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1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
5
6 VOLUME I
7
8 TELECONFERENCE
9 September 27, 2021
10 8:30 a.m.
11
12
13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
16
17 Della Trumble, Chair
18 Melissa Berns
19 Coral Chernoff
20 Natasha Hayden
21 Patrick Holmes
22 Richard Koso
23 Chris Price
24 Rebecca Skinner
25
26
27
28 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2

3 (Teleconference - 9/27/2021)
4

5 (On record)
6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning everyone
8 this is Vince Mathews. I'm calling from cloudy
9 Fairbanks. I'll just do a reality check of who's on
10 line. So if I miss somebody please chime in.
11

12 So, Pat, are you online?
13

14 MR. HOLMES: Roger that.
15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Richard Koso.
17

18 (No comments)
19

20 MR. MATHEWS: And, again, I apologize
21 if I don't pronounce your name right.
22

23 Sam Rohrer.
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
28

29 Chris Price.
30

31 (No comments)
32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Coral Chernoff.
34

35 MS. CHERNOFF: Good morning, I'm here.
36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.
38

39 Rebecca Skinner.
40

41 MS. SKINNER: Yes, I'm here.
42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.
44

45 Chair Della Trumble.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm here.
48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
50

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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 Alutiiq
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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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 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

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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. And so 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.

50

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1 I guess that's it for my report.

2

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

9

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

31

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

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
35 Coral.

36

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

39

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

42

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

46

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

50

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

12

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

24

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

30

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

34

35 Natasha, are you online?

36

37 (No comments)

38

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

42

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

49

50

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

18

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

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: One of the
25 things in Cold Bay, we did go over, from King Cove
26 Corporation's standpoint to meet with people locally
27 and with the various guides. There's been a bigger
28 concern, and Rick kind of hit on this, an ability to
29 fish -- so people in the past that had been going on
30 King Cove Corporation lands and sports fishing on
31 Russell, we basically told them you can't do it. You
32 cannot do it anymore. So we tried to work with them so
33 they're able to walk maybe and go within 12 feet from
34 the beach line on Russell, but there's -- when you look
35 -- and I think the concern and the amount of sports
36 activity, it's something we need to -- I'm not sure
37 what the answer is right now, but I know with the
38 birds, we don't allow for the hunting of birds or
39 caribou on King Cove Corp lands. We do very limited,
40 we're only working with two or three bear guides at
41 this point, but it's something that the corporation is
42 going to be working on this winter, is, not only good
43 maps and be able to keep people on the easements that
44 are set aside by the State and crossing Russell, but to
45 come up with some policies, but we agreed to try to
46 work closely with the community in trying to figure out
47 a solution. But when I hear some of the concerns from
48 people that are subsistence users, I think -- I'm not
49 sure what the clear answer is right now but I do think
50

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

3

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

19

20 Other than that I think that is all I
21 have.

22

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

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead,
27 Pat.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Rick. Many years
30 ago when Glen Davenport was area biologist he, I think,
31 just gave encouragement without having to deal with
32 Juneau and before they had the habitat folks, with the
33 Navy, just keeping the creek flowing out of Andrews
34 open. And then after the Navy left I think
35 periodically it's gotten closed. And at least back in
36 the dark ages when I was working through there in the
37 '80s it would shift -- if it didn't -- if it did close
38 up then it would shift to Kokanee, they'd just stay in
39 the lake and then when the storm would tear it open
40 they'd go back out and then come back in as normal size
41 fish. So you might just provide encouragement out
42 there and let Fish and Game know if it looks like the
43 stream's getting blocked off to see if you might be
44 able to develop some kind of plan to keep that little
45 outlet stream open and then I think that would assure
46 that you'll still have plenty of adult salmon coming
47 in.

48

49 So good luck to you out there, that's a
50

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1 swell place. Bye.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

4

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

7

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

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct,
13 Natasha.

14

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

29

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

38

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

47

48 Salmon. You know everybody knows that
49 the Buskin failed this year. I am wondering about some
50

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 Antones 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 Antones 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

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1 with BIA.

2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And for other
4 people, this was a supplemental document and it's title
5 is, if you're looking in the email or online, it says
6 the file name is Pat Holmes 20 year service award.pdf.
7

8 So Pat Petrivelli was gracious to
9 recognize Mr. Holmes 20 years.
10

11 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Holmes, or Pat,
12 brings to the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional
13 Advisory Council a wealth of knowledge and a vast
14 network of friends and contacts across the region. His
15 knowledge comes from his career as an Alaska Department
16 of Fish and Game biologist who has been to every island
17 in the Aleutians with salmon systems. He has a
18 continuing passion for conserving the region's
19 resources for those who only want to put up wild foods
20 for their families and communities.
21

22 He played an important role with
23 protecting the rural status for Kodiak Island. He was
24 recognized for his holistic approach of information
25 sharing and getting people involved on the importance
26 of rural status for the Kodiak Island communities. Mr.
27 Holmes understands the needs of Kodiak/Aleutian Region
28 when issues on hunting, fishing, and conservation come
29 before the Regional Council.
30

31 The Federal Subsistence Program and the
32 Kodiak/Aleutian Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
33 thank Pat Holmes for his dedicated 20 years of service
34 and look forward to his continuing valuable service as
35 a Regional Council member.
36

37 And I've known Pat Holmes pretty much
38 the whole time he's been on the Council and I really
39 appreciate the service that he's brought to the
40 Council. Thank you, Pat.
41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Vince.
45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I'm going to sound
47 like the IRS here, but his award will be in the mail
48 and that'll be forthcoming. And, again, if we had a
49 face to face, but, again, that's forthcoming. And I
50

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

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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

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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 CHAIRTRUMBLE: 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

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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

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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. 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

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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

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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

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

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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 we need to
48 get younger ones on here to learn from those that are a
49 little bit more seasoned.

50

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1 So back on script.

2

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

6

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

16

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

19

20 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
23 Rebecca.

24

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

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, Katya
50

0037

1 Wessels.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

4

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

20

21 Thank you.

22

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

25

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

28

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

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Della.

33

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

36

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

39

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

50

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

21

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

24

25 (No comments)

26

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

41

42 So the Board response was, in 2020 the
43 InterAgency Staff Committee began developing a white
44 paper on food security as a threat to public safety and
45 the draft framework to evaluate special action requests
46 related to public safety/food security. Once these
47 drafts are finalized they'll be presented to the Board
48 for further discussion and direction. And if that
49 framework is approved by the Board it could serve as a
50

0046

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

3

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

12

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

21

22 Third in the response is more
23 persistent changes to the availability and seasonality
24 of resources due to climate change can be accommodated
25 through the regulatory process. When species become
26 less abundant due to climate change, closures to non-
27 Federally-qualified users or ANILCA, Alaska National
28 Interest Lands Conservation Act, Section .804 can
29 prioritize among Federally-qualified subsistence users.

30

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.

36

37 It is one -- oh, go ahead.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any questions.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

44

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
50

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

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

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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

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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

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

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

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

9

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

17

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

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I stand corrected.

21

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

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
26 Rebecca.

27

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

39

40 Thank you.

41

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

47

48 So basically.....

49

50

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

1 things.

2

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

42

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.

50

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

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 head's 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 The other question I have, and it has
5 to do with setting up a committee. My recall is that,
6 was it Natasha and Coral and people -- is it Sun'aq
7 Tribe to set up a committee to address the sea otters
8 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 MS. SKINNER: And then I wrote that I
25 think that it specifically did not include others from
26 outside of the RAC because I think we were trying to --
27 maybe there were restrictions on doing that, but
28 somebody else, maybe from OSM, would need to speak to
29 that.

30

31 Thanks.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Katya.

34

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

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think what may
35 be happening here is some people are connected but then
36 they're not. I've been getting messages that the phone
37 has been dropping off. So I'll try again with Patrick,
38 are you online.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Natasha.

43
44 MS. HAYDEN: Yes, Natasha's here.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, good. Good. So
47 we're just missing Patrick.....

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
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

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. 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 Siefel 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 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Roger that. And
39 then I guess we'll -- after we finish general questions
40 we'll go to the individual areas or is that something
41 we're going to take up next meeting?

42

43 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, it looks
44 like Jared just got connected, thank you. This is
45 George Pappas, OSM. I'll stall while he's trying to
46 dial back in, if you don't mind, Madame Chair.

47

48 But, Pat, you had a question of, you
49 know, why -- well, all of a sudden why is this here.

50

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

19

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

21

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

24

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

50

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

43

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

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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

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

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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

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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

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

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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 thought 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 Do you want to lift it, if you did is
4 it okay the way it is, allow Federally-qualified users
5 to say, use rod and reel with no license, and get a
6 permit from the local manager or do you want to design
7 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 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. So I think we'll
17 probably have more discussion and argument on this if
18 we have -- if we get to the point of making fisheries
19 proposals. But I do want to get on the record that I
20 grew up in an Alaska Native household that was
21 dependent on subsistence and the fish that we ate was
22 caught with a rod and reel. And I want to make sure
23 it's clear that not every Alaska Native or community
24 member on this call thinks that a rod and reel is
25 inappropriate for subsistence. Because that's
26 something that's been repeated across several different
27 meetings. I don't think that I've spoken up so far but
28 I am speaking up today and I will continue to make that
29 point.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
34 Rebecca. I, too, use a rod and reel.

35

36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, there's a
40 lot, I think, we need to get educated on what's in
41 place currently that has been rescinded and if it needs
42 to be changed, what are those changes and depending on
43 where the location is, whether Unalaska, Cold Bay,
44 Kodiak.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

49

50

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

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

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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

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

10

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

14

15 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

16

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

31

32 MR. HOLMES: One question for the
33 future.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: The big question is who is
38 going to manage this in-season and who is going to
39 enforce it because once you go jump across -- right now
40 everybody's working together, but if you're going to
41 have subsistence regs that are different than the State
42 ones, particularly when reds are concerned; one, I
43 don't know that the Troopers would enforce it and even
44 if they could, there's none at Dutch Harbor during the
45 red season, there's none on the Peninsula and same with
46 Kodiak, three-quarters of them are all shipped up to
47 Bristol Bay during the red salmon. So that's the main
48 fish of concern so that's a question. Are they going
49 to be hiring new Park Rangers to do the enforcement and
50

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 fishinglicenses,notjust thegeneralsubsistenceoperation.
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

50 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I understand using the

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 or 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 leverets, 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 hare, 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, weoccasionally 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 (No comments)

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any written
5 public comments.

6 (No comments)

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

9 (No comments)

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Regional
11 Council recommendation, motion to adopt.

12 MR. HOLMES: So moved.

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion moved by
14 Pat. Do I hear a second.

15 (No comments)

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No second at
17 this point, I believe the motion fails. Okay, thank
18 you. Thank you for that information, though, it was
19 quite educational.

20 Next item we will move to on the agenda
21 is the sea.....

22 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair.

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

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

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

31 MS. GREDIAGIN: So I just want to make
32 sure we're clear on the record when we present this to
33 the Federal Subsistence Board that the Council

34 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

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 MR. KOSO: No.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Coral. Coral.
4
5 MS. CHERNOFF: No.
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Rebecca.
8
9 MS. SKINNER: No.
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Della -- Chair Della.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Natasha.
16
17 MS. HAYDEN: No.
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Melissa.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Absent.
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The vote -- there
26 was six votes, one in favor and five no, so the motion
27 to adopt the proposal fails.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You have -- you
30 had a total of three absent, Chris and.....
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: But.....
33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, so -- and
35 Sam. So motion fails.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: So, Madame Chair, I'm
38 checking with.....
39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
41 everyone.
42
43 MR. MATHEWS:other Staff. I
44 think -- I know you probably want to take a break but I
45 need to check if the Marine Mammal Management Staff are
46 plugged in and -- and if you still want them to talk
47 about sea otters.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I believe we do
50

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 And then my second question was, I
25 guess at the time that we sort of looked at and
26 established -- I don't know what you call it, with the
27 sea otters, it seems to be around the late '90s or mid-
28 90s to late-2000s we sort of identified the stocks of
29 sea otters and distribution, population, sort of how
30 we're going to work this out and it was determined that
31 -- I think that Pat keeps mentioning, we were
32 designated as part of the Southwest Alaska stock. I
33 was wondering if -- it seems like both in Southeast and
34 here in Kodiak populations have really grown in areas
35 to a point where I think people -- so if we look at us
36 in a great vast swath of Alaska it seems like we have
37 hardly any population -- not much of a population of
38 sea otters, but if you look in a single bay we have
39 mass amounts that have a heavy impact on the
40 environment. So is there a way that -- or is there
41 some kind of a review process that comes up, every five
42 years, every 10 years, every 20 years that we can get
43 involved in to maybe reestablish those geographic
44 areas, maybe break those geographic areas down or look
45 at distribution and making those areas smaller and sort
46 of managing them by area instead of one big length of
47 area.

48

49 So I don't know, those two kind of
50

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1 questions, if you can answer those.

2

3 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Sure. Thank you
4 Coral for those questions. Both are very on point.
5 Yes, the sea otters in Kodiak are -- do belong to the
6 Southwest stock of northern sea otters. There's about
7 five management units that they're roughly broken into;
8 the otters of Kodiak are sort of genetically linked
9 with the North Alaska Peninsula and is considered sort
10 of a sub-management unit within that western -- within
11 the Southwest stock.

12

13 So, yeah, we -- the most recent
14 population survey for Kodiak is dated, you're
15 absolutely correct. We did a survey back in 2014. I
16 think the population estimate was about 13,000 otters.
17 Since that time we have managed to do some new surveys
18 in other parts of the Southwest stock, Bristol Bay,
19 Eastern Aleutians and most recently just this year the
20 Western Aleutians. So we typically try to cycle those
21 surveys as time and resources allow. I think Kodiak
22 would be the next one up for an abundance survey but I
23 can't speak to when that will next occur. We typically
24 try to do that within a period of seven to 10 years so
25 it is due.

26

27 So, yeah, sea otter densities, of
28 course, they vary substantially across the landscape
29 and so, yeah, you know, we haven't -- with Kodiak
30 Island in particular it's, you know, has a very healthy
31 population of otters obviously.

32

33 In terms of practical management, I'm
34 jumping ahead and assuming that you're wondering about
35 how stock structure affects the ESA listing and
36 management decisions. In the case of subsistence
37 hunting and things the ESA designation, it's not a
38 regulatory barrier to any sort of local subsistence
39 management. The issue you raise about trying to
40 control local populations and preserve subsistence
41 shellfish resources is one not shared by -- not by
42 Kodiak alone, it's an issue across the state. By
43 analogy there are some efforts in Southeast Alaska
44 where hunters are starting to organize their hunting
45 practices to sort of keep otter free zones so they
46 focus their -- the best example of this is what the
47 folks out of Sitka have sort of created a cooperative
48 hunting to sort of keep sea otter numbers down in Sitka
49 Sound and they, I guess, anecdotally started to see
50

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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

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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 species status assessment
48 time period, that was then used to inform that five
49 year review which happened last fall and early winter.

50

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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

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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

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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

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

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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

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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 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
14 Natasha. I believe that is -- those are the
15 circumstances that the meetings that Sun'aq was hosting
16 was looking to address. But as far as I know there
17 hasn't been any -- there hasn't been any -- the process
18 hasn't been initiated or undergone to my knowledge, but
19 I'm not privy to every tribal council's activities
20 related to this. But not that I know of. And in
21 addition to that, there are -- there are individual
22 harvesters who are eligible under the Alaska Native
23 Exemption that meet that blood quantum criteria, such
24 as myself, that we don't have to have that exemption as
25 of yet, but there are also people who are eligible,
26 like myself, who's children are not, so that -- and the
27 next generation are growing into adults and that
28 because they don't meet that one-quarter threshold,
29 that that is not too much further on the horizon.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
32 And just for the record I did get a note from Chris
33 Price, he is on the line at this point.

34

35 MS. CHERNOFF: And then, Della, I have
36 another question.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Go
39 ahead.

40

41 MS. CHERNOFF: I just first of all
42 wanted to clarify with you, when you're talking about a
43 tribal -- somebody tribal, having someone else hunt sea
44 otters are you talking about having a non-Native,
45 someone with a boat, non-Native, hunting sea otters, is
46 that what you're talking about?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, if you're a
49 tribal member is you're a member of the tribal but
50

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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

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1 Native.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
4 you.

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, I have a
7 question.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, this is Coral. I
12 have a question for Joel, so looking at, I think the
13 sea otters from the time they were reintroduced to
14 repopulate areas of Alaska, I can't remember when that
15 is, maybe the '60s, early '60s or something, '70s, so
16 from that time, can you briefly let us know sort of,
17 what is the plan. So the sea otters were introduced,
18 is there a target population that we're going to reach
19 and then we're going to look at remanaging the sea
20 otters, or different management options? And what is
21 the population, is there a number where the population
22 reaches where it comes off the Endangered Species Act,
23 or is it different for all -- or is it different for
24 all the different areas or we're looking at it overall,
25 the whole population of Alaska? Can you sort of
26 address those questions?

27

28 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Well, sure I'll
29 attempt but, you know, I'll invite my colleague Paul
30 who's a population biologist to clean up for me.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah.

33

34 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: But just to
35 clarify the sea otters were only introduced down to
36 Southeast Alaska where they were completely extirpated.
37 So some of your Council members recounted that, you
38 know, how they were reintroduced down there and they
39 have taken off, they are healthy but introduced stock
40 of animals. The animals were depleted at the end of
41 the 18th Century by heaving fur harvesting but then
42 have subsequently rebounded throughout much of
43 Southcentral and Southwest populations. In fact
44 Southwest recovered quite remarkably and had some of
45 the highest densities of otters in the world out in
46 Western Aleutians, but they've subsequently gone --
47 undergone a pretty significant population crash and so
48 now they're -- out in the Western Aleutians they're at
49 pretty low numbers, about 10 percent of their former
50

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1 densities and they seem to be holding there.

2

3 In terms of management of goals, there
4 are some terms under the Marine Mammal Protection Act
5 that sort of guide us to try to maintain sea otter
6 populations at what we call optimal sustainable
7 population levels, which for you population experts are
8 -- I know you guys are -- talk about population biology
9 a lot in this forum, is bounded by the carrying
10 capacity of the environment and down to maximum net
11 productivity level so sort of our management goal would
12 be 60 percent of the carrying capacity up to carrying
13 capacity. There are, you know, presently, here in
14 Alaska, no other management regime structures, the only
15 -- because of the MMPA, that basically prohibits any
16 take of marine mammal stocks in U.S. waters with the
17 exemption exercised by Alaska Natives. So it seems --
18 when it comes down to it, we've been talking about this
19 with some of your counterparts down in Southeast
20 Alaska, I think comanagement and Alaska Native led
21 management and local management regimes seem to be the
22 most pragmatic way to address management on the local
23 scale. And so that's sort of where, I think, things
24 are headed. The State could potentially take control
25 if they petitioned us, if they were interested in
26 petitioning us to do it, but they would also have to
27 manage according to the Marine Mammal Protection Act
28 and recognizing the Alaska Native exemption and things.
29 So I'm not sure that their framework would change into
30 any sort of like predator control or anything like
31 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

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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

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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

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

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1 send all of this information to Vincent, our
2 Coordinator, so that we all can look at it.

3

4 I have a question on your density paper
5 that's coming out. Perhaps if you have a draft level
6 it'd be interesting seeing that rather than having to
7 wait an extra year for the publication to come out.
8 That would be interesting to look at that.

9

10 And then I wonder about on your
11 surveys, because looking at the Alaska Peninsula or the
12 Aleutians, those are quite different from Kodiak in
13 terms of the depths of the bay and distribution of
14 habitat that I've observed sea otters in, and I wonder
15 on your surveys, and you probably don't know now, are
16 they done just linear, are they done stratified
17 depending on the density of the critters, do you do
18 more sampling to confirm that or are they adaptive.
19 And so those three techniques on flying stream surveys
20 could give you different sets of information so it'd be
21 kind of interesting for us to know how you're actually
22 doing the surveys and how the data is analyzed, rather
23 than have it -- how it's done that way and how you
24 developed those numbers, but to look at more specific
25 areas, as Becky pointed out, like Kodiak Island,
26 Afognak Island versus the Peninsula, even though that's
27 all considered part of the Southwest. But I kid you
28 not it's entirely different than the southern part of
29 the Alaska Peninsula and the southern Eastern
30 Aleutians, the central and west, when you go out it's
31 quite, quite different.

32

33 And my last question, those are just
34 sort of statements, my last question, when we talked to
35 you folks four years ago, one of your Staff said that
36 the -- when I asked about the USGS study at Adak on
37 predators, whether the sea otters had been affected by
38 increasing orca predation -- that most of the old-
39 timers I know out at Atka and Akutan and Nikolski, and
40 even out on the Peninsula, as stated, that they've seen
41 -- saw the orcas having a good time scarfing them, do
42 you folks now acknowledge that that is a factor, the
43 orca predation or not? Beings that was another Federal
44 agency that did the paper.

45

46 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Well, I think,
47 yeah, the predation theory, the top down predation
48 theory, particularly in the Western Aleutians is, I --
49 I think the weight of evidence is it's certainly pretty
50

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

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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

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1 the state. So there is a little bit of kind of boat-
2 based surveys as well.

3

4 But I'm happy to talk more about that
5 and plans for future surveys as well because there's
6 been an old kind of long-standing method, and there's
7 been a couple of new approaches in recent years across
8 some of those management units in the Southwest stock
9 and they're kind of evolving again over this next year,
10 and so I'm happy to talk more about that.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I don't know, Madame
13 Chair, if the rest of the Council is interested in
14 survey strategy but if they're not you could just send
15 it to me and Katya could get you my email. This is Pat
16 Holmes.

17

18 MR. SCHUETTE: Okay, yeah, thanks.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, where
21 are we, are there any more discussion, this is really
22 good information.

23

24 MR. NIELSEN: Hello, can you hear me?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I can hear you,
27 go ahead.

28

29 MR. NIELSEN: Hi, my name is Matt
30 Nielsen, I'm a Native here in Cold Bay, Alaska. I
31 would just like to add that it's almost inappropriate
32 that it's a requirement for the quarter Alaska Native
33 to hunt marine mammals when something like being
34 registered to a Federally-recognized tribe should
35 suffice. To me that would be like telling a farmer or
36 a cultivator, they're not pure-bred enough to do what
37 they traditionally have done and hopefully we can move
38 forward with changing some of the language on the
39 requirements for harvesting marine mammals.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Matt.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, could he
46 share his name again. It would be good for the record.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

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 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, probably a break.
11 And, Della, this is Coral. I would just like to say
12 thank you to Joel and Paul for attending our meeting.
13 They were really helpful and had a lot of great
14 information.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, I agree.
17 Okay, we're going to go ahead and take a break. And
18 thank you very, very much, and getting that information
19 out, the links to us, we can also take a look at it.
20 Much appreciated, thank you.
21

22 MR. GARLICH-MILLER: Okay. Well, thank
23 you for your time today and we will forward information
24 to the Council through Katya Wessels, and also an
25 invitation to contact Paul Schuette directly. He's our
26 population guy for otters and so very knowledgeable and
27 I know he'd love to talk to you individually so we'll
28 send out that contact info as well.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
31

32 MR. SCHUETTE: Yeah, thank you. This is
33 Paul, yeah, I just wanted to kind of sign off as well
34 and, yeah, please feel free to reach out to me and
35 others in our group. You know, I've only been in this
36 position a little over a year and a half, I guess,
37 right before Covid hit, so I haven't had a chance to
38 spend as much time in the field and get out to talk to
39 people and interact with different communities around
40 the state yet. But I'm hoping to be able to do that
41 more in the future and in the meantime happy to join in
42 to any calls or chat on the phone, or whatever type of
43 media you like. So please feel free to reach out.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. With
46 that we'll break until 4:30.
47

48 (Off record)
49
50

1 (On record)

2

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Yes. I think it's great. I
10 wish we could have done this four years ago.

11

12 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

17

14 MS. SKINNER: Yes, this is Rebecca, I
15 agree.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, sounds
18 good. Okay, let's go ahead and move on to update on
19 Adak Island Caribou Herd, Management Plan, Page 23.
20 Jeff, I believe you will be giving that report.

21

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Madame Chair and
23 Council. Thank you, very much. My name is Jeff
24 Williams, I'm the Deputy Refuge Manager here at the
25 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. I'm formerly
26 a biologist for the Aleutian Islands Unit before
27 becoming the Deputy Manager here, former resident of
28 Adak for 12 years and performed most of the surveys
29 since 1990 for caribou at Adak and has dealt with those
30 topics. So Steve Delehanty is your normal liaison
31 here. He was called out of state on a medical
32 emergency, he sends his regrets that he's unable to
33 attend here. So I'll pinch hit for him here.

34

35 I think my report out will be fairly
36 short but I would be happy to answer any questions
37 regarding the topic if I'm missing something that the
38 Council is interested in.

39

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

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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

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

1 Does that answer your question?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is it possible
4 to get -- it does. And if we could maybe get a copy of
5 the MOU and even the old management plan, I think -- I
6 know -- I'm sure Rick would be wanting to look at
7 those. I would like to see them.

8

9 The other thing you mentioned in this
10 letter is, regarding the Department, and their
11 involvement with this and the key players, the Aleut
12 Corporation, the Community of Adak and the Department
13 of Fish and Game, ADF&G, so Dave Crowley, maybe, do you
14 know where we're at -- where's the State at with this
15 process in helping with this plan, in putting this plan
16 together?

17

18 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, this is
19 Dave Crowley, Department of Fish and Game in King
20 Salmon. We have no plans to update this plan or redo
21 the caribou management plan, mainly because Adak is so
22 remote that we -- obviously, the Department, we've
23 never done a survey out there, we rely on the Fish and
24 Wildlife Service to do that, but we also can't get
25 enough hunters out there. As Jeff pointed out, even
26 when the air station was active it was really difficult
27 to keep that caribou herd under control and as a matter
28 of fact, I think maybe it was the start of the air
29 station pulling out, but as early as '90, '91 that herd
30 kind of achieved escaped velocity back then. Once it
31 got over 500 or so animals it seemed like it just took
32 off and pretty typical of an introduced ungulate on an
33 island, it's just -- if we can't get the harvest
34 there's really no way we can control that. And it's
35 just a matter of the, you know, herd exceeding its
36 carrying capacity and then going into a steep decline,
37 and I think that's what we're looking at now. And the
38 other thing they'll do when they're under that kind of
39 nutritional stress is try to bail out and sure enough
40 they've been spotted over on Kagalaska as early as I
41 think 1990, so they've been swimming over to Kagalaska
42 for quite a few years and I imagine that's also going
43 to be going on now.

44

45 But to sum up, no plans on updating
46 that caribou management plan for those reasons.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So here's where
49 I'm at, and I know Steve Delehanty had mentioned that
50

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

1 what's the current issue, I guess, you would like us to
2 address?

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I think
5 part of it is, and I'm speaking for Rick Koso, and
6 unfortunately he's not here right now, but at one point
7 when it was at 2,200 to 2,500 caribou and then it
8 dropped to, I want to -- help me with the counts, but
9 it seems like the last number we looked at in a
10 potential survey was 600, so there was a substantial
11 drop. And then -- and Rick had been asking for -- Rick
12 Koso, who lives out in Adak, had been asking for some
13 sort of management plan for those caribou, and that's
14 kind of where this came into play. So -- but it's
15 confusing when you, you know, we sit in these meetings
16 and everybody's hearing the same thing and now it's; we
17 don't think you need a management plan. So the 150
18 animal is the basically goal of caribou with this herd?

19

20 MR. RINALDI: Yes, that's how it's been
21 left. This is Todd Rinaldi again. That's how it's
22 been left through the MOU and the early work of the
23 1976 plans that were referenced earlier, speaks to the
24 population. The issue has been, as both biologists,
25 the Federal and State biologists alerted to, is we've
26 never been able to get enough hunting pressure on that
27 herd to control it so we have been subject to wild
28 fluctuations. And sometimes those fluctuations can be
29 exacerbated by a couple years of poor weather, or a
30 lack of jet service, and obviously things like the
31 closing of the base had a significant impact. So we've
32 been well above objective for, you know, ions, for a
33 lack of a better -- more accurate number, and I believe
34 the Fish and Wildlife Service would like to remain with
35 a high level of harvest to reduce the herd as much as
36 we can and that's the State's perspective as well.
37 There is no -- most of our State herds that the State --
38 the State is the primary wildlife manager but because
39 of the land management status, some of these areas such
40 as Unimak and Adak, a lot of the work and a lot of the
41 administration is done by U.S. Fish and Wildlife
42 Service, and we both believe -- I know for the State we
43 believe that we need to reign in that population as
44 much as possible.

45

46 So we don't have a species management
47 plan for Adak and for Unimak like we have for the
48 Mulchatna or the Southern Alaska Peninsula plan, but by
49 default, we default back to the existing management
50

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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

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1 should we go ahead and take this one up?

2

3 MS. KEATING: Madame Chair, this is
4 Jackie Keating with the Division of Subsistence. I'm
5 not sure if Chris is on but I was planning on giving
6 this update so I can either give it this evening, it'll
7 probably take about 10 minutes, or we can table it
8 until tomorrow, whatever you all prefer.

9

10 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
11 Katya Wessels.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, it sounds like
16 Vince is still not able to connect from what I can see.
17 So just my advice to the Council in lieu of Council
18 Coordinator, that you at least take a few more items on
19 the agenda today because you have a pretty big agenda
20 and there will be just one day remaining and you have
21 all these wildlife proposals and other action items as
22 well as several agency reports. You might not be able
23 to get through the agenda tomorrow if you leave this
24 many items on your agenda for tomorrow.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Basically --
29 let's go ahead and do the caribou then. Let's go ahead
30 with caribou update -- well, we just did caribou, we
31 got the update on caribou -- I think if we went ahead
32 and moved down to Unit 10, WP22-38a, WP22-38b on
33 caribou on Unit 10, that we can at least do the caribou
34 -- gosh, I really -- I think our phones are messed up
35 because Chris emailed me earlier and said he was online
36 about 4:00 o'clock so it's unfortunate, really
37 unfortunate.

38

39 So with that -- well, we don't have the
40 Council Coordinator.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I am
43 online. What's happening is it drops on and off so I
44 am here. I heard you wanted to go -- suggesting WP22-
45 38a and b, we just need to confirm that and that
46 there's Staff still online.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. Basically
49 either that, Vince, or we just go back and do the
50

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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

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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

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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

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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'aq 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 MS. KEATING: Yeah, through the Chair.
18 Thanks for that Vince. I don't think there's any need
19 to dive in and discuss them in detail unless anyone has
20 specific questions. But once you get a chance to
21 review them, my contact information is on there so, as
22 always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me if
23 you've got further questions.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Jackie, good
30 reports. I read them when I got them on Thursday. And
31 I thought it was quite interesting looking at Page 4,
32 Figure 6, where you're comparing the harvest around the
33 whole island. Kind of is very, very interesting to me
34 to see the difference between the villages because one
35 would assume they would be similar but they're not
36 quite, and so that's cool.

37

38 And I would like to get on the record
39 and I don't know if we need a vote, Della, but the
40 upcoming FRMP proposals for 2022, if they need -- if
41 Jackie needs more support for that I'd sure like to put
42 my two bits worth in of saying it's really good to get
43 the Department of Subsistence doing these because that
44 previous one done for Unalaska by the ph.D from Iowa,
45 or wherever, wasn't even reproducible, so I'm glad to
46 get Jim's gang back in the game because they do quality
47 work and know how to talk to folks in the villages.

48

49 So thank you very much.

50

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

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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)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through
11 _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
12 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
13 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I electronically on the 27th
14 day of September 2021;

15 THAT the transcript is a true and
16 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
17 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
18 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
19 ability;

20 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
21 party interested in any way in this action.

22 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 4th
23 day of October 2021.

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32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/22
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