I didn't --  
12 silvers are doing well, but I didn't go out for that  
13 because my partner is -- daughter and their family all  
14 came down with Covid so we just kind of stayed here.  
15 But I had a fisherman stop by and said I hadn't moved  
16 my boat for silvers and he'd stop by and bring me a  
17 few. So I think that Kodiak subsistence is rolling  
18 along fairly well.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

23

24 Rick.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick Koso, are  
29 you online?

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

34

35 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, this is Rebecca  
36 Skinner from Kodiak. I'll just -- I'll be brief. I'm  
37 looking forward to the meeting this next couple days  
38 and would echo Pat Holmes' comments about the  
39 subsistence salmon fishing here in Kodiak, I guess that  
40 was more in the spring, and it was pretty slow, we had  
41 some closures. But I did get out so far and was able  
42 to get a few silver salmon here this past week.

43

44 Other than that I will end there.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

49 Coral.

50

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, good morning. I  
2 would just say I guess we had some phenomenal, we had a  
3 phenomenal berry year this year so hopefully the bears  
4 are feasting on those. I was just out berry picking  
5 yesterday and our salmon berries just kept producing  
6 and producing and producing. People's raspberry bushes  
7 kept producing. At the Buskin River, like Pat said the  
8 red salmon season was pretty dismal and closed for red  
9 salmon for subsistence pretty early on in the year.  
10 But the silvers have been coming in now. I was out  
11 there two days ago. We set a gillnet and caught some  
12 silvers and they were pretty large -- pretty large  
13 fish.

14  
15 Deer. I'm not -- I had a friend that  
16 was on the other side of the island -- I haven't seen  
17 too many deer -- well, I haven't -- let's say I haven't  
18 been out driving around so I haven't seen too many deer  
19 because of that reason and I haven't really heard of  
20 any deer reports, good or bad. Although my friend was  
21 on the other side of the island doing fishing for about  
22 three weeks and they only saw one deer, and usually  
23 they see more. So hopefully there'll be around.

24  
25 This year the AMBCC, we had a proposal  
26 through the AMBCC and we had the road system open for  
27 migratory birds for spring harvest. That hasn't  
28 happened since 2003. So we were excited about that.  
29 47 permits were issued for the road system. So the  
30 reports will be sent in. They had to -- part of the  
31 permitting was you had to log your birds as you hunted,  
32 so we'll see how many birds were harvested, birds and  
33 eggs for the road system in Kodiak. So I'm not sure  
34 when those reports will be gone through but people are  
35 starting to send them in. I think four reports as of  
36 this date had been -- harvest reports had been sent in.

37  
38 The crayfish at Buskin Lake are  
39 terrible. We were out this spring watching some people  
40 gather crayfish and they just had goggles and wetsuits  
41 on and they would just -- they were near the shore and  
42 they would -- they would just go under, overturn a rock  
43 and grab a couple of crayfish. So every rock they  
44 turned over had crayfish. So I don't know what we can  
45 do about that but that definitely is something that  
46 needs to be worked on. And whether or not -- well,  
47 maybe we'll see a report here soon on the study of the  
48 crayfish that the Sun'aq has been doing for a couple of  
49 years.

0015

1 I guess that's it for my report.

2

3

4 I think that a lot of the trash bins,  
5 besides town bears, a lot of the trash bins have been  
6 taken out and so we haven't seen as many bears in town  
7 but there seems to be plenty of bears and mamas and  
8 cubs on the road system. I see a lot of pictures of  
9 them. So those populations are healthy.

10

11 And, oh, at our AMBCC meeting,  
12 statewide, last week, once again I think for the sixth  
13 year in a row, places, especially I think around Nome,  
14 Nome area, had large populations of die-offs. I think  
15 it was particularly mentioned were murrelets, not -- not  
16 die-off of murrelets so much as murrelets not showing up. So  
17 I guess in some areas where there's large numbers of  
18 murrelets along the cliffs they were pretty empty, they  
19 were just full of seagulls. So we're still concerned.  
20 We formed a working committee there to kind of look at  
21 where we can go, you know, this is like the sixth year  
22 really with just gathering carcasses finding that  
23 they're emaciated and reporting them, so we're going to  
24 look at having a working group to see if we can work  
25 towards gathering more information. What's happening  
26 with the birds, are there, you know, why they're  
27 starving. I think they've done PSP tests, that seems  
28 not to be the issue. Avian bird flu seems to not be  
29 the issue. So we're kind of baffled at this point so  
30 we're hoping to move in a direction where we can look  
31 at finding some more answers.

32

33 And that's all I have, thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
36 Coral.

37

38 MR. KOSO: Can you hear me on this one  
39 now, Della?

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Yes, I can  
42 hear you now, Rick. Do you have a report?

43

44 MR. KOSO: I'm trying to figure this  
45 muted deal out. I had it muted twice so anyway I'm  
46 here.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. If you  
49 would like to give a report, Rick, while you're on, go  
50 ahead, Council member report.

0016

1 MR. KOSO: All right. I'll give you a  
2 report. First of all I'd like to give a report on the  
3 salmon on Adak. It was kind of strange there this  
4 year, on Lake Andy, I don't know if Lisa Fox is aware,  
5 but Lake Andy it seems that -- there was a lot of reds  
6 that showed up in Lake Andy this year. I know the  
7 military's working there, it's on the north side of  
8 Adak Island, and it was just, I don't know, maybe 20,  
9 30, 40 yards before it went to the ocean there, to the  
10 lake, and that's been blocked off, the military's  
11 working out there and there wasn't any way for the  
12 salmon to get up. But I think that's open now and this  
13 year they ran into a lot of salmon in the lake and it's  
14 been hit pretty hard by fisherman. So that's that  
15 report. But as far as the rest of Adak goes on the  
16 subsistence salmon fishing. People did pretty well.  
17 Since the fish plant closed we had a few people leave  
18 the island. A lot of people don't have transportation  
19 like they used to have on the island, getting around  
20 the island to get their fish, but -- so they resorted  
21 to Lake Andy which you can drive to from town, so they  
22 hit that pretty hard for salmon.

23  
24 And as far as the caribou on Adak, I  
25 know there was a lot of concern that people weren't  
26 able to get caribou, locally, you know, where they  
27 normally do it on the road system. I don't know if the  
28 herd is getting smaller or what the factors are in  
29 that. I know we have a couple -- we have one outfitter  
30 that I know of and one transporter that I know of that  
31 are in Adak pretty much the summer so it's hit pretty  
32 hard on the caribou side of it with those folks.

33  
34 And as far as -- let's see, there's one  
35 other thing, Adak is -- there's not a lot of problems  
36 with people getting their subsistence for their -- like  
37 halibut and different things of that sort, and I think  
38 they were all able to get their salmon this year  
39 without too much problem because of Lake Andy.

40  
41 And so I think that's about all I have  
42 for Adak.

43  
44 I've been to Cold Bay for a couple of  
45 months this summer and we ran into some problems with  
46 Cold Bay that I thought were -- that people brought up  
47 to me and maybe Lisa Fox can address during later on or  
48 right now, but there's a lot of areas that are closed  
49 to subsistence fishing now. I know that Nurse Lagoon  
50



0017

1 is one of them, closed 500 yards, and Frog Creek was  
2 also closed 500 yard, which it's been closed before.  
3 But there's one up halfway to Kena(indiscernible)  
4 Lagoon by -- a little creek goes into a lake there, and  
5 that's never been closed to subsistence fishing and  
6 that's probably where 90 percent of the people in Cold  
7 Bay got their subsistence from. Well, they closed that  
8 down 500 yards so it eliminated the subsistence  
9 fishermen so I think on that deal, I don't know the  
10 reason behind it, if it was just a lack of fish or  
11 what, or they just opened it up for the sports  
12 fishermen and got rid of the subsistence people, but  
13 there was a lot of people that were pretty upset about  
14 that from where they were setting their nets. But they  
15 seen, you know, up to 10, 15 different people  
16 sportfishing up there at a certain time. So it was  
17 kind of a little conflict between some of the sport  
18 fishermen and the subsistence fishermen on that deal.  
19 So I'd like to see if we can't get that ironed out a  
20 little bit.

21

22 But outside of that I don't really have  
23 much more, so thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.  
26 And that might fall into some of the State subsistence  
27 closures that we are looking at, that we need to  
28 continue to look at. And the other issue that I've  
29 been hearing a lot of the conflict between subsistence  
30 and sports out of Cold Bay and had hoped that we were  
31 able to meet face to face in Cold Bay, that was one of  
32 the major concerns I'm hearing, is the -- starting to  
33 be more of a conflict between the sports and  
34 subsistence users.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 Natasha.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha, are you  
43 online?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa.

48

49 MS. BERNS: Hi, good morning. I don't

50

0018

1 have much to report other than what has kind of already  
2 been said for the Kodiak area.

3

4

5 I think, you know, down in Old Harbor  
6 people are doing all their fall fishing. The silvers  
7 are plentiful and the smokers are going. I didn't have  
8 the opportunity to get down there but I've got family  
9 members who are harvesting and that I know are going to  
10 share with me. I think, like Coral said, the berries  
11 were plentiful so that was great, a great change from  
12 previous years.

12

13

14 I know it's not really subsistence  
15 related but this year, we're -- it's going to be our  
16 new form of subsistence for our membership around Old  
17 Harbor, is we're going to be having our first Tier II  
18 membership bison harvest this fall. And we've got  
19 members applying, we're going to be drawing our first  
20 six tags for bison harvest and each tag has to benefit --  
21 each animal has to benefit two households or more in  
22 their application. And so we're really excited for  
23 that, to kick that off, and have another way to  
24 supplement our membership, their freezers.

24

25

26 I think that's about all that I have.  
27 I'm actually traveling right now so I'm available today  
28 but I might cut off and on and have to call back in if  
29 my cell phone dies. But it's good to hear everybody's  
30 voices.

30

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
33 Melissa. Yeah, it's good to hear your voice too. It's  
34 fun to watch what you're doing with the bison.

34

35

Natasha, are you online?

36

37

(No comments)

38

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I don't know if  
41 we lost her or if she's having trouble with the star  
42 six. So I'll go ahead and give a fast report.

42

43

44 Like everybody said, the berries are  
45 plentiful. The guys did fairly good salmon fishing as  
46 far as subsistence the silvers are definitely, there is  
47 a lot of them, and they're beautiful big fish. We had  
48 a couple silver salmon derbies here in King Cove that  
49 were quite a bit of -- a lot of fun.

49

50

0019

1 Caribou. People are hunting caribou  
2 and birds right now. I think I had one of the guides  
3 that we work closely with, one of the guides in King  
4 Cove, basically dropped some caribou and moose from up  
5 the Nelson Lagoon way and Sandy River, so the people in  
6 King Cove were pretty happy to be able to share some  
7 moose meat. And also some birds from the hunters in  
8 Cold Bay, sports hunters in Cold Bay, that got sent  
9 over and distributed amongst elders, and the community.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

I think we had a couple working group meetings in regards to the closures and subsistence and I think that's something that we need to try to push to try to resolve sooner than later. I think it's been ongoing so I think we definitely need to look at those this next cycle.

I think other than that -- does somebody have a comment or question?

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: One of the things in Cold Bay, we did go over, from King Cove Corporation's standpoint to meet with people locally and with the various guides. There's been a bigger concern, and Rick kind of hit on this, an ability to fish -- so people in the past that had been going on King Cove Corporation lands and sports fishing on Russell, we basically told them you can't do it. You cannot do it anymore. So we tried to work with them so they're able to walk maybe and go within 12 feet from the beach line on Russell, but there's -- when you look -- and I think the concern and the amount of sports activity, it's something we need to -- I'm not sure what the answer is right now, but I know with the birds, we don't allow for the hunting of birds or caribou on King Cove Corp lands. We do very limited, we're only working with two or three bear guides at this point, but it's something that the corporation is going to be working on this winter, is, not only good maps and be able to keep people on the easements that are set aside by the State and crossing Russell, but to come up with some policies, but we agreed to try to work closely with the community in trying to figure out a solution. But when I hear some of the concerns from people that are subsistence users, I think -- I'm not sure what the clear answer is right now but I do think

0020

1 it's something that needs to be addressed in the  
2 future.

3

4

5 The other thing that was brought up to  
6 my attention, and I'm not sure of the answer, but it's  
7 something to think about in the back of your mind,  
8 mainly whether you're a Federal biologist or a State  
9 biologist, and that has to do with like King Cove  
10 Corporation lands in regard to fishing over there on  
11 Russell or any of the streams that are within the King  
12 Cove Corporation boundaries, who has the authority to  
13 make the determinations of what the take is, whether  
14 it's under State or is it under Federal, if it's on --  
15 within the Federal boundaries but it's on King Cove  
16 Corporation lands that are private. So that's  
17 something, I think needs to be probably discussed as we  
18 give our reports -- as the reports come up during the  
19 course of the meeting, would be appreciated.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Other than that I think that is all I  
have.

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat. Could  
I do a footnote on Rick's report on Adak and Andrews.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead,  
Pat.

MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Rick. Many years  
ago when Glen Davenport was area biologist he, I think,  
just gave encouragement without having to deal with  
Juneau and before they had the habitat folks, with the  
Navy, just keeping the creek flowing out of Andrews  
open. And then after the Navy left I think  
periodically it's gotten closed. And at least back in  
the dark ages when I was working through there in the  
'80s it would shift -- if it didn't -- if it did close  
up then it would shift to Kokanee, they'd just stay in  
the lake and then when the storm would tear it open  
they'd go back out and then come back in as normal size  
fish. So you might just provide encouragement out  
there and let Fish and Game know if it looks like the  
stream's getting blocked off to see if you might be  
able to develop some kind of plan to keep that little  
outlet stream open and then I think that would assure  
that you'll still have plenty of adult salmon coming  
in.

So good luck to you out there, that's a

0021

1 swell place. Bye.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

4

5

6

I'm going to try one more time before we move on, Natasha, are you online?

7

8

9

10

MS. HAYDEN: Yes, Madame Chair, sorry about that. I got a call from my boss, I apologize. We're doing updates, is that right?

11

12

13

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct, Natasha.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

MS. HAYDEN: Okay. I don't have much to update. As far as subsistence activities here in Kodiak, I did get out and get some gull eggs early this summer. I didn't get as many as I normally do. I have had a really good berry season. Salmonberries, I don't know if you have gotten a report, salmonberries were kind of interesting and we got an early crop and then they kept kind of coming in just small amounts, kept maturing throughout the summer, really late into the season. The raspberry patches that I know of were very productive this year. I've yet to get out and get any lowbush cranberries. Blueberries have also been very productive, which is great. It seems to be getting cold fast.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

And I have -- I went out looking for deer bucks to harvest around Port Lions a couple of times a few weeks ago, didn't see any bucks. I saw a couple of nice big does with one year old fawns. I didn't see a lot of the little babies like I did last year. I don't know very many people who have gotten bucks or have seen bucks around Kodiak and the road system.

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

Similarly on Afognak, I know several hunting parties that have been out for deer on Afognak and only a couple, just a handful of bucks that have been taken that I know of so far. Lots of does seen around. And then a ton of bears. Lots and lots of bears. People are a little overwhelmed with how many bears there are, big set population, moms with lots of cubs, three, four cubs at a time.

48

49

50

Salmon. You know everybody knows that the Buskin failed this year. I am wondering about some

0022

1 of the harvest that had been taken for subsistence  
2 outside of Kodiak. I'm curious to see what some of the  
3 numbers are over at Litnik. I went and launched over  
4 at Antonas a few times and just saw lines of trucks and  
5 trailers, assuming that a lot of those people that are  
6 launching out of Antonas that time of year, like the  
7 mid to end of June, early July, were going outside of  
8 the Kodiak road system area to get some of their  
9 subsistence because the Buskin didn't show up. And so  
10 that's kind of a concern for me, is the number of  
11 people that have been getting subsistence fish and  
12 there's no -- there's no limit over at Litnik, what I  
13 understand, the fish that they catch over there doesn't  
14 count towards their 25 per person. And -- but I did  
15 also hear that over at Port Lions the Settler Cove  
16 return was strong. I'm not sure if they're still  
17 stocking Crescent Lake or not. And then I know that  
18 people around -- out of Ouzinkie and Spruce Island also  
19 had a lot of success getting their salmon this year.

20

21 So that's what I have to report for my  
22 subsistence and I apologize that I had to hop off for a  
23 little bit.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
26 Natasha. Any other comments with.....

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....regard to  
31 any -- go ahead, Pat.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, sorry to interrupt.  
34 I was chatting with the area biologist for Kodiak and  
35 evidently early in the season as they saw -- they  
36 closed Buskin, they noted that the returns to Litnik,  
37 or Afognak Lake were not as what they should be so they  
38 held back and tried to reduce the commercial fishery to  
39 increase the escapement and to provide for subsistence  
40 and so they were actively trying to manage that fishery  
41 so that folks could be able to get their subsistence.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
46 Any other comments from the Council?

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0023

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, moving on,  
2 Chair's Report. We did have a meeting. I'll need to  
3 pull my binders to get the exact dates, but it didn't  
4 last two days, it lasted one day. There wasn't a whole  
5 lot on there, I think. And a lot of what they did is  
6 in the various proposals in our packet. And I do  
7 believe we tried to -- and Chris isn't online, tried to  
8 hold a hearing on subsistence on McLees and those units  
9 around Unalaska, but they weren't able to get everybody  
10 to participate that was supposed to. And I know that  
11 that's something that our prior RAC assistant was  
12 helping us with, and I'm not sure where we are, Vince,  
13 at this point, with those, it's something that we  
14 probably need to talk about real soon.

15  
16 Other than that, I don't think I have  
17 anything else to add. If there's any questions. I'm  
18 sorry if I -- I feel like I'm -- I feel really  
19 scattered, I've been so extremely busy, but we'll get  
20 through this.

21  
22 All right, any public and tribal  
23 comment on non-agenda items. Is there anybody online  
24 that would like to speak?

25  
26 MS. SKINNER: Della, did you skip an  
27 agenda item?

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I did, a big  
30 one.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
35 Thank you, Rebecca. On Item No. 8, Service Awards,  
36 and, Pat, this is a presentation for you, Pat Holmes.  
37 Vince, do you want to take this because you had all the  
38 comments that were sent to you?

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. But I need to  
41 confirm if Pat Petrivelli is online?

42  
43 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

46  
47 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm sorry I was late.  
48 I didn't -- I called in at 9:00 instead of 8:30, I  
49 apologize for my absence. But this is Pat Petrivelli  
50

0024

1 with BIA.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And for other people, this was a supplemental document and it's title is, if you're looking in the email or online, it says the file name is Pat Holmes 20 year service award.pdf.

So Pat Petrivelli was gracious to recognize Mr. Holmes 20 years.

MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Holmes, or Pat, brings to the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council a wealth of knowledge and a vast network of friends and contacts across the region. His knowledge comes from his career as an Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist who has been to every island in the Aleutians with salmon systems. He has a continuing passion for conserving the region's resources for those who only want to put up wild foods for their families and communities.

He played an important role with protecting the rural status for Kodiak Island. He was recognized for his holistic approach of information sharing and getting people involved on the importance of rural status for the Kodiak Island communities. Mr. Holmes understands the needs of Kodiak/Aleutian Region when issues on hunting, fishing, and conservation come before the Regional Council.

The Federal Subsistence Program and the Kodiak/Aleutian Subsistence Regional Advisory Council thank Pat Holmes for his dedicated 20 years of service and look forward to his continuing valuable service as a Regional Council member.

And I've known Pat Holmes pretty much the whole time he's been on the Council and I really appreciate the service that he's brought to the Council. Thank you, Pat.

MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I'm going to sound like the IRS here, but his award will be in the mail and that'll be forthcoming. And, again, if we had a face to face, but, again, that's forthcoming. And I



0025

1 personally appreciate the patience of Pat as him and I  
2 kind of work through email challenges and a whole bunch  
3 of other things, that his patience was just perfect, so  
4 I surely appreciate Pat sharing his knowledge. And I  
5 will be talking to him about the Yukon River because he  
6 has connections there also.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
11 Vince. I finally found the handout. This is a little  
12 confusing, I have to be honest, with all these -- the  
13 way this packet came together and all the supplemental  
14 material, and trying to sort through it to get the  
15 right documents. However, I would say in regard to  
16 Pat, we had written some comments, I think, from a  
17 number of us, in regard to you. And, I, for one, have  
18 known you quite a long time now having been on the  
19 Council for the 20 years and participating and my  
20 appreciation for your knowledge, I think not only from  
21 your background, but also knowing that our area, both  
22 whether it's the Aleutians or the Kodiak region as well  
23 as you do, and that's been extremely helpful. And just  
24 the knowledge of the history of, you know, years ago,  
25 the way things were and how they've changed over, you  
26 know, today, but really appreciate your time, your  
27 effort and the detail that you've put into being a part  
28 of this Council. I'd like to thank you very much, Pat,  
29 and congratulations on your 20 years of service  
30 recognition.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair, thanks  
33 very much.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anyone else like  
36 to add?

37

38 MR. LIND: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is  
39 Orville Lind.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Orville.

42

43 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair. So  
44 I would just like to add on to what everyone has said.  
45 And Pat has been unbelievably a great source of  
46 information, of the history of the resources around  
47 Kodiak Island. But not only that I think he has just a  
48 top notch social sense about him that he's always very  
49 -- very present in working with all the people, not  
50

0026

1 only tribes but the State people and the Federal people  
2 and I just want to commend him on that, and say,  
3 Quyana, Pat, you've done a great job and I hope you  
4 continue to stay on.

5

6 Thank you.

7

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

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is.....

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair, this is  
14 Coral.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: .....Robbin.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe we'll  
19 start with Coral and then Robbin.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. I would just like  
22 to thank Pat for all his years of service, that's an  
23 awful big -- not an awful, it's an incredibly big  
24 commitment to subsistence and the support of  
25 subsistence. And what I really appreciate about Pat is  
26 he puts so much effort into educating himself about  
27 subject matters, which is not always easy to do or find  
28 the time to put that effort into it. I do really  
29 appreciate that. He comes to the table educated, both  
30 in his history of the matter and talking to people and  
31 getting current information. So I would just like to  
32 say that, Pat, yeah, congratulations on 20 years, and I  
33 really appreciate your level of engagement and your  
34 service to this Council.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
39 Coral.

40

41 Robbin.

42

43 MS. LAVINE: Yes, thank you. This is  
44 Robbin. Pat, hello, I wanted to express my gratitude  
45 for your amazing expertise, your engagement, your  
46 guidance to this Council, and to the Federal  
47 Subsistence Board. I want to thank you for reaching  
48 out and calling me directly when you have questions and  
49 you want to discuss an issue, I've learned so much and  
50

0027

1 it's so meaningful to have Council members that are as  
2 interested and committed to this process as you are.  
3 You are so very valuable to this Program. And I'm  
4 really, really sorry we're not doing this in person  
5 because I want you to know that as Pat finished the  
6 description of your award, I, and I'm sure everybody  
7 else was applauding your service. I wish you could  
8 hear that. And thank you so much.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
11 Robbin. Anyone else.

12  
13 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, Katya  
14 Wessels.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

17  
18 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
19 This is Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division  
20 Supervisor with OSM. And, Pat, you might not remember  
21 meeting me for the first time in 2016 at the All  
22 Council meeting, but I met you then and right off the  
23 bat I was really impressed with your engagement and  
24 knowledge. And on behalf of OSM and the Federal  
25 Subsistence Management Program I would like to thank  
26 you for the 20 years of service. This is a great  
27 commitment of over 20 years, being engaged and staying  
28 engaged and knowing your region and dedicating your  
29 service to the people of your region, to the users. So  
30 thank you very much.

31  
32 MR. KOSO: Della.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Pat, do  
35 you want to -- I kind of hear you in the background  
36 there.

37  
38 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, go ahead, Rick.

41  
42 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Pat, I just wanted to  
43 say thank you for your service also. I know you've  
44 been a great help to me with your knowledge of Adak and  
45 completely out west beyond Adak, for all these years.  
46 I know that you've probably forgot more than most of us  
47 will ever know up in that part of the country. But,  
48 anyway, I just wanted to thank you again for your  
49 service and it's been wonderful working with you, and I  
50

0028

1 hope you continue that for a long time from now.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. Pat,  
4 since you're on the floor, do you want to go ahead and  
5 we'll give the floor to you.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, I feel real  
8 humbled with all of those swell comments and I don't  
9 know, I don't think I'll request the transcript, but it  
10 sure made me feel good and I think I'm starting  
11 immediately doing this to come up with some of the  
12 Covid responses of temperature and runny nose and  
13 drippy eyes, so thank you very much everybody. I  
14 appreciate working with all of you because this whole  
15 thing is a team effort and folks have to work together  
16 to find out what's going on and when we do with each  
17 other, I think, an important thing is approaching it  
18 rather than telling people what to do, but to ask them,  
19 what should I know. And I found that's always been a  
20 key part of my life, as you folks are.

21

22 Thank you very much. Bye.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
25 Okay, do we want to go ahead and take a break at this  
26 point or do we want to move on?

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I guess let's  
31 do the public and tribal comment on non-agenda items if  
32 there's any at this point and then -- so if there's  
33 anybody from the public that would like to speak.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think  
38 maybe at this point what we'll do is take a 10 minute  
39 break, go ahead and move on to the old business of the  
40 reports, so people can get their documents and  
41 everything in order and get started. So we can go  
42 ahead and just take a 10 minute break.

43

44 REPORTER: Take 10.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that good?

47

48 MS. LAVINE: Sounds great, Della, this  
49 is Robbin.

50

0029

1                   REPORTER: All right, I'm going to go  
2 off record Della for 10.

3

4                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, 10  
5 minutes everyone, we'll back here at 9:50.

6

7                   (Off record)

8

9                   (On record)

10

11                   MR. MATHEWS: The Federal Subsistence  
12 Board's annual report reply. So as you mentioned  
13 earlier, Chair Della, the Federal Subsistence Board met  
14 in January on the 26th through the 29th, and they  
15 considered proposal changes to the Federal Subsistence  
16 Management Program regulations for the harvest of fish  
17 and shellfish. It's important to note that this report  
18 comes from the section of ANILCA, Alaska National  
19 Interests Lands Conservation Act, which is Section  
20 .805(c), and that the Board will accept recommendations  
21 of a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council regarding  
22 take unless, and these are things that you're going to  
23 be dealing with and have dealt with when you pass  
24 recommendations, but it's good to repeat them. So 1,  
25 that the recommendation is, you know, the Board could  
26 reject your recommendation if it's not supported by  
27 substantial evidence, number 2, the recommendation  
28 highlights recognized principles of fish and wildlife  
29 management or 3, adopting the recommendation would be  
30 detrimental to satisfaction of subsistence needs. So  
31 those are the parameters and those are things that I  
32 know that you already do with your recommendations.

33

34                   Okay.

35

36                   Out of the 14 proposals submitted there  
37 was one proposal which was withdrawn. And then I will  
38 be dealing in my other job with the decision on  
39 Proposal FP21-10, so it's not your area.

40

41                   What is in your area is that the Board  
42 reviewed 12 fishery closure reviews and accepted the  
43 recommendations on Regional Advisory Councils on 10 of  
44 the 12 fishery closure reviews. And, again, fisheries  
45 Staff can chime in here if there needs to be more what  
46 these code names means, but anyways the Board voted to  
47 maintain the status quo of two of them FCR21-01, FCR21-  
48 22, and eliminate one of the closures FCR21-06. And  
49 this is one that's directly related to you which will  
50

0030

1 be discussed later on the agenda, the status of how  
2 you're working on this. And the Board deferred seven  
3 of the 12 fishery closure reviews and you'll -- well,  
4 I'll mention them FC21-08,09, 11, 13, 16, 18 and 19  
5 until -- these are going to be deferred until the next  
6 fisheries cycle to allow the Council to meet and  
7 discuss these issues.

8

9 Let's see, again, if you want to, you  
10 know, find out exactly what happened at the Board  
11 meeting transcripts are available on the website. So  
12 with that I'll -- oh, wait a minute, sorry. The seven  
13 fishery closure reviews that I already mentioned are  
14 affecting your area and appear as a non-consensus  
15 agenda, however, as mentioned before the Board took  
16 action on all these closure reviews consistent with the  
17 Council's recommendation. They deferred those to allow  
18 you to meet and other Staff will be talking about that.  
19 So I think I'll leave that because the paragraph and  
20 the Board describes each one of those and I'm sure  
21 Jared and others will be talking about those when we  
22 get further on the agenda.

23

24 So, Madame Chair, I apologize for  
25 bouncing around there but that is your .805c report.  
26 If there's any questions I'm sure Council members or  
27 yourself can ask myself or other Staff can respond.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does any Council  
30 members have any comment.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm hoping this  
35 -- I'm not trying to be -- pointing fingers at anything  
36 or anybody, but I have to admit, and, Vince, this is  
37 not anything against you, I know you and I like you and  
38 I know this is our first meeting with you, you've been  
39 working with Donald, but this is really hard -- this is  
40 the first time I've ever, in my years, got a packet  
41 that nothing's stapled together, nothing -- it's all  
42 just copied in a big pile, and then I got pieces from  
43 the biologist in Izembek that sent some supplemental  
44 material in my packet, then I'm trying to print off  
45 stuff that's been added, and I realize you've been  
46 extremely busy and there's a shortage of Staff  
47 personnel within this Program, positions are open, but  
48 I have to -- I don't know about the rest of the  
49 Council, but I tried to go through and staple these  
50

0031

1 various pieces together to get some sense of order and  
2 it's so nice when you're able to look at an agenda and  
3 you reference a page attachment, a number -- a page  
4 number on this, so I guess it's just going to be, a  
5 meeting we're just going to have to hopefully get  
6 through and do the best we can. But I'm hoping in the  
7 future this doesn't happen. And I know there was some  
8 issues with our packets going to other regions, or the  
9 wrong places, I'm not sure what happened there. But I  
10 just want to say, guys, I'm hoping this doesn't happen  
11 again.

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
14 Katya Wessels.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair and members  
19 of the Council. I want to sincerely apologize to you  
20 and to all members of the Council that we had this  
21 happen with the books this year. Yes, this is true,  
22 there was an issue with mailing your books, they were  
23 prepared on time but unfortunately they were mailed to  
24 wrong addresses. So that's why you received your  
25 packet, Della, like this. And I'm really sorry. And  
26 also, you know, if you have access to internet the  
27 meeting book is available online, and you can access it  
28 there at [doi.gov/subsistence/regions/ka\\_materials](https://doi.gov/subsistence/regions/ka_materials). So  
29 my apologies and we're going to put our best foot  
30 forward next time so that that doesn't happen.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
35 Okay, I guess we're on the next item would be Board  
36 FY2020 annual report reply summary. It looks like two  
37 annual report topics.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair. The  
40 reason the earlier working agenda I gave you blended  
41 those two together. So basically the first topics  
42 dealing with your 2020 annual report, and then annual  
43 reports in general. The reply to your annual report  
44 2020 is found on Page 12 through 17, I believe, in your  
45 meeting book. I will be honest with you, all the  
46 Councils I've dealt with over the years, they each  
47 handle this differently, and so I can go through and  
48 give highlights of each topic or the Council can take  
49 time to look at it and then if they have questions or  
50

0032

1 clarifications they can bring them up. So I'll wait to  
2 see what your Council would like to do with the annual  
3 report reply.

4

5 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

8

9 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I concur with you  
10 Della on what you said earlier there. This is Rick.  
11 And I never did get a book on this and being in Cold  
12 Bay for as long as I've been there, for awhile, and  
13 unable to get the internet, so I'm pretty lost on a lot  
14 of this stuff here. I've been trying to piece it  
15 together, I guess, like you, but I certainly -- I'm  
16 pretty much lost on a lot of the subjects here. But  
17 I'll keep going. I hadn't been with you guys in 2020  
18 so I missed out on a lot of that issue too. So I'm a  
19 little bit lost but I think I'll be able to put it  
20 together and catch up here eventually so if I got any  
21 questions I can always give them a call or something  
22 there.

23

24 So, anyway, thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.  
27 I think with that, Vince, if you can go through that  
28 report, that section, that would be fine.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That way  
33 everybody kind of knows what we're discussing here and  
34 if there's any comments they can address them that way.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And I will  
37 highlight, and, again, I am new to your region, if  
38 there's additional items if I didn't catch in my  
39 highlight, please chime in. And there's other Staff  
40 that had worked on this reply.

41

42 So anyways it is from the Federal  
43 Subsistence Board. It's dated August 4th, 2020. And  
44 the first topic, and I believe it's also on your agenda  
45 later on, is, Adak Island Caribou Management Plan. And  
46 the Council appreciates the response from the Board and  
47 looks forward to beginning a process of forming a  
48 management plan for the Adak Island. And the Board's  
49 response, and, again, you may want to add for other  
50



0033

1 details on this management plan request, but the Board  
2 response is that the Board understands the importance  
3 of developing an Adak Caribou Management Plan and  
4 thanks the Council for its persistence on this matter.  
5 The Board did reach out to Alaska Maritime National  
6 Wildlife Refuge Manager, Steve Delehanty, and inquired  
7 on the process. The manager's report is enclosed. The  
8 Board also wants to note that last year was quite  
9 unusual due to Covid, therefore, progress on this issue  
10 was delayed. The Board hopes that as Alaska returns to  
11 pre-Covid conditions, more progress can be made on the  
12 development of this caribou plan.

13

14 So I'll leave it at that. It is on  
15 your agenda later, an update on that.

16

17 So is there any questions or additional  
18 information needed on Topic 1?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, hearing none. The  
23 next one was dealing with Izembek National Wildlife  
24 Refuge. Your Council appreciated the hiring of the  
25 Refuge Manager, Maria Fosado, and that it's critical to  
26 have the information from the manager shared with the  
27 Council. So basically the Board appreciates the  
28 positive feedback on the recent hire of Staff.

29

30 And within the last year, Alaska  
31 region, prioritized the hiring of three permanent full-  
32 time positions at Izembek. So they hired the Refuge  
33 Manager, which we already mentioned, administrative  
34 Staff support, assistant Patrick McGrath, Jr., and  
35 wildlife biologist Allison Williams. And I believe  
36 Allison is online and then, of course the Deputy Refuge  
37 Manager is online.

38

39 The Refuge and the Fish and Wildlife  
40 Service, as a whole, value engaging with the Council.  
41 The Council plays an important role in bringing  
42 together rural subsistence users and resource  
43 management agencies, such as the Fish and Wildlife  
44 Service, and with the goal of sharing and facilitating  
45 thoughtful discussions pertaining to the management of  
46 subsistence resources. Collaboration with the Council  
47 fosters relationships, builds trust and provides  
48 transparency on current and ongoing subsistence issues.

49

50

0034

1 So any questions or additional  
2 information needed on Topic 2 of the response?

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next one.....

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: .....is one -- sure.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Pat.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: I just wanted, it doesn't  
16 have to be reflected anywhere but I think something  
17 that didn't really come out was that our Council, in  
18 our meeting when we had it at Cold Bay, we met with a  
19 high administrative position, and at that time, I think  
20 why we're so tickled that they did fill those  
21 positions, because at that time they were talking about  
22 just moving the whole jurisdiction to another Fish and  
23 Wildlife Refuge boss up on the Peninsula, and maybe  
24 even King Salmon and to basically have Izembek be a  
25 subordinate position. And sometimes in the past some  
26 of our communications with previous superintendents  
27 there took an extraordinary amount of time and not  
28 quite the responses we had hoped for, and so we were  
29 quite worried that things were going to get worse. And  
30 so I think the fact that they finally did fill the  
31 position with folks that'll be permanently stationed  
32 there then you've got people that are on the grounds  
33 and know what they're doing and can respond to the  
34 Council and to the local public. So that's just a  
35 little footnote of something that never really showed  
36 up and doesn't really need to be reflected but I just  
37 wanted to just tack that on there for folks' memories.

38

39 Anyway, thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So thank you,  
42 Pat.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: So proceeding, the third  
45 response from the Board is dealing with Regional  
46 Advisory Council alternate member. And basically your  
47 Council, as well as other Councils, would like to have  
48 alternates. The Council recommends when the nomination  
49 package is submitted to the Secretary's of Interior and  
50

0035

1 Agriculture, that the Board will recommend that the  
2 Secretary's appoint alternates from the pool of  
3 qualified applicants identified by the Inter-Agencies.

4  
5 The response is from the Board. The  
6 Board understands the concerns regarding current  
7 vacancies. It's important to have a diverse and wide  
8 representation of user groups throughout the region and  
9 have all Council seats filled. In the 2019 appointment  
10 year the Council had four seats that were open for  
11 appointment but the Board only received three  
12 applications. In the 2020 appointment year the Council  
13 had five seats that were open for appointment but the  
14 Board only received four applications. So as a result  
15 of insufficient applications in 2019 and 2020, the  
16 Board could not provide recommendations to the  
17 Secretaries to fill vacant seats.

18  
19 The Board did not, kind of region-wide,  
20 in fiscal year 2020, conducted outreach for the  
21 Kodiak/Aleutian region and throughout the state, the  
22 application period was open from September 3rd, 2019 to  
23 March 2nd, 2020, and, again, there is mail outs, and  
24 emails to individuals and organizations on that. There  
25 is outreach effort through various media outlets  
26 including newspaper, radio, internet, Facebook, public  
27 conferences, and these efforts resulted in 74  
28 applications to fill 62 vacated or expiring seats on  
29 all Council, but unfortunately not enough for  
30 Kodiak/Aleutians.

31  
32 The Board encourages the Council  
33 members to assist OSM with outreach efforts in  
34 communities and throughout the region.

35  
36 And I'll go off script here. I serve  
37 on several nomination panels and it is difficult when  
38 you have three to five seats open and you only get four  
39 or six applications. And the key, in my opinion, is  
40 face to face interactions with key people that, you  
41 know, may have an interest but they're just a little  
42 hesitant to take that step forward. So I highly  
43 encourage you to invite people to your meetings just to  
44 listen in, it would be better if it was face to face  
45 but even those that can't make the face to face, just  
46 listen in. And that includes younger people. I won't  
47 say how old I am but the point of it is is we need to  
48 get younger ones on here to learn from those that are a  
49 little bit more seasoned.

50

0036

1                   So back on script.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

The Board encourages Council members to assist OSM with outreach effort in the communities and throughout the region.

And then it is key to point out, and I believe all the panels point out, but it needs to be repeated, that the Board does not have the final authority on which applicants are appointed to the Councils. That is done at the Secretarial level. So applicants do -- many of them do an excellent job of filling out the applications and then it goes through the process and then its the Secretary of Interior that makes it.

So I'll stop there and see if there's any questions or additional information.

MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rebecca.

MS. SKINNER: Thank you. So it is helpful to get information on the number of applicants in comparison to the number of open seats. In my recollection that is not information that we consistently get every year. So my question is, can you every year get a report out on how many applications were received for -- as well as the number of open seats for which those people applied? I think that that would be very helpful for the RAC to have. It sounds like, even with the extensive outreach, that there hasn't been -- there just hasn't been as many applicants as there are vacant seats. My impression is that that wasn't the case in the past. But, again, since I don't think that we've consistently received that kind of data on an annual basis, it's hard for me to say. So I guess I'm looking for confirmation that we did not consistently receive that information, or if it is published, where can we find that. IF it's not something that's already readily available, I would ask that it be made available to the KRAC on an annual basis.

Thank you.

MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, Katya

0037

1 Wessels.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Thank you.

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair. To answer your question, OSM can provide you with the data on how many seats are vacant each year and how many applicants apply each year. So usually we do that at the end of the year, the Secretary of Interior makes the appointments, but we definitely have this data for all the previous years. And we can provide the Council with that information when there is, on your agenda, you have a discussion about the open season for Council applications and nominations 2022 open season, so I can pull some of the numbers for the Council by the time of the presentation and share it with you. This information, though, is not published anywhere, but we can definitely provide it at the Council's request to the Council.

MS. SKINNER: Okay, that would be great, thank you so much.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Vince, do you want to continue.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Yes, I'll continue and I.....

MR. HOLMES: Della.

MR. MATHEWS: .....may need -- oh, sorry.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on, go ahead, Pat.

MR. HOLMES: yeah, I think that's a good point there, Becky, but the real point is that we -- it would be good to have an informal basis a month before the list goes to the Secretary of the Interior so we could do the personal contact ourselves because that's where, I think, every single person that's on our Council, and almost everyone that's come on it in the past, from my knowledge, has been personal contact from the Advisory Council members themselves. And I think some people have -- that would be great for us,

0038

1 in the past, I remember when Tom Schwantes was dropped  
2 off by the Secretary and nobody ever told him why,  
3 nobody on our Council knew why, he just disappeared.  
4 We've also had people get bumped because they didn't  
5 reapply and they didn't know they needed to reapply.  
6 And so there needs to be just a little bit of positive  
7 interaction on OSM's side of things to just kind of let  
8 us know how things are going on applicants and that,  
9 you know, give a call to Della and she can let  
10 everybody know, and we go out and do an extra hustle to  
11 get those positions, rather than having them stay open  
12 for years. And that's -- that's a frustration.

13

14 And the other thing is, as I know you  
15 folks say, well, the lists are sent down to Washington,  
16 D.C., but I would like to know sometime what the  
17 criteria is that they use to decide there. Do notes go  
18 down from OSM Staff saying gee this is a good one, this  
19 one's not, or do they get a total clean evaluation  
20 based on just what's submitted to them separate from  
21 Staff comments.

22

23 So, anyway, it would help us, I think,  
24 a lot to know before the deadline where we can help.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, Katya  
29 Wessels.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

32

33 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
34 So, Pat, to address some of your concerns, you know,  
35 with what you said about the applications. So each  
36 year we usually announce in September an open season  
37 for applications and nominations. Usually this open  
38 season goes from September to about maybe February.  
39 After the applications are received by OSM we assembly  
40 InterAgency nomination panels. And the InterAgency  
41 nomination panels consist of the representatives from  
42 five different Federal agencies, Forest Service, NPS,  
43 Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, and BIA so the  
44 panelists interview the applicants and their  
45 references. And then they write biosketches on these  
46 applicants and where they reflect all the information  
47 and experience. There is five.....

48

49 (Teleconference interference -

50

0039

1 participants not muted)

2

3 MS. SKINNER: I'm sorry, Della, I'm  
4 having a really hard time hearing. Can people put  
5 their lines on mute if you're not talking, and then  
6 Katya your line is breaking up a little bit, so it's  
7 making the background noise even more of a distraction.

8

9 I'm sorry to interrupt, Della, go  
10 ahead.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, that's fine.

13

14 MS. WESSELS: No problem. I adjusted  
15 my microphone, can you hear me better?

16

17 MS. SKINNER: Yes, that is much better,  
18 thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Better.

21

22 MS. WESSELS: Sorry, I think maybe also  
23 my microphone was not right in front of my mouth.

24

25 So then after the nomination panels do  
26 all this work, they get together, they have a meeting  
27 and they discuss the applicants and their  
28 qualifications and they rate and rank them for ISC.  
29 Then ISC, InterAgency Staff Committee, which also  
30 consists of the representatives from all the five  
31 agencies, they get together and they evaluate the  
32 information that was given to them and they draft their  
33 recommendations to the Board on the appointments. Then  
34 these recommendations to the Board on the appointments.  
35 Then these recommendations are presented to the Board  
36 during the Board's August work session, it's an  
37 executive session, it's not a public session, and the  
38 Board reviews the ISC's recommendation and all the  
39 information provided by the nomination panels and then  
40 the Board makes their recommendations to the  
41 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. Once that's  
42 done, the packet with all this information and the  
43 Board's recommendation goes to the Secretaries and they  
44 conduct the vetting, but we're not privy of what kind  
45 of criteria they apply over there. That is not within  
46 our realm of knowledge and it's not shared with us.  
47 We're completely separated from that, we're just  
48 providing them with information.

49

50

0040

1                   So, you know, I agree with a lot of  
2 comments that Pat made, you know, when a Council member  
3 seat is expiring they definitely need to know ahead of  
4 time that they need to reapply if they want to reapply  
5 and we're going to make sure that this happens from now  
6 on, that they have a sufficient amount of time to fill  
7 out the application if they want to reapply, or, you  
8 know, at least know ahead of time that their seat is  
9 expiring. So that will be up to the coordinator to  
10 communicate it to the Council members. But Vince, you  
11 know, he is just acting Council Coordinator. We are  
12 currently in the process of hiring positions at OSM to  
13 fill out these vacant positions for your Council  
14 Coordinator so that's the -- the job announcement is  
15 out there on USAJobs.gov. If you know of good  
16 applicants, you know, please let them know about it.

17  
18                   So thank you.

19  
20                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:       Thank you,  
21 Katya.

22  
23                   MR. MATHEWS:   Madame Chair.

24  
25                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:       Whoever is  
26 washing dishes, can you put your phone on mute, please.

27  
28                   The other thing is if you look at your  
29 Kodiak/Aleutian RAC roster, it lists when you first got  
30 on here and when your term expires. And if you look on  
31 8, 9 and 10, which is 2021, which was myself, Natasha  
32 and Melissa, I know we got our paperwork in. There's a  
33 vacant seat that still remains open and this was  
34 discussed, you know, at the statewide level for  
35 Kodiak/Aleutians, and Vince did bring it up, that we're  
36 not getting these seats filled and I think we just got  
37 to look at possibly a different way to maybe give  
38 people a call and email them applications. I know I  
39 did a couple but people didn't fill them out, and you  
40 can't push people into doing something they don't want  
41 to do. So I don't know what the answer to some of this  
42 is so.

43  
44                   MR. MATHEWS:   Madame Chair.

45  
46                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:       Go ahead, Vince.

47  
48                   MR. MATHEWS:   What has worked somewhat  
49 here, and I don't know your region that well, is  
50



0041

1 working with tribal consortiums and then doing outreach  
2 efforts with universities. I happen to be right next  
3 to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. So we do need to  
4 cast a wider net and I appreciate you pointing out  
5 which seats are coming up. So that's all I wanted to  
6 share on that. But it is frustrating, as a panel  
7 member for, I don't know how many years, you know, to  
8 have not enough or just enough applicants for empty  
9 seats. So hopefully we can all work together to get a  
10 larger pool of potential candidates and appreciate any  
11 effort the Council members and others online can help  
12 with that because we all benefit from having engaged  
13 and active Regional Council members.

14  
15 If it's okay I'll.....

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

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: .....move on to your next  
21 annual report item.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

24  
25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, it's No. 4. It's  
26 on sea otters, Endangered Species Act, designation and  
27 hopefully I capture all your wishes on this.

28  
29 But basically the Council, as I  
30 understand this, has questions regarding sea otters.  
31 So how does the Service determine stock identification  
32 for the three stocks, SW, PWS and SC stocks, and the  
33 criteria process for determining population stock  
34 designations. So that's your first question. And then  
35 the next one is what criteria administrative genetic  
36 and population size trends were used to designate  
37 Kodiak Island sea otter population as part of the SW  
38 population.

39  
40 And then if I understand it correctly  
41 these questions are related to rural residents have a  
42 concern on how the sea otters have impacted subsistence  
43 shellfish resources caused by increased sea otter  
44 populations. And, additionally, the Council asks, can  
45 the population within the Kodiak Archipelago be  
46 reclassified as a separate stock. And the Council is  
47 interested in participating in agency sponsored  
48 meetings and other public forums related to the  
49 knowledge of sea otters within the Kodiak Island. Your  
50

0042

1 Council is willing to send a delegate to participate in  
2 future meetings and to sponsor a member from the  
3 Council to attend and participate when funding is  
4 available.

5

6 The Board responded, and you probably  
7 knew that already that the sea otters is a marine  
8 mammal which is outside your jurisdiction. But it is  
9 in your annual report so the Board replied. They  
10 thanked you for the detailed questions.

11

12 (Teleconference interference -  
13 participants not muted)

14

15 REPORTER: So unfortunately it looks  
16 like somebody's put us on hold that we can do nothing  
17 about. Maybe they'll come back quickly. Please do not  
18 put your phone on hold during the meeting because we  
19 get music.

20

21 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair.

22

23 MS. GREDIAGIN: I think someone put us  
24 on hold.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (On record)

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Tina, do you think we  
33 need to see if everybody is still online or not?

34

35 REPORTER: Well, I didn't cut the call  
36 at all so I believe everybody's online. Della, are you  
37 online? Council members?

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I'm still  
40 online, this is Della.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. We left off before  
43 the music, but basically the Council is willing to send  
44 delegates to participate in future meetings related to  
45 sea otters and endangered species designation.

46

47 So the Board, as you know, this is  
48 beyond the authority of the Federal Subsistence  
49 Program, but the Board did respond. And so they

50

0043

1 thanked the Council for the detailed questions. And I  
2 already mentioned that the Federal Management Program  
3 does not manage marine mammals and the sea otter is  
4 outside the Board's jurisdiction. So the Board asked  
5 the Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammal Management  
6 Program to provide answers. Their full reply is  
7 enclosed. And, again, we'll see if we can summarize  
8 that when we get to it.

9  
10 So that is Topic No. 4. Are there any  
11 questions or additions that need to be shared on this?

12  
13 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca, I  
14 have a question.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
17 Rebecca.

18  
19 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. My question is,  
20 given the comment that Vince just made that we will  
21 perhaps address that when we get to it, Vince, were you  
22 referring to when we get to Item B that has the more  
23 detailed response from, I think it's the Marine Mammals  
24 Division; is that what you meant?

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I did. I was trying  
27 to refer to that and I don't see it real quickly on the  
28 agenda. What it is is -- the way it's written in the  
29 annual report it's part of the annual report response.

30  
31 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So my question  
32 then is if we have follow-up or comments or requests to  
33 the sea otter issue, Della, did you want to take those  
34 now or should I be waiting until we get to Item B,  
35 which I think are the two -- there's a specific  
36 response from Steve Delehanty about the caribou and  
37 then there's a specific response in regards to the sea  
38 otters. Do you want me to wait until we get there or  
39 are we taking Items A and B basically together?

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's go ahead  
42 and do it after on Steve's.

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

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You know they  
47 basically, at the meeting, also said, you know, of  
48 course they're willing to help or direct our concerns  
49 to the proper entity so I think if we take it up there  
50

0044

1 that would probably be the better place right now. But  
2 we can still take it in our next annual report.

3

4 Is that okay?

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I missed about five  
7 minutes there, I was trying to get on the right radio  
8 station. It wasn't me.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rebecca,  
11 would that work, we'll just take it up when we do  
12 Steve's report and then it's an item we can add, you  
13 know, keep in mind for our annual report since this is  
14 an ongoing issue?

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Yes. Just to be clear,  
17 my comment was not about the caribou in Steve's report,  
18 it was about the sea otters and the offer to have the  
19 marine mammal people to come meet with the RAC or do a  
20 presentation to the RAC. So I just wanted to confirm  
21 that I would like to talk about inviting them and maybe  
22 that can happen -- well, whenever that needs to happen.  
23 If it's now that's fine, if it's later in the meeting,  
24 that's fine.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I think if  
29 we do it later in the meeting -- Steve isn't going to  
30 be online to do his report, I think someone else is,  
31 but it can also be brought up there.

32

33 Okay, Vince.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: All right, thank you.  
36 And I'm now caught up by looking back so appreciate the  
37 Council members getting me in line with this sea otter,  
38 so please keep doing that.

39

40 Okay. The next topic is the Fishery  
41 Resource Monitoring Program. And your Council would  
42 like to -- well, they expressed appreciation for Robbin  
43 LaVine and Jared Stone for their assistance in the  
44 recent meeting to do your priority information needs,  
45 PINS is the acronym. The Council is impressed with the  
46 information the Staff assembled and their professional  
47 facilitation. It was a great assistance in developing  
48 our research priorities and Mr. Kevin Ivy, the young  
49 intern, who assembled the backlog of information  
50

0045

1 material did an excellent job.

2

3

4 So with that, the Board, again, was  
5 grateful to hear that your Council benefitted from the  
6 support and expertise of OSM Staff, Robbin and Jared,  
7 during the development of the 2022 Fishery Resource  
8 Monitoring Program's priority information needs. A  
9 letter of appreciation from your Council was shared  
10 with the regional directorate. The Board is also  
11 grateful for the recognition of the Directorate  
12 Fellowship Program Intern, Kevin Ivy, originally from  
13 Bethel. Side note, he is now working on the Yukon  
14 River. He's our kind of tribal liaison. Anyways, then  
15 it goes on about 1, Mr. Ivy's background, he interned  
16 for the National Park Service Regional Cultural  
17 Resource Program and is a graduate of the Alaska Native  
18 Science and Engineering Program. Let's see, so that  
19 covers the Board was grateful to hear that you're  
20 recognizing the support you have and the extra effort  
21 that that support provided.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

22 So any questions or additional comments  
23 on Item No. 5?

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

(No comments)

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, hearing none, we  
get to No. 6, which is food security. With the recent  
Covid pandemic and food production plants shutting down  
throughout the country -- this is what you submitted to  
the Board -- it is important to emphasize the  
importance of subsistence resources in Alaska. It is  
uncertain how long the pandemic will continue and along  
with the delay of goods and services caused by the  
pandemic and its associated effects across Alaska, food  
security for subsistence use is important. And you  
solicit to the Board support of subsistence opportunity  
providing subsistence resource access through season  
extensions and special actions to address food  
security.

So the Board response was, in 2020 the  
InterAgency Staff Committee began developing a white  
paper on food security as a threat to public safety and  
the draft framework to evaluate special action requests  
related to public safety/food security. Once these  
drafts are finalized they'll be presented to the Board  
for further discussion and direction. And if that  
framework is approved by the Board it could serve as a

0046

1 mechanism available to allow access to subsistence  
2 resources during emergencies in the future.

3

4

5 Right now the Federal Subsistence  
6 Management Program can support adaption to changing  
7 conditions by insuring that regulations facilitate  
8 flexibility rather than hindering it. The special  
9 action process provides an avenue for responding to  
10 these changes and the Board has been responsive to the  
11 need for quick action of out of cycle requests. So  
12 that's No. 1 from the Board.

12

13

14 No. 2 from the Board is addition,  
15 flexibility can be built into the system by delegating  
16 authority to local land managers. Delegation of  
17 authority enables managers to respond more quickly to  
18 unpredictable seasons and will likely need to be used  
19 with increased frequency given the climate change may  
20 cause, the timing of certain subsistence resources to  
21 fluctuate widely from year to year.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

31 This is a topic that is across the  
32 regions I normally deal with and so if there are any  
33 questions or additions I hope I can answer and as well  
34 as other Staff can share additional information on your  
35 topic of food security.

37 It is one -- oh, go ahead.

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any questions.

41 (No comments)

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, yes. So even if it  
46 comes up later or after a meeting or whatever, that  
47 this issue comes up, please contact -- well, you can  
48 contact me because I'm involved with it on the Yukon  
49 River heavily, but you can also contact Katya or Robbin

0047

1 to get any direction on how to handle these changes  
2 that are happening out there.

3

4 Okay, so the next topic, No. 7, is  
5 closure reviews. And basically I think it might be  
6 best that this will be discussed later on the agenda,  
7 Jared will be presenting that, giving you an update on  
8 the fishery closure reviews. So with that I think I  
9 will try to capture what the Board's response was  
10 because I think you've already discussed, you know,  
11 that the closures are a concern for your region.

12

13 So the Board's response was that this  
14 is the first time your region had the opportunity to  
15 review area closures under the new closure policy. So  
16 your region is unique across the state as most of your  
17 fishery closures were incorporated within the Federal  
18 regulations from State regulations, approximately 20  
19 years ago, so this is the first time any have been  
20 reviewed. So you'll be discussing that, you have a  
21 committee, I believe, on that. So the Board is  
22 grateful for your forethought and planning on this  
23 issue and direct OSM Staff to support your efforts to  
24 form and gather local input.

25

26 So I'll stop there to see if there's  
27 any questions or additional items or if Staff wanted --  
28 that are closer with this, wanted to add.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next one, No.  
33 8, is invasive species. And I hope I pronounce the  
34 name right, I'm new to your region, the Sun'aq Tribe of  
35 Kodiak reported they have begun investigations and one  
36 of your Council members noted it in her report this  
37 morning, investigations of introduced crayfish in the  
38 Buskin Lake drainage. The Buskin River currently has  
39 crayfish that may compete for habitat use by juvenile  
40 salmon and as an example potentially feed on salmon  
41 eggs and fry. So the Council encourages Federal and  
42 State agencies to monitor invasive species in the  
43 state.

44

45 So the Board's response is the Board,  
46 again, thanks the Council for bringing up this concern  
47 to its attention. Alaska's undergoing large scale  
48 changes that are accelerating, including introduction  
49 and expansion of invasive species. However, Alaska is

50

0048

1 also in a unique position to prevent new introductions  
2 and spread of existing invasive species by adopting  
3 policies and actions aimed at bolstering prevention,  
4 early detection efforts and rapid response efforts.  
5 The Alaska Invasive Species Partnership is a statewide  
6 collaborative made up of Federal, State and tribal  
7 resource managers, researchers, industry  
8 representatives and community members. This  
9 partnership is working on a variety of invasive  
10 species, such as, enhancing communication and  
11 educational opportunities about invasive species,  
12 assessing habitat suitability and pathways for invasive  
13 species within and into Alaska, prioritizing species  
14 and locations for prevention and early detection,  
15 studying the basic life history of species of concern  
16 to make better informed management decisions, and  
17 standardized field techniques and expanding early  
18 detection and rapid response efforts and priority.

19

20 Over the past five years the Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service has been working with the Sun'aq Tribe  
22 of Kodiak, Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District  
23 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to assess  
24 the distribution, movement and potential impacts of  
25 signal crayfish, which were introduced in the Buskin  
26 watershed. So the Fish and Wildlife Service, along  
27 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs has provided funding  
28 and technical support to assess what the signal  
29 crayfish are feeding on by looking at their stomach  
30 samples and stable isotope analysis. They're also  
31 looking at mapping the distribution of signal crayfish  
32 populations in reference to salmon spawning areas,  
33 track the movement of signal crayfish within the  
34 watershed and conduct surveys for them along the Kodiak  
35 road system and evaluate and implement control measures  
36 to keep invasive populations at a low -- at low level  
37 until management technique is identified and  
38 eradicated.

39

40 And, again, the Board appreciates, you  
41 know, expressing your efforts with this and bringing it  
42 to their attention. So I'll see if there's any  
43 questions or additional comments on Item No. 8,  
44 invasive species.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, hearing none, that  
49 is the response to your 2020 annual report, and I

50



0049

1 appreciate your patience with me reading it to you but  
2 it is important, the whole annual report process and  
3 the Board engagement. So with that, if there's no  
4 questions on that, with the Chair's permission we can  
5 go to the next topic, which is the annual report reply  
6 process.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any  
9 questions or comments for Vince.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, go  
14 ahead and move on, Vince.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. To get to up to  
17 speed so you can see this document, it is on -- was  
18 sent to you in the email, it is on the website. The  
19 file title is ARBrevisionracdocsummaryfinal.pdf.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Madame Chair.  
24 Members of the Council. For the record this is Robbin  
25 LaVine, the Subsistence Policy Coordinator for OSM.  
26 Can you hear me?

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can hear you  
29 fine, Robbin.

30

31 MS. LAVINE: Excellent. So as Vince  
32 shared with you, you can download the meeting materials  
33 for this agenda item from our website under regions  
34 Kodiak/Aleutian meeting materials supplementals. And  
35 actually the document is entitled Annual Report  
36 Briefing, and this is not an action item. While we  
37 recognize that this item is new business for the  
38 Council, we chose to address it here in old business  
39 following your review of the annual report reply from  
40 the Board, this way the annual report reply process is  
41 fresh in your mind as I present the briefing.

42

43 During the Federal Subsistence Board's  
44 August 2021 work session the InterAgency Staff  
45 Committee briefed the Board on the annual report reply  
46 process and possible revisions to improve workload  
47 efficiency and response to Regional Advisory Council  
48 concerns. The Board reviewed and discussed the report  
49 reply process and agreed to forward this topic to the  
50

0050

1 Councils for your input on the suggested revisions,  
2 including possible ideas of your own. As you are  
3 aware, ANILCA, Section .805, authorizes the Councils to  
4 prepare an annual report containing information related  
5 to important subsistence resource issues within their  
6 region. These reports are invaluable as they provide  
7 the Board with a broad holistic picture of local  
8 resource conditions and the subsistence issues facing  
9 communities across rural Alaska. With this knowledge  
10 the Board can make informed decisions.

11

12 Historically the Board has strived to  
13 provide responses to every topic listed in annual  
14 reports regardless of its authority to address the  
15 issues raised. And it's unclear if Board's responses  
16 on all annual report topics are helpful to the Councils  
17 while taking considerable Staff time to complete.

18

19 The ISC has suggested process revisions  
20 to consider annual reports serve solely as a mechanism  
21 for informing the Board on local conditions and needs  
22 and proposed letter writing as a means for requesting  
23 Board response to topics of concerns. Under this  
24 scenario, Councils would ask their coordinators to  
25 write a letter to the Board if there are annual report  
26 topics to which they are specifically requesting a  
27 response.

28

29 These suggested revisions are not  
30 intended to diminish the ability of the Councils to  
31 report to the Board and Councils will still receive  
32 responses from the Board when requested. And these are  
33 only suggestions. So you, the Council, you may have  
34 other ideas about a more efficient and responsive  
35 annual report and reply process.

36

37 To that end, we are asking you to think  
38 about what you want from the Board in terms of replies  
39 as you develop and then confirm your fiscal year 2021  
40 annual reports between the fall and winter meetings.  
41 We'll take this up again when we meet in March of 2022  
42 for Kodiak/Aleutian winter meeting.

43

44 So, once, again, this is not an action  
45 item, not until your winter meeting, so thank you. I'm  
46 ready for your questions.

47

48 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca, I  
49 have a question.

50

0051

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
2 Rebecca.

3  
4 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. Thanks, Robbin.  
5 I wanted to confirm -- so I understand this is a --  
6 it's being put out there right now for consideration  
7 and feedback, I get that. Is the idea that if the  
8 items where our Council is looking for a response, if  
9 we put that in a letter to the Board, then that would  
10 signal we're expecting some kind of a response back,  
11 does that mean that for the regular annual report that  
12 we submit, that we -- is the idea then that there  
13 wouldn't be an expectation of getting a response back  
14 on that annual report; am I understanding that  
15 correctly?

16  
17 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Through the  
18 Chair. Rebecca, yeah, I think that was the suggestion.  
19 The annual reports are incredibly important as a means  
20 to inform the Board on all sorts of issues, and that  
21 the suggested change would be that if the Councils are  
22 looking for a specific and engaged response, that they  
23 write a -- that they, you know, you could even just  
24 pull out that issue from your annual report and put it  
25 in the letter requesting a specific reply. Again, this  
26 is a suggestion and, in part, I think this was brought  
27 about by some, you know, very lean years, and also  
28 recognizing that many issues in the reports return  
29 every year, and while it's really important for the  
30 Board to understand the significance of these issues,  
31 often these issues are -- cannot be addressed through  
32 Board authority. So this was a way of acknowledging  
33 some of these challenges in the annual report reply  
34 process and looking for ways to address those  
35 challenges. We would like, again, for this to be in  
36 your mind as you begin to develop the issues to include  
37 in your next annual report and, again, we'll revisit  
38 this issue, this agenda item, during your winter  
39 meeting.

40  
41 Thanks.

42  
43 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. So that was a  
44 helpful response. My thought on this is I actually  
45 like this clarification. My time on the RAC it has  
46 not always been clear to me what kinds of things go  
47 into a letter, and regardless of where the letter is  
48 going, if it's going to the Board or a different -- one  
49 of the -- like Marine Mammals or the groups related to  
50

0052

1 migratory birds, et cetera. So the clarification that  
2 the annual report is really intended to be a snapshot  
3 update of concerns for our area, but not things that  
4 we're really expecting some kind of a response on,  
5 maybe because really there is no response, it's an  
6 ongoing condition, there's not really much to do about  
7 it. But if we perceive, as a Council, that there is  
8 some action we would like or a response as far as data,  
9 for example, with the sea otters, then we would know  
10 that needs to go into a letter rather than the annual  
11 report. I like that clarity. I think that it gets  
12 everyone on the same page about the purpose of these  
13 different means of communicating.

14  
15 And since the question is here about  
16 it's not clear if the Board's responses to the annual  
17 reports are helpful, I will say that most of the  
18 responses we get back from the Board are along the  
19 lines of thank you for sharing that but there's nothing  
20 we can do, or thank you for sharing that but that's  
21 outside of, you know, your purview and our purview. I  
22 mean I don't think -- it's nice to get that  
23 acknowledgement, I guess, but those kinds of responses  
24 really are not very helpful because it's just an  
25 acknowledgement that they received our letter and I can  
26 completely understand, particularly in lean times why  
27 it takes Staff time to have that kind of response when  
28 it's literally just thank you for bringing this to our  
29 attention.

30  
31 So, again, those are my thoughts. I  
32 understand we don't need to -- this isn't an action  
33 item for this meeting but I'm glad that we have a few  
34 months to think about before our winter meeting, and  
35 that's all I have.

36  
37 Thanks.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
40 Rebecca. If I may add to this. We do get that  
41 response, but we also verbally get from the Board Chair  
42 that they're willing to direct the people that need be  
43 to the right agency, or contact and help us get what we  
44 need. The concern and the issue around the sea otters  
45 has been a main one and because the Chair is basically  
46 from Southeast he well is aware and knew of the  
47 problems of the sea otters in Kodiak and had made, you  
48 know, reference to different things and ideas on some  
49 of the things we could look at. But they basically  
50

0053

1 will say that we know and we understand you got a  
2 problem but they're limited to what they can do at what  
3 level, however, they will, if they need to, send a  
4 letter saying, hey, Migratory Birds, please work with  
5 Kodiak/Aleutians, attend their next meeting, they have  
6 concerns. So it's not like we're totally dropped out  
7 of the picture, there is a level -- and even with Katya  
8 in meetings, has helped direct, you know, where we  
9 should probably talk to or who we should talk to.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any  
14 other comments or -- Pat.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Yes. I think if we're  
17 going to go -- I think it's really important because we  
18 do need the Board's support on rattling cages and the  
19 sea otter thing came up three or four years ago, they  
20 gave us -- I forget when it was -- they gave us a  
21 presentation and we asked some questions on this  
22 distribution and why it's classified as Southwest, they  
23 said they'd get back to us, they never did. So we sent  
24 letters in for three or four meetings after that  
25 saying, gee, they haven't answered us, we'd like some  
26 answers, and so finally we're getting a little bit of a  
27 response. I think if we go to a specific points of  
28 request, I think that it should be -- if we do  
29 something at our meeting then it should be roughed out  
30 and then it should be sent back to the individual  
31 Council members for their input on the final letter.  
32 Because when we have raised questions in the past on  
33 different items, sometimes things get lost and the key  
34 points that were raised by our Council member never  
35 makes it to the letter to the Board. And so I think if  
36 we're going to have a letter, a note to them for things  
37 we need specific help with and actions, then I'd really  
38 like to see it not just be between Vince and Della, but  
39 I think it should go back to the entire Council so that  
40 the people that raised the question can make sure that  
41 it's phrased correctly.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
46 Yeah, I think we've got to try to do some follow  
47 through on who exactly we need to be discussing within  
48 these various -- Marine Mammals or Migratory Birds.

49

50

0054

1 (Telephone ringing)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I've got to take  
4 this call guys.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm sorry, I'm a  
9 little bit shorthanded here.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: There was some phone  
16 interference there, so just to confirm, the Council has  
17 nothing more to add to the annual report reply process?

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we'll  
20 take it up later in the meeting. I think this falls  
21 into -- this is basically going to fall into -- an  
22 email or text I just received from a resident in Cold  
23 Bay and that falls back into Migratory Birds. So I  
24 think the question is a matter of process, Katya. When  
25 we go through these and they are crossing over to other  
26 agencies, what is the proper procedure, and whether  
27 that is getting these letters copied to the -- not only  
28 to the Board itself, but to the various agencies so  
29 they know there's some method of paperwork follow  
30 through, and then expecting some follow through.  
31 Because this issue of with the sea otters has been  
32 ongoing, it's kind of one of those things, you know,  
33 that just goes on and there's no real answer to it. I  
34 think it doesn't make sense that nothing can be done,  
35 or there's nothing being done. This has been going on  
36 for five years. It's a little bit too long.

37

38 So that's something maybe you can think  
39 about, Katya, or somebody, and maybe some  
40 recommendations of what we might possibly do in the  
41 future. And whether there's any sort of protocol or  
42 policy that addresses this when this happens.

43

44 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

45

46 MS. WESSELS: Okay, Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
49 Rebecca.

50

0055

1 MS. WESSELS: We'll give it a thought.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca was that  
4 you?

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. So I agree with  
7 what you just said. I think for the winter meeting, if  
8 we're -- and, Robbin, correct me if I'm understanding  
9 this incorrectly, this is not an action item for the  
10 meeting we're in right now, but at our winter meeting  
11 it sounded like it may be either an action item or  
12 something we do at that meeting is going to directly  
13 relate to how we're communicating with the Federal  
14 Subsistence Board. So I agree with Della's request  
15 that it would help to understand better, and I believe  
16 that this has been presented to the Council at some  
17 points in the past but I will say it is an ongoing --  
18 there's an ongoing lack of clarity for me. So I think  
19 having this more clear would be helpful.

20

21 What is the protocol for the RAC to  
22 communicate with, I'm going to call them agencies,  
23 because I'm not sure what to call them, but if we need  
24 to communicate with Marine Mammals about sea otters, or  
25 if we need to communicate with AMBCC or, you know,  
26 other migratory bird-related entities, what is that  
27 protocol? I think in the past we have sent them  
28 letters, so if that's the protocol that's fine. I  
29 think that's really a separate issue from this new  
30 annual report reply process. So what we're being asked  
31 there is, you know, is it okay -- I guess, is it okay  
32 with us if when we submit our annual report to the  
33 Federal Subsistence Board, we wouldn't expect a reply  
34 back on that report, that report is really  
35 informational for the Federal Subsistence Board but  
36 it's not anything that they need to write back to our  
37 Council about. If we do want a response or action from  
38 the Federal Subsistence Board, under this new process,  
39 we would generate a letter. And the content of that  
40 letter can also be mentioned in the annual report, so  
41 it doesn't mean you can't mention it in the annual  
42 report and do a letter but the letter is really what's  
43 going to generate some sort of action or response from  
44 the Federal Subsistence Board.

45

46 So there's kind of two different letter  
47 writing protocols or processes that are going on here.

48

49 One is our Council alerting the Federal

50

0056

1 Subsistence Board to issues that we're asking the  
2 Federal Subsistence Board to respond to, and then  
3 there's another set of letters wherein the past we have  
4 directly sent letters to, again, different groups and  
5 sometimes we're sending letters to both. So maybe  
6 we're sending a letter to the Marine Mammal people, but  
7 we're also alerting the Federal Subsistence Board that,  
8 hey, we're trying to get this information from the  
9 Marine Mammal people, please help us with that. I  
10 think having some sort of -- more information on what  
11 those different protocols are or different processes, I  
12 mean maybe there's not formal protocols, but I think  
13 having a better understanding of that would be helpful  
14 coming into our winter meeting.

15

16 Thank you, Della.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
19 Rebecca. And I fully agree. But I think, and, Katya,  
20 maybe you can help me with this, realizing that we can  
21 -- we can do one of two things. Number 1, wait until  
22 our annual meeting -- or winter meeting to bring this  
23 up with our annual report, however, once the State --  
24 after all the Regional Councils have their meeting, the  
25 statewide meeting happens, the Board meeting, and on  
26 that -- and my feeling at this point, when I give the  
27 report for the Kodiak/Aleutians, to bring this very  
28 issue up, that it's a concern, there's really no clear  
29 guidelines, is there any other regions that are having  
30 the same issue and trying to work with this crossover  
31 with the various agencies when they're all Federal  
32 agencies, there shouldn't be such a hard thing to try  
33 to figure out a solution to be able to work together.  
34 I do know that -- and this is something, Katya, you can  
35 correct me on, is if Kodiak/Aleutians sends out a  
36 letter to other agencies, that we have to get it  
37 approved or okayed by somebody; is that correct?

38

39 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
40 This is Katya. You know, in your books, actually on  
41 Page 175, you have a Subsistence Regional Advisory  
42 Council correspondence policy. This is the policy from  
43 the Federal Subsistence Board of the ways that Regional  
44 Advisory Councils can communicate with the Board and  
45 various other agencies. Usually when the Council  
46 writes a letter to an agency it's first being drafted  
47 by the Council Coordinator and then it goes through the  
48 Chair, or through some Council members and a Chair, you  
49 know, if some Council members brought up an issue they  
50



0057

1 usually participate in the review of that letter, so  
2 then this letter goes also through leadership team  
3 review at the Office of Subsistence Management. It's  
4 not like we're approving or disapproving your letter,  
5 we're just making sure things are written that are  
6 consistent and correct. We usually do not change the  
7 substance of the letter, and if there is any substance  
8 change -- I mean in any case, after the leadership team  
9 reviews it the letter goes back to the Chair for final  
10 review and, you know, approval to affix the Chair's  
11 signature to that letter, and then after that that  
12 letter goes to the agency.

13

14 So I hope I answered your question,  
15 Madame Chair. I mean we definitely can look at the  
16 correspondence policy that we have now. It has not  
17 been updated for awhile. You know the last time it was  
18 updated was in 2004. So if we feel there's a need to  
19 update it we will take a look at it.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
24 Katya. But I just honestly feel like that's the answer  
25 and that's the set aside, it's like a push -- it  
26 doesn't answer the question or the concern. And where  
27 I'm also headed with this, because it plays into  
28 subsistence. If it has a negative impact on  
29 subsistence use then it needs -- the parties at the  
30 table need to be there to address it, and I think  
31 that's part of where I'm headed with this. Because the  
32 impact of the sea otters on the subsistence clams or  
33 other species has a major impact and so therefore it  
34 should be addressed -- whether it can be done in  
35 working committees or something, but I think there  
36 needs to be a better policy, or a better way to address  
37 these issues that it's not so difficult, but people can  
38 at least get it on the table to try to figure out  
39 potential solutions and move forward, and not just stop  
40 for five years, and here we're asking the same  
41 question. It defies why we're even here.

42

43 So keeping that in mind -- and it's  
44 something I will bring up because I'd like a response,  
45 or some insight from other Chairs in the region how  
46 this impacts them and has it been a concern, or is it  
47 mainly the communities that are coastal which are  
48 Southeast, Southwest, and, you know, on the northern  
49 part, coastal communities. So I'm curious as to what,  
50

0058

1 you know, is there something different that can be  
2 done, and it's not going to hurt to bring it up. It  
3 never hurts to -- I mean all they can tell you is, no,  
4 right.

5

6 I've got a long text from someone I'll  
7 just -- from a Cold Bay resident, but I'll leave that  
8 until we talk about the ptarmigan issue because that  
9 goes back to almost the same thing that we're talking  
10 about now.

11

12 So does anybody have any other comments  
13 in regard to what was just discussed?

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Well, it sounds like the  
16 Board's going to have to read most of those documents  
17 and comment on them and any way the Council wants to  
18 go, they have it separate, but I think it still will  
19 come out in our report to the Board that this is really  
20 darn important. And when we get -- will we be  
21 discussing this Pages 24/25 response from the Marine  
22 Mammal folks, I've got several comments there, but I'll  
23 hang up on this at this point.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we  
28 should ask -- okay, I'm finding it easier for me to go  
29 online to get to these documents, but is it just -- is  
30 it on the agenda, I don't know that I see it?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, it's part  
33 of.....

34

35 MS. SKINNER: What was your question,  
36 Della?

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Is  
39 that you Katya?

40

41 MS. SKINNER: No, it was Rebecca. I  
42 just didn't catch what it was you were looking for but  
43 I think Vince is going to weigh in.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, what Pat is  
46 referring to is Page 23 and then it goes into 24, 25 is  
47 what he's referring to. And that was in reference to  
48 an update on Adak Island Caribou Management Plan, but  
49 it does discuss the Marine Mammals Program Endangered  
50

0059

1 Species, so it's either timely now or wait until  
2 there's the discussion on the fishery closure reviews  
3 or take it up now and then push fishery closures  
4 afterwards -- the discussion on fishery closures  
5 update.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If it's okay, I  
8 think, with the Council let's just take it up now.

9  
10 MS. SKINNER: And then can I ask a  
11 clarifying question real quick.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
14 Rebecca.

15  
16 MS. SKINNER: So I know that the letter  
17 from Steve Delehanty immediately proceeds the sea otter  
18 pages, it wasn't clear to me, or obvious to me that  
19 those -- that the sea otter pages were part of Steve  
20 Delehanty's letter. I assumed those were two separate  
21 documents that were part of -- or associated with the  
22 Board reply. So Vince can you clarify, did Steve  
23 actually send those sea otter pages, or are those from  
24 -- are those directly from the Marine Mammal Program?

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: I'd have to dig into the  
27 files on this to confirm. I agree it is kind of  
28 confusing. But it follows his signed letter so I'd  
29 have to dig into.....

30  
31 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair.

32  
33 MR. HOLMES: I have a question.

34  
35 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair.

36  
37 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair. Madame  
38 Chair, this is Katya Wessels.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

41  
42 MS. WESSELS: Yes, so Steve Delehanty's  
43 letter, that's one of the enclosures to the annual  
44 report reply on Page 23. Then what you see on Pages 24  
45 and 25 and 26, that's the second enclosure to the  
46 annual report reply, and that was received from the  
47 Marine Mammals Management Program with the Fish and  
48 Wildlife.

49  
50

0060

1 Thank you.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Thank you.

MR. MATHEWS: So to help everybody understand, when this was put together, Steve's letter got inserted before the addition to your annual report response from the Board. So I apologize for that. So Steve is not the one doing it, this is a written response to your annual report topic.

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, but Steve's letter is an enclosure to the annual report reply, Vince. So it's a part of the annual report, it's enclosure No. 1 and it's an enclosure to the Council topic on Adak caribou. The Marine Mammals answer -- the Marine Mammals enclosure is an enclosure to the topic on the sea otters.

MS. SKINNER: So Della if.....

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I stand corrected.

MS. SKINNER: I'm sorry, Della, this is Rebecca.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rebecca.

MS. SKINNER: If we could go ahead and talk about the sea otter issue now, I know I had a comment or a request related to it and it sounds like Pat also has some comments. But I guess I would just hate to put it off until later in the meeting but it doesn't fit in under any other agenda item so I don't want to lose track of it. But if, yeah, if we can talk about the sea otter issue now I think that would be very helpful. And I can wait and do my comments after Pat because he might actually cover what I was going to say anyway.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, I agree, Rebecca. The sea otters aren't even on the agenda so we might as well take this up now unless somebody disagrees, otherwise let's just go ahead with Steve's report on the sea otters.

So basically.....

0061

1 MS. SKINNER: Sorry. And just to  
2 clarify -- this is Rebecca, it's not Steve's report,  
3 it's from the actual Marine Mammals Management Program.  
4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is this where it  
6 says answers to Council's.....  
7

8 MR. MATHEWS: That's correct.  
9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....questions  
11 re Endangered Species Act designation of sea otter?  
12

13 MS. SKINNER: Yes.  
14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So this  
16 is basically his response. And the question is, is  
17 someone going to -- is somebody from Maritime that can  
18 go through this right now? I know Steve is not  
19 available but he did have somebody sitting in, would  
20 you be able to go through this report at this time, his  
21 response?  
22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chairman, Jeff  
24 Williams here.  
25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Jeff.  
27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: Jeff Williams, Deputy  
29 Manager, Alaska Maritime Refuge. Steve Delehanty's  
30 been called out of state on a medical -- family medical  
31 issue, he apologizes to the Council for not being here,  
32 he had hoped to attend.  
33

34 Just to speak to that, the letter that  
35 we were asked to provide is that caribou management, we  
36 didn't have any specific input into the marine mammal  
37 sea otter letter which came from our other division,  
38 the Marine Mammal Management Division. But if there's  
39 specific questions to me, I'm happy to answer them, but  
40 it did not originate with us. So it's another division  
41 within the Fish and Wildlife Service that replied to  
42 you directly.  
43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So at this  
45 point, Rebecca -- maybe what we need to do because this  
46 is actually one of the -- this is the very thing we're  
47 talking about is where these cross over to the various  
48 agencies and no one's here to answer the question so we  
49 keep doing this over and over. Go ahead with your  
50

0062

1 comments and I think maybe we'll get them on record.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Would you like a  
4 little.....

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Then.....

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: .....historical  
11 background, Madame Chair.

12

13 REPORTER: Okay, could we just have one  
14 at a time, please.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, if you  
17 want, Pat.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Pardon.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If you want to,  
22 go ahead, Pat.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair.  
25 Besides having watched how things have changed and as  
26 our populations have grown here in Kodiak and their  
27 affect on subsistence, these critters have always been  
28 of interest to me. I went to grad school with one of  
29 the first State guys to study sea otters, and the State  
30 was working on this very actively in the mid- late- 60s  
31 and into the 70s prior to the Marine Mammal Act. And  
32 back at those days I think -- the person I'll probably  
33 refer to mostly is Dr. Carl Snyder who was with Marine  
34 Mammal for the State of Alaska, and he just passed away  
35 last year, and I was chatting with him before that  
36 about the sea otters.

37

38 The thing is is that the sea otters --  
39 well, his whole response to me, and I don't mean to  
40 sound paranoid but almost feels like an institutional  
41 (indiscernible), lots of descriptive adjectives and  
42 phraseology that may or may not relate to the questions  
43 that we've asked. And I think our original intent on  
44 wondering why we're lumped in with Southwest is because  
45 our population has been very stable and continuing to  
46 grow for many years. The Southwest is considered to be  
47 endangered. But a lot of the arguments in here I don't  
48 think are particularly valid. So I will probably  
49 personally request the publications that they have so  
50

0063

1 that I could read them and then go find somebody that's  
2 a marine mammal person and ask for clarification on it.

3  
4 But going back in history, back in the  
5 60s, the State Board of Fish and Game got a lot of  
6 input from all the villages and communities in the  
7 coastal area because they thought that sea otters  
8 should be brought back. And so they inquired with  
9 every single community, if they wanted to see that  
10 happen and how it should be done and what would be done  
11 with the critters because folks were hoping that that  
12 would be just like at the time how the State supported  
13 harvest of other furbearing critters and that  
14 populations could be brought back to a sustainable  
15 level that could be used by the communities. And now  
16 that has been transferred over to our Native folks who  
17 have probably been the main users anyway. But during  
18 that time, after they said yes, the State of Alaska and  
19 Carl Snyder took the State goose into Prince William  
20 Sound and the original transplant was -- because Sitka  
21 was very keen on it -- they transplanted 11 sea otters  
22 from Prince William Sound to Sitka Sound, and I can't  
23 imagine how they possibly did that, having had sea  
24 otters come into my boat while I'm gillnetting, I  
25 wouldn't have wanted to do that. But they did  
26 transplant them there, they adapted well. And then  
27 during the Amchitka Nuclear testing, the State thought  
28 well, gee, we've got all these sea otters that might be  
29 injured so they transplanted, and I'll try and find out  
30 how many, I believe many, many, many sea otters from  
31 Amchitka in the Aleutians, Southwest District, to  
32 Sitka, and so that, in itself, raises questions to me  
33 on their comments on geographic stock structure  
34 distribution, morphology and genetics that you would be  
35 even able to tell which stock, whether it was Prince  
36 William Sound residual, Southeast or Aleutian otters  
37 there.

38  
39 And I would add on a note that when  
40 they started this program they reviewed things in  
41 Kodiak and at the time we had a fair population in  
42 Shuyak Island and north of Afognak, and I can recall in  
43 early '63 when I first came down here to work that was  
44 really something to see a sea otter. And then we've  
45 seen in recent years -- I know 20 years on the west  
46 side you could see pods of three or four or 500 and  
47 then when we had that group of 50 to 100 move into  
48 Womens Bay three or four years ago they just cleaned  
49 out the king crab and the dungeness and lots of other  
50

0064

1 things.

2

3

4 So I just can't help but wonder, with  
5 the reports we've gotten from Bill Pyle, that their  
6 surveys are stable or growing, and if the Southwest  
7 area is not, how could they be connected. And some of  
8 their arguments here are saying, well, the distance  
9 between Kodiak and Kenai would prevent any possible  
10 interactions there, therefore, they would be separate  
11 from Kodiak westward. Well, that's possible but having  
12 seen sea otters all the way to Cape Douglas and around  
13 up into Cook Inlet and the distances across that they  
14 say, 40 miles, would be possible for them to transfer,  
15 those same arguments, how is it valid when you get down  
16 to Unimak Pass and the distance between the islands and  
17 why are there sea otters, you know. Some of their  
18 arguments, I think, is just basically bureaucratic  
19 covering their backside because they really don't want  
20 to consider it. But I would really like permission of  
21 our Council to do some research into those publications  
22 and talk to some of the people that are involved in  
23 Marine Mammals that aren't part of the Federal  
24 government, and just to ask whether those definitions  
25 are clear and valid because it just keeps getting  
26 totally ignored that these critters are a problem to us  
27 and it would be so good, and I think Natasha and Coral  
28 had maybe made some comments in the previous meetings  
29 about it would be nice to have a similar program where  
30 they have active management in Sitka Sound, the  
31 populations are still continuing to develop around the  
32 island, the waters but yet the people have what they  
33 need for their handicrafts and working, and now they're  
34 starting to get -- I think two years I heard from one  
35 of -- John Little [sic] and -- John and the Tlingit  
36 Tribe there, a fellow, that they are finally getting  
37 sea urchins and abalone and dungeness back in Sitka  
38 Sound but it hasn't affected the whole island. So I  
39 would really like, if there was some polite way for us  
40 to rattle a cage and say, gee, let's look at Kodiak and  
41 see if things can't be broadened. We need help to  
42 develop a program like they have in Sitka.

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

43 Sorry to be so gabby, Madame Chair, but  
44 all these -- most of the things I mentioned before took  
45 place way before the Marine Mammal Act and they may not  
46 even be aware that it had happened, but I just don't  
47 agree with their logic that just because Kodiak  
48 geographically doesn't necessarily mean they're the  
49 same stocks genetically.



0065

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

4 And if you will look at the last page of their response  
5 on this on contacting a Jenipher Cate and her -- the  
6 sea otter program lead and her email is there with Fish  
7 and Wildlife, I'm wondering why -- maybe can we just  
8 send an email or attaching a letter asking for her to  
9 be at the meeting in the winter -- the winter meeting,  
10 or someone to be at the winter meeting and attach this  
11 response so she knows what exactly the request is.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: I think.....

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this  
16 is.....

17

18 MR. HOLMES: .....that'd be a swell  
19 idea.

20

21 MS. WESSELS: .....Katya. We  
22 definitely can contact Jenn Cate. I was actually trying  
23 to contact her right now, she's on leave, so she's not  
24 able to join this meeting. Perhaps somebody else from  
25 Marine Mammals Management can attend this meeting  
26 later. They're not replying to my notes right now, to  
27 my messages. You know, and Jenn Cate was the author of  
28 that enclosure to the annual report that you're looking  
29 at. So I hope this is helpful.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So if we  
32 can get a response from someone that can either later  
33 today or even tomorrow before we finish the meeting be  
34 able to be online to address this it would be great.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Yeah, I'm going to  
37 pursue that and see if anyone from Marine Mammals can  
38 attend the meeting a little bit later today or  
39 tomorrow.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. And I  
42 know that Donald Mike had contacted them, too, and it  
43 seems like he was having trouble in getting a response  
44 back at one point in time -- or a couple of times from  
45 them, so, yeah.

46

47 All right.

48

49 Rebecca, any comment.

50

0066

1 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. Yeah,  
4 thanks, Della. This is Rebecca Skinner. So my comment  
5 was just going to be a request that the Marine Mammal  
6 people could come to one of our meetings, so if it's  
7 this one, the winter meeting, that's great, or if it  
8 needs to be next fall that's fine. However, I would  
9 like to be fairly focused in stating our expectations  
10 to them so that it's clear what we want out of their  
11 attendance at the meeting. So if it's to get more  
12 discussion and dialogue on what they've already given  
13 us in writing, so the information in our packet, that's  
14 fine.

15

16 (Teleconference interference -  
17 participants not muted)

18

19 MS. SKINNER: I think dialogue would be  
20 helpful. If it's something beyond that, I definitely  
21 would like to give them the heads up so that when they  
22 come in we're able to have a good discussion. And I'm  
23 thinking back to the last time I recall that the Marine  
24 Mammal folks came to a RAC meeting -- the one I'm  
25 thinking of I think it was the one we had in Anchorage,  
26 although I'm not exactly sure, but I don't -- I didn't  
27 find that to be very useful and I don't know if their  
28 presentation was kind of hurried at the time and so we  
29 didn't get to really have a lot of dialogue. But my  
30 impression was after walking out of that, I didn't get  
31 the kind of information that I thought I would and --  
32 or maybe the key person who would have been able to  
33 talk about the details of sea otters was not available  
34 for that meeting. At any rate I don't want to see a  
35 repeat of that. I think that having somebody come in  
36 who can engage in a really good dialogue with the RAC  
37 would be most useful. So whatever we need to do to  
38 make sure that can happen. And like I said, I think  
39 deciding -- letting them know this is why we're  
40 inviting you so please come prepared to talk about X, Y  
41 and Z. I think that would really help.

42

43 And that was really all I wanted to  
44 request as far as sea otters.

45

46 Thanks.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,  
49 Rebecca. And maybe we just kind of do that before we  
50

0067

1 close the meeting today so we can get something  
2 together.

3

4

5 The other question I have, and it has  
6 to do with setting up a committee. My recall is that,  
7 was it Natasha and Coral and people -- is it Sun'ag  
8 Tribe to set up a committee to address the sea otters  
9 and, if so, where are they at with it?

9

10 MS. SKINNER: Well, the RAC had -- this  
11 is Rebecca Skinner. The RAC -- the KRAC formed a sea  
12 otter working group and that was, yeah, myself, Coral,  
13 Natasha and I think Chris Price was on it, and I can't  
14 remember who else. That group hasn't met since before  
15 our last RAC meeting. But if that's a good group to  
16 pull together to come up with, you know, some of the  
17 suggestions about what the Marine Mammal folks can  
18 focus on, that might make sense.

19

20 Thanks.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah.

23

24

25 MS. SKINNER: And then I wrote that I  
26 think that it specifically did not include others from  
27 outside of the RAC because I think we were trying to --  
28 maybe there were restrictions on doing that, but  
29 somebody else, maybe from OSM, would need to speak to  
30 that.

30

31 Thanks.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Katya.

34

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Madame  
37 Chair. Usually the members of a working group consist  
38 of the Council members, and then the working group  
39 reports back to the Council. The working groups, they  
40 can invite other people to talk to them but, you know,  
41 or other organizations, but they would not be the  
42 members of that working group.

42

43 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is  
44 Natasha.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
47 Natasha.

48

49 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you. So I was

50

0068

1 invited by Sun'aq to participate in their workgroup and  
2 I don't know if we've got anybody from Sun'aq on, if  
3 Matt's on the line at this meeting, he can comment on  
4 that. It's been awhile, I think I haven't attended or  
5 been notified of a meeting since I think late last fall  
6 and they were -- I don't -- I think that the work  
7 product from that effort was going to Sun'aq's council  
8 for review. So I don't think that it was something  
9 that had made it out of the council as a specific  
10 initiative yet, but I'm not positive about that.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks. So  
13 Katya, can you speak -- just for a point of  
14 clarification, can the group of people that were  
15 mentioned, the numbers, and the coordinator, our  
16 coordinator set up a working group meeting for them to  
17 discuss the response that they would like specifically  
18 to go to Marine Mammals in regard to sea otters to  
19 report at our winter meeting?

20

21 MS. WESSELS: Yes, the Council  
22 Coordinator can set up such a meeting but before  
23 anything goes to Marine Mammals the working group will  
24 need to bring their draft response to the Council for  
25 the Council to approve and forward that response.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So given that,  
28 let's per se we meet until 4:00 today, and then between  
29 4:00 and 5:00 this group get together and do a response  
30 in regard to the sea otters so it can be reviewed by  
31 the Council tomorrow.

32

33 MS. WESSELS: Correct.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So is that a  
36 plan?

37

38 MS. CHERNOFF: Then.....

39

40 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.  
41 I think that makes sense.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I hear Rebecca,  
44 and was that you Natasha?

45

46 MS. CHERNOFF: No, this is.....

47

48 MS. HAYDEN: No.

49

50

0069

1 MS. CHERNOFF: .....Coral.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

4

5 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess I was a  
6 little -- could I just get clarification on which group  
7 is meeting and which plan are they responding to?

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It's not the  
10 plan, I think the plan is to meet and discuss -- and  
11 come up with a direct response that will go to the  
12 Marine Mammals in regard to sea otters and ask that  
13 they be specific -- Rebecca had asked for focusing on  
14 making specific documentation, or recommendations for  
15 them to attend our meeting and -- the winter meeting.  
16 And so this little -- this draft letter, we'll do work  
17 on it and have it done today before 5:00, have the  
18 Council in their email, have them review it so we can  
19 look at it tomorrow and approve it and that way it will  
20 go to the powers to be, the next step, so that it is an  
21 official document and be on its way.

22

23 Because it is a process and there's a  
24 lot of regional meetings going on. To -- to save some  
25 time.

26

27 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. And I guess on --  
28 this is Coral again.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: So I guess just  
33 listening to this discussion, too, I mean what I gather  
34 from it is, how do we keep asking questions and feeling  
35 like we're not getting answers, and I think we did form  
36 this sea otter group and I think sub-committees and  
37 working groups are a great way for us, you know,  
38 they're a tool for us to get at this kind of more  
39 information it sounds like we're getting at. So I am  
40 definitely willing -- I don't know if we have a Chair,  
41 or if the Council -- or if we get with the Council  
42 Coordinator to call meetings but I, myself, am willing  
43 to have several meetings with this sea otter sub-  
44 committee. We definitely, you know, before -- I think  
45 we talked about going to the Southeast -- the  
46 stakeholder meeting, which I've never seen a report  
47 from that meeting, I've looked several times, I guess  
48 I'll look into that again, but, yeah, this is a place  
49 where we can delve into things a little bit deeper and  
50

0070

1 find answers for our Council and also, you know, we can  
2 focus on gathering information and inviting presenters  
3 and organizations and biologists and Marine Mammal  
4 organi -- biologists and heads of departments. I think  
5 before, myself, like having this discussion and being  
6 in this meeting and getting this enclosure really I  
7 think is a -- give us more direction with our work  
8 group. So I think with others who are on this sea  
9 otter sub-committee hopefully will be willing to really  
10 look at this and spend more time.....

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Madame Chair, this  
13 is Katya.

14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: .....on it and.....

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I'm sorry, I just  
20 want to chime in here. You know we really should call  
21 this group a working group, not a sub-committee because  
22 sub-committee has a completely different definition  
23 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and with a lot  
24 more paperwork and reporting. So just for the purposes  
25 of what you're trying to do, having a working group  
26 would be the best thing.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I agree.  
31 Yes, because then you have to abide by certain rules  
32 too if you take it a little step farther. So if it's  
33 okay, we'll go ahead and maybe get together -- close  
34 this meeting at 4:00, or recess, and do this -- we can  
35 do the working group or be involved with it to try to  
36 figure out getting a more focused letter response to  
37 this report because this is from, you know, of course  
38 2020 and we're almost done with 2021 and we need to  
39 move forward.

40

41 Is that agreeable.

42

43 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, sounds  
46 good. We got a plan. The next item on the agenda is --  
47 I guess we're doing this annual report reply process;  
48 is that correct -- okay, and then do we want to go  
49 ahead and get into this fishery closure reviews, or do  
50

0071

1 you want to wait and just leave that until 1:00 o'clock  
2 because it'll take a little bit of time.

3

4 MS. SKINNER: Hey, Della, this is  
5 Rebecca Skinner.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rebecca.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: I just wanted to let  
10 everyone know that I have a phone call that I have to  
11 make at noon so if we do have a choice, I mean I would  
12 personally prefer to wait to start the fishery closure  
13 reviews until after lunch so that I'm not having to  
14 drop off. I don't think my call will take that long  
15 but I don't want to miss any of the fishery closure  
16 reviews.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. If it's  
21 agreeable maybe we'll just go ahead and recess until  
22 1:00 o'clock, does that work -- is 1:00 o'clock good  
23 for everybody?

24

25 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,  
28 appreciate it. See you at 1:00.

29

30 (Off record)

31

32 (On record)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hey, Vince, I  
35 think we'll go ahead and get online and you can start  
36 doing a roll call and start doing the agency calls.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I'll do that.

39

40 Patrick, are you online.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Patrick, are you online,  
45 I hear different noises.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: I'll come back.

50

0072

1

Richard.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

6

7

Coral.

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

MR. MATHEWS: Rebecca.

12

13

MS. SKINNER: I'm here.

14

15

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you, Rebecca.

16

17

Della, you're online.

18

19

Natasha.

20

21

MS. HAYDEN: Natasha's here.

22

23

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

24

25

Melissa.

26

27

(No comments)

28

29

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'll go back to  
Pat, Pat are you online.

30

31

(No comments)

32

33

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think what may  
be happening here is some people are connected but then  
they're not. I've been getting messages that the phone  
has been dropping off. So I'll try again with Patrick,  
are you online.

34

35

36

37

38

39

(No comments)

40

41

MR. MATHEWS: Natasha.

42

43

MS. HAYDEN: Yes, Natasha's here.

44

45

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, good. Good. So  
we're just missing Patrick.....

46

47

48

49

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're missing

50



0073

1 Patrick, Rick Koso and Melissa.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

6

7 Melissa, are you online.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: Hello, this is Coral,  
14 can anyone hear me?

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I can hear you, this  
17 is Vince.

18

19 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. Okay. Yeah, I'm  
20 on the line. I had trouble. It wouldn't let me  
21 connect the first time and then I got on when you  
22 started calling roll and then it kicked me off so  
23 people may be having trouble calling in.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, and I encouraged  
28 Staff also that I'm hearing some of them are being  
29 bounced off and I'll try to get the attention of the  
30 Chair to say that some key Staff have also been dropped  
31 off.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm wondering if  
34 we just need to try to call back in Vince and hopefully  
35 everybody gets on the same line and it's a good one  
36 because this isn't going to help if this happens.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Sure. I suppose we could  
39 do that, everyone call back in and hopefully they will  
40 get everyone online. I haven't asked Staff but I think  
41 Staff, if you're listening in, is we're going to call  
42 back in and we'll go from there. So I'm going to hang  
43 up and call back in and then we'll all be connected  
44 then, cross our fingers.

45

46 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

47

48 MS. HAYDEN: Okay.

49

50

0074

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we'll do a polling  
8 of the Council members and then I'll attempt with OSM  
9 and other Staff.

10

11 So, Patrick, are you online.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

16

17 Coral, are you online.

18

19 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. Yes, this is  
20 Coral, I'm online.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

23

24 Rebecca.

25

26 MS. SKINNER: I'm here.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

29

30 Della.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm here.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. I should have  
35 said Chair Della, I apologize.

36

37 Natasha.

38

39 MS. HAYDEN: I'm here. Natasha.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

42

43 Melissa.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: We'll wait.....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa said she

50

0075

1 might -- she's traveling so she might be in and out  
2 with the call Vince.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Did Patrick press  
5 the right buttons and is online now. Pat, are you on.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: No. Okay. For Staff,  
10 I'm just going to go with what is critical.....

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick Koso.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: .....for your next topic.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick Koso.

17

18 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm here Della.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Hello.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick Koso are  
23 you on.

24

25 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm on.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Patrick is on and is --  
30 was that Melissa on.

31

32 REPORTER: No, Vince, that was Rick.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Rick, okay. We have one,  
35 two, three, four, five, six online as we speak for RAC  
36 members. For Staff, the next one, if I understood  
37 before we broke for lunch would be fishery closure  
38 reviews and that would be Jared Stone. So is Jared  
39 online.

40

41 MR. STONE: Good afternoon. I am here.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Madame Chair, I  
44 think we'll leave it at that and then the rest will  
45 fall in as we get closer to their particular agenda  
46 items, meaning Staff.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0076

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any  
2 members from the public that would like to speak at  
3 this time?

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I did  
8 receive an email, a written comment for the Regional  
9 Council, that we can share at this time.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, it's from Sun'aq  
14 Tribe of Kodiak for your meeting, it's from Matthew Van  
15 Daele. He shares his sincere apologies for not being  
16 able to attend the meeting in person. He did contact  
17 me by email that he has some field work that is pulling  
18 him away.

19  
20 In his letter he points out two main  
21 areas of focus at this time; marine mammal monitoring,  
22 specifically the ongoing grey whale unusual mortality  
23 event and the eradication and control efforts of the  
24 invasive signal crayfish population which has become  
25 established in the Buskin watershed.

26  
27 So in 2019 the National Oceanic  
28 Atmospheric Administration declared an unusual  
29 mortality event, UME, for East Pacific stock of grey  
30 whales. 2019 48 whales were found dead in Alaska  
31 followed by 45 in 2020 and 19 so far this year. Though  
32 the number of dead stranded grey whales has reduced,  
33 the most recent population estimate of East Pacific  
34 grey whales indicates only 20,580 individuals, which  
35 represents a 24 percent decline over the past 4 years.  
36 Concerningly, this year throughout the west coast of  
37 North America there has been an additional increase in  
38 dead stranded humpback whales as compared to years  
39 past. Though UME, or an unusual mortality event has  
40 not been declared for humpbacks, both these numbers and  
41 those of the greys are indicative of an ocean  
42 environment in continued flux and a changing ecosystem  
43 that could have ramifications or impacts on critical  
44 marine subsistence resources in the future.

45  
46 The second topic is we are continuing  
47 to monitor -- we're continuing our monitoring and  
48 eradication control efforts of the invasive signal  
49 crayfish in the Buskin watershed. So far this year we  
50

0077

1 have captured and removed 2,840 signal crayfish  
2 including 213 adult females with eggs and/or  
3 hatchlings. We have not counted how many eggs were  
4 present on these females but literature suggests an  
5 average of 200 to 400 eggs per female. So by removing  
6 these females we could have ultimately removed as many  
7 as 42,600 to 85,200 crayfish. Over this winter we will  
8 be conducting analysis of at least 550 crayfish spread  
9 across age classes, month captured and male/female  
10 ratio to evaluate their carbon and nitrogen content as  
11 well as c&n values of likely food resources to estimate  
12 what portion for their diet is vegetative in origin  
13 i.e., (indiscernible) versus animal matter, such as  
14 salmon and there are notable and significant shifts  
15 from juvenile to adults. Also captured data permits --  
16 if data permits, we will attempt rudimentary population  
17 modeling. We are very concerned about the escapement  
18 of sockeye salmon into the Buskin this summer  
19 particularly in light of the presence of signal  
20 crayfish and will be watching very closely in years to  
21 come.

22

23 Thank you very much for your time and  
24 service. If you have any questions or would like more  
25 information, please feel free to contact Matthew Van  
26 Daele.

27

28 And that is the letter that was  
29 received this morning via email. Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
32 Vince. Are there any more public comments.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: I have not received any  
35 and I checked -- I'll check again my email to make sure  
36 but, no, there is no new ones received by email.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I've got one but  
39 it's mainly in reference to the ptarmigan but it also  
40 references migratory birds so I don't know if it's  
41 proper just to read this into the record now or wait  
42 until we get to the ptarmigan because there's -- maybe  
43 we'll just wait -- I'm not sure. It references other  
44 species of birds so. Maybe for the record I'll just  
45 read it into the record now.

46

47 And the person doesn't have a name,  
48 they were not comfortable putting their name on this. I  
49 will supply it if they agree if we have to. But

50

0078

1 basically said that I would like to submit this comment  
2 anonymously, please. With significant increased guide  
3 use within Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, local  
4 subsistence users are not able to harvest waterfowl and  
5 ptarmigan. What is most disappointing is ANILCA of  
6 1980 was put in place to curb this type of competition  
7 for the resources. Specifically, ANILCA, Section .801,  
8 1, continuation of opportunity; 2, no practical  
9 alternative of resources; 3, pressure of resources; 4,  
10 protect and provide opportunity for continued  
11 subsistence uses. Section 802. No. 1, to cause lease  
12 adverse impact possible on rural residents who depend  
13 upon subsistence uses; 2, non-wasteful subsistence use  
14 be priority. There seems to be a disconnect from  
15 ANILCA and current regulations. With few viable  
16 options and competition for resources skyrocketing more  
17 action is needed.

18

19 A subsistence waterfowl season  
20 extension to October 15th would make most sense, the  
21 April to August 31st subsistence hunt was a great try  
22 but not many birds are here then. Another alternative  
23 would be to non-subsistence users to a yearly harvest  
24 limit of two daily bag limits and to limit the guides  
25 and clients and the areas they can use. Either way,  
26 what is happening right now is not acceptable and is  
27 detrimental for the people who need the resources the  
28 most, the subsistence users and the generations of  
29 subsistence users to come.

30

31 The reason I wanted to read this into  
32 the record now is because it was sent to me as a public  
33 comment, but just so as we continue through this  
34 meeting keep that in the back of your mind. When we  
35 get to the ptarmigan I think -- I know I had separate  
36 meetings with Lisa and -- oh, I can't think of his name  
37 right off the top of my head, but we did talk about  
38 some of the things there. So just maybe I wanted you  
39 to have that information beforehand, before we get to  
40 that issue.

41

42 So if you have any comments in regards  
43 to those comments I read into the record then that  
44 would be great.

45

46 So are there any other comments.

47

48 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

49

50

0079

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm sorry I was a  
4 little bit late getting back on. My other phone went  
5 dead so I'm on my cell. Yeah, I think that's a really  
6 important discussion to have and making it customary  
7 and traditional for sure. And I think particularly  
8 with the weird weather changes -- I was talking to a  
9 biologist that specializes in those critters and he  
10 said that when you have a later fall and not as much  
11 snowfall the ptarmigan have already changed over to  
12 their winter coloring so it can end up disturbing their  
13 whole reproductive cycle and the breeding birds are  
14 eliminated. And so I think that we need to be really,  
15 really careful with them out west.

16

17 Thank you, ma'am.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
20 Yeah, we've seen a lot of them, they're white.

21

22 All right, moving on, the next item on  
23 the agenda is Fisheries Closures Review and that's  
24 Pages 117 to 126 in the Board packet. That's Jared, is  
25 that you taking this?

26

27 MR. STONE: All right. I am here, good  
28 afternoon, Madame Chair and members of the Council. My  
29 name is Jared Stone and I am a fish biologist for OSM.  
30 And I'm here today to give you an update on the  
31 progress that was made by our outreach team concerning  
32 the seven deferred fisheries closure reviews. This  
33 includes 21-08, 09, 11, 13, 16, 18 and 19. Materials  
34 for these closure reviews begin on Page 117 of your  
35 Council books. You can also find these closure review  
36 summaries on the Office of Subsistence Management  
37 website under the Kodiak/Aleutian region. This is not  
38 an action item for today, it's just an update on the  
39 outreach plan.

40

41 First, before I begin, I'll start with  
42 some background on how these closure reviews work.

43

44 Under the closure review policy, half  
45 of all closures will be reviewed during each applicable  
46 regulatory cycles, even years for wildlife, odd years  
47 for fish and shellfish. Last fisheries regulatory  
48 cycle there were seven closures to review. As you  
49 recall the Federal Subsistence Board deferred all seven  
50

0080

1 closure reviews in your region. The reason for the  
2 deferral was to give Staff time to gather additional  
3 input from the communities most impacted by Board  
4 action on the closure reviews. At the direction of the  
5 Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory Council, OSM Staff  
6 and volunteers from the Council began reaching out to  
7 community, tribal and State Advisory Committee  
8 representatives for input.

9  
10 A meeting was held with tribal  
11 representatives from Kodiak Island on January 6th.  
12 Seven representatives were in attendance and all of the  
13 tribal representatives expressed gratitude for the  
14 notice and withheld any comments or recommendations  
15 until they had more time to consider the closure  
16 reviews.

17  
18 OSM Staff met with the Kodiak Fish and  
19 Game Advisory Committee on February 9th to present  
20 fisheries closure reviews and get feedback. OSM Staff  
21 also attended the Dutch Harbor/Unalaska Fish and Game  
22 Advisory Committee meeting on February 22nd, however,  
23 it was cancelled due to the committee not having a  
24 quorum.

25  
26 Members of the Kodiak/Aleutian  
27 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council have volunteered  
28 to assist OSM Staff in outreach efforts and met twice  
29 during the summer to develop a outreach plan that would  
30 encourage local residents and stakeholders to consider  
31 providing comments regarding each of the closure  
32 reviews. Various outreach materials were crafted,  
33 including shorter summaries that describe the closure  
34 and, again, these summaries of the closures can be  
35 found on Page 122 in your Council books. We also  
36 drafted additional maps to help clarify the areas of  
37 the closures. We drafted radio and newspaper  
38 advertisements and added to our OSM web page a way to  
39 view and comment on the closure reviews and to view  
40 maps of the closures. And, lastly, we also created a  
41 community flier that will be shared in the communities.  
42 To review the closure review summaries online and  
43 submit a comment, you can visit  
44 [www.doi.gov/subsistence/krac/closures](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/krac/closures). OSM Staff and  
45 members of the outreach team will help to distribute  
46 the outreach materials in hopes of generating interest  
47 among stakeholders and locals in participating in the  
48 closure review process during our next fishery cycle  
49 beginning in 2022 with Board action scheduled for the  
50



0081

1 Federal Subsistence Board regulatory in January of  
2 2023.

3  
4 During our next fisheries regulatory  
5 cycle there are an additional eight closures to be  
6 considered and OSM Staff analysts will have the  
7 analysis available for your review during the fall 2022  
8 meeting. The additional closure reviews include FCR23-  
9 10, Unalaska Bay streams which pertains to the harvest  
10 of salmon. FCR23-12, Adak/Kagalaska freshwater  
11 drainages, which pertain to the harvest of salmon.  
12 FCR23-14 Trout Creek on the AK Peninsula in regards to  
13 the harvest of salmon. FCR23-15 Womens Bay in regards  
14 to harvesting salmon. Fisheries Closure Review 23-17  
15 Kodiak area, all fish. FCR23-19 Selief Bay Creek;  
16 FCR23-22 Little Kitoi Creek, and last FCR23-21 Womens  
17 Bay in regards to harvesting king crab.

18  
19 With these seven deferred closure  
20 reviews and the eight new closure reviews there will be  
21 a total of 15 closures to review during the 2022  
22 fisheries regulatory cycle. The outreach team hopes to  
23 generate more discussion from local communities to help  
24 better inform the decision to either defer, rescind,  
25 modify or retaining these closures.

26  
27 This concludes my presentation, and at  
28 this point I'd be glad to assist with any questions or  
29 comments you might have.

30  
31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
34 Jared. Are there any comments or questions for Jared  
35 at this time.

36  
37 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

40  
41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was wondering on  
42 this whole question of adding on the sportfish gear for  
43 subsistence purposes, does that have a customary and  
44 traditional judgment or ruling for all these different  
45 areas?

46  
47 MR. STONE: Thank you for the question,  
48 Mr. Holmes, and through the Chair. I do not know the  
49 answer to that question. I would maybe look to my  
50

0082

1 colleagues and see if Robbin LaVine has something that  
2 she could add to that regard.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: And another.....

5

6 MS. LAVINE: This is Robbin.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: .....question.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, you might  
11 want to see if Robbin has a comment in regards to.....

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Roger, no problem.

14

15 MS. LAVINE: I'm sorry, hello, for the  
16 record this is Robbin and I would like you to restate  
17 the question. And then I would also suggest that if  
18 you'd like to go through some of your questions to  
19 Jared, specifically, you could do that first and then  
20 you could call on me.

21

22 Thank you, Madame Chair. I await what  
23 you would prefer, Pat, thank you.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: I guess whatever is kosher  
26 for you folks. I was just wondering; my question was  
27 does the use of sportsfish gear for each of these areas  
28 that are under potential discussion, do they have a  
29 customary and traditional ruling on them?

30

31 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Through the  
32 Chair, this is Robbin. And unless I have one of my  
33 anthropology colleagues on the line I might say that  
34 customary and traditional use determinations are uses  
35 recognized by the Board for a particular species and  
36 not for gear type.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Okay, thank you.

39

40 MS. LAVINE: Does that make sense,  
41 thank you.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess that's what  
44 it is. Then I have another question, the review  
45 process is because it hasn't been reviewed at a Council  
46 and a Regional Advisory Committee level? I got that  
47 question from a local person. And because they said  
48 that they thought that every closure is reviewed every  
49 time between Fish and Game and the respective Refuges,  
50

0083

1 and so I just need a little clarification on what  
2 review means and with whom.

3

4

MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the  
5 Chair. To answer your question, Mr. Holmes, this is  
6 the first time that OSM Staff has reviewed these  
7 closures in likely over a 20 year period that these  
8 closures have remained in effect. And so this cycle,  
9 this last cycle from last year was the first time that  
10 the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory Council has seen  
11 these closures being reviewed. And are you asking more  
12 about the process, of the review process or I'm just  
13 looking for additional clarity maybe?

14

15

MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess the person  
16 was asking me, you know, they were wondering if it  
17 wasn't redundant or why and I guess you explained it,  
18 is because it hasn't been done at a Council and RAC  
19 level, they were just familiar that, you know, when  
20 they have a closure like at the Buskin, the sportfish  
21 people that monitor it, you know, call the CommFish  
22 folks and then the CommFish folks, why, and then they  
23 talk with Mike out at the Refuge and then closes it  
24 every time so they were just confused as to the  
25 multiple levels of review, that's all.

26

27

MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the  
28 Chair. Mr. Holmes, that does make sense, and I  
29 sometimes think-- I wonder if -- well, from the public  
30 maybe are confusing Federal in-season management  
31 actions with the closure reviews. Think of the closure  
32 reviews of being more of a long-term, long-standing  
33 closure that's actually in the regulatory books, in our  
34 fish and shellfish regulations, whereas the closure on  
35 the Buskin like you had referenced was an in-season  
36 Federal management action, so it's a temporary closure.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

0084

1 About 12, 15 years.....

2

3

MR. HOLMES: Roger.

4

5

MR. PAPPAS: .....ago there were  
6 closures in place that were adopted when the Program  
7 came into place, and the State came to OSM and said,  
8 well, how do we undo these? Well, put in a proposal,  
9 you know, they said put in proposals. So why should  
10 the public have to open something up, it should be up  
11 to the Federal Board to review it every couple years to  
12 make sure that they're valid and that started the  
13 process about 15 years ago. They've done a whole bunch  
14 of wildlife reviews, but on the fish side it just  
15 started like Jared said.

16

17

18

It looks like Jared's back on, thank  
you, Madame Chair.

19

20

MR. STONE: My apologies, I am back on.

21

22

23

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Pat do you  
want to ask Jared the question again.

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. HOLMES: Okay. Yes, I'm wondering,  
are we just dealing with general things on this  
discussion about the process on 117 or are we going to  
be doing specific thoughts on the other proposals  
during our meeting? And I guess my question is based  
on when we had our last meeting on it, I did point out  
that the Unalaska system there, when I was out, the  
last salmon guy for Unalaska back in 1997, I had worked  
prior for a years with the local community and they  
were quite concerned, particularly with reds, they  
wanted to have the sportfishing restricted, or any  
fishing restricted below the Church Hole because of the  
fragility of that system. And I didn't see that  
getting in our minutes or in any of the comments  
related here, and so I was wondering if you folks  
followed up with that, to check with their Advisory  
Committee, if they still felt that way, and obviously  
they didn't have a quorum, but you could contact the  
Chair and just ask them or go to the Fish and Game  
minutes. Because that's a really, really important  
thing as far as Unalaska goes and, personally, I don't  
feel there should be any rod and reel in that system  
specifically for reds because I think it will endanger  
what's left of that run. You know they're lucky to get  
four or 500.

0085

1                                   And, anyway, that's just my general  
2 comment on that so I'll just shut up for awhile.

3  
4                                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

5  
6                                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
7 Jared, do you want to comment to that.

8  
9                                   MR. STONE: I don't have much to add to  
10 that. Thank you, through the Chair. That is a new  
11 concern that I have not heard voiced yet and so I have  
12 written it down and I think in the future when we  
13 attend any of the Advisory Committee meetings down  
14 there we would look to the feedback and advice from the  
15 folks there and if there's a biological concern then  
16 maybe that closure warrants to continue being retained,  
17 so kept in regulations. If that's what I'm hearing.

18  
19                                   MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was very specific  
20 about it at our last discussion on this. And also I've  
21 noted in the minutes that when we have comments on  
22 proposals or discussion, some of the key answers or  
23 questions from the Council often don't make it into the  
24 minutes. I know you have to have active minutes but  
25 sometimes there's some critical points that really are  
26 going to reflect on the whole process that should be  
27 maybe expanding the individual meeting minutes just a  
28 tad to get those because that's, for, Unalaska, is a  
29 really important point.

30  
31                                   Thank you, Madame Chair. And thank you,  
32 Jared, I know you're working terribly hard on the whole  
33 thing.

34  
35                                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks, Pat.  
36 And Pat, and Jared, correct me if I'm wrong, when Chris  
37 and Robbin started to set up a meeting with ADF -- the  
38 Advisory Council, people weren't available at the time,  
39 there was a problem so they were going to reschedule, I  
40 don't know that it ever happened?

41  
42                                   MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Yeah, I  
43 talked to Chris about it. I had try and connected with  
44 some of my acquaintances out there on their Advisory  
45 Committee, their former chair, Tiny Chistien had moved  
46 out and they were not able to achieve a quorum in order  
47 to discuss this amongst themselves or with the meeting  
48 that was set up for the Council -- or with OSM with  
49 them. And I had gotten some feedback from Chris that  
50

0086

1 the folks out there, when he got the materials to them  
2 before, thought it was really complex and generally not  
3 necessary. But I can't really speak for them, that's  
4 secondhand information. But they were not excited  
5 about it.

6  
7 I can comment on the Kodiak hearing  
8 that they had. And it was quite lively for awhile. I  
9 wasn't taking notes, mostly just listening in. And  
10 they did have some questions on Afognak and some other  
11 questions, I didn't write them down, but I don't think  
12 they got answered at the meeting and they were going to  
13 be followed up. I did try to connect with the Advisory  
14 Committee Chair, Paul Trunivak, and I did send him all  
15 the materials again, as well as to all the tribes and  
16 folks that might be interested. But right now I think  
17 the Chairman and a good part of the Advisory Committee  
18 are out doing their guiding and so really can't comment  
19 until a little bit later. But I think they still had  
20 some questions but I can't repeat those because I  
21 wasn't taking notes.

22  
23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
26 Thank you, Pat.

27  
28 Are there any comments for Jared in  
29 regard to this review. Other Council members.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I have maybe a  
34 couple comments. A couple, Pat, when we talked a  
35 little bit about this, we chatted a little bit about --  
36 and this is kind of what I mentioned earlier today  
37 about land ownership in regard to using King Cove Corp,  
38 as an example, of being a major land holder and we also  
39 have lands within the Refuge system. And who is the --  
40 and if it's private lands, in case King Cove  
41 Corporation is classified as private, the jurisdiction,  
42 is that under State for subsistence or is that Federal?  
43 If you can answer the question?

44  
45 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I think to  
46 try to answer your question, during the Kodiak meeting  
47 with OSM discussion came up on Afognak and I did find  
48 out from -- I believe it was at that meeting, or it was  
49 somebody afterwards, but evidently, from what I gather,  
50

0087

1 the State's interpretation of who has jurisdiction on a  
2 system, that on Afognak with ANILCA and when the Land  
3 Claims lands were given over to the tribes and the  
4 Native Corporations, that that made it private lands  
5 surrounding the systems and, therefore, those systems  
6 would be managed, at least the freshwater components  
7 out to the Federal waters, would be managed by the  
8 State. And so that was a point of question and that I  
9 would probably pose on these systems at Unalaska  
10 because almost all of them are surrounded by  
11 corporation or private land. And I did recently talk  
12 to the city planner's office as to who owns the  
13 tidelands and because on Unalaska Lake it flows right  
14 into Dutch Harbor, and when I was out there and we  
15 reset the subsistence markers, which are farther out  
16 than what's in that illustration. The city felt that  
17 they owned the harbor, and so I asked them if that was  
18 the case and he said that they felt that since all of  
19 the -- for many years, probably before OSM even  
20 started, that they owned the tidelands, Captain's Bay,  
21 Dutch Harbor and a good portion of the Unalaska Bay,  
22 and they owned the tidelands in front of each one of  
23 these streams. And so I guess land ownership and  
24 relating to these both tidelands and around the systems  
25 raised the question among some of the folks out at  
26 Dutch and some folks around Kodiak as to who really has  
27 jurisdiction on these closures.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is  
32 Pippa Kenner with OSM.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pippa.

35

36 MS. KENNER: Hi. Yeah, so I just  
37 wanted to add to that, to avoid confusion, Federal  
38 jurisdiction for the purposes of managing wildlife,  
39 those regulations are different than the regulations  
40 for managing fish. And for the purpose of managing  
41 fish, the waters that are surrounded by corporation  
42 lands that come up in these closure reviews, the  
43 Federal Subsistence Board does manage the harvest of  
44 fish in those waters.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 Maybe someone has a question.

49

50

0088

1 MR. HOLMES: No, thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della.  
4 So basically if people in Cold Bay wanted a subsistence  
5 fishery on the Russell then they'd go through the  
6 Federal process?

7

8 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the  
9 question, Madame Chair. Right off the top of my head,  
10 I am not familiar with the Russell but I think it is in  
11 these -- it is brought up in these proposals, and if it  
12 is brought up in these proposals it has been determined  
13 that the Federal Subsistence Board has jurisdiction for  
14 the management of fish.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Because Russell  
17 is listed as one of them, Russell is one of them. And  
18 there was also -- where are my notes here -- there's  
19 some Adak and Kagalaska on freshwater salmon. Trout  
20 Creek for Alaska Peninsula. And then let's see here, I  
21 thought we had -- oh, gosh I can't find my list, I know  
22 Russell was one of them too. So that's kind of where  
23 I'm at is if people do want to put those together for  
24 the next fisheries cycle then the proper procedure is  
25 to go through the RAC requesting a subsistence harvest  
26 for salmon; is that correct?

27

28 MR. HOLMES: A follow-up question on  
29 that, Pippa.

30

31 MS. KENNER: Just -- just a minute,  
32 just a minute, this is Pippa. Hey, Jared, do you have  
33 an answer for that, is that the proper procedure, would  
34 the Council be putting in a proposal then to limit the  
35 harvest of fish by non-Federally-qualified users?

36

37 MR. STONE: Thank you for the question.  
38 That is an option. A proposal could be submitted from  
39 the Council or an individual that would suggest  
40 rescinding or removing the closure and a parallel  
41 proposal would be needed to suggest that the new  
42 regulations would mirror Federal sportfish regulations,  
43 if that's the wish of the proponent.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And that  
46 basically -- on this first page says, if no parallel  
47 proposal is submitted with the closure review existing  
48 State sport regulations would be followed as applicable  
49 for fish, or there is no harvest season until a  
50



0089

1 proposal is submitted.

2

3 MR. STONE: Madame Chair. This is  
4 Jared again. And if a closure were to be rescinded, it  
5 does not automatically mean that State sportfish  
6 regulations would be adopted. Instead, what would be  
7 needed is a parallel proposal addressing that there's a  
8 sport -- that the Federal subsistence fishing  
9 regulations would mirror State sportfish regulations,  
10 and that is only in the event that there's no  
11 underlying Federal regulations to fall back on to. And  
12 most of these closure reviews do not have existing  
13 Federal regulations if this closure were to be  
14 rescinded or removed.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Then that  
19 kind of leads into.....

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....Pat's  
24 comment earlier about rod and reel on Unalaska. Oh,  
25 Nurse's Lagoon and Russell Creek including tributaries  
26 and outlet streams and those are the ones for Cold Bay.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I have two  
29 other points.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: If these things follow  
34 through and that sport gear is allowed, before the  
35 Staff mentioned that the subsistence limit would be the  
36 sport level so if it was five fish then the subsistence  
37 would be five fish. I don't believe I heard a  
38 clarification if that's on top of the sportfish limit  
39 or is it separate, who would be doing the permits. And  
40 then a follow-up thing that I -- a concern I got from  
41 someone involved with Afognak Corporation is if they  
42 own the surrounding lands and the stream beds, that was  
43 basically the thing that was posed to me, who -- does  
44 that mean that somebody could walk up there and say, I  
45 have a Federal sport permit and then trespass on those  
46 lands. Because it seems to me that the ownership of  
47 the lands itself would be a factor of the Native  
48 Corporations and whether they wanted to have any access  
49 at all.

50

0090

1                   So I'm sorry if that's garbled but I'm  
2 old and tired.

3  
4                   MS. KENNER: Hey this is Pippa Kenner  
5 with OSM. I'd like to address your second question.  
6 And the answer to your second question about  
7 trespassing on Native Corporation lands, it would  
8 follow the trespass laws in general. And that is,  
9 there are situations where a member of the public  
10 stepping onto Native Corporation lands is considered  
11 trespassing. And I think that is when the lands are --  
12 there are signs stating that it is private property.

13  
14                   Thank you.

15  
16                   MR. HOLMES: So it would be  
17 Corporations could say that they did not want to have  
18 subsistence fishing in their streams if they have the  
19 adjacent land; is that a summary of that?

20  
21                   MS. KENNER: I'll answer that by saying  
22 that the Native Corporations would remain in ownership  
23 and in charge of who accesses their land.

24  
25                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We basically do  
26 that, Pat. King Cove Corporation does it. I know  
27 other corporations do too. You have to get a permit in  
28 order to do it. If they have a regulation or policy in  
29 place to allow it. And we've allowed a little bit this  
30 year on Russell but how much we'll do, we're working on  
31 our basic policies on what we can do with various  
32 species. And that's our goal this winter is to work  
33 with committees on, you know, if it's salmon or fish,  
34 what -- what is allowable use and where. And is there  
35 any for bird hunting, is there any for caribou hunting,  
36 and where. And these things are all going to be worked  
37 on with -- we are going to be working on this winter to  
38 have regulations in place for 2022.

39  
40                   MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, George  
41 Pappas.

42  
43                   MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

44  
45                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
46 Rebecca.

47  
48                   MS. SKINNER: Thanks. George, did you  
49 have a direct response to what was just being  
50

0091

1 discussed, otherwise I'm going to go back to a  
2 different topic.

3

4 MR. PAPPAS: Well, I was just going  
5 to.....

6

7 MR. HOLMES: I'd like.....

8

9 MR. PAPPAS: .....get back to the  
10 basics, but go ahead. Thank you.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Could somebody answer the  
13 limit question.

14

15 MS. SKINNER: So my question is -- I  
16 had a question on something Jared said in response to  
17 Della's question. So Della asked, and I think she was  
18 reading the section there on Page 117 under rescind,  
19 where it says, if no parallel proposal is submitted  
20 with the closure review, existing State sport  
21 regulations would be followed. And I think she asked  
22 that of Jared, Jared's response was, no, that would not  
23 happen automatically and, in fact, a parallel proposal  
24 would need to be submitted. So I just want to make  
25 sure I understood Jared's response correctly. And if  
26 it is a fact that that State sport regulations would  
27 not be the fallback position, is this statement in the  
28 outreach materials incorrect then? And, Jared, I hope  
29 you can clarify and if my question isn't clear, please  
30 let me know.

31

32 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the  
33 Chair. To answer your question, Rebecca, this was an  
34 assumption of mine that later I found out it was  
35 incorrect. That there would not -- if a closure were  
36 to be rescinded it was under my impression that if  
37 there were State sportfish regulations, that they would  
38 automatically revert and go back to the State sportfish  
39 regulations or mirror the State sport fish regulations.  
40 That, is, in case, no correct.

41

42 And if it's the wish of the Council,  
43 one option is to submit a proposal that would be what  
44 I'll call a parallel proposal that would suggest that  
45 Federal regulations then would follow or mirror State  
46 sportfish regulations.

47

48 Now, that's just one option, you can  
49 pick and choose different options. You could propose a  
50

0092

1 harvest limit or a gear type or season different from  
2 those of State regulations and so I don't want to just  
3 limit you to thinking that the State sportfish  
4 regulations is the best approach.

5

6 Does that answer your question?

7

8 MS. SKINNER: It does, thank you,  
9 Jared. And I think this is -- so, Della, thank you for  
10 asking the question originally. I think this is an  
11 important thing for the RAC to know and particularly  
12 the group that worked on these outreach materials  
13 because at least I was operating under the assumption  
14 that if we did rescind a closure we didn't need to be  
15 too concerned about having a parallel proposed  
16 regulation to go with it because there would be a  
17 fallback position that would still allow harvest to  
18 occur. But you have now clarified that that was  
19 incorrect and if we rescind a closure we absolutely  
20 need to have some sort of a parallel proposed  
21 regulation to open the fishery basically and put some  
22 rules in place for that fishery.

23

24 So thank you for clarifying that.

25

26 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral,  
27 when it's my turn -- my turn comes around.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.  
30 Go ahead.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: So under what Rebecca  
33 just said I just want to go back and say, on the front,  
34 on Page 117, it does say if no parallel proposal is  
35 submitted then State sport regulations would be  
36 followed. So we've determined that's incorrect. But  
37 when you go to the closure reviews it says, if no  
38 parallel proposal is submitted, any existing Federal  
39 subsistence or State sportfish regulations would be  
40 followed. So my question is, can these be rescinded  
41 and then just whatever existing -- because we do have  
42 existing Federal subsistence regulations concerning  
43 salmon in the Kodiak area, like -- so do we still -- or  
44 would it just fall back, just following under existing  
45 subsistence or still, again, do we have to submit a  
46 parallel proposal.

47

48 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is  
49 Pippa Kenner with OSM.

50

0093

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pippa.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Hi. Yeah, so there are  
4 factors in how regulations are written that would  
5 affect my answer depending on the situation but, in  
6 general, the subsistence regulations, for instance, on  
7 Kodiak Island are quite liberal and the subsistence  
8 regulations would be the subsistence regulations for  
9 Kodiak Island. And I think that's the concern. I  
10 think you're limited to, you know, 25 salmon until you  
11 ask for more, that kind of thing.

12

13 Did that answer your question?

14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: No.

16

17 MS. KENNER: And then subsistence  
18 regulations you can also use nets, and I think that was  
19 another consideration and concern.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess my question is  
22 if these are rescinded, do we just fall back under like  
23 these specific areas for salmon, if these closures were  
24 rescinded for let's say Buskin, then -- then do we just  
25 fall under our already existing subsistence? Like can  
26 that happen or do we absolutely have to have a parallel  
27 proposal?

28

29 MS. KENNER: Yeah, thanks again for the  
30 question. For the record this is Pippa Kenner, Madame  
31 Chair. And the answer is, yes, in many cases it would  
32 just default to the general subsistence fishing  
33 regulations.

34

35 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay, thank you.

36

37 MS. KENNER: You're very welcome.  
38 Thanks for the question.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pippa.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, right now if  
45 we're talking about the Buskin, the closed waters  
46 there, basically there is no subsistence harvest within  
47 there but one can fish inside that closed water area,  
48 unless it's changed, with sportfish gear anyway. And  
49 so I still -- my question is still on the table,  
50

1 because in the earlier meeting we were told that the  
2 default level using sport gear would be the sport limit  
3 and so my question is, would you have a State sport  
4 limit on top of a subsistence sport limit which would  
5 double the harvest by sportfishing gear even though  
6 it's two different jurisdictions. And I believe that  
7 that would be quite confusing.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Pat. Through  
10 the Chair, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. No, the  
11 harvest limits would not be additive.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Oh, good, because that's  
14 been a big concern to the folks that I've talked to on  
15 this. And then you also have to consider when we have  
16 situations with limited returns then the markers stay  
17 where they are, but if we have good returns then they  
18 move in, sometimes to the mouth for that gear and  
19 sometimes not, but generally speaking, you know, that's  
20 the more traditional subsistence method here in Kodiak  
21 for hundreds of years. And so that's been in folks,  
22 that I've talked to -- are really reluctant -- in fact  
23 I was chatting with the former Chairman of the Board of  
24 Sun'aq and he just though the whole concept of adding  
25 sportfish gear at the mouth of the Buskin, why, because  
26 he can already fish with sportfish gear there in either  
27 case unless it's totally closed.

28

29 Anyway, that's my thoughts, thank you.  
30 Thanks, Pippa. You're a good worker, swell gal.

31

32 (Teleconference interference -  
33 participants not muted)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks, Pat.  
36 That raises a good question, though, Pat. I had the  
37 same question asked to me in regard to Russell because  
38 the sports are in place, why can't they have a  
39 subsistence and subsistence have a priority.

40

41 So we've got a bit of work to do, I  
42 think, working on this.

43

44 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, this is  
45 George Pappas. I'm going to try and just make a few  
46 simple comments, ma'am.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sure, go ahead,  
49 George.

50

0095

1                   REPORTER:     Wait a second George.  
2 George. George, before you begin.

3  
4                   MR. PAPPAS: Yes.

5  
6                   REPORTER: This is Tina. I'm getting  
7 some people typing in the background so if everybody  
8 could check your line, make sure you're muted, I would  
9 appreciate that because it kind of goes over the  
10 talkers.

11  
12                   Thank you. I'm sorry, go ahead,  
13 George.

14  
15                   MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Tina. Madame  
16 Chair. Three issues here. One, do you want a closure  
17 lifted, yes or no. Two, if so, are the default methods  
18 and means that are available through the State  
19 sufficient for you, yes or no. Step three, if not, how  
20 do you want to design the fishery. This is your  
21 chance. I mean when, or if you decide if you wanted to  
22 have a fishery in these areas that are closed, this is  
23 your chance to design them. Do you want bare hand  
24 capture like they approved in Black Lake, Chignik Lake,  
25 and Port Moller area. Do you want spear, do you want  
26 dipnet, do you want fyke net, do you want gillnets.  
27 Depending on where you are, in high population areas  
28 where there's a lot of folks that are targeting one  
29 particular fish, one run, you know, sometimes you have  
30 to design it a little more conservative.

31  
32                   But that's the point here.

33  
34                   Do you want it open. If so, your  
35 choice, how do you want the Federal system to look  
36 like. Do you want non-Federally-qualified to hunt and  
37 fish there -- excuse me, to fish there. In remote  
38 areas where you have a lot of folks flying out to, and,  
39 yes, say it's corporate land, corporation land that's  
40 surrounded by Federal land and it's within the  
41 conservation system unit then the waters flowing  
42 through there would be under Federal jurisdiction if  
43 it's within the boundary. Now, that's different than  
44 Afognak, if you look up Afognak, the Refuge itself, is  
45 a small boundary, it's part of the island, not the  
46 whole island itself, but that's another discussion for  
47 a different time.

48  
49                   So I'm just trying to get back to the  
50

0096

1 basics.

2

3

4 Do you want to lift it, if you did is  
5 it okay the way it is, allow Federally-qualified users  
6 to say, use rod and reel with no license, and get a  
7 permit from the local manager or do you want to design  
8 something even more.

8

9

Thank you, Madame Chair.

10

11

MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

12

13

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
14 George. Rebecca, go ahead.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

Thank you.

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.



0097

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, in these  
2 closed waters you can fish with a rod and reel anyway  
3 and if the limit's not going to change what's the  
4 difference. And, anyway, that's kind of my feelings  
5 and a lot of the folks I've talked to.

6  
7 So, anyway, I think all of us have done  
8 as much outreach, lots of outreach, sending out packets  
9 to the corporations, the ACs and talking to everybody  
10 and, you know, maybe I'm totally out of touch but I  
11 just haven't really run across anybody that's rabid in  
12 favor of changing.

13  
14 So I'll just shut up for awhile, sorry  
15 to bother you.

16  
17 MR. STONE: Madame Chair.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, is  
20 that you Jared.

21  
22 MR. STONE: Yes, Madame Chair, this is  
23 Jared. I guess just my final remark in regards to  
24 using rod and reel and these closed waters, Pat is  
25 correct in that currently a majority of these closures  
26 do allow State sportfishing to occur with rod and reel.  
27 And so for some folks they might question why is this  
28 needed, and really what it boils down to is there's not  
29 a subsistence priority happening. There's currently  
30 State sportfish that's allowed and Federally-qualified  
31 subsistence users are not allowed to fish in these  
32 closed waters. And so that is the intent of  
33 considering these reviews.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
36 Jared. Because that's.....

37  
38 MR. HOLMES: One -- one.....

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....I've had  
41 comments from.....

42  
43 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....that I've  
46 gotten -- go ahead, is that you Rick.

47  
48 MR. KOSO: Yeah, that's me. Yeah, they  
49 got a little different situation in Cold Bay where we  
50

0098

1 use gillnets. We had gillnets fishing in almost all  
2 the creeks that come out of Cold Bay which is, I could  
3 count three or four of them, and every one of those --  
4 those were closed to using any kind of gillnets up to  
5 500 feet, and others up to 1,000 feet. We've been  
6 fishing up in the head of Cold Bay on a creek there  
7 that we used to be subsistence fishing without any  
8 closures there, we used to use nets and I would say  
9 that probably 75 percent of the people in Cold Bay were  
10 using nets to get their fish in that certain spot there  
11 because all the other creeks were closed down up to 500  
12 yards and so it made it really tough to get any fish,  
13 but they were catching them at that creek. But this  
14 year that was closed down 500 yards too and it was just  
15 open to sportfishing. So it did affect us and we did  
16 run into some conflicts of -- gear conflicts there.

17

18 So I just wanted to throw that out.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, if you got  
21 Tyler, the sport -- or the CommFish person there, or  
22 Lisa Fox, the CommFish person, I believe that those  
23 restrictions on the stream up there were because of  
24 concerns for -- concerns for escapement and if it was  
25 extended out -- and, anyway, you'd probably want to ask  
26 them the why on that, Rick. Because I know the  
27 Department really does try for the subsistence the best  
28 they can. I know here for Kodiak, the Buskin is never  
29 open commercial during the red season and I know this  
30 year when they had some weaker runs around the island,  
31 in order to get the folks to be able to do subsistence  
32 and get the escapement goals -- like at the Litnik,  
33 they restricted the commercial fishery. And, you know,  
34 I think the case when you've got strong runs well then  
35 the markers change for the gillnet folks. But I can  
36 understand your concern about having more difficulty  
37 getting fish because I probably spent more on gasoline  
38 than I did the value of the fish I got this year even  
39 though I got my minimum limits.

40

41 But, sorry, thank you, Madame Chair.

42

43 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is  
44 Rick again. You know we have a 250 fish limit in Cold  
45 Bay for subsistence for most everybody there and it's  
46 awful hard to catch 250 fish on a rod and reel so a lot  
47 of people, you know, they pool their resources together  
48 and they go together and they get it with their  
49 gillnets and their boat motors and skiffs and that type  
50

0099

1 of thing. But it just kind of makes it a little tough  
2 when all these years it's been open, at least that I'm  
3 aware, and then all of a sudden it closes this year,  
4 it's the first time I've ever seen that place closed.  
5 So I was just kind of wondering why, what the reason  
6 was for that.

7

8 So thank you, I'll check with Lisa Fox  
9 later on down the road here and get an answer.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, maybe.....

12

13 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair, this is  
14 Tyler Lawson with Fish and Game.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tyler.

17

18 MR. LAWSON: Yeah, I'll speak a little  
19 bit to this. I had some things prepared here for when I  
20 gave the McLees update to talk about Cold Bay but I'll  
21 kind of ad lib here and add it in now.

22

23 So in Cold Bay, Fish and Game is aware  
24 of these issues that have been raised. There's two  
25 areas of concern there. One is Kinzarof Lagoon, which  
26 is on the north side of Cold Bay proper, and then the  
27 outlet of Swan Lake, which is between the town of Cold  
28 Bay and Kinzarof Lagoon, kind of on the northwest side  
29 of the bay. So to start here, our region's regulations  
30 tie some subsistence and commercial fishing regulations  
31 together. This is partially due to regulations that  
32 allow fishermen to use commercial gear to go  
33 subsistence fishing during a commercial salmon opener.  
34 And on days when commercial fishing is open, certain  
35 areas such as Kinzarof, close to commercial and  
36 subsistence fishing. Additionally, on days when there  
37 is commercial fishing opening there is no commercial or  
38 subsistence fishing allowed within 500 yards of a  
39 freshwater stream.

40

41 So over the past few years what we have  
42 seen is that there has been a shift in subsistence  
43 fishing from Mortensens Lagoon, which is on the other  
44 side of Russell Creek to Swan Creek and Kinzarof, which  
45 are the northern parts of Cold Bay. This is partially  
46 due to the lower escapement at Mortensens and it's also  
47 because it's easier to access these areas than it is  
48 sometimes at Mortensens because you have to make the  
49 crossing at Russell Creek which is sometimes really  
50

0100

1 high water or washed out. Kinzarof is closed, again,  
2 to commercial salmon fishing whenever there is a  
3 commercial opener and this past year due to strong pink  
4 and chum escapement, this allowed for extended  
5 commercial fishing during August and unfortunately most  
6 subsistence fishing also did not start to occur until  
7 that commercial fishing was open until further notice.  
8 At the same time that Swan Lake outlet restriction at  
9 500 yards, which Rick was talking about, also goes into  
10 effect when we had that commercial fishing opening.

11

12 So with the Swan Lake outlet where we  
13 have that 500 yard restriction, that regulation is not  
14 new. It is on the back of everybody's subsistence  
15 fishing permits that they have to carry and it should  
16 have always been followed. However, the last couple of  
17 summers Fish and Game has made it more of a point to  
18 educate people about where those 500 yard boundaries  
19 are. The reason for that is that between 2017 and 2019  
20 the average harvest for Cold Bay proper, the Kinzarof  
21 and Swan Lake area was between 200 and 500 salmon. In  
22 2020 there was over 2,000 salmon harvested from this  
23 same area. So it's a very sudden four to 10 times  
24 increase in the harvest. We want people, especially  
25 and specifically the subsistence users to sustainably  
26 harvest all the salmon that they need, but we're also  
27 concerned about sudden over fishing in this area and  
28 ending up with another situation like what happened at  
29 Mortensens. The lack of fish at Mortensens likely  
30 being the main culprit for the current problems that  
31 we're addressing here.

32

33 We did fly several surveys of Swan Lake  
34 with drones and fixed wing aircraft this summer to try  
35 to index the escapement there but the lake is  
36 incredibly turbid and difficult, if not impossible to  
37 actually survey and get a graph of it. The outlet that  
38 I'm talking about is very unique. The water is only  
39 several inches in depth and it's no more than 10 feet  
40 across and there's probably only a couple of high tides  
41 every month where salmon can actually escape into that  
42 lake. And it makes it very easy to set up a net and  
43 haul in all of the fish that gather there at a high  
44 tide. And I'm aware of a couple of occasions in 2020  
45 where people caught over 200 salmon in one short set  
46 there. Now, when people follow that 500 yard  
47 restriction it certainly does reduce the number of  
48 salmon they catch but they can still harvest fish. And  
49 there are also other opportunities to fish that system

50

0101

1 at low tide, which is much further than 500 yards away  
2 it just hasn't been realized by the fishermen who have  
3 recently shifted their efforts to this area over the  
4 last two summers.

5

6 We've already spoke with a couple of  
7 the concerned individuals in Cold Bay who have also  
8 raised these issues about submitting proposals to the  
9 Board of Fish which would help to address these issues.  
10 As a couple of examples, possibly mirroring some of the  
11 regulations that we see in Unalaska and Kodiak for  
12 sportfishing, which would limit sport fishermen to two  
13 sockeye per day in systems of concern or also to change  
14 the regulation which closes Kinzarof to subsistence  
15 fishing during those commercial openings.

16

17 And I'd be happy to take any other  
18 questions that people might have on this.

19

20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Tyler -- is  
23 this Tyler?

24

25 MR. LAWSON: Yes, it is.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: My question is,  
28 when you're saying the 500 yards for subsistence, does  
29 that apply to sports users also?

30

31 MR. LAWSON: It does not. Sportfishing  
32 has separate regulations and in that particular area  
33 they don't have any 500 yard restrictions for  
34 sportfishing in the Cold Bay area.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So the question  
37 is, why do you not have -- why does it not have to be  
38 500 yards when the subsistence is of concern, and they  
39 go back 500 yards?

40

41 MR. LAWSON: The sportfishing is just  
42 using the rod and reel and they have that bag limit of  
43 five fish, whereas with subsistence, with a net,  
44 they're allowed to harvest up to the 250 fish in that  
45 region. So it's totally different restrictions for  
46 those gear types and how many fish they are able to  
47 catch there.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So if you have

50

0102

1 50 sports fishermen, that's 250 fish, but no 500 yards.

2

3 MR. LAWSON: It could add up that way  
4 if you had that many. And I would kind of defer to  
5 Tyler Pollum or Mark Witteveen if they want to step in  
6 to talk any more about the sportfishing impacts there.

7

8 (Teleconference interference -  
9 participants not muted)

10

11 MR. LAWSON: That's a little bit  
12 outside my jurisdiction.

13

14 REPORTER: Okay, so hang on, Pat.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, your mic is  
17 on.

18

19 REPORTER: Yeah, thanks, Della.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm awfully sorry.  
22 A neighbor just brought by about five fish and dumped a  
23 cooler at the front door and I forgot to turn it off.  
24 I just had somebody dump a fish at our front door.  
25 Sorry.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So that was the  
28 question I was asked, Tyler, and I have to be honest,  
29 you know, I've been in and out of Cold Bay and then  
30 getting calls and, you know, I think the need for a  
31 subsistence fish, we need to address this. I'm hearing  
32 it more and more, not only for species of fish, but  
33 Rick, a couple times, kind of brought it up a little  
34 bit, but then the birds and at least not the caribou at  
35 this point, but I just think we need to try to work  
36 together and take this all into consideration. Because  
37 sometimes when we start getting limited resources  
38 that's when we get the conflicts.

39

40 MS. SKINNER: Hey, Della, this is  
41 Rebecca, can I ask a question.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
44 Rebecca.

45

46 (Teleconference interference -  
47 participants not muted)

48

49 REPORTER: Okay, hang on a second

50

0103

1 again. Pat, did you mute your phone, it sounds like  
2 it's still on.

3

4

Sorry, Rebecca, somebody's not muted.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. SKINNER: Thanks. So the question is for Tyler. The closures that you're talking about, so the 500 foot [sic] closures for subsistence, are you talking about State regulations or Federal regulations?

MR. LAWSON: Yes, through the Chair. These are all State regulations that I am talking about here.

MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: What are the Council's wishes at this time. I think this is definitely an ongoing issue that we need to continue to do our committee on. And I think even more so now given the discussion today. This was quite a lengthy discussion. So, Katya, maybe -- I know we have the working group committees, I think we need to try to get that back and working and get this fisheries going again, hopefully get Chris involved. There's a lot to, I think, all this and we need to figure out something so we can try to take action at our next meeting to start the process prior to the -- at least when we get to the point of the fisheries proposals that we have things in place.

MR. HOLMES: One question for the future.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

MR. HOLMES: The big question is who is going to manage this in-season and who is going to enforce it because once you go jump across -- right now everybody's working together, but if you're going to have subsistence regs that are different than the State ones, particularly when reds are concerned; one, I don't know that the Troopers would enforce it and even if they could, there's none at Dutch Harbor during the red season, there's none on the Peninsula and same with Kodiak, three-quarters of them are all shipped up to Bristol Bay during the red salmon. So that's the main fish of concern so that's a question. Are they going to be hiring new Park Rangers to do the enforcement and

0104

1 then who collects the data and gets it to the other  
2 folks who are managing it. So that coordination needs  
3 to be defined and who's doing it.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
8 I guess we'll figure this out as we go. But I don't  
9 think we can leave it off the table, there's too many  
10 requests for, I think, for us to address this in one  
11 manner or the other. I don't see leaving it off the  
12 table though at this point.

13

14 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca, I  
15 have a question.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
18 Rebecca.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. So you are  
21 suggesting that the, I guess the working group that we  
22 have now, continue to talk about this. Are you  
23 referring to the outreach working group that helped  
24 Jared and team put together the outreach materials?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Yes.

27

28 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Yeah, and so my  
29 only comment there would be if the intent is to use  
30 that group to start getting into the substance of the  
31 different proposals, it would be helpful, I think, for  
32 the -- I can't remember how the original group was  
33 formed, if that was by a motion or just by a  
34 description from the Chair, but to just have some kind  
35 of a statement that the scope of work for that group is  
36 changing because for the outreach part we very  
37 specifically were not talking about the substance of  
38 each of the proposals. It sounds like now the intent  
39 is to talk about the substance and then maybe also talk  
40 about the parallel proposed regulations that might be  
41 needed, which I think is great. I just want to make  
42 sure that we have something in the record stating that  
43 basically the scope of the committee's work has shifted  
44 now that we're done with the outreach part.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, yeah, I  
49 would agree.....

50



0105

1 MR. KOSO: Della.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....and I think  
4 we still want a little bit of outreach, we didn't quite  
5 get to where we needed to be. I know I tried getting  
6 with the Advisory Committee here and it never happened  
7 so I think it's a combination. And I think it's --  
8 I've been talking to people publicly or people have  
9 been calling from Cold Bay and just comments here and  
10 there, so I think continuing with the outreach and then  
11 going into the proposal portion of it, well, I agree  
12 would be just continue with the group if they still  
13 want to be a part of it.

14

15 MR. KOSO: Della.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

18

19 MR. KOSO: Yeah, first of all I want to  
20 thank Tyler there for clearing me up on a lot of  
21 things, that was good. But I guess in my observation  
22 of Cold Bay is that we have a lot more guides that are,  
23 you know, taking up stakes in Cold Bay and I think if  
24 I'm not mistaken there's five or six of them there now,  
25 and they're bringing in a lot more people every day. I  
26 think the problem is going to get worse as far as, you  
27 know, people coming into Cold Bay and fishing because  
28 they all find them good spots and like you said they  
29 all move to a certain area where they know to catch  
30 fish and that happened to be one of the spots up there,  
31 Kinzarof Lagoon and Swan Lake area.

32

33 So anyway I think we need to really  
34 look into this further and try to prepare ourselves for  
35 more people each year because we do have a lot more  
36 guides that are bringing more people in every year. So  
37 that's just an observation.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I fully agree  
42 with what Rick just said because that's the complaint  
43 I'm hearing. I've never heard it come out of Cold Bay  
44 ever in all my years being involved with this. But  
45 when you have local residents in a community concerned  
46 because they can't get their subsistence birds or fish  
47 and the amount of sports activity that's going on is  
48 crazy. You know it's been now looking to the  
49 Corporation and wanting to come on their lands, and I'm

50

0106

1 of the opinion to be honest with you, to say, no, we're  
2 just going to leave this to residents of the  
3 communities only because there's so much outside  
4 activity going on for the resources that are there.  
5 And it's a little disheartening when you have to say  
6 this in meetings and I know it's -- I know at the last  
7 two meetings I've brought this up but I'm not sure  
8 we've gotten anywhere with anything. And I don't think  
9 that's the answer. I feel like being a part of this  
10 process we have to look to the subsistence user, we  
11 look to all the various users but I think there's a  
12 priority and that needs to be addressed and recognized.  
13 And when you start cutting people off from subsistence  
14 use, that's a problem. I think when you're backing  
15 them up 500 feet, yards, but other people can fish that  
16 and then you have nothing. So I don't know what the  
17 answer is but I think this involves a lot of work, a  
18 lot of work with the communities, a lot of  
19 communication and it's not going to be easy but I'm  
20 willing to give it a try.

21

22                                    Anyway that's where I'm at, if anybody  
23 else wants to speak to their position I would  
24 appreciate it.

25

26                                    MS. FOX: Madame Chair, this is Lisa  
27 Fox. I just had.....

28

29                                    MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

30

31                                    MS. FOX: .....one more comment. Tyler  
32 did a pretty good job explaining the regulations that  
33 we were working with this season. Can you hear me  
34 okay?

35

36                                    MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead.

37

38                                    MS. FOX: So part of the regulations  
39 for the State, it's just kind of a weird carry over  
40 from the commercial fishing regulations so the whole  
41 closed waters, they closed because people are allowed  
42 to use commercial gear to harvest subsistence fish.  
43 And we've had that issue come up in another place in  
44 our regulations and we corrected it and another place  
45 and Tyler's going to be working with somebody in Cold  
46 Bay to submit a proposal to correct this one, too.

47

48                                    The intent of that regulation is to  
49 limit people who have a commercial fishing license, not  
50

0107

1 for the general public who wants to go subsistence  
2 fishing. So the way the proposals that they're  
3 planning on submitting would be worded -- would be to  
4 only close those waters to people who have commercial  
5 fishing licenses, not just the general subsistence operation.

6  
7 So just to clarify that. And I think  
8 that proposal will be submitted in the spring and then  
9 taken up at the Board of Fish at their meeting the  
10 following spring.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Rick, do you  
13 have any comments in.....

14  
15 MS. FOX: So I'm not sure if you have  
16 comments.....

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....in regards  
19 to.....

20  
21 MS. FOX: .....in.....

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we have  
24 some people talking at the same time. Rick, do you  
25 have any comments in regard to what was just said?

26  
27 MR. KOSO: You know, Della, I think we  
28 got things cleared up with Tyler and I think I heard  
29 most of it. But it's a little confusing that, you  
30 know, the commercial fishermen are able to go in there  
31 and fish and use their fish for subsistence. that's the  
32 first time I heard that. I would be really dumbfounded  
33 to think that if I was a -- I am a commercial fisherman  
34 and I went up there and fished that I'm going to use  
35 that for subsistence when I could turn around and sell  
36 it for a dollar, two dollars a pound. So it doesn't  
37 make sense to me that the commercial fishermen would do  
38 that. But like I say, Lisa must know something I don't  
39 know on that particular deal but I know a lot of  
40 individuals that commercial fish there and I never  
41 heard that particular part of it, at least in the Cold  
42 Bay section.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, these guys  
45 here get their permits, their salmon subsistence  
46 permits for 250 fish and they do go up and get salmon  
47 from Kinzarof using their gear.

48  
49 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I understand using the  
50

0108

1 gear to do that. I don't understand during an opener  
2 that they would do it. I know during the closure they  
3 use their seine gear to go up and get subsistence fish,  
4 but never during an opening that I know of, commercial  
5 opening that they would go and catch subsistence fish  
6 versus delivering it to a cannery for cash.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct.  
9 That's correct.

10

11 MS. FOX: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is  
12 Lisa Fox again. I believe that some of these  
13 regulations are just carried over from a time when the  
14 different gear types were open during different times  
15 and sometimes it would be closed for gillnet gear for  
16 commercial fishing and for purse seine fishing and so  
17 people had different timelines and so they could go and  
18 use their commercial gear. It just kind of was a  
19 carryover regulation, I believe. Now, all the gear  
20 types are aligned, opened at the same time and so it's  
21 a lot less common for somebody to opt to go do  
22 subsistence fishing with their commercial gear. But  
23 they still occasionally will do that, where a  
24 commercial boat will go out and they'll have a few  
25 permitholders, subsistence permitholders on board and  
26 they'll just go get a whole bunch of fish for the  
27 community and bring them all back and process them and  
28 kind of dole them out. But now it's a little bit less  
29 common but it still does happen in some places.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody  
36 have any -- go ahead, Vince.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry to be the time  
39 management person but we have two time management  
40 issues. One is the small game biologist who's  
41 available. As you noted in the beginning he was  
42 requested to be time specific and that would be dealing  
43 with the ptarmigan proposal. But also we have Marine  
44 Mammal Management Staff that is available to share more  
45 information on your earlier topic with the sea otter.  
46 So I don't know how we want to handle that because you  
47 have a 4:00 o'clock or some time around there, some  
48 discussion on what you want to know on sea otter  
49 management. So those are two things that I need to  
50

0109

1 remind you of.

2

3 And, finally, we all need to, including  
4 myself, star six to mute, star six to unmute.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
9 Vince. Let's go ahead and move to the ptarmigan -- do  
10 you want to move to the ptarmigan or do you want to go  
11 to the sea otter? Who needs to have -- was it you,  
12 Rick, who needed to be first on this ptarmigan, is that  
13 correct, or you had the small game, I thought.

14

15 MR. MERIZON: Madame Chair, this  
16 is.....

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a  
19 Rick.....

20

21 MR. MERIZON: .....Rick Merizon with  
22 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, is that the Rick to  
23 whom you're referring?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm thinking,  
26 yeah, yes, uh-huh.

27

28 MR. MERIZON: Yes, Madame Chair. So I  
29 am actually prepared to discuss the two Alaska hare  
30 proposals. I was not prepared to talk to the ptarmigan  
31 proposal, I believe that's simply to establish a  
32 customary and traditional use finding. And I don't  
33 have much information to bring to bear on that  
34 discussion today but I am prepared to discuss the two  
35 Alaska hare proposals that the Alaska Department of  
36 Fish and Game submitted for consideration to the  
37 Federal Subsistence Board.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: I apologize, that was my  
40 oversight.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The reason I had  
43 -- yeah, okay. All right, then.....

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: I meant to say hare so,  
46 sorry.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay, not  
49 ptarmigan.

50

0110

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, he's correct, it's  
2 hare. If I misspoke, it's Proposal 22-39 on hare, so I  
3 apologize on misrepresenting on what Rick was going to  
4 talk about it.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Let's go  
7 ahead and do this, Rick, and then we'll move on to the  
8 Marine Mammals.

9  
10 MR. MERIZON: Okay, great, thank you  
11 again. And I very much appreciate you making time for  
12 me to speak this afternoon to the Advisory Council.  
13 Again, this is Rick Merizon with the Alaska Department  
14 of Fish and Game, and I am the statewide small game  
15 program coordinator for the Department.

16  
17 Fish and Game submitted two proposals  
18 for this year's cycle, WP22-39, which would create a  
19 season harvest limit and salvage requirement for Alaska  
20 Hare in Units 9 and 17. The specifics of the proposal  
21 seek to create a season the 1st of November through the  
22 31st of January. Currently there is no closed season  
23 for Alaska hare. This proposal also seeks to create a  
24 harvest limit of one Alaska hare per day, or  
25 jackrabbit, I should say as they're often called, and  
26 four per year. Currently there is no bag limit for  
27 jackrabbits out in Unit 9 and 17. And, thirdly, this  
28 proposal seeks to create a salvage requirement that  
29 would require either salvage of hide of meat, either  
30 one. Currently there is no salvage requirement.

31  
32 So back in 2018 the Alaska Board of  
33 Game on the State side created an identical set of  
34 management structures in Unit 9 and this current Board  
35 of Game cycle to be deliberated between January 21st  
36 and 28th, again, on the State Board of Game, we have  
37 also submitted a proposal to create the identical  
38 season date, harvest limit and salvage requirement for  
39 Unit 17, which I realize is outside of this Advisory  
40 Council's area, but is close nonetheless, so just  
41 wanted to, in all fairness, create the background, the  
42 difference between the State and the Federal systems  
43 right now.

44  
45 So right now our program in  
46 coordination with other colleagues in Fish and Game  
47 have embarked on a multi-year research project trying  
48 to look at movement, mortality, trying to estimate  
49 abundance methodologies that we can use long-term to  
50

0111

1 monitor Alaska hare throughout their range in Alaska.  
2 And what we're finding is these animals are occurring  
3 at fairly low density across their historical range,  
4 which includes the Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay area,  
5 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Seward Peninsula, all the way up  
6 to and just south of Kotzebue. We do plan to continue  
7 long-term monitoring of this species but felt it was  
8 appropriate to consider a more modest management  
9 strategy based on what we're learning through our  
10 research.

11

12 So that's all I've got on Proposal  
13 WP22-39.

14

15 We also submitted a very similar  
16 proposal 22-45, which also includes Unit 18, 22, and 23  
17 also for Alaska hare, also seeking to create a season,  
18 harvest limit and salvage requirement to be similarly  
19 matched to the State Alaska hare hunting regulations.  
20 If you'd like me to go into those specific details on  
21 22-45 I'm happy to but I feel like that's a little bit  
22 more distant from this Advisory Council's area so I  
23 didn't want to bore you with all those details if you  
24 didn't want me to.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we'll be  
27 good with the 22-39 right now would be my  
28 recommendation.

29

30 MR. MERIZON: Okay. And I'm happy to  
31 take any questions if there are any. And, yeah, that's  
32 all I've got as far as that proposal. And, again,  
33 appreciate very much the Council's ability to make time  
34 for me this afternoon.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Question.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Pat.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thanks for your  
41 presentation. I'm certainly inclined to go along with  
42 that in Kodiak. The Arctic hare and the domestic  
43 rabbits that have been released, they tend to fluctuate  
44 a lot with the population of fox. And I'm just  
45 wondering if you could speculate on the Peninsula, I  
46 think in the last 40 years we've seen a big shift in  
47 increase in the number of wolves and then also a lot  
48 warmer falls and winter where, I assume these hares  
49 you're speaking of are like -- they turn white in the  
50

0112

1 fall. I can see that if you're having a low snowfall  
2 year that they would even stand out more to the  
3 predators and I'm just wondering if you might speculate  
4 on that regard.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, that's a very good  
9 question. And, again, it is primarily speculation but  
10 we have noticed the same interactions as with ptarmigan  
11 on the Alaska Peninsula also. Yes, Alaska hare, just  
12 like snowshoe hare their pelage does change color from  
13 fall to winter just like ptarmigan. And we have not  
14 specifically studied the effects of lack of snowfall on  
15 snowshoe hare or Alaska hare. We do have data on the  
16 effects on ptarmigan and it can be significant, yes,  
17 when there is little or snow on the landscape and you  
18 have a white bird on a dark background, they become  
19 much more vulnerable to predation. I would suspect  
20 that similar types of effects are happening to both  
21 hare species, but, again, we don't have specific data  
22 on that. And the notion about increased predator  
23 densities, we also believe that red fox, particularly,  
24 could be having an effect on the young leverts, as  
25 they're called, the young jackrabbits, or Alaska hare,  
26 but typically by the time these animals are reaching  
27 adult size this time of year, we do believe that  
28 predation from red fox particularly is likely not a  
29 significant contributor but it very much could be to  
30 the young of the year throughout the summer.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Roger that. I've had  
33 comments from Ronny Lind over at Karluk on the west  
34 side of the island about the decline of ptarmigan there  
35 but it seems to parallel our warmer falls and winters  
36 as well.

37

38 So good luck on your research.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Basically I'm not going  
47 to read the whole thing but there's multiple  
48 opportunities for public comments and we're starting  
49 into proposal review. So it just helps everybody and  
50



0113

1 make sure everybody has a chance, and I refer to Page  
2 27 in your book which walks through the different  
3 steps. The reason those steps are there is that you,  
4 your Council, has the most strong recommendation that  
5 goes forward through the process. So, you know, with  
6 that, if you look at Page 27 then you have to go back  
7 to Page 104 for this proposal. And then Tom Plank of  
8 Office of Subsistence Management is ready to introduce  
9 this proposal.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,  
12 Vince. Tom, are you ready to present.

13

14 MR. PLANK: Yes, Madame Chair, can you  
15 hear me?

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Loud and clear.

18

19 MR. PLANK: Good. I was having trouble  
20 with my microphone earlier. Would you like me to go  
21 ahead and start right into it?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, please do.

24

25 MR. PLANK: All right. Hello, Madame  
26 Chair and members of the Board. My name is Tom Plank  
27 and I am a wildlife biologist in the Office of  
28 Subsistence Management. I will be presenting a summary  
29 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 22-39 submitted  
30 by ADF&G starting on Page 104 in the meeting book.

31

32 The proponent requests to create a  
33 specific harvest regulation for Alaska hare in Unit 9  
34 and 17 stating that the once abundant Alaska hare in  
35 Unit 9 and 17 are now at a very low density and has a  
36 patchy distribution throughout Bristol Bay and the  
37 Alaska Peninsula. The Alaska hare is sometimes called  
38 a jackrabbit, tundra hare or Arctic hare. The Alaska  
39 hare is called the tundra hare in the Federal  
40 regulations, but Alaska hare appears to be the dominant  
41 term for contemporary usage including in State  
42 regulations.

43

44 The Alaska hare is a different species  
45 than the snowshoe hare despite being lumped together in  
46 Federal regulations.

47

48 The Board of Game adopted a proposal in  
49 2019 establishing specific harvest regulations for  
50

0114

1 Alaska hare in Unit 9 from November 1st to January 31st  
2 of a harvest of one hare per day with a max of four per  
3 season. And like Rick had mentioned, ADF&G has also  
4 submitted Proposal 24 for the Board of Game for the  
5 January 2022 meeting to include Unit 17 with the  
6 identical hare -- Alaska hare management structure in  
7 Unit 9 and they have also submitted Wildlife Proposal  
8 WP22-45 to create specific harvest regulations for  
9 Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and 23.

10

11 Alaska hares are among the most poorly  
12 understood game species in Alaska. Anecdotally  
13 abundance is well below historical levels throughout  
14 the range of the species. The last known erupted  
15 population on the Peninsula occurred in the winter of  
16 1953/54 and Alaska Peninsula, Becharof National  
17 Wildlife Refuge rates the Alaska hare as the Refuge No.  
18 3 prioritized resource of concern as an ecologically,  
19 significant, endemic species vulnerable to the  
20 influence of climate change. In 2018 ADF&G initiated a  
21 multi-year study to evaluate movement and mortality as  
22 well as long-term capture techniques.

23

24 Little is known about the harvest of  
25 the Alaska hare. Household harvest surveys indicate  
26 that it is harvested throughout the communities of  
27 Western and Southwestern Alaska. If this proposal is  
28 adopted the Alaska hare season would be reduced  
29 although hunters will still have the opportunity to  
30 harvest hares during the winter when they're out  
31 engaging in other subsistence or recreational  
32 activities. The change in daily and overall harvest  
33 limits may be effective in reducing harvest which could  
34 translate into an improvement in the conservation  
35 status of these populations. Any positive effects  
36 these changes have on the Alaska hare population will  
37 benefit subsistence users in the long-term despite the  
38 immediate reduction in subsistence opportunity.

39

40 The OSM's preliminary conclusion is to  
41 support Proposal WP22-39 with modifications to modify  
42 the definition of hare into Federal regulations to  
43 include Alaska hare.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair and members of  
46 the Board. I'd be happy to field any questions.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any  
49 questions or comments at this time.

50

0115

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, Madame Chair, this  
2 is Coral.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

5  
6 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I was just  
7 wondering if you could tell me in several places in  
8 here and in your presentation you talked about so once  
9 abundant here, do you have population numbers and what  
10 are those? Like when you talk about them being once  
11 abundant, do we have population estimates or were they  
12 studied and then what is the population today? And  
13 then my third question is, do we have an idea of how  
14 many are harvested each year, either in the  
15 sporthunting season or in the subsistence season, or  
16 both?

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 MR. PLANK: Thank you. Through the  
21 Chair. The population numbers, the reference to once  
22 abundant, those are anecdotal records that apparently  
23 during the community -- the information that I was  
24 given that is well talked about by all the reports that  
25 I could find that show that they used to be abundant  
26 but I have not been able to find anything on the  
27 current population, numbers or the past population  
28 numbers.

29  
30 And as for the harvest, on the -- in  
31 the booklet -- I apologize I had that pulled up a  
32 minute ago. On Page 114, this is the records that I  
33 was able to find for the harvest by community, and  
34 they're kind of sparse there.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think it's 110  
37 in our document, handout that we have.

38  
39 MR. PLANK: Yes, Ma'am, you're correct.  
40 I apologize.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, any other  
43 comments or questions. Coral, did that answer your  
44 question?

45  
46 MS. CHERNOFF: Let's see, so let me  
47 just go over -- so once abundant in numbers, we don't  
48 know what they are. Population estimate -- I guess you  
49 didn't answer that, do we have a population estimate  
50

0116

1 for, I don't know, somewhere in the last five years?  
2 And then I have one more question, with the table, the  
3 harvest by community, is that subsistence harvest by  
4 community, or sports and subsistence by area of the  
5 community? I assume those are subsistence numbers?  
6

7 MR. PLANK: I do apologize, I don't  
8 know exactly if it is just subsistence or commercial, I  
9 know this is the data from the household harvest  
10 surveys that were done in the communities. Ma'am, for  
11 the population, I have not been able to find any data  
12 that has an estimate for the population at this time.  
13

14 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair. This  
15 is Rick Merizon with Alaska Department of Fish and  
16 Game. Would it be okay if I jump in?  
17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, are you  
19 still there.  
20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, were you  
22 going to say something.  
23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry.  
25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, can you  
27 hear me? Hello.  
28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I can hear you.  
30

31 REPORTER: Yes, Della, go ahead.  
32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Rick, go  
34 ahead, if you want to go ahead and speak to this.  
35

36 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, thank you. Again,  
37 this is Rick Merizon with Alaska Department of Fish and  
38 Game, Small Game Program. And relative to population  
39 estimates, we -- our program does not have any  
40 population estimates per se. What we have done over  
41 the last four or five years is visit many, any  
42 communities, remote communities throughout Unit 9, 17,  
43 18, 22 and actually interviewed and discussed  
44 population of hare abundance with long-time residents,  
45 particularly those that have lived in those communities  
46 for in excess of 40 or 50 years and repeatedly what we  
47 were told, talking to those folks, throughout the range  
48 of the big jackrabbits was that Alaska hares were far  
49 less abundant than they were historically back in the --  
50

0117

1 particularly in the early '80s, folks talked about a  
2 relative high back in the early to mid- '80s and even  
3 some before that back in the late 60s and 70s. But  
4 since the mid-1980s folks repeatedly told us that  
5 they've just seen sort of a steady decline in overall  
6 abundance, but to get to actual population estimates,  
7 no, we do not -- our department does not have actual  
8 population estimates that are even remotely reliable.  
9 And as far as the harvest estimates, it's my  
10 understanding that those are based on household  
11 subsistence surveys.

12

13 One thing I will add before I get off  
14 the line about population estimation is that is one  
15 primary objective of our ongoing research project, is  
16 to try to develop a methodology that we can actually  
17 employ on an annual basis to try to generate localized  
18 population estimates and when I mean localized I'm  
19 talking about portions of or potentially even an entire  
20 game management unit. For example, Unit 17 or 22,  
21 those are areas that we're actually trying to develop  
22 methodologies where we could actually estimate  
23 populations on those localized areas. But currently we  
24 do not have those estimates.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does that answer  
27 your question, Coral?

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF: It does. And, Della, I  
30 had another question about the area.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

33

34 MS. CHERNOFF: In these community  
35 harvest areas, since I'm not quite familiar with the  
36 areas, but how many of those are within our  
37 Kodiak/Aleutian RAC? I see Sand Point on there, King  
38 Cove.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sand Point  
41 and.....

42

43 MS. CHERNOFF: And Naknek.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....King Cove  
46 at this point. No, Naknek is Bristol Bay.

47

48 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

49

50

0118

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Sand Point  
2 and King Point.

3  
4 MS. CHERNOFF: So if you have any  
5 comments, Della, I'd like to hear them. Do you see  
6 these hare, and what are they.....

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Occasionally.  
9 Occasionally, not -- you know, I don't -- I'm going to  
10 say the snowshoe basically. And I recall eating them a  
11 lot more, my dad used to get them when we were kids and  
12 they cooked them all the time. And, now, I think  
13 they're there, we occasionally see them, but I haven't --  
14 very seldom do I hear of anybody getting one. Maybe  
15 once or twice a year, but it's not something somebody  
16 is going out to get. I think if they're out maybe  
17 hunting ptarmigan or something and happen to come up on  
18 one and they may take it.

19  
20 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. And I would just  
21 like to say one last thing I guess.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

24  
25 MS. CHERNOFF: So while I understand  
26 this proposal is here, I guess my recommendation -- I  
27 mean what I would tend towards is leaving the  
28 subsistence regulations on hare as they are and just  
29 completely eliminate the sport -- the State sport  
30 season. I think it's really important, especially with  
31 what we see right now with Covid, there's less  
32 production of things, we get less meat here, the  
33 shelves go empty faster, you know, we get scarce  
34 grocery deliveries. Like if we miss a boat our grocery  
35 stores are completely empty, and I imagine the same in  
36 Sand Point and King Salmon -- or King Cove. So I guess  
37 when I look at it with the lack of abundance population  
38 data and the current population data, I guess my  
39 inclination -- and just really no data, I guess my  
40 inclination would be to close it to sporthunting but  
41 just leave it open for subsistence hunters.

42  
43 And that's all I have to say.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Do you  
46 have any response to that before I make a comment?

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50

0119

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So my question  
2 -- my thinking is this in looking at this, is,  
3 basically this is submitted by the State and this  
4 proposal would basically mirroring that, and this is  
5 more of a mechanism to try to develop something that  
6 creates a harvest, number 1, and number 2, maybe  
7 another would be the reporting piece of it in order to  
8 better understand the use at this point for the hare.  
9 Is that correct?

10

11 MR. MERIZON: Madame Chair, I presume  
12 that question was directed to me. This is Rick Merizon  
13 with Fish and Game.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Either one  
16 of you.

17

18 MR. MERIZON: I guess I'll just give my  
19 comments. Yeah, so this -- just given what we know  
20 about this species throughout its range we felt that it  
21 was important to consider a less aggressive management  
22 strategy across all user groups. The State side of the  
23 regulatory process has been restricted since 2018, and,  
24 again, it's only allowing four animals per year per  
25 hunter on the State side. And really to have some a --  
26 to have a meaningful impact on the longevity of the  
27 species, you know, capturing all user groups that are  
28 harvesting the species we felt was important to consider.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So  
31 are.....

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....there any  
36 -- go ahead Pat.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I used to do trawl  
39 surveys out there in the '70s and then in the '80s,  
40 through the early '80s, mid-80s working March and April  
41 out there and the difference in hare abundance in Cold  
42 Bay, and I haven't been to Sand Point for awhile, but  
43 those areas you used to be able to -- after going out  
44 and flying for 10 to 12 hours you could come back, or  
45 go pretty much on plan on just walking out the door  
46 with a .22 and going 100 yards and popping a rabbit for  
47 dinner. And when we had our meeting out at Cold Bay I  
48 remarked on that to folks out there and asked, gee,  
49 well, what happened, and they said they just aren't  
50

0120

1 here anymore and shrugged their shoulders. So I would  
2 go with the opinions with the village elders out on the  
3 Peninsula. And you're certainly not one, Della, you're  
4 kind of still a young gal, but on what they think  
5 should have happened. And, myself, I'd be inclined to  
6 close it for a couple years, because for rabbits I  
7 think it'll make diddly squat on the difference on  
8 somebody's home-pak, but that's just my feeling so  
9 thank you, Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
12 Any other comments from Council.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think  
17 technically -- technically we're going through this  
18 process and it's the introduction, and then report on  
19 Board consultation, the tribes and ANCSA. Do we have  
20 any comments from there in regards to this WP22-39.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Orville, are you  
25 online.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, Lisa was  
28 going to cover that, hopefully she'll jump in here.  
29 Again, the phones are going up and down so she's  
30 texting me but.....

31

32 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Madame Chair,  
33 this is Lisa, I am here. Orville told me he was going  
34 to be online to cover this but I'm happy to if he's not  
35 currently online.

36

37 Basically we had tribal consultations  
38 back in August on these proposals but there were no  
39 comments from any tribes on WP22-39.

40

41 MR. LIND: Thank you, Lisa, that is  
42 correct.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

45

46 MS. SKINNER: And, Della, this is  
47 Rebecca, I have a question.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

50



0121

1 I'm going to do -- if we're going through this process  
2 I think we've got the presentation and agency -- well,  
3 next will be agency comments, Advisory group comments,  
4 written comments, public testimony, then Regional  
5 Council recommendations, but go ahead with your  
6 question, Rebecca.

7  
8 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. And if this  
9 was covered by the OSM presentation I missed it and I  
10 apologize. But I see that it looks like in 2020 a  
11 similar proposal so reducing the harvest limit from no  
12 limit to one per day and four annually was brought  
13 forward back in 2020 and that proposal was rejected by  
14 the Federal Subsistence Board stating that harvest and  
15 population numbers were unknown and that the season end  
16 date appeared to be too restrictive. So my question  
17 is, it sounds like, and I guess I'm looking for  
18 confirmation that I am drawing the correct conclusion  
19 here, but it sounds like based on questions and  
20 answered that were already given during this call, that  
21 we still have very little harvest and population  
22 numbers? So that's a question. Or is there more  
23 information that has become apparent since the similar  
24 proposal back in 2020?

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Can someone  
29 answer Rebecca's question.

30  
31 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, this is Rick with  
32 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, again. So  
33 relative to harvest information the answer is, no, we  
34 do not have any additional harvest information. The  
35 Small Game Program and the Department -- Alaska  
36 Department of Fish and Game do not have a consistent  
37 mechanism to require harvest reporting from State  
38 registered hunters. As far as population estimates go,  
39 again, the answer is cloudy. We are working on a  
40 technique. We feel very confident we have developed a  
41 technique that's going to be robust moving into the  
42 future. But as far as giving you an actual number with  
43 confidence intervals similar to what folks are used to  
44 seeing for moose and caribou and bear, no, we do not  
45 have a solid population estimate for Unit 9 or Unit 17.  
46 We do have preliminary data from Unit 17, specifically,  
47 that suggests populations are at fairly -- very low  
48 densities. And, frankly, we may never be able to  
49 provide an estimate like some folks are accustomed to  
50

0122

1 as far as moose or caribou, simply because of the  
2 resources that our department has and the mechanisms  
3 that we have at our disposal to require harvest and/or  
4 other population monitoring techniques. We're hoping  
5 in the future, moving forward, the best we'll be able  
6 to provide is a localized population estimate simply  
7 because these animals are at such low density, they are  
8 cryptic, they are very elusive and they're largely out  
9 during the evening, during the dark hours of the day,  
10 therefore, we've developed sort of non-traditional  
11 population estimation methods that likely will only  
12 provide our ability to estimate localized areas, or at  
13 best game management unit level populations, but that  
14 would really be the very best we can hope for. Again,  
15 this is a very low density species, it's very  
16 difficult, cryptic and expensive to monitor.

17

18 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Agency  
21 comments. ADF&G, I think we've got that covered.

22

23 Federal.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that the OSM  
28 preliminary conclusion?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Moving on down  
37 the line here. Advisory group comments.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional  
42 Advisory Council.

43

44 (No comments)

45

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

48

49 (No comments)

50

0123

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence  
2 Resource Commission.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any written  
7 public comments.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there any  
12 public testimony.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Regional  
17 Council recommendation, motion to adopt.

18  
19 MR. HOLMES: So moved.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion moved by  
22 Pat. Do I hear a second.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No second at  
27 this point, I believe the motion fails. Okay, thank  
28 you. Thank you for that information, though, it was  
29 quite educational.

30  
31 Next item we will move to on the agenda  
32 is the sea.....

33  
34 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

37  
38 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa with OSM.  
39 I just wanted to clarify that the Council's motion  
40 failed so you're not -- I mean you didn't even  
41 officially take no action on this proposal but  
42 basically -- I guess -- because it affects the  
43 Kodiak/Aleutian's region, it concerns Unit 9D.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

46  
47 MS. GREDIAGIN: So I just want to make  
48 sure we're clear on the record when we present this to  
49 the Federal Subsistence Board that the Council  
50

0124

1 considered the proposal but the motion to adopt the  
2 proposal failed because you didn't get a second. So  
3 basically you did not take a position on this proposal.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, the.....

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, and this is Coral.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....motion --  
10 and I think -- go ahead, Coral.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I was trying to  
13 unmute to second actually.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, okay.

16

17 MS. CHERNOFF: .....and I didn't know I  
18 wasn't being heard.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

21

22 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I was going.....

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So is that.....

25

26 MS. CHERNOFF: I would like to.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....a good --  
29 let's go ahead and go -- Pat did make a motion, Coral  
30 second to support the proposal. So at this point do I  
31 hear any discussion.

32

33 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, this is.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for  
36 question.

37

38 MS. CHERNOFF: .....Coral.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, go ahead.

41

42 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess I would  
43 like to -- I'm not in support of this proposal, I think  
44 because looking at -- there doesn't seem to be enough  
45 biological information or data. There's no real  
46 population estimate past or present. And looking at --  
47 even though the data is quite a bit.....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, did we

50

0125

1 lose you?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

6

7 MS. SKINNER: I think she's texting me  
8 that her phone dropped.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay.  
11 While she's getting back online, any other comments  
12 from Council members. What I recommend is just taking  
13 a roll call vote on this.

14

15 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Della, this is.....

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

18

19 MS. SKINNER: .....Rebecca Skinner, I  
20 have a comment.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
23 Rebecca.

24

25 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. I am also  
26 going to vote no on this proposal primarily due to the  
27 lack of data. It concerns me to have references to a --  
28 and now it's not in front of me now, but a once  
29 abundant population, but we really don't have a number,  
30 it's not clear what that's based on, we don't have  
31 current population numbers. And, I guess, to me, one  
32 thing that's pretty important is when I look at the  
33 harvest, I think there's a -- sorry, I don't have it  
34 open in front of me but the Federal subsistence harvest  
35 numbers, in general, they seem pretty low, but also the  
36 communities that are in our region that have harvest  
37 listed, they're some of the higher numbers in the table  
38 so what I get out of that is our region does use this  
39 resource, I'm not really comfortable limiting that.  
40 And taking a step back and just looking at the harvest  
41 in general, overall, it seems fairly low. However,  
42 with the general lack of data being presented along  
43 with this proposal it -- it is difficult for me to  
44 support a motion to limit the hunt.

45

46 So those are my comments, thanks.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any  
49 other.....

50

0126

1 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....Council  
4 comments. Pat.

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: I think.....

9

10 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm back on.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Coral, go  
13 ahead and finish and then, Pat, we'll go to you.

14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. I think I just  
16 dropped where I was getting to the subsistence harvest  
17 surveys. I think -- so with lack of harvest -- or lack  
18 of population numbers both in the past and the present  
19 and then looking at the harvest by communities, I think  
20 that those don't look like -- I mean, although, the  
21 last updated one -- the nearest one was 2010 and it is  
22 older data, so, again, we don't have data in that area  
23 either, of harvest. But in the harvest area there is  
24 harvest, they are using the resource. And like I  
25 stated before I'm not -- I'm not really willing to be  
26 in favor of a limited harvest in the area of  
27 subsistence. It seems like it is a resource that they  
28 do use, these are remote areas and we do depend a lot  
29 upon wild resources and so just for those reasons I am  
30 not in favor of this proposal.

31

32 And I think that's it, thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
35 Coral. Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I would just ask you  
38 folks to think on my earlier comments there. I've  
39 known people that have been out there for years and  
40 years and the amount of hares has really dramatically  
41 dropped. That's the whole question, is they need to  
42 gather data and see what's happening. I think if you  
43 had access to the subsistence harvest information for  
44 other parts of the Peninsula it would show that they're  
45 not getting zip and probably the area where you have  
46 the harvest data is probably the last that it exists.  
47 But, frankly, trust me, back 40 years ago you could go  
48 out there and practically kill them with a stick or a  
49 rock and now you can't hardly find them. And so I  
50

0127

1 think the very few that would be available for harvest  
2 is negligible and I truly think that the State is  
3 making the best approach on trying to do this. Because  
4 two years from now they'll have good information and  
5 have a lot better idea of what's going on. But when  
6 you manage natural resources you have to wing it and  
7 not go on pure emotions.

8

9 So I will vote in favor of it, Madame  
10 Chair, thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. Is  
13 there any other.....

14

15 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....comments --  
18 Rick, go ahead.

19

20 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm going to vote no  
21 on this one too. Because I think that, you know, the  
22 Fish and Wildlife are checking into this and doing  
23 research on it and if I thought that -- and if they  
24 thought that it was really, really bad then they could  
25 do an emergency order to shut it down. So I would  
26 leave it up to them to make a decision rather than the  
27 Board with what little we have. So I'll be voting no.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,  
30 Rick. Okay, I guess with that are there any other  
31 comments from Council members.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, I  
36 will -- Vince, go ahead and take a roll call on this.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair. The  
39 motion as I understand it is to adopt the proposal as  
40 written and it was seconded. So I will do a roll call.

41

42 Pat, your vote.....

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: .....to adopt -- okay.

47

48 Rick.

49

50

0128

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MR. KOSO: No.

MR. MATHEWS: Coral. Coral.

MS. CHERNOFF: No.

MR. MATHEWS: Rebecca.

MS. SKINNER: No.

MR. MATHEWS: Della -- Chair Della.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No.

MR. MATHEWS: Natasha.

MS. HAYDEN: No.

MR. MATHEWS: Melissa.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Absent.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The vote -- there was six votes, one in favor and five no, so the motion to adopt the proposal fails.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You have -- you had a total of three absent, Chris and.....

MR. MATHEWS: But.....

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, so -- and Sam. So motion fails.

MR. MATHEWS: So, Madame Chair, I'm checking with.....

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, everyone.

MR. MATHEWS: .....other Staff. I think -- I know you probably want to take a break but I need to check if the Marine Mammal Management Staff are plugged in and -- and if you still want them to talk about sea otters.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I believe we do



0129

1 and then maybe we can -- yeah, if they are online.

2

3 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Yes, Joel Garlich-  
4 Miller from the Marine Mammals office is here.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
7 Vince.

8

9 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: .....online.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And thank  
12 you Rick and Tyler and Lisa for the last agenda item.

13

14 We'll go ahead and move on to Marine  
15 Mammal, sea otters.

16

17 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Well, thank you,  
18 Madame Chair. Again, my name is Joel and I'm joined by  
19 my colleague, Paul Schuette, we're both Staff  
20 biologists with the Marine Mammals Management Office.  
21 And we were contacted by OSM Staff today. It was  
22 suggested you guys had some questions regarding sea  
23 otters, which we're here to try to answer. I believe  
24 we've made some reports to -- a written report for your  
25 last May meeting, and I don't know if I need to  
26 summarize that for the group or if you, Madame Chair,  
27 or if you have some specific questions of us.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I'm  
30 going to just start with there were quite a number of  
31 questions that came up earlier today, and then we  
32 talked about developing some sort of letter that we can  
33 approve so it can go to Marine Mammals in regard to sea  
34 otters. So what I'm going to do is go ahead and start  
35 and go down the line of the various Council members to  
36 what their specific questions or concerns might be at  
37 this point.

38

39 So if I may I'm going to start with  
40 you, Coral.

41

42 MS. CHERNOFF: I don't think that -- I  
43 don't think I have -- oh, I have one question. Let me  
44 look really quick to my -- maybe you could go to the  
45 next person until I can find my -- I'm just going to  
46 flip through and find that -- unless somebody knows  
47 what page that sea otter is -- oh, I'm okay.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: It would be Page 23 in

50

0130

1 your book.

2

3

MS. CHERNOFF: I found it.

4

5

MR. MATHEWS: If I remember -- oh, Page  
6 24, excuse me, I made a mistake again. It's 24 and 25  
7 through 26 in your book.

8

9

MS. CHERNOFF: Okay, I found it. Yeah,  
10 so I guess my question is -- well, I have two  
11 questions. So in our area here we sort of have sidebar  
12 population surveys. They're sort of done while other  
13 things are happening. How -- like if we -- so if some  
14 particular bays or areas are -- seem to be over  
15 populated with sea otters and they are affecting the  
16 shellfish, which affects the subsistence user, is there  
17 a mechanism where we can request or how do you go about  
18 getting our sea otter population surveyed? So that's  
19 one, I guess getting our sea otter population surveyed  
20 because that doesn't seem to be happening and that  
21 seems like a good place to start when we're talking  
22 over -- over abundance.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So I don't know, those two kind of

0131

1 questions, if you can answer those.

2

3

4 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Sure. Thank you  
5 Coral for those questions. Both are very on point.  
6 Yes, the sea otters in Kodiak are -- do belong to the  
7 Southwest stock of northern sea otters. There's about  
8 five management units that they're roughly broken into;  
9 the otters of Kodiak are sort of genetically linked  
10 with the North Alaska Peninsula and is considered sort  
11 of a sub-management unit within that western -- within  
12 the Southwest stock.

12

13

14 So, yeah, we -- the most recent  
15 population survey for Kodiak is dated, you're  
16 absolutely correct. We did a survey back in 2014. I  
17 think the population estimate was about 13,000 otters.  
18 Since that time we have managed to do some new surveys  
19 in other parts of the Southwest stock, Bristol Bay,  
20 Eastern Aleutians and most recently just this year the  
21 Western Aleutians. So we typically try to cycle those  
22 surveys as time and resources allow. I think Kodiak  
23 would be the next one up for an abundance survey but I  
24 can't speak to when that will next occur. We typically  
25 try to do that within a period of seven to 10 years so  
26 it is due.

26

27

28 So, yeah, sea otter densities, of  
29 course, they vary substantially across the landscape  
30 and so, yeah, you know, we haven't -- with Kodiak  
31 Island in particular it's, you know, has a very healthy  
32 population of otters obviously.

32

33

34 In terms of practical management, I'm  
35 jumping ahead and assuming that you're wondering about  
36 how stock structure affects the ESA listing and  
37 management decisions. In the case of subsistence  
38 hunting and things the ESA designation, it's not a  
39 regulatory barrier to any sort of local subsistence  
40 management. The issue you raise about trying to  
41 control local populations and preserve subsistence  
42 shellfish resources is one not shared by -- not by  
43 Kodiak alone, it's an issue across the state. By  
44 analogy there are some efforts in Southeast Alaska  
45 where hunters are starting to organize their hunting  
46 practices to sort of keep otter free zones so they  
47 focus their -- the best example of this is what the  
48 folks out of Sitka have sort of created a cooperative  
49 hunting to sort of keep sea otter numbers down in Sitka  
50 Sound and they, I guess, anecdotally started to see

50

0132

1 some recovery in some of the invertebrate. They've  
2 invested enormously in that trying -- you know, some of  
3 the larger challenges that they have is trying to find  
4 and maintain markets for the subsistence -- for their  
5 handicraft issues and, you know, those of you who are  
6 hunters are probably aware of the high prices of  
7 tanning hides and challenges in maintaining markets for  
8 sea otter handicrafts but they are sort of advancing  
9 the way and they're trying to do cooperative buying  
10 tanneries and marketing of their subsistence resources.  
11 So that is a potential model that you might want to  
12 find out more about.

13

14 I'll pause there and see if you have  
15 any other questions.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

18

19 MS. CHERNOFF: No, that.....

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

22

23 MS. CHERNOFF: .....that was good for  
24 me, thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, sorry, I lose which  
29 button is the mute button here. I'm glad that you  
30 folks are finally getting together with us. We asked  
31 at a meeting probably four years ago for this type of  
32 information and I've asked at every meeting since then,  
33 twice a year, and so it's really good to finally hear  
34 from you folks. I did send an email to Janet [sic]  
35 asking her for copies of those publications that she  
36 cited.

37

38 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Okay.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: I was really interested in  
41 sea otters in grad school and my major professor's  
42 brother, Carl Snyder, was one of the main people with  
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game at that time on sea  
44 otters but I ended up getting a job in Fairbanks and  
45 other critters. So anyway I've been here in Kodiak  
46 since -- off and on since '63 and steady since '74.

47

48 And one of my questions is basically  
49 on, one, historically I was looking at your discussion

50

1 saying -- down on Page 24, first, second, third,  
2 fourth paragraph it says rather than rely on genetic  
3 information alone and then down on the next paragraph  
4 it says, the evidence of stock identity is genotypic,  
5 phenotypic and geographic position, but -- so it sounds  
6 like you have some genetic information. I just wonder,  
7 because Carl Snyder worked with another Fish and Game  
8 biologist way before Marine Mammal Act and I think late  
9 '60s, maybe mid -- they moved 11 -- the Board of --  
10 Alaska Fish and Game, at the time was a joint board,  
11 and so they asked to check with all of the communities  
12 in Coastal Alaska as to whether they wanted to see  
13 rehabilitation of the sea otter populations and to  
14 provide for that as a furbearing animal and so they did  
15 and they did a test from Prince of William Sound of 11  
16 sea otters that they loaded in a Goose. God knows how  
17 they did that. And they took them down to Sitka Sound.  
18 And then during the nuclear testing at Amchitka they  
19 had a couple thousand sea otters there or more, many,  
20 many, so they checked with the other agencies and then  
21 did some significant transplanting to Southeast. When  
22 I asked Carl -- he just passed away in the last year --  
23 when I asked him, what was Kodiak like at the time he  
24 said that their populations were pretty strong, mainly  
25 up on the north end of Afognak and Shuyak Islands. I  
26 observed in '63 when I first came down here to work and  
27 make money for school, that you could hardly ever see a  
28 sea otter anywhere and now you can go over to the west  
29 side of the island or a couple of years ago we had a  
30 pod here in town of probably close to 100 that  
31 basically wiped out the king crab and the last reserve  
32 here near town and all the dungeness and, of course,  
33 all the other shellfish so that's quite a point of  
34 concern to folks here and we've been hoping, I think,  
35 our community, from chatting with the ladies I know  
36 that do sea otters, is that, they were hoping to do  
37 something very similar to Sitka and because their  
38 ability -- from what I understand the populations  
39 haven't change significantly in Sitka, but they've  
40 basically convinced them to move out of Sitka Sound and  
41 then they're able to do what they need for their  
42 handicrafts and cultural things. So it's just  
43 something that we need to examine and check out.

44  
45 And so I wanted to look at your  
46 literature and see what she meant on these things. She  
47 also -- she discussed distribution and distances  
48 between areas. And you did note that Kodiak and the  
49 Alaska Peninsula are similar, and that's true because  
50

0134

1 you can see them all the way across the Shelikof  
2 Straits at different times of the year and I've also  
3 observed them all the way past Cape Douglas and into  
4 Cook Inlet on the other side and also in the Barren  
5 Islands north of Shuyak. So I really question that the  
6 distance of 70 kilometers makes a difference in  
7 distribution of a population, particularly when there  
8 are areas out west in the Aleutians that are much  
9 broader than that where you find sea otters. And I  
10 recall early '60s out on Shemya where there were none  
11 but, yet, you could go 50, 60 miles away to Attu and  
12 then there was a significant number there. So we've  
13 watched on our island here, our population's moved down  
14 from Shuyak, to Afognak, west side, down to the west  
15 side of the island, up into Marmot Bay and then down  
16 this side of the island in more recent years and it's  
17 really had tremendous effects. And so I think our  
18 community is looking at some way in which to develop a  
19 plan similar to Sitka and the Tlingits because there's --  
20 we feel there are significant problems with the  
21 otters.

22

23 So thank you very much and have a good  
24 day.

25

26 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
29 Rebecca.

30

31 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. I wanted to  
32 know -- this is Rebecca Skinner. I wanted to know if  
33 the latest five year review is available? It looks  
34 like that was maybe being completed around 2019 or 2020  
35 but I can't seem to locate it.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Isn't there some data,  
38 seasonal work done by the bird folks at the Refuge that  
39 does some enumeration as well?

40

41 MS. SKINNER: Yes, but I'm asking for a  
42 specific five year review document.

43

44 MR. SCHUETTE: Hi, I can field that  
45 question. This is Paul Schuette, I work with Joel.  
46 Yes, there was a -- I kind of came on board here at  
47 Marine Mammals late in the specie status assessment  
48 time period, that was then used to inform that five  
49 year review which happened last fall and early winter.

50

0135

1 So I have a copy of it opened on my computer right now  
2 and it was posted on the Federal Register. I can get a  
3 link to that and share it with the group.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. That  
6 would be perfect.

7

8 MR. SCHUETTE: Yeah, no problem.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha, do you  
11 have any questions or comments?

12

13 MS. HAYDEN: Yeah, thanks, Madame  
14 Chair. I have a question and then a comment -- a  
15 couple comments.

16

17 My question is, if the -- I think -- I  
18 think my colleagues and fellow Council members are  
19 wondering -- the questions about whether Kodiak -- or  
20 why Kodiak is listed as being in the Southwest stock,  
21 is trying to get at if they -- if whether or not it is --  
22 it is confirmed or, you know, what the science is  
23 behind making that designation of Kodiak being in the  
24 Southwest stock and the Southwest stock being in the  
25 endangered species listing or threatened listing. And  
26 so my question is, is if there was some further  
27 research done and Kodiak was indeed determined to have--  
28 to be its own stock, would that -- there would have to  
29 be a stock assessment -- a subsequent stock assessment,  
30 I'm assuming, and then there would have to be some  
31 process to determine if that stock is, indeed,  
32 threatened or endangered. Do I understand that  
33 correctly?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. HAYDEN: Hello, anybody?

38

39 MR. SCHUETTE: No, hello.

40

41 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Yeah, I'm sorry,  
42 what -- I was just -- Paul, let me -- I was just going  
43 to mention that we will shortly have -- we've recently  
44 largely concluded a new genetic study looking at tissue  
45 samples collected across Southcentral Alaska out to the  
46 tip of the Western Aleutians and the Commander Islands,  
47 and the -- the -- that paper will soon be published,  
48 it's just going through final comments and going to be  
49 in Marine Mammals Science which we'll make available to  
50

0136

1 you as soon as it's ready, but it does -- it shows  
2 strong evidence that Kodiak and North Alaska Peninsula  
3 are very tightly linked. There is some apparent gene  
4 flow into Southcentral stock in terms of shared with  
5 Cook Inlet stock but fairly limited. And then  
6 interestingly enough, yeah, South Alaska Peninsula and  
7 Bristol Bay is quite genetically distinct from Kodiak,  
8 and so are the Eastern Aleutians so, there are --  
9 yeah, it's -- it's a broad range. But the -- it  
10 doesn't seem to -- the current boundaries doesn't seem  
11 to -- seem to be upheld pretty well for justification  
12 for dividing it into Southcentral versus Southwest  
13 stocks. So that paper will be available and I can make  
14 it available to your Council as soon as it's ready.

15

16 With respect to changing the status of  
17 the Kodiak stock, I -- I'm -- I apologize, that's a bit  
18 above my area of expertise. I mean you're wondering  
19 about a petition to remove it from the stock, that  
20 would require, yes, additional science to support it  
21 and -- and some -- some Endangered Species Act  
22 considerations as well. Of the five punitive  
23 management units or subunits of the -- the Southwest --  
24 or of the -- yeah, Southwest stock, Kodiak, Kamishak,  
25 North Alaska Peninsula is certainly one of the stronger  
26 ones, the real areas of concern for that stock are out  
27 in the Western Aleutians and the South Alaska Peninsula  
28 where we continue to see low -- low suppressed numbers.

29

30 Again, practically speaking, I'm not  
31 sure that the management regime would change one way or  
32 the other. So I'm -- I'm not quite sure what interest  
33 in separating it out would -- how that would affect  
34 your local management goals. Maybe you could clarify.

35

36 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks for that response.  
37 I'm actually not really sure either. And so maybe one  
38 of my fellow Council members could speak to that and  
39 then I can take another turn at my comments.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm not certain,  
46 several years ago I talked to Johnny Reft about that  
47 when he was Chairing the Sun'aq Tribe Council and they  
48 had been approaching the Marine Mammal folks about  
49 finding -- to have some way of having a larger harvest,  
50



0137

1 doing different types of marketing and basically they  
2 were told that because their stock was endangered that  
3 it couldn't even be considered, but that's all hearsay  
4 and, you know, from what I gathered from him so I don't  
5 know for sure what happened. But I think that probably  
6 might have been part of the impetus in wanting to  
7 reexamine this and that, with the folks in our  
8 community, seeing how successful they have been in  
9 Sitka and that the island population is still going up  
10 but they've been able to get their harvest and be able  
11 to have their subsistence too. And I think that's kind  
12 of where folks in Kodiak are hoping for.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Madame Chair, can  
17 I just respond.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead.

20

21 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: I was just going  
22 to say, just for in terms of management structure and  
23 goals, to be clear, yeah, the ESA designation for which  
24 Southwest stock and Kodiak do fall under for sure does  
25 not impact in any regulatory way the ability to harvest  
26 sea otters from that stock by qualified Alaska Natives  
27 so there's nothing prohibiting or limiting the  
28 subsistence use, handicraft use, and marketing of sea  
29 otter pelts from Kodiak. The challenges that folks are  
30 having really down in Southeast Alaska is getting  
31 themselves organized in any spacial way and also  
32 challenges of marketing and things like that because,  
33 you know, trying to turn sea otters into a local  
34 resource of economic opportunity. And so perhaps  
35 Southeast is, at this moment, with Sealaska Heritage  
36 and others, a little more out on point on this, we've  
37 been working with them on informational brochures for  
38 marketing and, you know, ensuring skeptical tourists  
39 that it's a resource -- a renewable resource and it's  
40 perfectly legal to harvest so there'll be a brochure  
41 coming out, a handicraft brochure that we collaborated  
42 with Sealaska Heritage on and Indian Arts and Crafts  
43 Board, so, you know, where we -- that's a bit outside  
44 of our Fish and Wildlife Service jurisdiction but it's  
45 that sort of collaborative thing where we're more than  
46 willing to help out with as well as, you know, have  
47 discussions about harvest management plans and things  
48 like that. That's what we're starting to do in  
49 Southeast Alaska.

50

0138

1 I think it's a big complicated thing --  
2 issue that may be beyond the scope of today's meeting  
3 but I would invite, if there's interest from the Kodiak  
4 RAC, you know, if there was a point of contact that  
5 would like to have more in-depth discussions and  
6 strategizing about either questions about sea otters,  
7 sea otter management, or opportunities for  
8 collaborations, please know we're open and interested  
9 in that dialogue.

10

11 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is  
12 Natasha again.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
15 Natasha.

16

17 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks. Thank you for  
18 that explanation. I really appreciate it. I am a sea  
19 mammal harvester and I have -- I fully agree that it's  
20 not a regulatory problem, or at least it's not a  
21 endangered species designation issue that we're  
22 experiencing with sea otters here. My opinion on it is  
23 exactly what you described, that it's very difficult to  
24 access the resources needed for tanning the hides and  
25 marketing of the very high value handicrafts that are  
26 being generated by Alaska Native harvesters and  
27 (indiscernible) people, and that it is also very -- in  
28 our region what we've experienced is the regulatory  
29 problem that we do have is the CFR 50, which is the  
30 Code of Federal Regulations on how an Alaska Native,  
31 I'm doing air quotes, quote/unquote, an Alaska Native  
32 person is defined, using a blood quantum. And that the  
33 Alaska Native tribal citizens in our region have been  
34 working for decades to try to get that revised in a way  
35 that all Alaska Native people in our region are going  
36 to be eligible to harvest sea mammals under that  
37 exemption in the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

38

39 So I mean I know that we started this  
40 conversation about the genetics of the stocks in our  
41 region and whether or not they are -- they truly should  
42 be included in that Southwest area, but I think that  
43 the potential solutions to the problem -- or perceived  
44 problem, not everybody thinks its -- I don't attribute  
45 the quote/unquote crash of the shellfish directly to  
46 and solely on sea otters, there's all kinds of other  
47 things that are going on with our ecosystem and  
48 industrial fishing activities and, you know, pollutions  
49 and contaminants and warming and stuff that could be  
50

0139

1 contributing to that, that we look towards supporting  
2 our regions Alaska Native people in our efforts to get  
3 that revision in the CFR 50 so that our children and  
4 our children's children are able to continue to  
5 practice those traditions. And in addition to that, to  
6 work towards obtaining or providing economic support  
7 for the facilities that we need to be able to process  
8 the animals, the hides, and marketing those very  
9 valuable articles that are produced out of those hides.

10

11 So, thank you.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 MS. HAYDEN: Anybody there?

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, we're here.

18

19 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Madame Chair.  
20 I'll just thank you and I'll just acknowledge that,  
21 yeah, this blood quantum issue has become a-- it is a  
22 shared concern down in Southeast Alaska. And, I,  
23 unfortunately don't really know what to do about it. I  
24 think that some Alaska Native organizations and through  
25 Indigenous People Council of Marine Mammals are trying  
26 to address that at a higher level but I don't have any  
27 information to share with you at this time on their  
28 progress.

29

30 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks. Madame Chair, this  
31 is Natasha, I've got one more comment, I'll make this  
32 one quicker.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,  
35 Natasha.

36

37 MS. HAYDEN: My comment is is that I've  
38 also been concerned there's the -- there was a  
39 resolution that was put forward by, I think one of the  
40 representatives from Southeast, about removing the sea  
41 otter from the threatened or the endangered status, and  
42 I think that there was a suggestion that it be turned  
43 over to the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and  
44 Game for management, and that is also a concern of  
45 mine. That if we are going to pursue having the sea  
46 otters removed from that endangered species or  
47 threatened species that then there's going to be State  
48 of Alaska, ADF&G management effort or plan that is  
49 going to be initiated and that is also not supported by  
50

0140

1 any of the Alaska Natives in our region that I am aware  
2 of.

3

4

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della. I  
5 have one question and I'm trying to remember where I  
6 heard this, but has there been any effort that any  
7 harvest can be, say, a tribe itself can request that a  
8 dozen sea otters be harvested and they be given  
9 possibly a harvest ticket and then their tribal members  
10 can do that harvest, is it possible to do something  
11 along those lines?

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is  
Natasha. I believe that is -- those are the  
circumstances that the meetings that Sun'aq was hosting  
was looking to address. But as far as I know there  
hasn't been any -- there hasn't been any -- the process  
hasn't been initiated or undergone to my knowledge, but  
I'm not privy to every tribal council's activities  
related to this. But not that I know of. And in  
addition to that, there are -- there are individual  
harvesters who are eligible under the Alaska Native  
Exemption that meet that blood quantum criteria, such  
as myself, that we don't have to have that exemption as  
of yet, but there are also people who are eligible,  
like myself, who's children are not, so that -- and the  
next generation are growing into adults and that  
because they don't meet that one-quarter threshold,  
that that is not too much further on the horizon.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.  
And just for the record I did get a note from Chris  
Price, he is on the line at this point.

MS. CHERNOFF: And then, Della, I have  
another question.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Go  
ahead.

MS. CHERNOFF: I just first of all  
wanted to clarify with you, when you're talking about a  
tribal -- somebody tribal, having someone else hunt sea  
otters are you talking about having a non-Native,  
someone with a boat, non-Native, hunting sea otters, is  
that what you're talking about?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, if you're a  
tribal member is you're a member of the tribal but

0141

1 you're not the 25 percent quantum but you're still a  
2 member of the tribe.

3

4 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, but you were  
5 talking about communities or tribes, I thought,  
6 hiring.....

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah.

9

10 MS. CHERNOFF: .....out that.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, could a  
13 tribe, let's say the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove  
14 requested to harvest 10 sea otters and in their request  
15 they request that that members of their tribe can  
16 harvest them, does it need to be someone with a certain  
17 blood quantum, or do they just need to be members that  
18 are enrolled in that tribe.

19

20 MS. CHERNOFF: Oh, okay, I was confused  
21 about that.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It's something I  
24 think I heard or, and I don't know who I was talking to  
25 at one time, or even where at this point. So I'm just  
26 wondering if there's anything -- you know sometimes we  
27 do the -- like the bear, we do a community harvest or  
28 something, you know, can something along those lines,  
29 or a potluck kind of -- you harvest something for a  
30 potluck, you know, just kind of along those lines.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: And then I'll have  
33 another question.

34

35 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: I was just going  
36 to say -- Joel at Fish and Wildlife Service. Just to  
37 clarify for those who -- it sounds like most everyone  
38 knows and understands this but as long as you do  
39 qualify as a -- under the blood quantum, there are no  
40 other restrictions for people to harvest sea otters,  
41 there's no seasons or limits or anything like that.  
42 The blood quantum issue, yes, is a growing concern in  
43 the community but I can't offer any counsel on  
44 resolving that politically other than to say that there  
45 are other Alaska Native organizations currently working  
46 on that. So, yeah, I don't know that there's any work  
47 around in terms of, you know, just tribal membership is  
48 qualifying for that -- that would, as noted, require  
49 change in the 50 CFR and the definition of Alaska  
50

0142

1 Native.

2

3

4 you.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank

MS. CHERNOFF: Della, I have a question.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, this is Coral. I have a question for Joel, so looking at, I think the sea otters from the time they were reintroduced to repopulate areas of Alaska, I can't remember when that is, maybe the '60s, early '60s or something, '70s, so from that time, can you briefly let us know sort of, what is the plan. So the sea otters were introduced, is there a target population that we're going to reach and then we're going to look at remanaging the sea otters, or different management options? And what is the population, is there a number where the population reaches where it comes off the Endangered Species Act, or is it different for all -- or is it different for all the different areas or we're looking at it overall, the whole population of Alaska? Can you sort of address those questions?

MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Well, sure I'll attempt but, you know, I'll invite my colleague Paul who's a population biologist to clean up for me.

MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah.

MR. GARLICH-MILLER: But just to clarify the sea otters were only introduced down to Southeast Alaska where they were completely extirpated. So some of your Council members recounted that, you know, how they were reintroduced down there and they have taken off, they are healthy but introduced stock of animals. The animals were depleted at the end of the 18th Century by heaving fur harvesting but then have subsequently rebounded throughout much of Southcentral and Southwest populations. In fact Southwest recovered quite remarkably and had some of the highest densities of otters in the world out in Western Aleutians, but they've subsequently gone -- undergone a pretty significant population crash and so now they're -- out in the Western Aleutians they're at pretty low numbers, about 10 percent of their former

0143

1 densities and they seem to be holding there.

2

3

4 In terms of management of goals, there  
5 are some terms under the Marine Mammal Protection Act  
6 that sort of guide us to try to maintain sea otter  
7 populations at what we call optimal sustainable  
8 population levels, which for you population experts are  
9 -- I know you guys are -- talk about population biology  
10 a lot in this forum, is bounded by the carrying  
11 capacity of the environment and down to maximum net  
12 productivity level so sort of our management goal would  
13 be 60 percent of the carrying capacity up to carrying  
14 capacity. There are, you know, presently, here in  
15 Alaska, no other management regime structures, the only  
16 -- because of the MMPA, that basically prohibits any  
17 take of marine mammal stocks in U.S. waters with the  
18 exemption exercised by Alaska Natives. So it seems --  
19 when it comes down to it, we've been talking about this  
20 with some of your counterparts down in Southeast  
21 Alaska, I think comanagement and Alaska Native led  
22 management and local management regimes seem to be the  
23 most pragmatic way to address management on the local  
24 scale. And so that's sort of where, I think, things  
25 are headed. The State could potentially take control  
26 if they petitioned us, if they were interested in  
27 petitioning us to do it, but they would also have to  
28 manage according to the Marine Mammal Protection Act  
29 and recognizing the Alaska Native exemption and things.  
30 So I'm not sure that their framework would change into  
31 any sort of like predator control or anything like  
32 that.

32

33 So, yeah, we are -- I think that's the  
34 regulatory framework that we currently have and, yeah,  
35 I'm sorry, I hope that answers your question.

36

37 MS. CHERNOFF: I think it did except  
38 for the part where is there a certain population target  
39 when the sea otters could possibly be removed from the  
40 Endangered Species Act?

41

42 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Oh.....

43

44 MS. CHERNOFF: Is there any sort of  
45 framework for that.

46

47 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: .....Paul, do you  
48 want to field that? You're most familiar with the most  
49 recent analysis.

50

1 MR. SCHUETTE: Yeah, I was just kind of  
2 trying to pull up my table for the sea otter densities,  
3 most recently, from the SSA and five year review. One  
4 thing I can to what Joel already described is that in  
5 the five year review, there was three categories of  
6 what was termed resiliency based on the most recent  
7 estimates of sea otter density from the most recent  
8 survey. And the categories that were used -- it was  
9 kind of a supplement to what Joel described for the  
10 optimum sustained population, or the OSP, relating to  
11 carrying capacity. So these categories were developed  
12 for high, moderate and low resiliency and each of those  
13 five management units were put into those five  
14 categories. And the definitions of those resiliency  
15 categories were three otters, first kilometer and  
16 above, which was considered to be kind of a high  
17 resiliency, some are below carrying capacity. The  
18 density that Joel referred to out in the Western  
19 Aleutians a long time ago, back in the '60s was as high  
20 as 15 otters per square kilometer, which is a very high  
21 otter density compared to what's been documented in  
22 other areas in other times. So the five year, you kind  
23 of use the more conservative level, it seems like  
24 anything over three otters per square kilometers over a  
25 region is pretty high density and pretty highly  
26 resilient. And the Eastern Aleutians survey in 2017  
27 showed that that Eastern Aleutians management unit  
28 meets that threshold of three otters per square  
29 kilometer. Kodiak and Bristol Bay fell in the moderate  
30 category which is between .75 otters per square  
31 kilometers and 2.9, and I was trying to find in the  
32 table what the actual density was from that 2014  
33 survey; I don't have it on hand, I think it was  
34 something like 1.5 otters per square kilometers,  
35 something around there. So Kodiak and Bristol Bay were  
36 in that region. And then the low management units were  
37 Western Aleutians, as Joel kind of described already,  
38 and then the South Alaska Peninsula. So that was one  
39 of the criteria that we used in the five year review by  
40 the panel, was those resiliency categories, how many of  
41 -- which of those five fell into those three  
42 categories. And then complimentary to that there was a  
43 table of different threats, there was like 12 different  
44 potential threats from, you know, kind of climate  
45 change, ocean acidification, harvest, killer whale  
46 predation, all these kind of proposed or potential  
47 threats to sea otters and their prey and their habitat  
48 and then they were ranked based on the best available  
49 scientific information and the literature as kind of  
50



0145

1 another way to assess what kind of the future looked  
2 like for sea otters, their prey and their habitat. So  
3 the combination of those threats and those resiliency  
4 categories were used in the five year review as well.

5

6 And like I said earlier, I'd be happy  
7 to share links to where that five year review is, which  
8 is just kind of a short kind of 10 page summary  
9 document and then there's also the full species status  
10 assessment, which is like a 200 page document. But  
11 it's a pretty -- they're the most current kind of  
12 overviews of the Southwest stock and also the latest on  
13 the five year review and kind of action items for  
14 moving forward that I think might be helpful for  
15 everybody. I know that they were referred to in some  
16 of those documents from -- we now have those available  
17 to share.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So you will  
20 forward those documents to somebody on the Council so  
21 they can get them to us to review?

22

23 MR. SCHUETTE: Yes, I just need to -- I  
24 kind of was asked to join here just this afternoon, so  
25 I'm happy to share those, I just need to know who to  
26 share them with or how to share those. Joel and I can  
27 figure that out with folks from OSM and others. I can  
28 also give my email address if people want to -- which  
29 might be hard to spell but if you want to write it  
30 down, my email is Paul P-A-U-L underscore Schuette S-C-  
31 H-U-E-T-T-E at fws.gov. And if you go to the Marine  
32 Mammals page at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service you can  
33 find our contact info as well.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

36

37 MS. SKINNER: Hey, Della, this is  
38 Rebecca I have a question.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just one second,  
41 Rebecca. Can you spell your last name again, please?

42

43 MR. SCHUETTE: Yeah, sure. It looks  
44 like Schuette. It's S-C-H-U-E-T-T-E.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, perfect, I  
47 had it right, thank you. Go ahead, Rebecca.

48

49 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. So I think

50

0146

1 I was able to find the report online and I'm looking at  
2 Table 4.10, which is a summary of the current  
3 conditions and it has the resiliences, low, moderate  
4 and high, I can see that there. So I have two  
5 questions. For the part where Kodiak is listed it has  
6 Kodiak, Kamishak and Alaska Peninsula all in row and  
7 then the density number, so the otters per kilometer  
8 squared is given as a range from 2.5 to 6.46. And I  
9 understand that a high density is considered anything  
10 over three. I literally was scanning through here  
11 while you were talking so I obviously have not read  
12 this whole paper, but is there some place where the  
13 more Kodiak-specific data is broken out. Because  
14 obviously because two and six you'd end up with high  
15 density somewhere in there; so that's question one.

16

17 And then my second question is it looks  
18 like the Kodiak, Kamishak, Alaska Peninsula area has  
19 the high density habitat defined differently. So for  
20 other areas it's out to the 40 meter depth contour, but  
21 for the Kodiak, Kamishak and Alaska Peninsula area it's  
22 farther off shore, so farther off shore of the 40 meter  
23 depth contour or 400 meters off shore. So to me that  
24 sounds like it'd be harder to achieve a higher density  
25 because it's either farther off shore or it's a bigger  
26 area. So I guess that's my second question, what does  
27 that different definition of the habitat, how does that  
28 change the outlook for Kodiak?

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Paul, I don't know  
33 if you're.....

34

35 MS. SKINNER: Or I can.....

36

37 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: .....going to  
38 respond.....

39

40 MS. SKINNER: .....or I can call you  
41 separately later after you've had time to digest the  
42 question.

43

44 MR. SCHUETTE: Okay. As you were  
45 talking, those are -- those are great points and as you  
46 were talking I was trying to scroll up to the page to  
47 -- across the 183 pages trying to find the table. Like  
48 I said I was just joining in here kind of last minute.

49

50

0147

1 MS. SKINNER: It's on Page 94.

2

3 MR. SCHUETTE: Okay. I'm happy to chat  
4 with you as a follow-up for sure about this.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Okay.

7

8 MR. SCHUETTE: Because I don't have  
9 the.....

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I can do that.

12

13 MR. SCHUETTE: .....I know that -- I do  
14 -- when you said that range for the Kodiak Kamishak,  
15 Peninsula, you know, that's definitely -- you can see  
16 there's a little caveat to that because there's like  
17 three different population estimates from like three  
18 different surveys and that was one that there was kind  
19 of a low and a high range that, yeah, it kind of  
20 straddles, for sure that three otter threshold, with  
21 some of the areas being below and some above. So I can  
22 help -- I can dig a little deeper on that and help  
23 clarify that.

24

25 And there's also some more I can talk  
26 to you about what the habitat and definition is -- is  
27 the same across all five management units, it might  
28 just be phrased a little bit differently in different  
29 sections but it's the same, less than 40 meter or  
30 distance from shore for each of those -- I don't have  
31 the exact phrasing in front of me right now but we can  
32 chat more about that if you like. But long story  
33 short.....

34

35 MS. SKINNER: Okay, yep, thank you.

36

37 MR. SCHUETTE: .....it is the same  
38 across all.....

39

40 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, it would be good to  
47 get -- I think Becky is spot on in terms of density as  
48 a relationship of distribution over area. And it would  
49 be good once you have that summary, maybe if you could  
50

0148

1 send all of this information to Vincent, our  
2 Coordinator, so that we all can look at it.

3

4

5 I have a question on your density paper  
6 that's coming out. Perhaps if you have a draft level  
7 it'd be interesting seeing that rather than having to  
8 wait an extra year for the publication to come out.  
9 That would be interesting to look at that.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

And then I wonder about on your surveys, because looking at the Alaska Peninsula or the Aleutians, those are quite different from Kodiak in terms of the depths of the bay and distribution of habitat that I've observed sea otters in, and I wonder on your surveys, and you probably don't know now, are they done just linear, are they done stratified depending on the density of the critters, do you do more sampling to confirm that or are they adaptive. And so those three techniques on flying stream surveys could give you different sets of information so it'd be kind of interesting for us to know how you're actually doing the surveys and how the data is analyzed, rather than have it -- how it's done that way and how you developed those numbers, but to look at more specific areas, as Becky pointed out, like Kodiak Island, Afognak Island versus the Peninsula, even though that's all considered part of the Southwest. But I kid you not it's entirely different than the southern part of the Alaska Peninsula and the southern Eastern Aleutians, the central and west, when you go out it's quite, quite different.

And my last question, those are just sort of statements, my last question, when we talked to you folks four years ago, one of your Staff said that the -- when I asked about the USGS study at Adak on predators, whether the sea otters had been affected by increasing orca predation -- that most of the old-timers I know out at Atka and Akutan and Nikolski, and even out on the Peninsula, as stated, that they've seen -- saw the orcas having a good time scarfing them, do you folks now acknowledge that that is a factor, the orca predation or not? Beings that was another Federal agency that did the paper.

MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Well, I think, yeah, the predation theory, the top down predation theory, particularly in the Western Aleutians is, I -- I think the weight of evidence is it's certainly pretty

0149

1 strong. We just -- Paul and I we were both just  
2 recently out in the Western Aleutians and, you know,  
3 the behavior of the animals, they're all stuck very  
4 close to shore within the 10 meter bathymetric and deep  
5 deep canopy belt is very suggestive of that. So I  
6 think it's certainly the leading hypothesis despite the  
7 lack of definitive verifiable data so, yeah, we  
8 certainly acknowledge that as the -- as the leading  
9 hypothesis leading to the decline and continued  
10 suppression.

11

12 One comment, it seems -- I -- I  
13 apologize, I'm not sure of the protocol for interacting  
14 with your Regional Advisory Council and things, but  
15 I'll solicit again an invitation that if you guys had a  
16 representative, a point of contact that we could liaise  
17 with to, you know, we -- we don't have to do once a  
18 year reports, we'd be happy to, you know, work  
19 interactively to help get the latest information  
20 available out to members and answer any questions or  
21 engage on discussions about management. But we would  
22 need you guys to nominate someone to engage with.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that'd be our  
25 Council coordinator, wouldn't it, Della.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe, I'm not  
28 sure. Katya, do you want to.....

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....answer that  
33 maybe, or Vince.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Madame Chair,  
36 basically I will be forwarding all the email addresses  
37 and phone numbers I can find for Joel and the other  
38 person. As far as sharing of information, in there  
39 would be to get it in the record, et cetera, it should  
40 go to Katya Wessels, because I'm just acting. And,  
41 with that, I think in an earlier discussion today you  
42 were talking about at the Regional Council level having  
43 a point of contact, so if I misunderstood that, I  
44 apologize, but that may be something that you want to  
45 have a point, or points of contact that we can get this  
46 communication channel a little bit more effective.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0150

1 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, Katya  
2 Wessels.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

5  
6 MS. WESSELS: Yes, this is correct. I  
7 will be the point of contact for now for Marine Mammals  
8 Management to communicate with the Regional Advisory  
9 Council until we hire a permanent Council Coordinator  
10 for Kodiak/Aleutian and OSM will be responsible for  
11 distributing the information to the Council members.

12  
13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

16  
17 MR. SCHUETTE: And I could.....

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, with  
20 that.....

21  
22 MR. SCHUETTE: This is Paul.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

25  
26 MR. SCHUETTE: Yeah, just a quick  
27 comment. There was a second part of one of the earlier  
28 comments about surveys and I'd be happy to talk more  
29 about that individually as well. But, in general,  
30 there's a couple different ways the surveys are done.  
31 They're often through aerial surveys with transect  
32 lines going from kind of the Coast out, perpendicular  
33 from the Coast line, and those were done using an ISU,  
34 intensive search unit method, and that's now kind of  
35 transitioning -- currently we're in the process of  
36 switching to a photo-based aerial survey method that  
37 we're hoping to implement in Cook Inlet next spring and  
38 also across all of Southeast for the first kind of  
39 population estimate in about 10 years so we're excited  
40 to be working on that method this winter and next  
41 spring. So happy to share details of that as we kind  
42 of roll it out.

43  
44 And then in areas that are more  
45 problematic for flying, like the Western Aleutians,  
46 that long-term data has always been done using skiff-  
47 based surveys, kind of circumnavigating the island.  
48 And I know there's some of that being done by the  
49 Refuge and others around Kodiak and in other parts of  
50

0151

1 the state. So there is a little bit of kind of boat-  
2 based surveys as well.

3

4

5 But I'm happy to talk more about that  
6 and plans for future surveys as well because there's  
7 been an old kind of long-standing method, and there's  
8 been a couple of new approaches in recent years across  
9 some of those management units in the Southwest stock  
10 and they're kind of evolving again over this next year,  
11 and so I'm happy to talk more about that.

11

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I don't know, Madame  
14 Chair, if the rest of the Council is interested in  
15 survey strategy but if they're not you could just send  
16 it to me and Katya could get you my email. This is Pat  
17 Holmes.

17

18

19

20 MR. SCHUETTE: Okay, yeah, thanks.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, where  
23 are we, are there any more discussion, this is really  
24 good information.

23

24

25

26 MR. NIELSEN: Hello, can you hear me?  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I can hear you,  
29 go ahead.

28

29

30 MR. NIELSEN: Hi, my name is Matt  
31 Nielsen, I'm a Native here in Cold Bay, Alaska. I  
32 would just like to add that it's almost inappropriate  
33 that it's a requirement for the quarter Alaska Native  
34 to hunt marine mammals when something like being  
35 registered to a Federally-recognized tribe should  
36 suffice. To me that would be like telling a farmer or  
37 a cultivator, they're not pure-bred enough to do what  
38 they traditionally have done and hopefully we can move  
39 forward with changing some of the language on the  
40 requirements for harvesting marine mammals.

40

41

42

43 Thank you.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Matt.

44

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, could he  
47 share his name again. It would be good for the record.

47

48

49

50

50

50

50

50

50

50

50

50

50

0152

1 MR. NIELSEN: My name is Matt Nielsen.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Matt.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Are we --  
6 we were going to break today at 4:00 and then talk  
7 about sea otters but where do you think we are at this  
8 point everyone, I think everybody probably does need to  
9 take at least a 10 minute break.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, probably a break.  
12 And, Della, this is Coral. I would just like to say  
13 thank you to Joel and Paul for attending our meeting.  
14 They were really helpful and had a lot of great  
15 information.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, I agree.  
18 Okay, we're going to go ahead and take a break. And  
19 thank you very, very much, and getting that information  
20 out, the links to us, we can also take a look at it.  
21 Much appreciated, thank you.

22

23 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Okay. Well, thank  
24 you for your time today and we will forward information  
25 to the Council through Katya Wessels, and also an  
26 invitation to contact Paul Schuette directly. He's our  
27 population guy for otters and so very knowledgeable and  
28 I know he'd love to talk to you individually so we'll  
29 send out that contact info as well.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

32

33 MR. SCHUETTE: Yeah, thank you. This is  
34 Paul, yeah, I just wanted to kind of sign off as well  
35 and, yeah, please feel free to reach out to me and  
36 others in our group. You know, I've only been in this  
37 position a little over a year and a half, I guess,  
38 right before Covid hit, so I haven't had a chance to  
39 spend as much time in the field and get out to talk to  
40 people and interact with different communities around  
41 the state yet. But I'm hoping to be able to do that  
42 more in the future and in the meantime happy to join in  
43 to any calls or chat on the phone, or whatever type of  
44 media you like. So please feel free to reach out.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. With  
47 that we'll break until 4:30.

48

49 (Off record)

50



0153

1 (On record)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Yes. I think it's great. I

11 wish we could have done this four years ago.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Before we move on on the agenda, we were going to break and do the sea otter thing. Is everybody at this point comfortable with what we just completed and can move on to the next item on the agenda.

MR. HOLMES: Yes. I think it's great. I wish we could have done this four years ago.

MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

MS. SKINNER: Yes, this is Rebecca, I agree.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, sounds good. Okay, let's go ahead and move on to update on Adak Island Caribou Herd, Management Plan, Page 23. Jeff, I believe you will be giving that report.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Madame Chair and Council. Thank you, very much. My name is Jeff Williams, I'm the Deputy Refuge Manager here at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. I'm formerly a biologist for the Aleutian Islands Unit before becoming the Deputy Manager here, former resident of Adak for 12 years and performed most of the surveys since 1990 for caribou at Adak and has dealt with those topics. So Steve Delehanty is your normal liaison here. He was called out of state on a medical emergency, he sends his regrets that he's unable to attend here. So I'll pinch hit for him here.

I think my report out will be fairly short but I would be happy to answer any questions regarding the topic if I'm missing something that the Council is interested in.

At Page 23 of your meeting materials there's a letter from Refuge Manager Steve Delehanty saying that he hadn't made much progress with regard to the request to look at establishing a management plan for the Adak Caribou Herd. And subsequent to that -- basically things were slowed down because of Covid, and priority of things. Steve was able to get a hold of his counterpart, Dave Crowley, out of King Salmon, area wildlife biologist and the State of Alaska about initiating a new management plan. The State pointed

0154

1 out that there is actually a memorandum of  
2 understanding, which is an addendum to the master  
3 memorandum of understanding between the State Fish and  
4 Game and also Fish and Wildlife Service that still is  
5 in effect and it is actually a decent document written  
6 out. We can provide that to the Council if you'd like.

7

8 And so one exists already.

9

10 And I don't know if Dave's on right  
11 now, I'll let him speak, but my understanding is that  
12 the position of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
13 is that the memorandum of understanding is still good  
14 and in effect, and it describes the relationship  
15 between at least ADF&G and the Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service.

17

18 So in the report, which I think is on  
19 the agenda for tomorrow, there is a small paragraph in  
20 there, basically an update to that May letter, so Steve  
21 and David had gotten in contact and both the ADF&G and  
22 the Fish and Wildlife Service decided against creating  
23 a new caribou management plan because an existing plan  
24 is already in place and is available. And basically it  
25 seems likely, as was indicated in the early 1990s under  
26 an earlier agreement, memorandum of understanding, and  
27 also an environmental assessment was done at the time,  
28 that there are some pretty substantial population  
29 fluctuations going on with a rapid increase in caribou  
30 abundance numbers starting at about 2005, peaking in  
31 2012 at almost 2,800 animals to the most recent survey  
32 we did in 2019 which had about 1,200 animals. So that --  
33 island populations of caribou or reindeer are -- what  
34 should have happened, I think isn't -- is -- is known,  
35 and as far as the habitat, there's a minimum habitat in  
36 some of the species of vegetation that these animals  
37 eat are slow growing and with that kind of population  
38 rise, and apparent crash as we think of right now, was  
39 almost expected in 2004 based on the removal of the  
40 Naval base at Adak and the almost 6,000 people that  
41 were there, a high percentage of which were military  
42 and active hunters, which was kind of creating added  
43 pressure on there.

44

45 And so I think that's about the general  
46 report right there, is that, there is a plan in effect  
47 right now, we're happy to provide that. And I guess I  
48 would be happy to answer any questions if the Council  
49 has any.

50

0155

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any questions.  
4 I'm going to start with you, Rick.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, are you  
9 here?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Pat.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I hear -- does  
18 anybody hear me?

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Jeff, Della, I  
21 can hear you just fine.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.  
24 Thank you. Rick, are you online, Rick Koso.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay,  
29 unfortunately it doesn't sound like he's available.  
30 Pat, was that you I heard after Rick -- or after I was  
31 asking for Rick?

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Hello.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I lose track of  
38 which way the mute button is. It's high tech having an  
39 on and off. Anyway, that's a good report. I'm glad  
40 that you have been doing that. And I think Rick  
41 mentioned to me last year when we had that one  
42 photograph of all the carcasses on the south end, he  
43 had asked me to mention to Steve that some of the town  
44 folk had been out and that a lot of those carcasses  
45 that were so conspicuous, none of them had heads, and  
46 he thought that that was a result of a couple of big  
47 hunting problems, which could have been the case. But  
48 I'm glad that you folks are working on things.

49

50

0156

1 I might suggest again that if you have  
2 the opportunity to interact with the Kodiak Coast  
3 Guard, both the Cutter Division and the helicopter  
4 folks, because the patrol cutters have a helicopter --  
5 when I was with the Department years ago we used to  
6 have a pretty good arrangement on requesting aircraft  
7 opportunity, and that might be another way where you  
8 can, by chance, get in another survey. So anyway, good  
9 luck to you and thanks for doing what you do.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are  
12 there any other comments or questions.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So this is  
17 Della, a couple maybe. You kind of referenced that you  
18 have a plan or is there a plan to develop a management  
19 plan? Can you tell me what exactly that is?

20

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure. Thank you, Madame  
22 Chairman. I think that in some correspondence people  
23 have commingled a couple of different documents. One  
24 is a memorandum of understanding which is a -- between  
25 ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife Service on how to manage.  
26 It supersedes a former one which was a tripart  
27 arrangement between the Navy, ADF&G and the Fish and  
28 Wildlife Service a long time ago before the Navy left  
29 Adak. And then there is a 1976 old management plan it  
30 is called, which doesn't say too much other than the  
31 size of the herd was to be managed at about 150  
32 animals. Well, even with 6,000 people on Adak, that  
33 was not possible to keep the herd at that size. It was  
34 pretty hard to keep it down to about five to 800  
35 animals, even with very heavy hunting pressure. So  
36 that's why, in reference to my earlier comment that we  
37 kind of know what happens to island populations of  
38 ungulates in that situation with these slow growing  
39 lichens and stuff, it was to be expected with the  
40 reduced hunting pressure, that we would see this kind  
41 of population rise, over grazing of habitat, and then a  
42 crash, which it appears to have happened.

43

44 So two documents, MOU, that is good and  
45 valid. I can provide that to the Council. The earlier  
46 one I mentioned, just a management, so to speak, really  
47 just says that we'll manage within 150 animals, which,  
48 even in 1976 we weren't able to do. It was just too  
49 hard to keep the population down.

50

0157

1 Does that answer your question?

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is it possible to get -- it does. And if we could maybe get a copy of the MOU and even the old management plan, I think -- I know -- I'm sure Rick would be wanting to look at those. I would like to see them.

The other thing you mentioned in this letter is, regarding the Department, and their involvement with this and the key players, the Aleut Corporation, the Community of Adak and the Department of Fish and Game, ADF&G, so Dave Crowley, maybe, do you know where we're at -- where's the State at with this process in helping with this plan, in putting this plan together?

MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, this is Dave Crowley, Department of Fish and Game in King Salmon. We have no plans to update this plan or redo the caribou management plan, mainly because Adak is so remote that we -- obviously, the Department, we've never done a survey out there, we rely on the Fish and Wildlife Service to do that, but we also can't get enough hunters out there. As Jeff pointed out, even when the air station was active it was really difficult to keep that caribou herd under control and as a matter of fact, I think maybe it was the start of the air station pulling out, but as early as '90, '91 that herd kind of achieved escaped velocity back then. Once it got over 500 or so animals it seemed like it just took off and pretty typical of an introduced ungulate on an island, it's just -- if we can't get the harvest there's really no way we can control that. And it's just a matter of the, you know, herd exceeding its carrying capacity and then going into a steep decline, and I think that's what we're looking at now. And the other thing they'll do when they're under that kind of nutritional stress is try to bail out and sure enough they've been spotted over on Kagalaska as early as I think 1990, so they've been swimming over to Kagalaska for quite a few years and I imagine that's also going to be going on now.

But to sum up, no plans on updating that caribou management plan for those reasons.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So here's where I'm at, and I know Steve Delehanty had mentioned that

0158

1 there were a few numbers that they observed over at  
2 Kagalaska at our last meeting, but the piece that I'm a  
3 little confused on is, and I can't -- and unfortunately  
4 Rick is not online, but if I recall correctly this herd  
5 at one point was up to almost 2,500 and then there's,  
6 of course, the bigger crash with those numbers coming  
7 down and his concern, not only from the potentially of  
8 being over harvested and some of the information we  
9 received on the dead caribou, where it looked like  
10 their heads, you know, basically trophy hunters I want  
11 to call it, but like that basically, and the need to  
12 create a management plan and the agencies working  
13 together to develop something. So, you know, for years  
14 we kept -- almost three years I want to say we went to  
15 the Federal Board and said, we need to do this, our  
16 Council supports it, we need to do it. And I'm sitting  
17 here listening to that ADF&G, you don't think we need  
18 to do this, and maybe -- I'm a little confused at this  
19 point. And, unfortunately Rick is off line, he didn't  
20 apparently come back from the break. So I'm not sure  
21 what exactly to do, Jeff, I just -- I know that Steve  
22 said that we can do something, but I also know -- is it  
23 possible that we look to the city of Adak and, of  
24 course, the Alaska Maritime National Refuge, the Aleut  
25 Corp, and trying to take a look at this and see where  
26 it goes and then go back to ADF&G, I'm not sure what  
27 possibly to do at this point, or what to even  
28 recommend.

29

30 MR. RINALDI: This is Todd Rinaldi, can  
31 you hear me?

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah.

34

35 MR. RINALDI: Hi. Yeah, I'm the  
36 Regional Coordinator with Division of Wildlife  
37 Conservation and I work with Dave. I guess the  
38 question that I would have is what's the ultimate  
39 outcome that you guys would like to see with a  
40 management plan, or a change to the management plan? I  
41 might have missed it earlier in the conversation but  
42 where was the RAC wanting to go with the management of  
43 caribou on Adak, or what changes do you want to see?  
44 That's kind of the underlying question for us. Because  
45 if there wasn't a significant change that folks wanted  
46 to see we probably wouldn't revisit the management plan  
47 unless there's a significant change in the management  
48 strategy. And I might be late to the game but I'm  
49 unclear of what strategy you would like us to take, or  
50

0159

1 what's the current issue, I guess, you would like us to  
2 address?

3

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I think  
6 part of it is, and I'm speaking for Rick Koso, and  
7 unfortunately he's not here right now, but at one point  
8 when it was at 2,200 to 2,500 caribou and then it  
9 dropped to, I want to -- help me with the counts, but  
10 it seems like the last number we looked at in a  
11 potential survey was 600, so there was a substantial  
12 drop. And then -- and Rick had been asking for -- Rick  
13 Koso, who lives out in Adak, had been asking for some  
14 sort of management plan for those caribou, and that's  
15 kind of where this came into play. So -- but it's  
16 confusing when you, you know, we sit in these meetings  
17 and everybody's hearing the same thing and now it's; we  
18 don't think you need a management plan. So the 150  
19 animal is the basically goal of caribou with this herd?

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. RINALDI: Yes, that's how it's been  
left. This is Todd Rinaldi again. That's how it's  
been left through the MOU and the early work of the  
1976 plans that were referenced earlier, speaks to the  
population. The issue has been, as both biologists,  
the Federal and State biologists alerted to, is we've  
never been able to get enough hunting pressure on that  
herd to control it so we have been subject to wild  
fluctuations. And sometimes those fluctuations can be  
exacerbated by a couple years of poor weather, or a  
lack of jet service, and obviously things like the  
closing of the base had a significant impact. So we've  
been well above objective for, you know, ions, for a  
lack of a better -- more accurate number, and I believe  
the Fish and Wildlife Service would like to remain with  
a high level of harvest to reduce the herd as much as  
we can and that's the State's perspective as well.  
There is no -- most of our State herds that the State --  
the State is the primary wildlife manager but because  
of the land management status, some of these areas such  
as Unimak and Adak, a lot of the work and a lot of the  
administration is done by U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
Service, and we both believe -- I know for the State we  
believe that we need to reign in that population as  
much as possible.

So we don't have a species management  
plan for Adak and for Unimak like we have for the  
Mulchatna or the Southern Alaska Peninsula plan, but by  
default, we default back to the existing management

0160

1 plan which is the one that's been discussed here  
2 earlier. And obviously we struggle to achieve those  
3 population objectives and those harvest objectives  
4 because of the lack of hunters so we would really have  
5 no need to change that because no changes to the  
6 management plan would change our ability to harvest  
7 more caribou.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You know I think  
10 if you guys are available tomorrow, I hope so, because  
11 hopefully Rick will be online in the morning and we  
12 could just kind of go through this briefly but I -- I  
13 am totally floored, I have to be honest with you right  
14 now exactly where we're at. I don't understand it.  
15 Except I know at Kagalaska, they wanted to go shoot all  
16 the caribou that were on there.

17  
18 So I think if the Council would agree  
19 with me, and I hope you do, that we just kind of table  
20 this until the morning and just to have Rick make any  
21 comments for the record in regard to what we heard.

22  
23 MS. HAYDEN: That works for me, Della.  
24 This is Natasha.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

27  
28 Pat.

29  
30 MR. HOLMES: That's fine. I think it's  
31 good too.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks. So for  
34 the record, I think, I mean if we may go ahead and just  
35 table this until tomorrow morning, or just bring it up  
36 in the morning.

37  
38 Just for the record, my binder just  
39 came in the mail so now I have so much paper on this  
40 table.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So anyway, do we  
45 want to continue or do we want to just basically go  
46 ahead and break for today. The next item that we can  
47 do would be the Division of Subsistence report on  
48 Unalaska and Kodiak, and Chris are you online, are you  
49 available in the morning, or what are your plans,  
50



0161

1 should we go ahead and take this one up?

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. KEATING: Madame Chair, this is Jackie Keating with the Division of Subsistence. I'm not sure if Chris is on but I was planning on giving this update so I can either give it this evening, it'll probably take about 10 minutes, or we can table it until tomorrow, whatever you all prefer.

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

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, it sounds like Vince is still not able to connect from what I can see. So just my advice to the Council in lieu of Council Coordinator, that you at least take a few more items on the agenda today because you have a pretty big agenda and there will be just one day remaining and you have all these wildlife proposals and other action items as well as several agency reports. You might not be able to get through the agenda tomorrow if you leave this many items on your agenda for tomorrow.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Basically -- let's go ahead and do the caribou then. Let's go ahead with caribou update -- well, we just did caribou, we got the update on caribou -- I think if we went ahead and moved down to Unit 10, WP22-38a, WP22-38b on caribou on Unit 10, that we can at least do the caribou -- gosh, I really -- I think our phones are messed up because Chris emailed me earlier and said he was online about 4:00 o'clock so it's unfortunate, really unfortunate.

So with that -- well, we don't have the Council Coordinator.

MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I am online. What's happening is it drops on and off so I am here. I heard you wanted to go -- suggesting WP22-38a and b, we just need to confirm that and that there's Staff still online.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. Basically either that, Vince, or we just go back and do the

0162

1 Division of Subsistence report on Unalaska and Kodiak  
2 and -- and Chris is not online and, of course we did  
3 the Adak caribou and Rick wasn't online, so it's a bit  
4 frustrating.

5

6 MS. KEATING: Madame Chair, this is  
7 Jackie Keating. I will just say that we were out in  
8 Unalaska two weeks ago.

9

10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted)

12

13 MS. KEATING: And so Chris has heard  
14 pretty much everything I'm about to say if that  
15 influences your decision at all.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, let's just  
18 go ahead and do this then Jackie. Let's go ahead.....

19

20 MS. KEATING: Okay.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....and do Item  
23 F, under 10, Division of Subsistence Report on Unalaska  
24 and Kodiak.

25

26 MS. KEATING: Okay, thank you. Well,  
27 good evening everybody. This is Jackie Keating with  
28 the Division of Subsistence at Fish and Game. Thanks  
29 for squeezing us in, I know it's been a long day so  
30 I'll try to keep things pretty brief here.

31

32 I have provided our usual one page  
33 update. I think it's page 172 in your meeting  
34 materials. I know people's materials are kind of all  
35 over the place so I'm going to walk through it and  
36 share some other information, too, so no need to dig it  
37 up if it's not easily accessible to you.

38

39 I just wanted to give some updates. We  
40 have three quite large projects that are funded by the  
41 FRMP and so I wanted to share where we are with those.

42

43 The first page is 18-451 which is the  
44 subsistence harvest surveys in Akhiok and Old Harbor  
45 and Larsen Bay, and I just wanted to announce we did  
46 finally wrap that project up. We published the  
47 technical paper for that a few months ago so when you  
48 open up that one pager I've inserted a link to it there  
49 available for download. It's quite lengthy, I think

50

0163

1 it's just under 400 pages. Technical Paper 477  
2 available for download on the Fish and Game website.  
3 And also in the meeting supplemental materials, we  
4 always publish these briefer four page summaries that  
5 are individual to each community that participated in  
6 the study, so you'll see one for each of those  
7 communities available for download, and those were sent  
8 out to the communities as well. So thank you to all  
9 our partners on that, it was a big one and really  
10 excited to have that data all available online in the  
11 community subsistence information system and ready to  
12 go.

13

14 And then the second one is 18-450.  
15 This would be the harvest.....

16

17 (Teleconference interference -  
18 participants not muted)

19

20 MS. KEATING: .....surveys out in  
21 Unalaska. As I just mentioned we were very fortunate  
22 to finally be able to make it out there at the  
23 beginning of the month. As I mentioned, we were able  
24 to meet up with Chris Price at the end of the trip as  
25 well. I was hoping to be able to provide a summary of  
26 the preliminary findings at this meeting.  
27 Unfortunately it's our policy at the Division that the  
28 community has to review the data before we can share it  
29 with any other audiences so I was not able to share it  
30 ahead of the deadline to provide meeting materials.  
31 But now that we were able to get out and host a  
32 socially-distanced data review meeting where everybody  
33 was masked, we received some feedback and I would be  
34 happy to provide that PowerPoint to the Council now  
35 retroactively, so that you can all review it as well.

36

37 We had three Staff on the ground out  
38 there from August 31st through September 7th. As I  
39 mentioned we hosted a public data review meeting, we  
40 also did a live radio interview on KUCB kind of to  
41 share some of the results for folks that couldn't  
42 attend the actual public meeting. Another component of  
43 the project was to do these key respondent interviews.  
44 We were actually able to do nine of those, again,  
45 using, you know, masks and doing interviews outside  
46 following Covid safety protocols, so really happy with  
47 that, that's outstanding. And we're really  
48 appreciative of everybody that was able to participate  
49 in those. And we also did participant observation with  
50

0164

1 key families that had subsistence nets out for silvers  
2 and our plan is to.....

3

4 (Teleconference interference -  
5 participants not muted)

6

7 MS. KEATING: .....try to go out one  
8 more time next June to do participant observations for  
9 sockeye. But we're feeling really good about where  
10 this project is now. I've presented to this Council in  
11 the past about how we had to do these using new  
12 innovative methods, we couldn't be out there in person  
13 to do the actual surveys. Of course that is not ideal  
14 but we were able to make it work and so I want to give  
15 a big thanks to the Q-Tribe, Chris and Shandra were  
16 really helpful in enabling us to make that happen.

17

18 And then the last one I would like to  
19 talk about is.....

20

21 REPORTER: Okay, Jackie, could you hold  
22 on just a minute.

23

24 MS. KEATING: Yeah, you bet.

25

26 REPORTER: Okay, unless that's your  
27 background, if everybody could look and see if they're  
28 muted because I have people talking over Jackie.

29

30 MS. KEATING: Yeah, thank you, it's not  
31 my background so if folks could check their mute  
32 buttons.

33

34 REPORTER: Yes, folks, please take one  
35 second, make sure you're on mute so we could hear the  
36 presenter.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MS. KEATING: Okay, well, I will keep  
41 going.

42

43 REPORTER: Yeah, I mean I'm getting you  
44 but, okay.

45

46 MS. KEATING: Our comprehensive road  
47 system surveys coming up for Kodiak and I was really  
48 excited to finally get that one going. We haven't been  
49 able to do comprehensive surveys since the early '90s.

50

0165

1 Our plan is to be on the ground in February and do  
2 those in person.

3  
4 (Teleconference interference -  
5 participants not muted)

6  
7 MS. KEATING: We have a long list of  
8 contingency plans for Covid safety things but we do  
9 fully intend on having people on the ground. I've been  
10 working with Matt at Sun'ag as well as Mike Brady at  
11 the Refuge. They're being so kind as to provide  
12 housing for all our Staff while we're down there.  
13 We'll be hoping to get down there as soon as November  
14 to do some outreach meetings and start looking at  
15 hiring local research assistants. We'll be getting at  
16 least six folks that we'd like to hire so I'll probably  
17 be reaching out directly to Council members that live  
18 on the road system just to keep you in the loop about  
19 when those meetings are going to happen and to maybe  
20 help us with some of the outreach for that.

21  
22 (Teleconference interference -  
23 participants not muted)

24  
25 MS. KEATING: As with Unalaska, like I  
26 mentioned, we learned a lot there in terms of Covid  
27 safety measures so, you know, we not only follow local  
28 protocols but all of our Staff get tested before we  
29 travel and wear a mask and things like that. So, you  
30 know, as I mentioned we've got all different kinds of  
31 contingencies in place and we're working very closely  
32 with the tribe as we move along with that.

33  
34 And then I think the last thing I will  
35 mention is that we have three different proposals in  
36 for this current FRMP funding cycle. One of them is to  
37 do the remaining two communities on Kodiak that we  
38 haven't surveyed in over 20 years just about, which is  
39 as long as we kind of like to let it last so Port Lions  
40 and Ouzinkie, so hopefully we get the chance to do that  
41 and then we'll have all of Kodiak updated.

42  
43 And, with that, I am more than happy to  
44 take any questions.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
47 Jackie. I'm sorry for all the background  
48 interruptions. People need to be mindful of muting  
49 their phones, it would be greatly appreciated. Any  
50

0166

1 questions of Jackie at this point.

2

3

MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that you,  
6 Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, sorry to interrupt  
9 there. I don't know if -- Jackie mentioned it very  
10 quickly and I don't know if it needs to be discussed,  
11 but there are the three community summaries, Larsen  
12 Bay, Old Harbor and someone will help me pronounce the  
13 name for the other community, she may want to discuss  
14 those or maybe it's just informational for you to look  
15 at at your leisure.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

MS. KEATING: Yeah, through the Chair.  
Thanks for that Vince. I don't think there's any need  
to dive in and discuss them in detail unless anyone has  
specific questions. But once you get a chance to  
review them, my contact information is on there so, as  
always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me if  
you've got further questions.

24

25

26

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

27

28

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Jackie, good  
reports. I read them when I got them on Thursday. And  
I thought it was quite interesting looking at Page 4,  
Figure 6, where you're comparing the harvest around the  
whole island. Kind of is very, very interesting to me  
to see the difference between the villages because one  
would assume they would be similar but they're not  
quite, and so that's cool.

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

And I would like to get on the record  
and I don't know if we need a vote, Della, but the  
upcoming FRMP proposals for 2022, if they need -- if  
Jackie needs more support for that I'd sure like to put  
my two bits worth in of saying it's really good to get  
the Department of Subsistence doing these because that  
previous one done for Unalaska by the ph.D from Iowa,  
or wherever, wasn't even reproducible, so I'm glad to  
get Jim's gang back in the game because they do quality  
work and know how to talk to folks in the villages.

48

49

50

So thank you very much.

0167

1 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead,  
4 Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Looking at the agenda  
7 real quick here, it looks like there's five proposals  
8 that are of interest to you. The big list there under  
9 statewide proposals is just basically informational  
10 unless you want to dig into it. It's just statewide  
11 C&T's and that can be a quick discussion. So at this  
12 point, there is a possibility to bring up one or two  
13 proposals if you want that are definitely on your  
14 attention, you know, so that's your call. You already  
15 mentioned 38a and b you wanted to have Rick online. So  
16 it might be you want to look at -- if you feel up to  
17 it, again, these are important proposals, I don't want  
18 to just push them through, but, anyways, would be to  
19 look at WP22-01 and -02.

20

21 Pippa is online and would be available  
22 this evening.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

27

28 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is  
29 Natasha. I'm going to have to sign off for the  
30 evening, I apologize.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, thank you  
33 for that Vince. And, yes, Council, the statewide  
34 proposals are more information than anything else. If  
35 you want to make comment on them you can, but I don't  
36 -- there's a lot of these that really don't necessarily  
37 directly involve us but they're there for our  
38 information because they are statewide. One of the  
39 interesting things I did find out recently is when you  
40 say statewide subsistence user, it basically is  
41 statewide, it's not specific to your area, and that  
42 changes it.

43

44 So, with that, I think, personally that  
45 we can finish this up tomorrow. If we lose another  
46 Council member, I don't -- yeah, let's just go ahead  
47 and reconvene guys and recess and start in the morning  
48 at 9:00, or 8:30.

49

50

0168

1 MS. HAYDEN: All right, thank you,  
2 Madame Chair.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. I think we  
5 had a lot of good discussion today in regard to the sea  
6 otters and it took a lot of our time, and it needed to,  
7 and that's good. Also on the fishery closures, that's  
8 another area that's important for us. So I think  
9 overall the rest of this is going to go fairly smooth.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, and 8:30  
12 tomorrow and everybody have an extra cup of coffee and  
13 we will accomplish everything on the agenda.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 MS. HAYDEN: Excellent, have a nice  
18 evening.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, everybody,  
21 have a good evening.

22  
23 MR. HOLMES: Good job, Della.

24  
25 MS. LAVINE: Thank you all.

26  
27 (Off record)

28  
29 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50



