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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE
September 28, 2021
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews

Recorded and transcribed by:

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 9/28/2021)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Vince, it's 8:30, maybe we'll go ahead and start with a roll call and see who's online and go down the line.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, so I'll start the roll call. Is Patrick -- I'm sorry, is Pat online.

MR. HOLMES: Roger that. I just had muted. Thank you.

MR. MATHEWS: Is Rick Koso online.

MR. KOSO: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: I believe Sam is busy but maybe he found time, is Sam online.

(No comments)

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And Chris may participate later, he's swamped at his office on other tasks, so, Chris Price is not online.

Coral. Coral.

MS. CHERNOFF: I'm here.

MR. MATHEWS: Rebecca.

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

MS. SKINNER: I'm here.

MR. MATHEWS: Della. Chair Della.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm here. And just as a reminder, people might want to mute their phones.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I will.

Natasha.

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1 (No comments)

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3 MR. MATHEWS: Is Natasha online.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Is Melissa online.

8

9 MS. BERNES: Good morning, I'm here.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so that's Melissa.
12 Natasha, are you online.

13

14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted)

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: I heard something but I
18 don't think it's her.

19

20 REPORTER: Okay, so hold on Vince.

21

22 MS. SKINNER: Hey, Della.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah.

25

26 MS. SKINNER: Oh, sorry.

27

28 REPORTER: I'm sorry, go ahead,
29 Rebecca.

30

31 MS. SKINNER: Oh, thanks. I was just
32 going to ask if today -- I don't want to seem rude but
33 if I hear background noise I think I'm going to be
34 pretty proactive about jumping in and saying please
35 mute your phones because yesterday it was really hard
36 to hear when people didn't have their phones muted.
37 And also for the benefit of our recorder
38 transcriptionist, it's going to be really hard to pick
39 stuff off the recording without having a clear audio.
40 So, Della, please don't get mad if I interrupt and say,
41 hey, somebody needs to put their phone on mute.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 REPORTER: Okay, this is Tina, the
46 recorder. So I appreciate that Rebecca. That's what I
47 was going to jump in and say, somebody doesn't have
48 their phone on mute and we're getting another
49 conversation. And when participants are talking, you
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1 know, we want to be respectful to be able to listen to
2 what they're saying. So thank you.

3

4 MS. SKINNER: Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tina.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So Natasha, did
9 you join.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: No. So, Madame Chair, we
14 have six of your Council members online at present.
15 And I have the general announcement for the beginning
16 of the meeting to go through, if that's appropriate at
17 this time.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead,
20 Vince.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. This is dealing
23 with opportunity for written public comments. The
24 Council meetings provide an opportunity for the public
25 and tribes to provide oral and written testimony and
26 comments. There are several opportunities for these
27 throughout the meeting. The first one is at the
28 beginning of each day, there's an opportunity to
29 provide testimony on non-agenda items. The Chair will
30 announce these opportunities. And, Chair Della, you've
31 announced it several times throughout the meeting
32 yesterday so I want to recognize that. There is also
33 an opportunity to provide oral comments on wildlife
34 proposals and closure reviews after an analyst presents
35 proposal analysis, the order of receiving comments is
36 outlined on Page 27 in your book. The Council Chair
37 will call for this public oral testimony. There is
38 also an opportunity to submit written public comments
39 on proposals. If you have a written comment please
40 email to subsistence at fws.gov. Please clearly
41 indicate the number of the proposal or closure review
42 you are commenting on in the title of the email. The
43 comments need to be emailed prior to the proposal you
44 are commenting on as presented to the Council. If you
45 emailed your written public comment to your Council
46 Coordinator prior to the meeting, please resubmit to
47 subsistence at fws.gov now. If less than 10 written
48 comments are received we will read them into the
49 record. If more than 10 written comments are received,
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1 they will be tallied and the result will be presented
2 to the Council prior to deliberation.

3

4 And, again, I need to remind people
5 star six to mute, star six again to unmute, and please
6 do not

7 put your phone on hold. It makes it -- well, it just
8 interrupts with the meeting and it's very difficult to
9 work through the operator on that.

10

11 And with that I'll turn it back to
12 Chair Della.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Vince. And if we could get people to state their names
16 on line that represent U.S. Fish and Wildlife, can we
17 get that going.

18

19 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
20 Natasha. I was a couple of minutes late signing in and
21 I just wanted to make my presence known.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
24 Natasha.

25

26 MS. GREDIAGIN: Good morning, Madame
27 Chair. This is Lisa Grediagin, Wildlife Division
28 Supervisor with OSM. Thanks.

29

30 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Madame
31 Chair. This is Katya Wessels, Council Coordination
32 Division Supervisor with OSM. Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
35 Katya.

36

37 MR. BRADY: This is Mike Brady. I'm
38 the Refuge Manager at Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.
39 Good morning.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mike,
42 good morning.

43

44 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Good morning,
45 Madame Chair. This is Brent Vickers, Cultural
46 Anthropology Supervisor for OSM.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning.

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1 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Madame
2 Chair. George Pappas, OSM State Liaison. Good
3 morning.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
6 George.

7
8 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Jeff
9 Williams, Deputy Refuge Manager for Alaska Maritime
10 National Wildlife Refuge. Good morning.

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12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
13 Jeff. I got you first on the agenda this morning. Go
14 ahead.

15
16 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, Madame
17 Chair. This is Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist with
18 OSM.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning.

21
22 MR. STONE: Good morning. Jared Stone
23 with OSM, Fisheries Biologist.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
26 Jared.

27
28 MR. LIND: Good morning everyone.
29 Orville, Native Liaison for Office of Subsistence
30 Management.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
33 Orville.

34
35 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner,
36 Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
39 Pippa. Do we have anybody from Izembek?

40
41 MS. MELENDEZ: Yes. Good morning,
42 everybody. Regional Advisory Council and Madame Chair,
43 this is Letecia Melendez, Deputy Refuge Manager at
44 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. And joining us today
45 is our biologist Allison Williams.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning.

48
49 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein.

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1 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Madame
2 Chair. This is.....

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4 MS. KLEIN: I'm on the -- sorry,
5 Robbin, go ahead.

6
7 MS. LAVINE: Third time's a charm.
8 Good morning, Madame Chair. This is Robbin LaVine,
9 Subsistence Policy Coordinator with OSM. Thanks, Jill,
10 you're next.

11
12 MS. KLEIN: Okay. This is Jill Klein.
13 Regional Subsistence Coordinator from the Fish and
14 Wildlife Service and the InterAgency Staff Committee
15 member. Good morning.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning.

18
19 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, everyone.
20 This is Greg Risdahl, the InterAgency Staff Committee
21 person for the U.S. Forest Service and Forest Service
22 Subsistence Program Leader. Thank you.

23
24 MR. PLANK: Good morning. This is Tom
25 Plank, Wildlife Biologist at OSM.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning.
28 Okay, do we have anybody from Parks, someone was on
29 yesterday.

30
31 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning, everyone.
32 This is Dillon Patterson with the National Park Service
33 Regional Office Subsistence Program.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
36 Dillon. All right, let's move on to ADF&G, online.

37
38 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. This is
39 Kelly Krueger with the Alaska Department of Fish and
40 Game and I have Mark Witteveen with me also with the
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
44 Kelly and Mark.

45
46 MS. FOX: Good morning, Madame Chair.
47 This is Lisa Fox in Kodiak with Fish and Game and also
48 on the line is Tyler Lawson with Fish and Game.

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning
2 Lisa and Tyler.

3
4 MS. KEATING: Good morning. Jackie
5 Keating, Division of Subsistence, Fish and Game.

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7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
8 Jackie.

9
10 MR. CROWLEY: Good morning, Madame
11 Chair. Dave Crowley, Department of Fish and Game, King
12 Salmon.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning.

15
16 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
17 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game in the
18 Palmer Office.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
21 Mark.

22
23 MR. RINALDI: And this is Todd Rinaldi.
24 I'm the Regional Management Coordinator for the
25 Division of Wildlife in this region out of Palmer.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
28 Todd. All right, is that everybody. Do we have
29 anybody representing any of the tribal entities online.

30
31 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. This is
32 Pat Petrivelli with BIA, the Subsistence Anthropologist
33 out of Anchorage.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
36 Pat. Okay. If anybody that comes online from any of
37 the tribal entities or anybody that wants to testify,
38 please, just go ahead and text me or interrupt and we
39 can work your item into the agenda.

40
41 MS. PETERSON: Good morning. This is
42 Amy Peterson, Koniag Community Affairs Liaison.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning,
45 Amy. Okay, we'll go ahead and move on to the update on
46 Adak Island Caribou, Jeff Williams.

47
48 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, good morning,
49 Madame Chair Woman and Council members. I gave a -- my
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1 name is Jeff Williams. I am the Deputy Refuge Manager
2 for the Alaska Maritime Refuge. I gave an update
3 yesterday on the status of the Adak caribou and the
4 request by the Council for looking at a management
5 plan. I will -- I said, briefly, that we have a memo --
6 or a letter, rather, that is included in the
7 informational packet on Page 23 in there which was
8 written by Refuge Manager Steve Delehanty. He's out of
9 state right now on a medical emergency and unable to
10 attend right now so I'm stepping in for him at the last
11 minute here.

12

13 In that, the Alaska Department of Fish
14 and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service had some
15 discussions about the management of caribou on Adak.
16 The consensus between the Department and the Fish and
17 Wildlife Service management was that there is actually
18 a management plan that ADF&G pointed out to us that
19 defines the goals and responsibilities between the two
20 agencies very well. The thought was that that
21 management plan accurately describes it and is
22 sufficient for the management of the Adak Caribou Herd.
23 Both the Service and ADF&G have interest in that
24 caribou herd, and just to reiterate the Fish and
25 Wildlife Service recognizes the primary responsibility
26 of ADF&G to manage the caribou herd themselves and the
27 Fish and Wildlife Service has the primary
28 responsibility to manage the habitat on which that
29 herd, for the most part, occupies.

30

31 I think we've reported in previous
32 meetings, we did a survey in 2019 in cooperation with
33 the helicopter that was out there with the Alaska
34 Volcano Observatory. I provided that report along with
35 the 1980 management plan which prescribes a herd
36 population size of about 150 animals. And 1994
37 Memorandum of Understanding that I mentioned earlier
38 here, I provided that to Vince and Katerina, and they
39 can forward that on to Council members. I did that
40 just this morning, a little bit ago.

41

42 So I think that's kind of an update, or
43 recap. Most people that were on yesterday should have
44 heard that. I know Council Member Koso, who has a
45 specific interest in that might have some follow-up
46 questions. I'd be happy to answer that. And I also
47 want to make sure that our colleagues at ADF&G, that I
48 characterized things correctly, between the two
49 agencies. And I know Dave Crowley's on here and if
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1 I've misspoken I'd be interested in hearing what he
2 said.

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But I think that's about it, Madame Chair Woman for kind of a recap on things, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

MR. RINALDI: Hi, this is Todd Rinaldi with Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation. And, yes, those comments are accurate and do highlight our relationship with the Refuge and our management strategy, and Dave can add more if he'd like.

MR. KOSO: Della, this is Rick here, do you hear me now?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick, we can hear you.

MR. KOSO: Oh, yeah, I pushed this mute and then -- but anyway I got a question for Jeff there on Adak, the caribou there. I know he's just a fill in for Steve. Jeff, I know that we've been working with Mike McDonald here on -- or Donald here on, it seems like forever, trying to get a management plan for Adak. I know ADF&G has one of those but that didn't seem like it was sufficient and there wasn't anybody that was really getting any information to the locals in Adak. Nobody has heard anything unless it's a special inquiry from someone to get some information, they never get anything on it. We were hoping that we would set up a management plan to where you included a couple of the locals in Adak that could sit on that management plan and be part of your management system. Right now that -- as far as I understand it isn't happening.

So I just thought I would throw that in as far as Adak goes.

Then there was a couple other questions, I'll just throw in.

You know we do have, I guess, an outfitter and a transporter that are located in Adak and I was kind of curious if you guys keep track of how many people they take out and how many caribou that they bring back. And there was a concern of wanton waste on a lot of the caribou. I know they gave quite a bit away to some of the locals and the stuff they

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1 gave to the locals was already rotten and was unable to
2 eat. So I think that kind of stuff needs to be checked
3 into.

4
5 The locals also had another complaint
6 that there wasn't any caribou that was coming down to
7 the north side anymore that they used to get during the
8 snow on the road system where they're able to reach
9 those. Most -- I'd say 95 percent of people don't have
10 skiffs to get around the island to get the caribou so
11 they're pretty limited to what they can get. And so I
12 don't know if it's because the caribou herd is
13 diminished or they're moving to a different area or
14 what the deal is but it seems to be really affecting a
15 lot of the subsistence hunters for caribou hunters in
16 Adak, local people.

17
18 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Rick. Jeff
19 Williams here to respond to some of those things there.

20
21 And I will start off by saying that
22 currently Adak is listed under the Big Game Guide
23 proposals as a Big Game Guide use area. It has not had
24 any applicants for a number of years now. That
25 prospectus is out now. We haven't had it in over 15
26 years or more, I think. So there is no authorized big
27 game guide on Refuge lands. There are -- as you know
28 there is one permitted transporter to the Refuge, so
29 there's no guides, there's one transporter, Aleutian
30 Outfitters, that can transport individual hunters but
31 not provide guided hunts to the south part of the
32 island. And there are, of course, individuals that
33 just can get their own ways down to the Refuge, which
34 where most of the caribou are historically. And, Rick,
35 I provided -- and other Council members I provided a
36 copy of the Adak survey in 2019. It's always
37 concentrated, for the most part, the central portion,
38 around the areas above Hidden Bay, is the primary area.
39 And so no commercial guides are on there. There is, of
40 course, no season, no limit.

41
42 And the north side caribou, I think, we
43 peaked in about -- well, according to survey about 2012
44 or thereafter at about 2,800 animals, as you know, and
45 our last survey was somewhere around 1,200 animals in
46 2019 with expanded numbers of individuals swimming
47 across Kagalaska Straits over to Kagalaska.

48
49 So I guess to answer your question
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1 about the north side animals, it's probably because
2 there are fewer animals, there's half as many animals
3 or less than that, and the hunting pressure is pretty
4 big, as you know. Pretty much every plane that comes
5 out there there are people coming from Anchorage and
6 other places, not guided, but just people coming there.
7 So both lands, Fish and Wildlife Service administered
8 lands and Aleut Corporation Lands are open, of course
9 Aleut Corporation lands only with a land use permit.

10

11 Does that answer some of your
12 questions, Rick, and then I'll address your request for
13 local involvement a little bit, to make sure I
14 understand it.

15

16 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Madame Chair. Yeah,
17 Jeff, I appreciate that info. It still doesn't satisfy
18 me to the point where you've got transporters out
19 there, it's a huge boat, I think they carry anywhere
20 from I think 15 to 25 people, somewhere in that range.
21 So they take a lot of people out. A lot of people come
22 and it seems on every airplane they're getting in, you
23 know, 15, 20, 30 people that are catching that boat.
24 They don't need a, so-called, guide, out there in Adak
25 because it's such a geographic layout, I mean the boat
26 can go around there and you can see the caribou. They
27 don't have to have a guide to hunt those caribou. It's
28 a little bit different than other regions in the state
29 of Alaska. So it's very simple for them to go around
30 with a boat, anchor up below any one of those bays
31 where they spot the caribou and they point them out and
32 that's where they go. So a guide is not necessarily
33 needed unless you wanted them to skin it out and pack
34 it out for them, which is a little different. But most
35 of the people don't want a guide because they're too
36 expensive, but this transporter is probably a lot more
37 effective and they take a lot more caribou than I think
38 a guide would. Because a guide is out there, you know,
39 they're just looking for big antlers, big head. So
40 there's been a lot of caribou being shot out there. I
41 don't know if you guys are keeping track of that,
42 that's what I would like to know. Do you guys keep
43 track of how many people that actually come out there
44 and are transported and how many caribous that they
45 get? I know they're supposed to fill out a card
46 supposedly, but do you guys have documentation on that?

47

48 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll look to some of my
49 ADF&G colleagues for some of that. They certainly have
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1 reporting requirements for hunters, particularly out of
2 state hunters, and they could speak towards that.

3

4

5 We don't know -- we only know for what
6 is permitted so we don't know the general numbers of
7 people who come on and just come on the plane. The
8 transporters are actually off Refuge so they're in
9 State-managed waters when they transport to the Refuge.
10 The Refuge begins at the mean high tide line, so if
11 they can drop off people off by skiff, they're still on
12 State lands. So there's no requirement to be permitted
13 -- that is permitted in the sense of we write a permit
14 for them to conduct that activity. So that is our
15 mechanism for keeping track. So, in general, no, we're
16 not able to really have any numbers to provide to you
17 as far as tracking that. But the best is the harvest
18 tickets that ADF&G maintains and people are obligated
19 to do.

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MR. KOSO: Yeah, Jeff, I know you have
people that are working out there during the summer
months there if I'm not mistaken at your office in
Adak, it seems to me you have two or three people there
but I may be mistaken. But, you know, it's a very big
concern to the local people there because they're not
seeing caribou like in the past. They're not able to
get caribou like they used to get so they're having a
hard time right now to get their subsistence for their
food and what not in the local town there. I know they
can't afford to fly to Anchorage and place orders like
most people are able so, you know, caribou is a real
big asset to the people there that live on the island,
especially ones that don't have a lot of means to get
any other groceries or anything.

So it's a real concern out there in
Adak right now.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Council
Member Koso for that comment. I understand that. I
recognize that, that local caribou are important to
many people out there. In the materials that I
provided this morning should make their way to you and
in it there's those three documents. Two of those
documents, and the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding
with ADF&G describe -- I think what we're facing here
is a reduction in numbers of caribou that was in many
ways very predictable in the sense that an island
population of caribou will -- basically is the hunting

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1 pressure was not sufficient in the 1990s and into the
2 early 2000s to keep that herd in check and it increased
3 beyond its ability to be maintained, and so when the
4 community of 6,000 people there on the military base,
5 as we all know, a lot of hunting pressure went away in
6 1994 -- we mention that in that Memorandum of
7 Understanding, that we expected, it's happened about 20
8 times to island caribou populations that we've been
9 able to document in a 1994 environmental assessment on
10 the caribou herd at Adak and there still isn't enough
11 hunting pressure to keep the herd in check. And so
12 basically the herd exceeded carrying capacity, and it's
13 overgrazed the lands and now is beginning to span out
14 into other islands and altering the habitat there.

15

16 So I think that that is primarily the
17 answer that is most likely responsible for the lack of
18 caribou on the north side of the island. And it
19 doesn't help to have a large number of people also
20 hunting and coming in, and that, which probably
21 decreases that -- those numbers, and just any animals
22 that venture to the north are harvested.

23

24 So I think that's where we're -- that's
25 merely a statement of where we're at. I recognize that
26 those animals are important to everyone. And I think
27 that perhaps to get at what you're looking at it might
28 be a -- I'm not sure that a management plan is the way
29 that you want -- or maybe a working group that can
30 bring together some people to talk about the caribou
31 and the issues and the concerns that everyone has,
32 might be an area of exploration that we could look at.
33 I know that on behalf of the Service, speaking for the
34 Refuge Manager, Steve Delehanty, that we are interested
35 in participating and providing those subsistence
36 opportunities for folks on Refuge lands, that are
37 local.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MR. KOSO: Thank you for that Jeff. I
42 just got one other thing. I know there's a lot of
43 mistrust between the Feds and the local people,
44 especially Aleut people. When that land was
45 transferred to the Aleut people back in 2004, the Feds
46 were trying -- were going to eradicate the caribou herd
47 on the island, you know, after the military left and it
48 was a battle between the Aleut Corporation and the Feds
49 to get them to stop doing that. But there definitely
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1 was a battle. So there's not a lot of trust, I don't
2 think, between the Aleut Corporation and the Feds right
3 now as far as them caribou go.

4

5 So, anyway, I'll leave it at that, so
6 thank you very much, and I'm done here.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

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10 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, this is
11 Dave Crowley, I have some comments.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Dave.

14

15 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 I sent around a graph, I don't know if it got out to
17 members of the RAC. But it shows the population of the
18 Adak Caribou herd as well as harvest and this is
19 reported harvest. We can see quite clearly from the
20 introduction through -- almost through to when the
21 Naval Base pulled out, that harvest on this herd was
22 nearly half -- the reported harvest was nearly half of
23 the size of the herd and that's what it took to keep
24 the herd in check, and, of course, as Jeff pointed out,
25 once the air station left we just didn't have the
26 harvest. And we've seen this on many islands in
27 Alaska, oceanic islands where reindeer have been
28 introduced, you get the explosion, the very high peak
29 of animals on the landscape. And in this case, on
30 Adak, there were nearly eight caribou per square mile,
31 which was -- that's 10 times what we really want to see
32 for caribou. And it's like a caribou wildlife went
33 across Adak and it's kind of a now a smoking ruin,
34 nutrition-wise, I predict, compared to what it was
35 before this eruption occurred.

36

37 So I'm quite concerned that Adak will
38 never be able to support the number of caribou that we
39 would like to see on it.

40

41 I think, as far as hunters go, I mean
42 I've been spreading the word, don't go to Adak, the
43 caribou population is crashing. I think there's some
44 means we can do to like -- like close it to non-
45 resident hunters is usually our first step that we do
46 when trying to reign in harvest. But we're not trying
47 to reign in harvest, our management plan, or coop
48 agreement says, you know, 150 caribou on the island.
49 So that's kind of where we're at now. We're kind of in

50

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1 limbo as this population seems to be crashing and I --
2 I think there's some regulatory work to be done.

3

4

5 And as far as communicating with the
6 State, you know, folks can call the area office here in
7 King Salmon, they can call the regional headquarters in
8 Palmer to talk to people about Adak. We have the
9 proposal system, Board of Game proposal system, if the
10 Aleut Tribe wants to put in a proposal to restrict
11 harvest from non-locals, you know, there's the
12 opportunity to do that through our process.

12

13 So that's all I've got, Madame Chair.
14 Thank you.

15

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MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

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MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair. Rick. I
don't think so at this point. I think we have far
exceeded with the 2,800. I think we've done more or
less -- well, I don't want to say, permanent damage,
but very long-term. Caribou populations, they cycle,
in almost human generations, I mean we're talking 40
years from, you know, bottom to peak, and I don't think
the island can support that many caribou. I really
don't.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So this is
Della. So you're basically saying, per the plan, that
you believe that it should only support as a minimum
150 caribou?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, historically,

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1 Madame Chair, I mean that was kind of the plan but, you
2 know, I'm looking at this graph with herd size and when
3 it was around 250 animals, 300 animals, that was the
4 level at which it could be controlled by Naval Air
5 Station personnel. And I think that once Alaska
6 Airlines started flying down there we were getting that
7 level of harvest, a similar level of harvest by hunters
8 flying into the island, but by then it was too late, we
9 were at 2,000 animals and that level of harvest, it was
10 too little too late, but if -- if Alaska Airlines
11 continues to fly to Adak Island and if we're at 200,
12 300 caribou, I think maybe the population could be
13 regulated. It's hard to say because it's hard -- I
14 mean it's hard to access what kind of damage the
15 animals did to the range. But it's something that
16 we're going to have to kind of feel out.

17

18 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So -- go ahead.

21

22 MR. KOSO: Yeah, you know, I just can't
23 agree with you on that. I'm not no scientist of
24 biologist but, you know, in 1958, they put 158 caribou
25 on that island, they were managed to sustain themselves
26 all the way through today and there's still a thriving
27 group of caribou on the island. So when you're
28 speaking 150 caribou, me, I don't agree with you at all
29 on that, and I may be wrong because like I said I'm not
30 a biologist and I'm not somebody that monitors it and
31 does that stuff, so. Anyway, that's all I have to say
32 on this.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair. Rick. No,
37 I think I agree with you. You know, I think two to 300
38 might be a more reasonable number to look at to see if
39 that can be maintained. But like I say, this is all
40 kind of up in the air, we're going to have to feel our
41 way through this.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della.
44 If I may, basically when you look at a management plan
45 that is 45 years old and you're still utilizing it, you
46 know, things change, I mean the way people got around
47 that island in the last 45 years has changed. The
48 dynamics have changed. And there's more, I think,
49 local Native people living on that island, that I don't
50

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1 understand why, when we asked to have people from Adak
2 or the Aleut Corp, and ADF&G and Alaska Maritime to
3 come together to review these documents, I mean 45
4 years ago, how did you talk, on land radios. You can
5 do meetings, Team meetings, other ways to talk about it
6 and be able to communicate, to be able to maybe update
7 these things, or if they remain status quo, at least
8 you made the honest effort to -- all parties to come
9 together to try to come to an updated plan, and if it
10 remains the same, date stamp it. But can you tell me
11 why that's not possible?

12

13 MR. RINALDI: This is Todd Rinaldi,
14 Division of Wildlife Conservation. I can speak to
15 that. There's no reason why we can't get together with
16 locals and interested stakeholders and sit down and
17 talk about Adak caribou. The issue with Adak caribou
18 comes down to one thing, is the island can only support
19 so much caribou, and we are unable to get that control
20 for management through harvest. So -- and that's
21 ultimately it. So to come up with a new management
22 plan, we would just be restating -- we could basically
23 redo a management plan that would suggest that the
24 population should be at a couple of hundred, that
25 really wouldn't be based on any evidence, as Dave has
26 suggested, but currently we don't know where the herd
27 is going to land after this rapid and dramatic decline.
28 We're still going to be in the same situation where, if
29 the herd does climb to a certain level again, we are
30 not going to be able to have the harvest level high
31 enough to keep that herd reigned in and not hammer the
32 habitat.

33

34 Currently there is no closed season
35 except for a portion in the summer that is limited to
36 sex and there's no bag limit on that island. And so
37 that's ultimately the issue that we're dealing with
38 here and I'm unclear on how a new management plan would
39 be able to address it. However, that being said, we'd
40 be happy to sit down and go over some of these
41 documents with invested stakeholders and talk in more
42 detail about this approach.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick can, I
47 guess, speak for Adak, but.....

48

49 MR. KOSO: What was that, Della, excuse

50

0188

1 me, I missed that?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I was saying you
4 could speak for Adak, but I just don't understand why
5 it's taken this long to at least try to --
6 understanding everybody's, you know, we've got the
7 concern of too many animals and the destruction of the
8 habitat but, you know, not knowing how many people are
9 going in there and hunting and the reporting factor, or
10 they don't need a permit -- I heard at some point in
11 time, so that it's just basically open, non-permitted
12 hunting to anybody, and that's going to continue until
13 you get your herd down to 250, to 150 and then you'll
14 put together a management plan; is that the way I am
15 understanding this?

16

17 MR. RINALDI: No -- this is Todd.
18 That's not completely accurate. So we do have an idea
19 of how many hunters are reporting taking caribou. The
20 graphs that were provided in the management report and
21 the memos, and the graphs that Dave sent this morning
22 to the Council do reflect the level of harvest.
23 Although we may not have an accurate representation of
24 how many hunters or how many people come on to the
25 island associated with hunting, we do have a pretty
26 good idea of what the reported harvest is, and that's
27 in those documents that are provided. You are required
28 to have a hunting license and a State permit to hunt
29 caribou on Adak. So it's not unpermitted harvest, it's
30 a harvest ticket used -- it's the general season
31 harvest ticket that's used throughout the state, inun --
32 undraw -- or no draw registration hunt.

33

34 And, so, yeah, but ultimately as we
35 continue to see this decline and in the coming years,
36 we'll start to understand a little bit more about where
37 this herd may level out. It may be something that we
38 work on with U.S. Fish and Wildlife to assess the range
39 of the herd and to assess the habitat out there, it's
40 something that we haven't talked about in a number of
41 years but it may be appropriate to do that. But those
42 are the types of information that we'd probably need if
43 we really wanted to dial in a new management plan,
44 which can be done down the line. We just don't have
45 the information to be able to address it at this time.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair. So, Todd, do

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1 you guys presently have a management plan in place? I
2 think you mentioned that earlier, and you guys are
3 working out of King Salmon, right?

4

5 MR. RINALDI: Dave -- Dave Crowley is
6 the area manager for the Aleutians and he is out of
7 King Salmon. I am in the regional office in Palmer.
8 And there is -- there's a 1980 Adak plan in addition to
9 the 1976 plan, which is, for all intents and purposes
10 still there. I believe those documents, along with the
11 MOU, and the most recent survey memo from Fish and
12 Wildlife have been provided to the Council, and, if
13 not, I can make those available.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: They've
16 been.....

17

18 MR. KOSO: Maybe do you guys have a --
19 maybe redoing that and bringing it up to date, it seems
20 like it's 40, 50 years old?

21

22 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, you know, and that's
23 a lot of what this conversation has been, is bringing
24 it up to date. You know, the management strategy
25 really hasn't changed. You know, we have an objective
26 to keep the population pretty low, 150, some would
27 argue that that's too low, but we have not been able to
28 keep it at 150. As Dave pointed out, in those
29 population and harvest charts that were provided, they
30 show that, you know, while the Base was active on the
31 island, the hunters were able to keep it in check
32 around 300 animals for a number of years, but as soon
33 as they left and even with no bag limits the population
34 took off and we weren't able to get the harvest to keep
35 it in check. So the management strategy would still be
36 the same, is to -- it would be no bag limit and very
37 little season change to maximize the harvest, even
38 while the herd is declining. But once it starts to
39 get, you know, below a thousand and close to the 500
40 we'll probably end up changing the bag limit in concert
41 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and begin to
42 address what we're observing at the time and changing
43 the hunt structure as necessary.

44

45 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Todd, I think that
46 needs to happen because.....

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

49

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1 MR. KOSO:you're talking 150, 200
2 caribou on that island, that certainly wouldn't be
3 enough for -- even to suffice five people on the island
4 for subsistence. A lot of those people live off of
5 that caribou during the winters and summers and if you
6 were to drop it to 150 I mean you'd be taking away a
7 whole subsistence lifestyle of people that've been
8 there for 30 years now, been living off of -- and that
9 would really hurt the local people for sure.

10

11 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, I guess one caveat
12 there, is the plan does say to maintain a pre-calving
13 population of 150 caribou so, I believe the thought
14 process back when this plan was developed and when this
15 herd was introduced, was that, the productivity of 150
16 adult caribou would probably provide enough caribou for
17 the locals and I guess for -- for the military folks
18 that were out there at the time. So I guess that is a
19 point of clarification. We're talking about 150
20 adults, late winter, technically, and they could
21 produce hundreds of calves themselves.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, all the files that
28 have been discussed have been emailed to you, possibly
29 twice. I do caution you the one is four megabytes so it
30 might be a little slow to get, but they've been
31 emailed, and I realize that is, you know, another
32 channel of communication. But if those -- if Council
33 members want to look at what's being discussed,
34 hopefully they have access to email.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

41

42 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Hey, Vince, you know,
43 I've been receiving a lot of the info, you know, to
44 download that we're looking at 28, 30, 40 pages to
45 download, you can run through a pack of ink pretty fast
46 with that and, you know, when you're spending 60 and 70
47 bucks for an ink cartridge, is there any way that you
48 could mail us that stuff instead of sending it -- I
49 know we need it right away but in the past -- but maybe
50

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1 we could get it through the mail.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: No, I can do that, that's
4 no problem. I just know that there was references to
5 different graphs and that and we wanted to make sure,
6 if possible, you could see them. But we can mail all
7 the materials to the Council members, no problem.

8

9 MR. KOSO: Thank you.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.
12 Just on the record, I don't need anything -- any hard
13 copies mailed to me, so don't waste the postage on
14 that.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, Rick, I
19 have my laptop up and these reports that have been
20 discussed, I'm looking at them now.

21

22 All right.

23

24 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
25 Natasha.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
28 Natasha.

29

30 MS. HAYDEN: I just have a question.
31 So I don't know if I'm looking at the right document or
32 not, but the aerial survey, is there harvest statistics
33 in one of those documents that you sent? I see the
34 aerial survey one that shows the numbers.....

35

36 MR. RINALDI: Figure 4.

37

38 MS. HAYDEN:of animals; is that
39 in the.....

40

41 MR. RINALDI: It's Figure 4.

42

43 MS. HAYDEN:aerial survey
44 documents on Page.....

45

46 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, Figure 4 in that
47 aerial survey document depicts the harvest relative to
48 the population.

49

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0192

1 MS. HAYDEN: Current population and
2 hunter harvest estimate. Okay, so the red is the
3 harvest. So it looks like the harvest.....

4
5 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, the red is the
6 harvest and -- and the.....

7
8 MS. HAYDEN:is going, in the last
9 10 years, it looks like about an average of 250,
10 something like that, animals. So is that -- am I
11 looking at that correctly?

12
13 MR. RINALDI: Yes, that's correct.
14 It's the.....

15
16 MS. HAYDEN: The red line.

17
18 MR. RINALDI:it's the right axis,
19 which ranges from a hundred to 500, and that's where
20 the red data line, and then the blue line is working
21 off of the left axis, the population size.

22
23 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. So my question is,
24 that 150 animals that you're saying -- I guess you're
25 saying winter, so that would be post-harvest, even
26 though there isn't any season, that's assuming that the
27 harvest would be done for the year, and that is
28 predicted to support these harvest levels of two to
29 three -- above 300 animals per year as well?

30
31 MR. RINALDI: No. If we only had 150
32 animals on the landscape we wouldn't be able to harvest
33 two or 300 caribou, so, we -- to support a level of two
34 or 300 harvested, we'd probably have to have the levels
35 that we have now and the participation that we have now
36 because that's what the harvest levels are showing us.
37 You know, if we wanted to maintain the population of a
38 few hundred, we would probably only be able to, you
39 know, harvest a hundred, 200 -- you know, less than 200
40 a year if we were trying to keep the population around
41 three or 400. It depends on productivity. And as Dave
42 mentioned, you know, the habitat has probably suffered
43 significantly from these population levels and so these
44 lower populations are going to try to figure out how to
45 make a living as the habitat regenerates. So that's
46 one of the variables that we're trying to understand
47 and we're not going to be able to assess that until the
48 next few years as this herd begins to stabilize at
49 lower levels again.

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1 MS. HAYDEN: Okay, thanks for that. I
2 have a couple of questions, Madame Chair, if that's
3 okay.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.
6

7 MS. HAYDEN: So my next question is, is
8 that there was -- this was based on the aerial survey
9 and I think the aerial survey had been a long time
10 coming, like we don't have aerial surveys -- do they
11 have aerial surveys every year? Maybe I'm wrong about
12 that.

13
14 MR. RINALDI: You cut out, but I think
15 your question was about the aerial surveys. And the
16 charge -- leading the charge on that is the U.S. Fish
17 and Wildlife, and we greatly appreciate it. I don't
18 believe surveys are done every year. If you look at
19 the population estimates on that chart it looks like
20 there's been some difficulty in getting population
21 estimates, and that can range from logistical issues to
22 pandemic issues to mostly weather issues and the
23 ability to get out there and fly and survey at the time
24 of the year. It can also be financial issues, but I
25 don't think that's been a problem. And U.S. Fish and
26 Wildlife could speak more to that if they'd like,
27 please.

28
29 MR. WILLIAMS: Jeff Williams here just
30 to speak to the question, briefly. So almost all those
31 surveys are opportunistic surveys. We've never
32 received funding to do any of those surveys and it's
33 usually flight time and compensation for other
34 logistical support through agencies like the Alaska
35 Volcano Observatory or historically U.S. Coast Guard
36 cutters. When they came in we would look for
37 opportunities to get several hours of flight time, and
38 it takes about a full day. At least two, two and a
39 half (indiscernible) with about four hours each to do
40 that. So we do it when we can. And there is no
41 helicopter stationed on Adak and so it has to be
42 whenever a helicopter comes out because it would be
43 hundreds or hundreds of thousands of dollars to do a
44 survey on a regular basis.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you for that. So my
49 follow-up question to that, is that method of
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1 conducting the survey, is that in the existing
2 management plan?

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Jeff Williams
5 again. So I don't think that that is explicitly called
6 out, and it's certainly the most effective way with
7 helicopters, slow flying aircraft, like helicopter, due
8 to the mountainous terrain that's in there.
9 Logistically it's difficult, a lot of fog, high
10 elevations, you need just the right weather. So you
11 need a vehicle of opportunity, a helicopter, or a
12 platform of opportunity, and you need the right
13 weather. And sometimes we've had opportunities and
14 we've been waiting, or have been unable to survey.
15 Like similar things for a variety of species, but with
16 fog and wind and the high terrain, you need pretty
17 clear opportunities, to get good counts. So it's very
18 challenging.

19

20 But we've done fairly well, as best we
21 could, to-date, out there with all those
22 considerations.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. HAYDEN: Sure. Understand. Thank
27 you for that. I'm just trying to get a good handle on
28 what approach, us, as a RAC, could take for requesting
29 that updated management plans with the -- I mean
30 circumstances have changed dramatically in the last 40,
31 50 years, to help address the concerns of the people
32 out there. I understand what the biology is saying, is
33 that the habitat can only support a certain population,
34 and because the -- or because damage to the habitat has
35 happened, that this, you know, from what I understand
36 what you're saying is we're expecting a complete
37 collapse of the population over there, but to me that's
38 not taking into consideration those other components,
39 the other factors of the increased hunting pressure,
40 and the dependence of the community out there as this
41 being the primary subsistence resource. Can you just
42 help me, and I'm not sure who this question should go
43 to but can somebody help me understand how we could
44 approach requesting an updated management plan, or data
45 request to -- so that we could get a better sense of
46 what all of these factors are, the impact of these new
47 circumstances, relatively new, maybe over the last 10
48 years, are, on -- that is different than just the
49 habitat and what the habitat can support?

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha, let's
2 see, I think what -- I'm not sure what the proper
3 procedure here would be, but, maybe Katya you can help
4 me out here, should they then just have a motion -- or
5 Council consensus that the impacted groups then, and
6 they're listed on the letter, try to make an honest
7 effort to be able to try to look at these documents and
8 see if there's any areas to make improvements, I mean
9 even to just update them. I think -- this caribou
10 thing has been our agenda for five years, easily, and
11 it's probably even been longer than that, I'd like to
12 try to come to some resolution to this so that we're
13 able to -- it's nice to get these reports because even
14 that we weren't getting for quite awhile. And
15 understanding being not able to do the surveys and just
16 an opportunity sometimes happens and able to do that,
17 and that was really appreciated to be able to even just
18 see numbers. So I don't know what the proper procedure
19 would be to request that an effort be made to try to
20 get the impacted -- the affected parties together to be
21 able to address some of these issues and concerns by
22 the local community.

23
24 MS. SKINNER: And, Della, can you add
25 me to the list -- this is Rebecca, of people who want
26 to.....

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
29 Rebecca.

30
31 MS. SKINNER: Oh, thanks.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead,
34 Rebecca.

35
36 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. So being
37 from Kodiak, you know, obviously I'm not -- Adak and
38 Kagalaska caribou are not something I deal with
39 everyday, but listening to the discussion and then
40 thinking back to some of the past meetings we've had, I
41 -- so I like Della's suggestion of having the
42 interested stakeholders get together and talk about
43 this at a high level. One, the caribou, I believe, are
44 not a native species to that area, so one of the
45 questions I have is from a Federal standpoint, what is
46 the intent on the Federal side? So is there going to
47 be a continuing willingness to manage that herd so that
48 it continues to exist or at some point will there be,
49 you know, eradication. Because I think with one of the
50

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1 islands out there it was decided that the caribou were
2 damaging the island and they just needed to go away.
3 So if that is going to be the case, I mean that would
4 definitely change how I looked at, is there really
5 going to be a long-term management plan. So that's one
6 question.

7
8 If the herd is going to be managed for
9 continuous existence, I -- one of the issues is there
10 isn't data and it sounds like it's going to be very
11 expensive to have regular surveys, and I don't know if
12 this would be a priority item for those funds anyway.
13 So that's a problem. And I guess I'm trying to
14 understand fully what the concern is right now. If the
15 concern is that the hunting limits are too liberal, so
16 the concern from the RAC side. That the hunting limits
17 are too liberal and we're concerned with the viability
18 of that herd. But at the same time the biologists are
19 telling us that the herd is too big and there's not
20 enough hunting to reduce it to a point where it would
21 be viable. I don't know -- so what I get out of that
22 is a management plan would be to go in and cull the
23 herd, I'm not sure if that interaction that Rick is
24 thinking right now, I don't know -- I mean I don't
25 think we can solve this on this call today so I guess
26 I'll just wrap up by saying I think having a more
27 focused and targeted stakeholder group discussion makes
28 sense to me. Because as Della said, this is an issue
29 that has been ongoing for a long time and I think some
30 of the challenges that we're looking at as far as
31 survey and funding and just availability of hunters to
32 go in and hunt the herd to the level that's required to
33 have it be a sustainable population. Those are issues
34 that we, as a RAC, I think, can't solve, but perhaps a
35 discussion of a new management plan could actually, you
36 know, address those issues, think outside the box, come
37 up with something.

38
39 So those are my thoughts.

40
41 But I do support Della's suggestion of
42 a stakeholder group.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
47 there any other comments in regard to Adak caribou.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

50

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1 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: I have.....

4

5 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, was
8 that you Rick. I heard two people.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to make a
11 comment.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, it sounds
14 like maybe Pat, and is one of the lady's maybe.

15

16 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral.

17

18 MS. HAYDEN: I think Coral, and then
19 this is Natasha.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
22 Okay, go ahead Coral and then Pat.

23

24 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I thank you.
25 Natasha had mentioned how, you know, how we, as a RAC,
26 what is our role here. And my thought was that -- what
27 I'm kind of pulling out of this conversation that some
28 issues are perhaps the hunting is diminishing the herd,
29 or diminishing the herd so much that they're moving
30 farther, people can't get to the herds, hunting is too
31 liberal. So my thought is just to help people, or
32 encourage people -- it seems like we have the tool of
33 proposals that it seems like could deal with some of
34 these issues, perhaps proposing closed areas closer to
35 the village, that are only open to the local people.
36 So I guess I would encourage some, you know, getting
37 together and maybe looking at a new management plan
38 might be good but it seems like the management plan is
39 for 150 and if the concern is the environment and too
40 many caribou, yeah, I don't see the management plan
41 necessarily raising those herd numbers.

42

43 So it seems like proposals, maybe going
44 and looking at encouraging some proposal options.

45

46 Also I guess looking forward in a
47 management plan maybe there's an opportunity for the
48 tribe to be gifted a certain amount and then sent so
49 they have them -- you know there's a lot of caribou --

50

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1 there's several places around the state that I think do
2 caribou herding or they're kept, so maybe that's a
3 possibility.

4
5 But my suggestion is to encourage
6 proposals to sort of sort out some of these issues in
7 the near future, and that's all.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
12 Coral.

13
14 Pat.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madame Chair.
17 Coral's raised a point. I think in the State regs, you
18 could probably take the part that belongs to the Aleut
19 Corporation and change harvest levels with access
20 there. I think the community itself would make a
21 request to incoming folks as to how many people are
22 coming in and ask them to have a report. I might
23 suggest to Rick that they form a Fish and Game AC in
24 their community to deal with those things. But looking
25 at the information presented by both the State and the
26 Feds it's very obviously that the population has
27 exceeded the carrying capacity. And having been out
28 there at Adak and I provided one time opportunity with
29 a helicopter that I had when I was surveying the
30 Aleutians to the Refuge, and the point is is that you
31 need to look at the topography of the island and even
32 with a large population or a small population there's
33 only a percentage that's going to come over the
34 mountain on the side, on the Aleut Corporation land,
35 and I honestly don't think that there's any way to be
36 able to get that population -- if you look at that
37 graph, anything over 500, and what the professionals
38 are saying is that probably is sustained population of
39 150, 200 after harvest is probably what's achievable.
40 I think the point made on looking at through either
41 State or Federal regs on having an allocation to the
42 island for locals, that's a possibility. But I don't
43 think there's any way you're ever going to achieve
44 thousands of animals on the island. And I don't think
45 there's any way you're going to be able to actively get
46 the numbers that used to come to the north side; it's
47 just not biologically possible.

48
49 So I would think that the agencies are
50

0199

1 doing their best job. They could help by just keeping
2 us up to date on what's going on and I would suggest a
3 liaison and a forming of a committee, either with an
4 Advisory Committee or a local one between the city and
5 the corporation and these entities for them to keep the
6 locals advised as to what's going on. So that would be
7 my perspective on it.

8

9 Quite frankly, I think they're giving
10 us a pretty honest appraisal of the situation. And
11 changing the management plan, I don't know what that
12 would accomplish because there's too many -- probably
13 at least twice as many caribou as there should be.

14

15 So thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

18

19 Any other comments.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I do have one
24 comment -- go ahead, Coral.

25

26 MS. CHERNOFF: So with these comments
27 that we've just given perhaps we can write a letter to
28 Adak with some of these sort of suggestions for
29 proposals, or what did Pat say, form an advisory
30 committee, just sort of some suggestions that have
31 happened here and send them a letter. And I guess if
32 we could offer any help through OSM or anyone, just to
33 let them know that. Just to let them know that, you
34 know, we're sort of working at this, we're trying to
35 figure this out and we have been trying to figure it
36 out for quite a few years. And then maybe that could
37 get the ball rolling.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead,
42 Rick, I hear you. We've got to wrap this up real soon
43 here because we've got quite a bit on the agenda.

44

45 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della, I didn't have
46 anything to say. But, yeah, the people there are aware
47 of what's going on. I've been talking to a couple of
48 them and I got a couple that would be willing to get on
49 a board there or a management plan, but as far as an

50

0200

1 advisory and getting the local people together, it's a
2 tough deal in the small villages to do that. So I
3 could get one or two probably, which I already found
4 there, so if need be we could put them on a board of
5 some sort there.

6
7 But, anyway, that's all I have on Adak.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
10 just so we keep this moving, a couple things. Maybe we
11 are wanting to give this to Steve and Dave Crowley,
12 Delehanty and Dave Crowley, to try to work with the
13 community and work with Rick and try to figure out how
14 you guys can get together and set up some kind of --
15 sort of meetings to try to move this along. Because I
16 think it's in everybody's best interest to, number 1,
17 make sure everybody knows what they're doing, what each
18 other is doing, and how best to keep moving forward.

19
20 The other thing I'm going to bring up
21 is that is a concern that I get here and this is going
22 to go to the State to put in the back of your mind and
23 figure out how this can be addressed. But Rick did
24 bring it up earlier. I mean it's nice for people in
25 these communities to be able to get the caribou. If
26 people are out there just basically hunting for the
27 racks and they don't process the meat as it should be
28 and you get it coming into the communities, and people
29 are happy to take it, but they're not happy to take
30 when this meat is sour or bad and it's really just
31 frustrating and sad for us to see this. Because we
32 live off of this. It's part of who we are and what we
33 do, eating caribou. And I get it here a lot, we have
34 guides, like one guy will fly in, the caribou or moose,
35 whatever they got, clean and it's perfect condition and
36 I pick it up and I take it to elders all over town and
37 everybody is happy. But when you see this come in like
38 that, it's basically, in my opinion, a slap on the
39 face, because it's so sad to see and there's got to be
40 a way to address this. It's more of a respectful
41 thing. The wanton waste is really hard to live with.

42
43 So just keep that in the back of your
44 mind, because it's something I watch pretty closely
45 here. Birds come over here and they're sour and
46 they're bad, there's no sense in sending them over from
47 Cold Bay if you can't eat them. The intention is nice
48 but if you can't make any use of them it defies the
49 whole purpose. So keep that in mind.

50

0201

1 With that, Rick, I guess closing this,
2 if everybody can sort of agree maybe to work with you a
3 little bit to figure out how to work on a committee and
4 then maybe we have some sort of a report at our last
5 meeting if things are moving on, I guess. So Jeff and
6 Dave, I guess, is that going to be something that can
7 be accomplished, or an effort to work towards.

8
9 MR. KOSO: Yeah, that would be fine
10 with me, Della, I don't have any problem with that. I
11 just, you know, I'm kind of lost here because I didn't
12 get a booklet this year so I've been trying to catch up
13 and follow behind you guys on a lot of stuff here. So
14 excuse my questions sometimes if they don't sound right
15 with what we're talking about. But anyway I'll be
16 happy to work with whoever from King Salmon or any of
17 the Feds there, and then I could relay to the
18 community, I'm in touch with them all the time.

19
20 MR. CROWLEY: And, Madame Chair, this
21 is Dave Crowley. I certainly agree, I'm willing to do
22 that.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

25
26 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Madame Chair,
27 thank you. I agree on behalf of the Fish and Wildlife
28 Service. We are happy to participate in something. I
29 might also point out that a majority of the land -- all
30 of the land that's owned on the north side of Adak
31 where Council Member Koso was talking about, all that
32 land is managed by the Aleut Corporation and access to
33 that land is provided by the Aleut Corporation through
34 use permits, except for a few 17(B) easements that go
35 through that land to Refuge land. So by far the
36 majority of all the harvest on Adak is on that northern
37 lands and so the Aleut Corporation is a key player in
38 here. If the intent is to provide for subsistence uses
39 by local residents, then access to those northern areas
40 immediately adjacent to the town is really critically.
41 And so the Aleut Corporation, by providing access,
42 would be a real key stakeholder I think could be
43 involved in that.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I fully agree.
46 And what I'll do is I'll -- they do have a resource
47 person that they hired and I'll get in contact with
48 them and give Rick's and the -- Dave's and Jeff's your--
49 and Steve's email address and maybe you can start that
50

0202

1 process there, that involvement. Plus I will forward
2 the documents that we've got in regard to the updated
3 documents for Adak caribou. So hopefully we can make
4 some progress in moving in a positive direction.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I'll make sure it's
11 a note to the future coordinator on this, that it will
12 be on the agenda, and there's other Staff listening in.
13 The other thing is, is you may want to announce, you
14 know, that it's time for public comment on non-agenda
15 items in case there is somebody listening in that has
16 comments to share on non-agenda items.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
21 Vince, for the reminder. So I'll open the floor for
22 anyone that would like to speak on any non-agenda
23 items, or anybody from the public that would like to
24 speak.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Now, I
29 was just kind of trying to figure out, yesterday, did
30 we do Division of Subsistence report on Unalaska and
31 Kodiak? I'm thinking we did.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, ma'am.

34

35 MS. KEATING: Madame Chair, this is
36 Jackie Keating.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: And she also pointed out
39 to you the other reports, too, so that was concluded.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Unless Jackie has
44 something else, I think she concluded on the reports
45 she wanted to share.

46

47 MS. KEATING: Good morning. This is
48 Jackie Keating with the Division of Subsistence. I gave
49 a pretty brief overview, and so if folks had any
50

0203

1 follow-up questions since it was at the end of the day
2 I'd be happy to answer them. We also have a more
3 detailed research plan for the upcoming Kodiak work
4 that I didn't really get into. And just know that I'm
5 here and willing to talk about that if people are
6 interested but I know we have a packed agenda today so
7 I'm on if questions come up.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
10 you, Jackie. I usually highlight when we complete
11 something and I didn't highlight it so I just wanted to
12 doublecheck. So, thank you.

13

14 So we're under new business, wildlife
15 proposals, OSM, fall 2021, I see what is -- is there a
16 page number on for this item? Is it in our book?

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there is. I think
19 the first one is WP22-37, and Brent was going to cover
20 that as I'm madly trying to find the page number for
21 that.

22

23 MR. VICKERS: Hello. Good morning.
24 This is Brent Vickers from OSM, and it's Page 64 of
25 your Council books, WP22-37. Page 64.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I thought we
28 took care of that yesterday and 38a. No, we didn't.

29

30 MR. VICKERS: No, we did not.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We had
33 the report -- okay. All right, so Page 67.

34

35 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Would you like me
36 to start getting into it?

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's go.

39

40 MR. VICKERS: Yes, so good morning,
41 Madame Chair and members of the Council. My name is
42 Brent Vickers and I'm the Cultural Anthropologist
43 Supervisor at the Office of Subsistence Management in
44 Anchorage. Analysis of this proposal begins on Page 64
45 of your Council books.

46

47 Wildlife Proposal 22-37 submitted by
48 Della Trumble of King Cove requests a change to the
49 customary and traditional use determination for
50

1 ptarmigan in Unit 9D from all rural residents to
2 residents of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point,
3 Belkofski, Sanak, Pauloff Harbor, Unga and Nelson
4 Lagoon.

5
6 Discussion. In the proposal, the
7 proponent states that ptarmigan is an important
8 resource for residents of Unit 9D. Through Proposal
9 WP22-37, the proponent requests the evaluation of of
10 the uses of ptarmigan by rural residents of the
11 communities listed. There have not been any Federal
12 determinations made for customary and traditional uses
13 of ptarmigan in Unit 9D.

14
15 Regulatory history. In 1990 the
16 Federal Subsistence Board assumed subsistence
17 management responsibilities on Federal public land and
18 adopted existing State customary and traditional use
19 determinations. The State did not recognize the
20 customary and traditional uses of ptarmigan in Unit 9D
21 and no proposals to change customary and traditional
22 use of ptarmigan in Unit 9D have been submitted since
23 inception of the program.

24
25 Community characteristics. All
26 communities listed in the proposal are located within
27 Unit 9D. Belkofski, Sanak, and Pauloff Harbor are no
28 longer permanently occupied. The communities of Cold
29 Bay, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point are
30 currently occupied year-round.

31
32 Eight factors for determining customary
33 and traditional use. Customary and traditional uses by
34 rural residents of a community or area are generally
35 exemplified through eight factors in regulation that
36 include a pattern of use excluding interruptions beyond
37 the control of rural residents of an area, near the
38 community or area. The Board has recognized customary
39 and traditional uses of brown bear, caribou, moose and
40 wold in Unit 9D for residents of Cold Bay, King Cove,
41 Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point. There's no formal
42 harvest reporting for ptarmigan, however, ptarmigan
43 harvest is captured in subsistence surveys. Residents
44 of each of the Unit 9D communities reported using and
45 sharing ptarmigan in the most recent comprehensive
46 subsistence surveys conducted in their respective
47 village communities. Resident have harvested ptarmigan
48 locally typically within 30 miles of their homes. The
49 author of a 2021 comprehensive subsistence report in
50

0205

1 King Cove noted that ptarmigan were hard to find and
2 many people believed them to be over hunted. Many
3 households said they did not go hunting because the
4 population is depressed.

5
6 Effects of the proposal. Currently all
7 rural residents may harvest ptarmigan in Unit 9D.
8 Recognizing customary and traditional use of ptarmigan
9 in the communities in Unit 9D will restrict Federal
10 harvest opportunities for other rural residents,
11 however, most hunters prefer to pursue opportunities
12 for the harvest of resources close to home so this is
13 not seen as a hardship.

14
15 OSM preliminary conclusion. Support
16 Proposal WP22-37 with modification. To recognize a
17 customary and traditional use of ptarmigan by all
18 residents of Unit 9D.

19
20 Justification. The Board has already
21 recognized customary and traditional use of terrestrial
22 animals and fishes in Unit 9D by communities of King
23 Cove, Cold Bay, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point. Based on
24
25 these previous determinations communities of Unit 9D
26 have already established a recognized pattern of
27 harvest and use of wild resources in the area
28 consistent with the eight factors. In addition, each
29 community has demonstrated use of ptarmigan as well as
30 demonstrated patterns of harvesting resources close to
31 home. Finally, recognizing customary and traditional
32 use for all residents of Unit 9D, rather than just
33 those with permanent settlements in the analysis will
34 account for changes in settlement patterns within the
35 unit.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So
40 that was the introduction. Are there any tribes or
41 ANCSA Corporations. Orville.

42
43 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair.
44 Council members. There were no comments or questions
45 during the wildlife proposal consultations.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

50

0206

1 Agency comments, ADF&G.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
6 ADF&G comments.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Federal agency
11 comments.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional
20 Advisory Councils.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
25 Advisory Committees.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
30 Resource Commissions.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
35 written public comments.

36

37 MR. VICKERS: Madame Chair, this is
38 Brent Vickers. No, there are no written public
39 comments.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
42 Public testimony.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
47 recommendation.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat. I move

50

0207

1 to adopt.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: Second. This is Coral.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
6 Pat Holmes, second by Coral. All in favor -- oh, let's
7 see, we've got discussion.

8

9 So I.....

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sorry. Go
14 ahead, Vince.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Working with different
21 advisory groups, sometimes a motion like this, what I
22 need to do is get clarification that the motion is to
23 adopt the proposal as written and not as modified by
24 OSM. So I need clarification that it is as written, or
25 are people making a motion as modified by OSM.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Pat.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: With permission of the
36 second I'd like to change the motion, move to adopt as
37 modified by Office of Subsistence Management.

38

39 Thank you, Madame.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

42

43 REPORTER: Coral.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Coral, that
46 is acceptable?

47

48 MS. CHERNOFF: Oh, yes, I second that.

49

50

0208

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All
2 right, I did meet with Lisa in regard to this and I
3 guess the thing that I -- when I look at this
4 basically, because the concern of, I think, lack of
5 birds, I did -- the concern with the amount of sport
6 hunting going on, and this is particularly in the
7 community of Cold Bay. And I did read yesterday into
8 the record a message that I received in regard to that.
9 So the concern here, and when I talked to, Lisa, if you
10 could help me with this one, we were looking at this
11 proposal, right now when it says currently all rural
12 residents and that means all rural residents, rural is
13 defined as all people within the state of Alaska. So
14 if this proposal is adopted then it would be the
15 residents of Cold Bay, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, and
16 Sand Point, in 9D, and I'm not even sure why False Pass
17 is not on this list -- of course, False Pass is in Unit
18 10, but I guess -- but I didn't hear any comments from
19 the State on this so if there is a concern then I kind
20 of would like to know what it is, and if there isn't
21 then I just think we move on with this proposal.

22

23 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is
24 Lisa.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Lisa.

27

28 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I just want to --
29 yeah, the reason Brent and I contacted you about this
30 proposal is we just wanted to make sure you and the
31 Council understands that having a C&T, a customary and
32 traditional use determination doesn't affect anyone
33 hunting under State regulations so unless there's a
34 closure of Federal public lands, then anyone can still
35 hunt ptarmigan under the State regs around, you know,
36 Cold Bay, on Federal lands in Unit 9D. So the
37 establishment of a C&T doesn't really get to any of the
38 conservation concerns that you expressed and by the
39 member of the public in the comment that you read
40 yesterday, so it'd be like a two step thing, where
41 you'd establish the C&T and then you would need to
42 request a closure of the Federal public lands in order
43 to have any sort of conservation effects for -- or
44 limiting people hunting on Federal land under sport
45 regs.

46

47 So that's really beyond the scope of
48 this proposal before the Council right now. But I just
49 wanted to clarify that since the concern seemed to be

50

0209

1 over ptarmigan numbers and conservation.

2

3

Thanks.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for the clarification.

7

8

MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

9

10

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

11

12

13

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20

MR. MATHEWS: Just a word of caution. You are the submitter of this proposal as an individual, so we're going to take your comments on the proposal as that, and you may want to consider having your Vice Chair continue with this so it's clear that you're honoring yourself as an individual in this process. Just something to consider on this and, of course, as you know with more controversial proposals that needs to be made very clear.

21

22

23

24

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thanks for that. Go ahead, Rebecca, do you want to continue on with WP22-37.

25

26

27

28

MS. SKINNER: Yep. Yep, I can sure do that. So I think we're in the discussion phase. Is there further discussion.

29

30

MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral.

31

32

MS. SKINNER: Go ahead, Coral.

33

34

35

36

37

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41

MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. I want to just say I am fully in support of this. I think it's -- I think customary and traditional use determinations are important. As has been shown in harvest reports and we know from stories and just family and living in areas that do the things that were used to sustain us, these hunting practices for thousands of years and so I am in support of this proposal.

42

43

44

MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you. Is there further discussion.

45

46

(No comments)

47

48

MR. KOSO: Question.

49

50

0210

1 MS. SKINNER: Is that calling for the
2 question -- all right, well, it sounds like then if
3 there is not further discussion, just restating the
4 motion for the record. Vince, do you mind restating
5 that?

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's fine. The
8 motion is to support Proposal WP22-37 with modification
9 to recognize the customary and traditional use of
10 ptarmigan by residents of Unit 9D. That was the motion
11 and it was seconded.

12
13 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you,
14 Vince. Can we go ahead and do a roll call vote on
15 this.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Sure. Let me grab my
18 sheet here. Okay. Patrick.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Rick. I heard a click,
23 Rick.

24
25 MR. KOSO: Yeah.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we'll come back.
28 Was that Rick.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we'll come back.

33
34 Coral.

35
36 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Rebecca.

39
40 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Natasha.

43
44 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Melissa.

47
48 MS. BERNS: Yes.

49
50

0211

1 MR. MATHEWS: Della.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

4

5 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Vince, this is Rick.

6 Can you hear you now?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I can hear you now.

9

10 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I say yes to that if

11 you could hear me. This is Rick.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: I can hear you. Rebecca,

14 the vote was unanimous in support of the proposal as

15 modified.

16

17 MS. SKINNER: Great, thank you, Vince.

18 And I will hand the gavel back over to Della then.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,

21 everyone. Thank you, Vince, for keeping us in line --

22 me, in line. The next item on the agenda is WP22-38,

23 caribou, Unit 10, add Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon to C&T

24 use determination. Introduction.

25

26 MR. VICKERS: Hello, again. This is

27 Brent Vickers once more. The next analysis for

28 proposal begins on Page 76 of your Council books.

29 Wildlife Proposal WP22-38a submitted by the Council

30 requests a customary and traditional use determination

31 for caribou in Unit 10 Unimak Island for residents of

32 Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon.

33

34 Discussion. The Council requests to

35 add Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon to the existing

36 customary and traditional use determination for caribou

37 in Unit 10, Unimak Island. Note. Relaxing the current

38 closure to caribou hunting in Unit 10, Unimak Island,

39 which currently applies to all but residents of False

40 Pass is related in the related proposal WP22-38b.

41

42 Regulatory history. In 1990 the

43 Federal Subsistence Board assumed subsistence

44 management responsibilities on Federal public land and

45 adopted and existing State customary and traditional

46 use determinations. At that time False Pass was the

47 only community with customary and traditional use

48 determination for caribou in Unimak Island portion of

49 Unit 10. In 1998 the Board expanded customary and

50

1 traditional use of Unit 10 caribou to residents of King
2 Cove and Sand Point. In that same proposal the Board
3 decided not to include residents of Cold Bay nor Nelson
4 Lagoon into the determination because they had not
5 demonstrated a long-term use of the Unimak Island
6 caribou. In 2010 the Secretary of Interior asked the
7 Board to review, with Regional Advisory Council input,
8 a customary and traditional use process and present
9 recommendations for regulatory changes. In June 2016
10 the Board clarified that the eight factor analysis
11 applied when considering customary and traditional use
12 determinations is intended to protect subsistence
13 rather than limit it.

14
15 Eight factors for determining customary
16 and traditional use. Customary and traditional uses by
17 rural residents of a community is generally exemplified
18 through eight factors in regulation that include a
19 pattern of use excluding interruptions beyond the
20 control of rural residents of an area near the
21 community or area. The Board makes customary and
22 traditional use determinations based on the holistic
23 application of these eight factors. The Board has
24 recognized Cold Bay's customary and traditional use of
25 brown bear in Units 9D and 10 Unimak Island and
26 caribou, moose and wolf in Unit 9D. The Board has
27 recognized Nelson Lagoon's customary and traditional
28 uses of brown bear, caribou, moose and wolf in Unit 9D.
29 Unimak Island caribou is closed to hunting during the
30 2016 survey year, but residents of Cold Bay harvested
31 caribou in other local locations. In a 2021 report,
32 residents of Cold Bay claimed that they were not
33 getting enough caribou for their needs, explaining that
34 caribou were not coming as close to the community and
35 harvesting sites as before. There was a dramatic
36 decline in the number of caribou harvested by residents
37 of Nelson Lagoon between 1987 and 2009. Most
38 households surveyed in 1987 reported harvesting and
39 sharing caribou but no households reported harvesting
40 caribou in 2009. Regulatory changes since 1987 are one
41 of the main causes for reduction in caribou harvesting.
42 In a 2012 report one resident explained the caribou ban
43 really put a hurt on us, others believe that the main
44 reason for the decline in caribou is because of an over
45 abundance of wolves.

46
47 Effects of the proposal. If this
48 proposal is adopted, the residents of Cold Bay and
49 Nelson Lagoon will have customary and traditional use
50

0213

1 for caribou in Unit 10 Unimak Island. Currently
2 residents of Akutan, False Pass, King Cove and Sand
3 Point have customary and traditional use of caribou in
4 Unit 10 Unimak Island, however the harvest of caribou
5 in Unimak Island is currently closed to all but
6 residents of False Pass. If the closure is modified as
7 requested in Proposal WP22-38b, the Federal public
8 lands in Unit 10 Unimak Island are closed to the
9 hunting of caribou except by Federally-qualified
10 subsistence users, Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon would
11 have an opportunity to participate in the hunt.

12

13 OSM preliminary conclusion. Support
14 Proposal WP22-38a with modification to recognize the
15 customary and traditional use of caribou by all
16 residents of Unit 9D.

17

18 Justification. Residents of the
19 communities of Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon already have
20 customary and traditional use determination for caribou
21 and brown bear in Unit 9D as well as customary and
22 traditional use determination for brown bear in Unit
23 10. Both communities have patterns of use of caribou
24 and local subsistence resources in Units 9D and 10
25 consistent with the eight factors outlined in the
26 analysis. Furthermore, recognizing customary and
27 traditional use for all residents of Unit 9D, rather
28 than those with permanent settlements in this analysis,
29 including Cold Bay, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, and Sand
30 Point will account for changes in settlement patterns
31 within the unit.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
36 Brent. Is there a report, Orville, on tribe or ANCSA
37 Corporation comments.

38

39 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. Council
40 members. No questions or comments from the
41 consultations. Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
44 Agency comments, ADF&G.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Federal
49 comments.

50

0214

1 MR. RINALDI: Yes, the.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal
4 comments.....

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madame Chair.
7 Council members. There are no Federal.....

8

9 MR. RINALDI:Department of Fish
10 and Game does have comm.....

11

12 REPORTER: Okay, wait a second. Wait.
13 Wait. Please. Della, could you go back to Fish and
14 Game.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Tina,
17 ADF&G?

18

19 REPORTER: Yep.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. ADF&G.

22

23 MR. RINALDI: Yes, the Department has
24 comments, and I believe Dave Crowley will be speaking
25 to this proposal.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

28

29 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair. This is
30 Dave Crowley, Department of Fish and Game. I guess my
31 only concerns with this have to do with harvest of the
32 Unimak Island herd. Similar to Adak Island, I think if
33 we restrict harvest to a small group of people we're
34 not going to get the harvest we need to control this
35 herd. We have a proposal in -- the Department has a
36 proposal in to the Alaska Board of Game to open a
37 registration hunt on Unimak Island with an initial
38 harvest of approximately 25 bulls just to get things
39 started. Unimak Island is probably more remote than
40 Adak Island because Alaska Airlines does not fly into
41 False Pass. So that's something we need to keep in
42 mind, that we're going to need to start harvesting this
43 herd. It's currently at about 460 animals and it's
44 growing and the composition is looking really good.
45 There's very good bull to cow ratio, calf/cow ratio.
46 The herd is growing, and we're going to need to start
47 harvesting it in order to stay out of the Adak Island
48 scenario.

49

50

0215

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

4 Federal comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal comments.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory group

13 comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional

18 Advisory Councils.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game

23 Advisory Committees.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence

28 Resource Commissions.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Written public

33 comments.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Public

38 testimony.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council

43 recommendation. Basically it looks like support with

44 modification. So I believe that's where we're at, we'd

45 be adding Akutan and False Pass and Unit 9D. Is that

46 correct, Vince, on the modification, or can answer on

47 this?

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's correct. I

50

0216

1 don't know if you can hear me, I can hear you. But,
2 anyways, yes, that is correct. That would be a valid
3 motion. We need someone to make the motion and a
4 second. Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Do I hear
7 a motion to approve WP22-38a.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Move to adopt as modified.

10

11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted - phone on hold)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Moved by Pat as
15 modified -- oh, somebody putting their phone on hold.

16

17 REPORTER: I'm going to cut out and try
18 and get the operator, hold on, and cut the line.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 REPORTER: Go ahead, Della.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: A motion was
27 made by Pat Holmes to approve WP22-38a, do I hear a
28 second.

29

30 (Teleconference interference -
31 participants not muted)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Somebody needs
34 to mute their mic.

35

36 MS. GREDIAGIN: Well, Madame Chair, can
37 you clarify whether that was adopt as submitted, or
38 adopt as modified by OSM.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: As modified.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It was as
43 modified. All right, I'm still hearing.....

44

45 REPORTER: Okay, folks, before we go
46 on, can people please check your line, make sure you're
47 muted so we can hear what's going on and give the
48 courtesy to the people that are speaking, so we can
49 focus on what they're saying.

50

0217

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tina.
4 And I hear some typing also going on there. All right,
5 here's where we are, Council. We got a motion to
6 approve WP22-38a, no second to the motion, so I am
7 assuming this will basically fall -- fail.

8

9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Moving on. The
13 next item on the agenda is, if I can find it again, is
14 statewide Proposal WP22-01, various species, statewide,
15 define who/who is not -- is or is not a participant in
16 a community harvest program and affects on harvest
17 limits. So whomever is doing that proposal, you're on
18 the floor.

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22

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

24

25 MS. KENNER: Hi, Madame Chair.

26

27 MS. SKINNER:Rebecca. Can I just
28 -- this is Rebecca. Can I just clarify, and I'm sorry
29 if I'm confused, I thought we just did 38a, were we
30 actually doing 38b next?

31

32 MS. KENNER: Rebecca, this is Pippa
33 Kenner. And, yes, we need to move on to 38b now which
34 is to modify the season.

35

36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, sorry
40 about that.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Vince, are you
45 trying to make a comment.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Madame Chair.
48 Because we're having so much difficulty with the phone,
49 38a, we didn't get a second, to my knowledge, but it
50

0218

1 could be because of the phone challenges, so I don't
2 know if you want to go back to 38a on the motion.
3 Because we're having a lot of difficulty on the phone.

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, let's do
9 this. We did this yesterday, too, let's go ahead and
10 take a 10 minute break right now. Everyone call back
11 in and hopefully we're on a better line so everybody
12 could hear and we're not having difficulties. If
13 that's agreeable let's go ahead and recess for 10
14 minutes, call back in and we'll go back to 22-38a.

15
16 REPORTER: Okay, and folks while you're
17 hanging up, when you call back in, please put yourself
18 on mute, because a lot of the problem is, is we have a
19 lot of background noise. So I would appreciate that
20 and everyone speaking would appreciate that.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tina.
25 Yes.

26
27 (Off record)

28
29 (On record)

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: So, Madame Chair, you do
32 have a quorum, you're just missing Melissa. So if I
33 may, we left, before all the phone problems, that Pat
34 made a motion and we need to clarify that he made a
35 motion as the proposal was amended or did he make a
36 motion as the proposal was written, and there was no
37 second at that time but it most likely was because of
38 the phone problems.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Basically what
41 Vince is saying is we're backing up to WP22-37.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: 38a.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: To 38a.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: 38a.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, on 38a on
50

0219

1 caribou Unit 10 adding Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon to
2 C&T use determination. Pat Holmes made a motion to
3 approve as amended. And I was asking if there was a
4 second to Pat's motion.

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: I'll second it, this is
7 Coral.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: There's a second
10 by Coral. So discussion. Is there any discussion on
11 the motion.

12

13 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

14

15 MADAME CHAIRTRUMBLE: Goahead, Rebecca.

16

17 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Della. I just
18 wanted a little bit of clarification about how this
19 proposal 38a works in conjunction with Proposal 38b.
20 So looking at these, my understanding is even with the
21 changes in 38b it's still not limited to subsistence
22 users with a C&T determination; is that correct? I
23 guess I'm trying to understand the impact of 38a,
24 taking into account 38b that we haven't dealt with yet.

25

26 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
27 Pippa Kenner.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pippa.

30

31 MS. KENNER: Hey, thanks for the
32 question. Madame Chair. The a portion of the proposal
33 describes who will be affected. What people will be
34 affected by changes in Federal regulation. The b
35 portion discusses seasons and harvest limit.

36

37 MS. SKINNER: Okay. That was very
38 helpful, thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other
41 discussion on 38a.

42

43 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

46

47 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I know it just says on
48 the thing here Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon, but I heard
49 somebody mention Akutan on that, that's not part of
50

0220

1 this is it?

2

3

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If you recall the history, Rick, Akutan is part of it and has been. Historically it has been. But what happened -- I don't know how many years ago when the herd crashed on 9D and 10, basically -- and we did subsistence permits, Akutan agreed to not be a part of that allocation to the community because they don't -- didn't have, really, ways of coming -- going to Unimak to hunt, or to 9D to hunt because they hadn't for many, many years. So they agreed at that time to be left out of the customary and traditional use by residents of Unit 9D. This, it looks like it's adding them back in here, but like I say, before -- I want to say maybe 30 caribou, there was five caribou per community, six communities to equal the 30 caribou that it was split between communities and it didn't include Akutan.

19

20 MR. KOSO: Thanks, Della.

21

22 MR. VICKERS: Madame Chair, this is Brent Vickers. And I just wanted to clarify and read out that the current customary and traditional use determination is for the residents of Akutan, False Pass, King Cove and Sand Point. But Federal public lands are closed to all -- to taking of caribou except by residents of False Pass. So this proposal is to add Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon to the list of communities with C&T determination. The following proposal, 38b, will be about who -- how -- relaxing that closure.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

38

39 MR. KOSO: Yeah, it seems like it would clarify things on that if they just went ahead and said all villages, communities in the Aleutian East Borough.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think basically they're using the customary and traditional use based on community. I.....

46

47 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is Pippa Kenner.

48

49

50

0221

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Okay. So the reason why
4 we're -- the analyst is only looking at those two
5 communities is because we only analyze the communities
6 in the proposal. However, if the Council wishes to,
7 they can recommend to the Board that a broader area be
8 included in the customary and traditional use
9 determination, such as all residents of Unit 9 and 10
10 or something like that. It's up to the Council.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. PETRIVELLI: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

17

18 MS. PETRIVELLI: Well, it could be
19 since the communities that are listed are the
20 communities of the Aleutians East Borough, because I
21 think in our other regulations we've done rural
22 determinations, like saying the Fairbanks Northstar
23 Borough aren't -- are non-rural, but the regulation
24 specialist could see if it could just say, residents,
25 you know, of the Aleutians East Borough in 9D and 10,
26 and that would just simplify it. Because it would just
27 be a way of delineating the boundaries of the areas,
28 and that way you could include like -- like you did
29 with the other one that just said residents of 9D. But
30 if you wanted to suggest that modification and they
31 could see if that would be a proper way to put it in
32 regulations.

33

34 MS. KENNER: And, Madame Chair, this is
35 Pippa Kenner.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: For the record
38 that was Pat.....

39

40 MS. KENNER: That was Pat Petrivelli
41 who is at the BLM and a long-time part of our program.
42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: BIA.

45

46 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes, I'm from the BIA.

47

48 MS. KENNER: Sorry, Pat.

49

50

0222

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So we
2 have some suggestions to modify the motion. The motion
3 was made by Pat Holmes. Pat, do you have any comments.
4

5 MR. HOLMES: I don't have any problem
6 on the way it's modified. I think right now with the
7 harvest being limited to False Pass that's really key,
8 and then when it opens, more critters are available,
9 then, you know, opening it up. Right now I believe
10 most of the herd, from the previous reports that we had
11 from the State and OSM, most of the herd is in the
12 highlands all the way, two-thirds of the way, or
13 halfway down the island. And back in the old days when
14 there were a lot of caribou all these communities used
15 to fish there and Becharof and False Pass, along
16 between the island and the mainland, and particularly --
17 I think a lot of the harvest would occur after the end
18 of the salmon season where people that were fishing up
19 on the north side would come back down through or
20 earlier when everybody's going north and back and
21 through the pass. So I would just like to make sure
22 that until we have a decent amount of harvest that, you
23 know, the folks in False Pass have the priority and
24 then once there's enough and we need to reduce the
25 herd, or keep it down, then opening it up to the rest
26 of the Peninsula first.

27
28 And, anyway, that's kind of my
29 heartfelt feelings on the whole thing. I don't know
30 that the argument that it's exactly like Adak because
31 there's 10 times the area and so there might probably
32 might need to be a little higher number of caribou but
33 I'll leave that to the professionals.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So basically the
38 motion, Pat, would read to support Proposal 22-38a with
39 modification to recognize a customary and traditional
40 use of caribou by residents of the Aleutians East
41 Borough.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's fine with me
44 if it's with the second.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Coral, you
47 seconded, is that okay?

48
49 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. And then I have a
50

0223

1 comment or a question.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Go ahead,
4 Coral.

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: So I have a question
7 about -- so originally the draft proposal lists
8 residents of Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, so it lists
9 those out, so my question is in the -- in the
10 modification, when you list residents of the -- what
11 was it East Aleutians -- Aleutian East, whatever, or if
12 you list it as residents of Unit 9, is that the best
13 wording. And what I'm thinking of is that say a mining
14 company comes in, within this area, all of a sudden
15 there's 3,000 people like living there, and this is
16 just thinking about the scenario, so then they become
17 included in this area, under customary and traditional
18 use, right? So my idea is if that's the case then
19 maybe we should leave them listed as Cold Bay, Akutan,
20 False Pass, King Cove. And so that's just my thought
21 on this.

22

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

25

26 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
27 Pippa Kenner. And just to answer the member's
28 question. She -- her interpretation is correct.

29

30 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
31 Robbin. Can you hear me?

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I can hear you,
34 Robbin, go ahead.

35

36 MS. LAVINE: Actually, I would note
37 though, that to be eligible to participate in
38 subsistence harvest under Federal regulations you must
39 also be a permanent rural resident. And so under the
40 scenario that you pose, people that come in and spend a
41 short period of time working, seasonally, in support of
42 a development operation would not be a rural resident
43 of Unit, let's say 9D and 10.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Robbin, for
48 further clarification, can you -- it states in the
49 book, is that nine or 10 or 11 months or 12 months out
50

0224

1 of the year to be classified as a rural resident?

2

3

4 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 I'd have to look to be sure. But it has to -- you have
6 to be a permanent Alaskan resident for a certain period
7 of time. I'll have to look, just a moment. Or if one
8 of my colleagues has that page open.

8

9

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Thank you.

MS. KENNER: Hi, Robbin, this is Pippa.
And, yes, you have to be a permanent resident of
Alaska, meaning you've lived here for at least 12
months, and you also must be a permanent resident of
the region. And we ascertain that by asking for things
like an electric bill, something that states your
domicile and that you're not intending to return to
your residence outside the region. We have had
situations, like with logging camps in Southeast, where
these logging camps have actually grown into
communities and some of the families have decided to
move there. I think everything you've heard is a good
representation of the dilemma and, you know, going back
to just the communities that were requested in the
proposal is possible, expanding it is also possible.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
the clarification.

MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
Rebecca.

MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I just wanted to
get on the record, if someone could explain what the
practical difference would be between using the term
Unit 9 as is included in the OSM recommendation, versus
Aleutians East Borough. So like for example, I can see
that Aleutians East Borough does include Akutan,
whereas I think Akutan is not part of Unit 9, so I'm
looking for what are the different communities that
would fall in Unit 9 versus Aleutians East Borough, and
then just from a regulatory standpoint.....

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

0225

1 MS. SKINNER:is it easier, or is
2 it better to have references to Game Management Areas
3 like Unit 9, rather than municipal boundaries like
4 Aleutians East Borough. So if someone could just speak
5 to that, it would be helpful.

6
7 MS. KENNER: Yeah, this is Pippa Kenner
8 again with OSM.

9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12
13 MS. KENNER: So I could give you the
14 answer to a couple of your questions. Earlier in the
15 program there are references in the regulations to
16 areas other than wildlife management units, but more
17 recently we use wildlife management units because
18 they're clearly marked on maps that people can get and
19 see.

20
21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted)

23
24 MS. KENNER: There's always the
25 possibility that there are people living between the
26 communities who may not be included if.....

27
28 MS. SKINNER: I'm sorry Pippa.

29
30 MS. KENNER:the C&T.....

31
32 MS. SKINNER: Whoever doesn't have
33 their line on mute, could they please mute their line
34 because we're having background noise.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

37
38 MS. SKINNER: Thank you.

39
40 MS. KENNER: So to recap we usually do
41 try to use wildlife management units because they're in
42 the handy-dandy and people can see them, they're
43 understandable and identifiable. Another issue is that
44 there might be people who live between the communities
45 otherwise might not be included in the customary and
46 traditional use determination, especially if this was
47 unintended. The bigger issue is that the Board has
48 said that customary and traditional use determinations
49 are meant to be broad and inclusive, to identify the
50

0226

1 customary and traditional uses of a resource in a
2 larger area. However, the Board generally will follow
3 the recommendation of the Councils involved.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
8 to add to that, Rebecca. Is Unit 10 starts from False
9 Pass and goes all the way out to Attu, but the
10 customary and traditional use of Akutan did harvest at
11 one point in time caribou from False Pass so it was
12 included in Unit 10, Akutan and False Pass.

13

14 Okay, so we had a motion to revise this
15 proposal to state -- to include Aleutians East Borough,
16 so the question is, do we remain -- change to Aleutians
17 East Borough or keep it as modified by OSM.

18

19 Any discussion on this.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Go ahead, Coral.

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, and it was also my
30 recommendation to also look at just listing those
31 traditional communities. So I don't know how we go
32 about this, we kind of have three choices in front of
33 us now. Should I make an amendment, or somebody make
34 an amendment to something and we just start shooting
35 them down or how do we deal with this?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well,
38 technically the traditional communities are what's
39 basically listed in the OSM preliminary conclusion, the
40 change. The initial one included all of the
41 traditional communities, which was Akutan, Cold Bay,
42 False Pass.....

43

44 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:King Cove,
47 Nelson Lagoon, and Sand Point.

48

49 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. But I think the

50

0227

1 motion was to adopt this with the OSM change. So I
2 think that's where we're at.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: I have a question, Madame
5 Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, does the Aleutians
10 East Borough, does that go west of Skotschap or does it
11 end at the end of Unimak Island. Because if it does
12 then I'd just as soon as go back to where we were on
13 our proposal that we submitted, rather than having any
14 modifications because in that list, the traditional
15 communities that harvest at Unimak.

16

17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Dave, your phone
21 is not -- Dave, you need to mute your phone.

22

23 REPORTER: Dave, please mute your
24 phone.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Pat, the
27 communities in the Aleutians East Borough include
28 Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon,
29 and Sand Point. The communities listed on the
30 customary and traditional use determination of caribou,
31 the dark bold, which includes Cold Bay and Nelson
32 Lagoon is added to that list. And at some point in
33 time, many, many years ago, I think, when we were doing
34 -- when there wasn't a C&T at some point, developed for
35 Cold Bay and that's something (indiscernible) really
36 had worked on, developing a C&T, Pat Petrivelli can
37 probably help me with that because mainly you didn't
38 have any -- I use the term, Native, people living in
39 Cold Bay, you had State, Federal, Fish and Wildlife,
40 airport FAA, you know, there was really no -- there was
41 really no living in that community, it was a handful.

42

43 MS. SKINNER: Can somebody.....

44

45 REPORTER: Excuse me. Excuse me. I
46 think that's still Dave.

47

48 MS. SKINNER:text Dave Crowley
49 and ask him to mute his line please.

50

0228

1 REPORTER: Thank you, Rebecca.

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Sure.

4

5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7

8 MS. WESSELS: You had your phone not on
9 mute when you had another phone conversation. This is
10 Katya Wessels. When you have separate phone
11 conversations, you need to mute your phone. In fact
12 everyone should mute their phones unless they're
13 speaking at all times.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

21

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I don't think
26 he's getting the message.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: I think he's still on the
29 other phone line, we need to wait until he's done.

30

31 REPORTER: And in addition to that,
32 please do not put us on hold, just mute your phone.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Not to confuse anything,
41 but since we have quite a few experts online. If you
42 go with the Aleutians East Borough, will the Borough
43 boundaries change in the future. Biologists either
44 with Fish and Game or other ones can confirm that
45 units, game management units, do not change. So it's
46 just another consideration of going with a Borough
47 description versus a unit description.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0229

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
2 That's a good point. I personally don't have a problem
3 with just listing these communities. I recognize them,
4 living out here, as the communities that have the C&T
5 for caribou, whether you live in Unit 10 or Unit 9D.
6 When there's a lack of caribou in Unit 10, they get
7 their caribou from Unit 9D. If there's a lack of
8 caribou in Unit 9D, I'm sure we're going to go over to
9 Unit 10 where they historically they have. And as Pat
10 said before, the Unit 10 caribou are hard to get at
11 unless you're on a fishing boat, unless they come in
12 close to town. So that's basically -- I, personally,
13 and, Rick, you're the one that asked on changing this
14 to the communities of Aleutians East Borough, request
15 maybe we just leave it as is and have the communities
16 listed, and then it's just clear and there's no
17 question.

18
19 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

22
23 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I don't have a problem
24 with listing the communities. I just thought it would
25 be simpler and then people in the region would
26 understand it a little more than picking out all the
27 individual communities, especially in Akutan. They
28 understand the Borough. So anyway the communities are
29 fine with me and I'll be happy to vote on that. All
30 right, thank you.

31
32 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, if -- go
35 ahead, Coral.

36
37 MS. CHERNOFF: So can Vince read us the
38 motion that was made so we can know where to go from
39 here.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair, I can
42 do that. The motion that is on the table now was by
43 Pat that it be residents of the Aleutians East Borough,
44 was seconded by Coral. If that is not of interest, to
45 make it cleaner, would be that the mover and the second
46 agree to withdraw their motion and go forward with a
47 new motion.

48
49 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

50

0230

1 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, that's what
2 I'd like to do.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, then.....

5
6 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to go back to
7 make the motion -- hello.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Pat, do you
10 agree to withdraw your motion, is that acceptable to
11 Coral?

12
13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's what I'm
14 trying to do. And then go back to the original
15 proposal that we had in the book up there in that
16 section where it lists Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass,
17 King Cove, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point, with
18 permission of the second.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Pat
21 agrees to withdraw his motion. Coral, do you approve.

22
23 MS. CHERNOFF: I do, Della, if, I think
24 -- you know, I guess I'm just sort of looking to you
25 and Rick who know the area better, like if you think
26 that's the way to go. I would prefer to see the
27 communities listed but I think if that's the direction
28 we're going then I agree with Pat to withdraw and then
29 we'll make a new motion.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think, Coral,
32 both I and Rick stated that we would -- we agree to
33 leave it as listing it with the communities.

34
35 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So given that,
38 Pat withdrew the motion, Coral agrees. Now, Pat, do
39 you want to rephrase your motion.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: As stated in the executive
42 summary WP22-38a, resident of Akutan, Cold Bay, False
43 Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
46 Do I hear a second to Pat's motion.

47
48 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

49
50

0231

1 MS. SKINNER: This is.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Coral.
4 Discussion. Question?

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Della, Rebecca was
7 wanting to comment.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead
10 Rebecca.

11

12 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. I disagree
13 with the motion that's currently on the floor, insofar
14 as, as I think our Staff expertise has weighed in and
15 suggested that we use a larger area and you heard from
16 Pippa Kenner that the C&T -- was it Pippa or Robbin, I
17 can't remember, but the C&T determinations, that the
18 preferences to do those on a larger area basis. So I
19 prefer the larger area and I think that does address
20 any lack of clarity if you live outside of the
21 community limit. I assume these communities have
22 limits. So if you're outside of that limit do you
23 qualify or not. If you set the C&T determination for
24 the entire geographic area, so whether it's Unit 9D or
25 the Aleutians East Borough then it's clear if you live
26 in that area you fall under the C&T determination. So
27 that is number 1.

28

29 Number 2. I think I would prefer to
30 have the geographic area described as Unit 9D. So it'd
31 be Akutan, False Pass, and Unit 9D, primarily because
32 when you go pickup these -- the regulation booklets for
33 State hunting or Federal hunting, the maps are all laid
34 out in game management areas, they don't necessarily
35 have the Borough boundaries. And since we are dealing
36 with regulation of fish and wildlife, I think stating
37 geographic areas in terms of those management units
38 makes sense. That being said, I do agree with Rick's
39 comments that from an actual user perspective, you're
40 going to know if you live in Aleutians East Borough or
41 not, so I think there is a lack of clarity there. But
42 looking at this from kind of a system basis, I do see
43 an advantage in continuing to refer to the game
44 management areas.

45

46 That being said, I think the point of
47 this is to add additional communities to the C&T
48 determination to expand the ability for these
49 communities to access caribou, and I don't disagree
50

0232

1 with what we're trying to do, I just disagree with the
2 wording.

3
4 Those are my comments, thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
7 comments.

8
9 MR. VICKERS: Madame Chair. This is
10 Brent Vickers.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Brent.

13
14 MR. VICKERS: I just wanted to say that
15 in the -- as Coral said, particularly with her first
16 comment, on agreeing to include the larger area, saying
17 Unit 9D, however you decide to use it, that was the
18 logic, her reasoning was the logic of modifying both
19 this proposal, 38a, and the previous proposal 37, to be
20 unit-wide, to account for people who may be living in
21 between communities or in communities that are
22 currently unoccupied, reoccupied. I'm not an expert in
23 the area, I'm new to this, and have been unable to
24 travel there, but that was my logic going into it. I
25 accidentally left out -- in, the modification, False
26 Pass and Akutan. I think I just was -- at the very end
27 of this proposal, and forget to include those, so if I
28 had it back again I would say to include all residents
29 of Unit 9D, False Pass, and Akutan.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Vince. I
34 think what he just said is what I'd like to have for
35 the motion. We can't do Unit 10 because that goes
36 farther west than Akutan so I'd like it to read, Unit
37 9D and False Pass and Akutan, and then that includes
38 the whole shebang and provides for variability and
39 folks that are in the communities, or not, because
40 there's a few guides that have camps and things like
41 that, that live out there most of the year and a few
42 people year-round. So that's what I'd like to have,
43 Unit 9D, and including False Pass and Akutan, the
44 communities thereof.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Including the
47 communities of 9D, and you can list them. Unit 10, the
48 communities of Akutan and False Pass.

49
50

0233

1 MR. HOLMES: Roger that.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I want to
4 remind everybody, and Pat Petrivelli can help me with
5 this, you develop a C&T, that is on record, and that
6 history and that documentation is made prior to being
7 listed on this, so any other communities are new
8 communities and developed after they passed a C&T
9 determination made, and so historically these are the
10 six communities that have utilized the resource. Am I
11 correct, Rick?

12

13 MR. KOSO: Della, you're very correct
14 on that and I agree with you 100 percent.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: This is Vince.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm sorry,
23 Vince.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry about that. I just
26 got to keep you guys on track here. My understanding,
27 unless I'm wrong, the current motion on the floor was
28 to support 38a as written, and as written it has the
29 six communities that you just mentioned. So if I have
30 that wrong, please, correct me, and it was seconded by
31 Coral.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is correct.
34 Discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
39 question.

40

41 MR. KOSO: I call for the question.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince,
44 do a roll call please.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I'll do that. Okay.
47 We'll go from the bottom of the list up. Melissa.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0234

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we'll come back.
2 And, again, the motion is as the proposal was written.

3
4 Natasha.

5
6 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Della.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Rebecca.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Rebecca.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we'll come back.

21
22 Coral.

23
24 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Let's see here, Rick.

27
28 MR. KOSO: Yes.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Yep. Yes.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Was that a yes?

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Yes. Roger.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Sorry.

39 Melissa.
40

41 (No comments)

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And I don't
44 remember, did we get a vote from Natasha.

45
46 REPORTER: Yes, we did. You're going
47 to call on Rebecca.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You're waiting

50

0235

1 on Rebecca, Vince.

2

3 MS. HAYDEN: Yes, you got me. This is
4 Natasha. My vote was yes.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry. Okay, so
7 Rebecca.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, sorry. I don't
10 know what happened there. Yes.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So if I got it
13 correct here, the current tally is six in support of
14 the proposal as written.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct,
17 thank you everyone.

18

19 MR. VICKERS: Madame Chair and Council.
20 I'm sorry, just to clarify because I got a little
21 confused there. I just want to make sure I write this
22 down correctly. But we just approved the motion to --
23 as written, so listing -- only listing the six
24 communities, the four already listed plus Nelson Lagoon
25 and Cold Bay, and not to have it by a unit or a
26 Borough, is that correct?

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is correct,
29 as in the proposed regulation.

30

31 MR. VICKERS: Thank you very much, I
32 appreciate that.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So we'll move on
35 to WP22-38b. And that looks like it's Page No. 84 in
36 your book.

37

38 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair. This is
39 Kendra Holman. Members of the Council. I'm a Wildlife
40 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.
41 I'll be addressing WP22-38b. It was submitted by the
42 Kodiak/Aleutian Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
43 and can be found on Page 83 of your meeting books.

44

45 This proposal requests closure of the
46 Federal public lands in Unit 10 Unimak Island only to
47 caribou hunting except by Federally-qualified
48 subsistence users unless the caribou population exceeds
49 a population threshold.

50

1 With discussion, the proponent, this
2 Council, states that the Unimak Island Caribou Herd has
3 reached a population threshold and that Federal and
4 State wildlife biologists agree more harvest is
5 necessary to maintain a healthy population. The
6 submitted proposal also requests an annual harvest
7 quota for the hunt to be established by delegation of
8 authority in consultation with the State of Alaska as
9 outlined in the letter of delegation. As the in-season
10 manager already can set annual harvest quotas via
11 delegation of authority letter as appendix one on Page
12 101 of your meeting books, this part of the proposal is
13 not considered further.

14
15 Regulatory authority. The Unimak
16 Caribou Herd has experienced drastic population
17 fluctuations since at least 1975. Over the last three
18 decades regulations for harvesting Unit 10 caribou has
19 responded to population changes within the Unimak
20 Caribou Herd. From 1991 to 1997 the regulations became
21 tighter in response to population declines. And from
22 1997 to 2003 the regulations became liberalized with
23 the population increase. In 2004 regulations were
24 tightened as the Unimak Caribou Herd population began
25 to decline. This continued through 2017. In both 2018
26 and 2019 temporary special actions were approved that
27 liberalized hunting regulations. In 2020 Wildlife
28 Proposal WP22-25 opened the caribou season and
29 delegated authority to Izembek National Wildlife Refuge
30 manager to set the harvest quota, close the season, and
31 set permit conditions.

32
33 Biological background. In 2004 it was
34 demonstrated that the Unimak Caribou Herd are a
35 distinct subpopulation of caribou. This separated the
36 Unimak Island, Unit 10 from the Southern Alaska
37 Peninsula Caribou Herd. The Unimak Caribou Herd
38 population size has varied considerably over the last
39 century. In 2007 ADF&G drafted the Southern Alaska
40 Peninsula Caribou Herd operational plan to reflect the
41 separation of the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou
42 Herd and the Unimak Caribou Herd. To-date no formal
43 management objectives have been defined by ADF&G for
44 the Unimak Caribou Herd due to the difficult logistics
45 in accessing the island. In 2020 the ADF&G caribou
46 management report and plan proposed population
47 objective ranges of 800 to 1,000 caribou given the 2002
48 peak of 1,200 caribou and subsequent decline.

1 Harvest. In 1997, the Board opened a
2 subsistence hunt on Federal lands and in 2001 they
3 opened a general hunt. From 1997 to 2008 the majority
4 of caribou harvest which averaged 12 annually were
5 harvested by non-local residents. In 2018 10 permits
6 were allocated, four issued, and three caribou were
7 harvested on Unimak Island by False Pass residents. In
8 2021 at the winter Council meeting the ADF&G area
9 biologist stated there are surplus bulls available for
10 harvest and the management of the Unimak Caribou Herd
11 should be revised to avoid population and subsequent
12 crashes like in the past. He also expressed concern
13 that harvest by Federally-qualified subsistence users
14 would not be enough to maintain the Unimak Caribou Herd
15 at a sustained level. Based on the current population
16 metrics and projects he recommended an annual harvest
17 of 25 bulls and stressed for timely reporting. He also
18 projected that if the Federal closure was lifted and
19 State season opened, more non-resident hunters would
20 likely harvest Unimak Caribou Herd under State
21 regulations than resident hunters as non-residents
22 already traveled to Unimak Island for bear hunts.
23 Table 2, which can be found on Page 94 of your meeting
24 book breaks down the caribou harvest for numbers for
25 both Federal regulation permit, registration permit and
26 State harvest tickets by year.

27
28 Another alternative that was considered
29 was to extend the season, change the harvest limit from
30 one bull to up to three caribou and delegate authority
31 to Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Manager to announce
32 harvest limits and set sex ratios. Flexibility in the
33 harvest limit and season could help achieve harvest
34 objectives and provide additional opportunity to
35 Federally-qualified subsistence users when the Unimak
36 Island Caribou Herd population could support additional
37 harvest.

38
39 The effects and justification. If
40 WP22-38b is adopted it would open caribou hunting on
41 Unimak Island to all Federally-qualified subsistence
42 users. The proposal also requests opening the hunt to
43 all users if the population exceeds a threshold to be
44 determined by State and Federal wildlife biologists
45 maximizing harvest opportunity for all user groups.
46 Delegating authority to Izembek National Wildlife
47 Refuge to be able to announce harvest quotas and permit
48 numbers each year to help ensure sustainable harvest
49 and respond to changing conditions. ADF&G area
50

0238

1 biologist stated that maintaining the current Federal
2 regulations would likely result in another population
3 eruption followed by habitat damage and subsequently a
4 population crash like what has happened in the past.
5 HE recommended a harvest of 25 bulls, the highest
6 reported historical harvest from the Unimak Caribou
7 Herd, which is 19. Managing the herd for a population
8 threshold following years of conservation concerns as
9 has been done by the Nushagak Caribou Herd, it is
10 anticipated that the changes of another population
11 crash will be minimized. The Izembek National Wildlife
12 Refuge Manager has designated -- was designated to
13 assist in conservation of the Unimak Caribou Herd, the
14 delegation of authority letter can be found on Appendix
15 1 as stated earlier, will continue to apply with the
16 proposed management of the herd for a population
17 threshold.

18

19 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
20 support Proposal WP22-38b with modification to
21 establish a population threshold of 800 caribou.

22

23 Thank you, Madame Chair and members of
24 the Council. I will be happy to address any questions
25 at this time.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
28 questions at this time.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I do have a
33 question.

34

35 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I got a question,
36 Della. I was just curious on that crash out there that
37 they claim, because we've been dealing with this for
38 quite a years now on Unimak. You know at one point
39 there we thought that the caribou were totally going to
40 disappear from the island, I think we were down to like
41 76 caribou or something there, about four or five years
42 ago. I guess I'm curious, the reason that it crashed,
43 what was the reason that it crashed, was it because of
44 predators or was it because of feed, I don't know, I'm
45 just asking the question on that.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Can anybody

50

0239

1 answer Rick's question.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: ADF&G.

6

7

8

MR. RINALDI: This is Todd Rinaldi with Fish and Game. I think Dave might have had to step away from his phone momentarily. Can you repeat the question, please.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

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21

MR. KOSO: You know during crashes, I'm not exactly sure I follow you guys on when you speak of crashes. Is that because of the feed, with too many caribou on the island or is that because of predator control. I know a few years ago, five or six years ago, we've been battling this caribou on Unimak and I think at one point it was down to 76 and there was talk that they may totally disappear on the island, so anyway if you can answer that question it'd be fine.

22

23

24

MR. RINALDI: Okay. Just to verify, Dave, are you on the phone?

25

26

27

28

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Does that answer your question?

MR. RINALDI: And this is Todd, if I may. There was -- at the decline, when we started to see range effects and the decline did become pretty evident, the State had proposed removing predators from the landscape through predation control. That was never -- that never came to fruition. And it likely has slowed the recovery of the herd but we are seeing positive signs which is fortunately why we're having

0240

1 this conversation here and we'll have a similar
2 conversation at the Board of Game.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd like to footnote
11 the last comment there. Because the Unit 9 showed an
12 immediate response with the work that was done,
13 immediate increase in cow/calf ratios, immediate
14 increase in survival. And I believe the gossip I heard
15 was when they asked to go to Unimak Island, the gal
16 that was the head of the Refuge at Izembek said that if
17 they went there they would be cited, and into court,
18 and possibly be arrested and it was a pretty -- and
19 that's just gossip but it was a pretty strong comment
20 of not allowing any predator control, even though the
21 people on the island there, I think Tom Hobletts' wife
22 or one of his relatives there reported -- well, they
23 were making comments to us then requesting that, that
24 she had to leave the phone, run outside the house and
25 gather her kids in because there was a wolf out in the
26 yard stalking her kids and so that was pretty graphic
27 but yet it never happened. And so there was a big
28 increase in wolves on the island. And so we're seeing
29 a much slower response. Just my personal opinion.

30

31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
34 And just to add to that, Ruth had only -- that was one
35 example, but when you have five wolves outside the
36 school during the day there's a problem. And locally
37 they took care of the problem as well as they could.

38

39 And one thing I do question is you have
40 a population threshold of 800 caribou, was there any
41 current surveys done this year at this point in regard
42 to the Unimak caribou and what those numbers look like.

43

44 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, this is
45 Dave Crowley.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. CROWLEY: We did get a composition

50

0241

1 survey done last fall on the island as well as a
2 parturition survey this spring. The spring survey we
3 were somewhat limited by weather in how high we could
4 go up into the mountains. But from our composition
5 survey we had very good calf/cow ratio, it was
6 approximately -- it was 33 or 34 calves per 100 cows,
7 which is quite good for Unimak compared to down in the
8 single digits that we were, you know, a decade before.
9 Bull/cow ratio was quite high, 80 bulls per 100 cows,
10 so there's definitely some room for bull harvest in the
11 herd. The approximate population size is 450 animals
12 now. And I think with the calf survival that we're
13 seeing now, that predation isn't having as much -- of
14 an effect on the herd as in the past. I think they've
15 kind of escaped that predator effect, so overall the
16 herd is in very good shape.

17

18 And, Madame Chair, I do apologize for
19 not having my phone on mute a little while ago, that's
20 what I get for trying to multi-task.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we'll let
23 you go this time.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So my other
28 question to you is on this OSM preliminary conclusion
29 it says support with modification, establish a
30 population threshold of 800 caribou, what is the
31 population threshold currently for Unimak?

32

33 MR. CROWLEY: I'm not sure where that
34 number came from, Madame Chair. I think we're ready to
35 start harvesting this herd right now at a -- you know
36 to a limited extent by registration or drawing permit,
37 probably registration and closing by emergency order,
38 if need be. But I don't know where the 800 threshold
39 came from.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
44 there any other questions.

45

46 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Madame Chair,
47 this is Lisa.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Lisa.

50

0242

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I just wanted to
2 clarify the OSM conclusion. I mean first of all the
3 Council submitted the proposal to establish a
4 population threshold, and so if you have a population
5 threshold you have to have some number associated with
6 it so that modification was mostly just in response to
7 the proposal as submitted by the Council. And the
8 reason OSM came up with that 800 number was that was
9 the lower end of the population objective that was put
10 out there by ADF&G. And I mean OSM, you know, we're
11 open to what that population threshold would be, we
12 just put 800 in there since there needs to be some
13 number and it seemed to make the most sense since it's
14 the lower end of the population objective range. But,
15 again, that was the proposal as submitted by the
16 Council, but, of course, it's up to the Council to
17 decide what recommendation they want, whether they want
18 to maintain the closure and then open it up if it
19 exceeds a population threshold, or go ahead and remove
20 the closure altogether.

21
22 Anyway, there's a lot of options out
23 there. But just to clarify the OSM modification.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. The
26 reason I'm asking this question is I see that 800 and
27 then, you know, look at -- I think last fall it might
28 have been, or the idea that there's 450 animals and
29 what we saw in the past is that herd has been
30 increasing close to 200 animals per year is what the
31 past, maybe two years has shown. So if animals are at
32 the -- let's say, 600, but we have a population
33 threshold of 800, and the State is looking at a
34 potential of a harvest by permit, and then looking at
35 the potential for opening this for a C&T, larger group,
36 I guess I'm a little bit -- I want to make sure
37 whatever we do today, we have the correct information
38 in this regulation.

39
40 The other piece when I'm looking at
41 this, the Unit 10 caribou, Federal public lands are
42 closed to taking of caribou except, and then you cross
43 out the residents, Federally-qualified users, unless
44 the population estimate exceeds a threshold to be
45 recognized by State and Federal management, and then
46 this particular, it looks like 800, but it doesn't say
47 to Units 9D and 10, subsistence users in 9D and 10.

48
49 So those are just my observations.
50

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1 Anybody can -- I don't know if there's other Council,
2 Pat or Rick, what your comments are.

3

4 MR. KOSO: I don't have it in front of
5 me to look at it but, you know, I think you're 100
6 percent right on that. I'll follow your lead on that.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Could I discuss some
13 possible verbiage and see if that's reasonable and then
14 make it a motion.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: I like what is down under
19 the proposed regulation. Federal public lands are
20 closed to the taking of caribou except by Federally-
21 qualified users and your suggestion of Unit 9 and 10,
22 unless the population estimate exceeds a threshold
23 recommended by the State and Federal management. And I
24 think just leaving it at that so that the State and
25 Feds can do their arm wrestling and come up with a
26 number -- 800 might be right but I don't have a clue.

27

28 Would that line of logic work?

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think at this
31 point we're just asking questions of the presentation
32 to see where we're at.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Oh, roger that.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Next is going to
37 be the report on Board consultation with tribes and
38 ANCSA Corporations. Orville.

39

40 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, Dave
41 Crowley.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Dave.

44

45 MR. CROWLEY: I need to mention that we
46 believe that people in Unit 9D really don't have any
47 reason to go to Unimak Island to hunt caribou because
48 the season in 9D is quite liberal and the bag limit is
49 three caribou. So folks that have this hunt, you know,
50

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1 virtually in their backyards there's really no reason
2 to travel down to Unimak Island where it's much more
3 exposed and difficult to access and all that. So I
4 don't think we should rely on Unit 9D residents to
5 really get after the Unimak caribou.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think, Dave,
10 we don't rely on it. But there are sometimes
11 opportunities if these guys are fishing that way and
12 salmon went well into September this year, and you have
13 an opportunity on weather and closures and they observe
14 caribou they may take that opportunity to do so.

15
16 MR. CROWLEY: Okay, yeah, I could see
17 that.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And it's not
20 that we rely on it but that opportunity is there.

21
22 MR. CROWLEY: Roger that, thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anyway, Orville,
25 are you online.

26
27 MR. LIND: Yes, Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Tribe and
30 ANCSA Corporations.

31
32 MR. LIND: Again, no questions or
33 comments during the consultation. Thank you.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
36 Orville. Agency comments, ADF&G.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Dave.

41
42 MR. CROWLEY: Nope, none -- nothing
43 more from me, Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Dave.
46 Federal agency comments.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

0245

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory group
6 comments.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional
11 Councils.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So are there any
16 other Regional Council comments.

17

18 MS. SKINNER: Sorry, is this RAC
19 members?

20

21 MS. SKINNER: Okay, sorry, this is
22 Rebecca.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
25 Rebecca.

26

27 MS. SKINNER: I have a comment and a
28 question. My comment is that there was a little back
29 and forth earlier about whether the language and the
30 proposed regulation needs to be changed to add
31 reference to Unit 9D, I don't think it does. I think
32 we basically took care of that with that last proposal.
33 We were told that these proposals work together and
34 Proposal 38a had to do with the population of people
35 who can participate in the hunt and that 38b really
36 talks about the harvest limits. So I think the
37 language -- in my opinion, the language that's there
38 covers people in Unit 10 and Unit 9D; that's what we
39 just did with the last proposal.

40

41 My question is, I think it's to Mr.
42 Crowley, I wanted to confirm if there's a concern with
43 not enough hunting on this herd? I think that's what
44 I'm hearing him say and I just want to confirm whether
45 I understand that correctly or not. So if he could
46 speak to that, and then I may have a follow-up question.

47

48 MR. CROWLEY: This is Dave Crowley.
49 Yes, that is a concern, not an immediate concern, but

50

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1 certainly one for the next few years, assuming that the
2 herd continues to increase. I think it's going to be
3 pretty difficult to get the harvest we're after down
4 there, so, yes.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. And so
7 I guess I don't have a question. But my comment would
8 be then it seems like the proposed change to this -- or
9 the proposed regulation -- or the proposed change
10 that's on the table goes in the right direction and
11 that it opens this particular hunt to a wider group of
12 people, and that would include residents of the
13 communities that we spoke about under the last
14 proposal.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
19 Council comments.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So let me throw
24 something in here. I hear from Tom Hobblet who's a
25 resident in False Pass. When we talked, about the
26 question Rick had earlier about the crash of the Unimak
27 caribou and what were the potential reasons for that,
28 that contributed, and the landscaping, the habitat was
29 part of it. The wolves, the predators is another big
30 part of it. And we saw what the wolves did to Unit 9D.
31 The other one that Tom had mentioned that was a big
32 concern is when you have the -- and it was brought up
33 earlier, the bear guides maybe going in, they fly in
34 and they can take a caribou, he felt that that there
35 was a large number of caribou being taken that way
36 also. So I'm not -- and when we go through these steps
37 as we did with 9D, as when that herd crashed, we did
38 the subsistence use. The subsistence use and ability
39 to take caribou continues today mainly because -- one
40 main reason is the issue around being able -- the
41 designated hunter, the ability to have someone as a
42 designated hunter. And this works very well for people
43 who, number 1, can't get out and hunt, or don't have
44 the ability or boats or different things to do so, or
45 an elder. And so when I look at this whole process,
46 I'm comfortable with using and doing this for the
47 subsistence purposes in the beginning and going on and
48 opening this if, you know, if the State has something
49 that they have, a proposal that they are going to
50

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1 review to open this up. And at this point, except for
2 hearing that we want to be able to make some decisions
3 based on the fact that this herd gets to 800, so these
4 things are in place.

5

6 So I guess I'm comfortable with taking
7 the steps to continue with the Federally-qualified
8 subsistence users. And as they step into this --
9 because right now looking at 9D, the majority of what
10 people are doing is under the State caribou program and
11 I've done many, many, many permits for people locally
12 to get their caribou tags to go hunting and very few
13 actually do use the Federal one, however, they do use
14 it. So that's just something to think about.

15

16 I don't have the correct answer right
17 now except the opportunity to speak as a Regional
18 Advisory Council member.

19

20 So is there any other comments.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I will say this,
25 though, you know, it's actually after all the years of
26 -- and, Rick and Pat, we've been through this, the
27 crashes and watching these herds come back and being in
28 the discussions we are now, it's really positive,
29 because people in these communities definitely depend a
30 lot on and the ability to have these caribou.

31

32 So I'm thankful we are having these
33 discussions.

34

35 I guess where we're at, if there's no
36 other comments, Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

37

38 MR. RINALDI: Actually Fish and Game
39 does have one quick comment.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

42

43 MR. RINALDI: This is Todd Rinaldi for
44 the record. Yeah, we just wanted to emphasize a point
45 that Dave had made and it has to do with a point that
46 you guys were discussing earlier and that has to do
47 with that 800 threshold. You know, while we see this
48 herd recovering, continue to grow, and we hope that it
49 continues to grow, the State is concerned that that 800
50

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1 threshold to let State hunters and non-resident hunters
2 in there might surpass the trajectory of the herd. And
3 what I mean by that is it might be past that point
4 where hunting can control the growth of the herd, and
5 so I would ask that you guys reconsider or discuss
6 maybe something that does allow some State opportunity
7 on this herd.

8

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Thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Todd, maybe help me out a little bit here, sometimes I remember these things and sometimes I don't, we've been over these caribou things so much. So the State basically would work with the Federal to open any hunting that would allow on the Federal lands and the majority of Unimak, correct me, is basically Federal lands; is that correct?

MR. RINALDI: That's correct. There is no State land to open up a State hunt, so any State opportunity that is provided would be in conjunction with the habitat land managers, the Refuge and -- yeah.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, thank you for that. And that's why they couldn't do the elimination of predator control on the wolf because there were not enough State lands, the bulk of it is all Federal and the Corporation lands.

MR. RINALDI: That's correct.

MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

MS. SKINNER: I have a question.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rebecca.

MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thank you. This is Rebecca Skinner. My question is do we have to insert a number into this amendment, so do we have to put in 800 or a different number, or can we include language that indicates we expect the Refuge Manager and the corresponding State people to get together and figure out what that number is? So do we have to have an absolute number today or can we kind of delegate the

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1 development of that number to the Refuge Manager
2 working in conjunction with the State?

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think if you
5 just added right on that second section on the bottom
6 where it says threshold to be recommended by State and
7 Federal management instead of 800 caribou.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So we do not need
10 to include an actual number?

11

12 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is
13 Lisa.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Lisa.

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, so an option the
18 Council could pursue would be delegating authority to,
19 I guess in this case probably the Izembek National
20 Wildlife Refuge Manager, to announce that opening of
21 the season on an annual basis. And then, I mean, that
22 would be a criteria the Refuge Manager could use, is
23 what the threshold, you know, what the current
24 population of the caribou is and, of course, they would
25 consult with ADF&G, and the Council Chair and, you
26 know, some other entities on whether or not to open
27 that season. So I think that is getting to Rebecca's
28 question or concern about not having a set population
29 number in regulations. But that would need to be
30 clarified.

31

32 The proposal, as submitted, could not
33 go into Federal regulations. There would have to be
34 some clarification about how that threshold is
35 determined and whether or not the season's opened. But
36 that clarification, instead of having a set number in
37 regulations, could be delegated, you know, to an in-
38 season manager.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, also
41 correct me if I'm wrong, Lisa, is there not in the
42 Unimak Caribou Management Plan, is there a number
43 listed in there?

44

45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I think Dave is
46 probably more familiar with that than I am. But the
47 reason OSM went with the 800 caribou is because that's
48 the population objective that the ADF&G biologist
49 recommended for the herd, 800 to 1,000 caribou. And

50

0250

1 now, I mean I understand ADF&G's concern that once you
2 open it -- if you don't open it until it reaches 800,
3 the trajectory of the herd might already be beyond the
4 point of where hunting could control that. But, yeah,
5 I think at this point we'd either need to have a set
6 number in regulations, or just be clear about
7 delegating that authority to the Refuge Manager to
8 decide when to open a season or not. Because currently
9 in-season managers with, you know, delegated authority
10 can close areas to non-Federally-qualified users if
11 warranted, you know, for conservation concerns so that
12 is within the wheelhouse of in-season managers to do.
13 But, yeah, it would definitely need some sort of
14 tweaking of the current language -- proposal language
15 as submitted, it's not a full regulation that could be
16 in the CFR.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And then back to
19 the discussion of the term Federally-qualified
20 subsistence users. When we did this with 9D, it was
21 the ability to have a limited harvest of caribou that
22 were under the population threshold on 9D. And the
23 point, also brought up that it's tough for people in 9D
24 to go to Unimak and harvest caribou.

25

26 So given all that, does anybody have a
27 recommendation in looking at this language and
28 potentially what maybe it could read, given all the
29 discussion?

30

31 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
34 Rebecca.

35

36 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. So my
37 preference, and, unfortunately I don't have a sentence
38 drafted up, but my preference for the proposed
39 regulation would be to delegate authority to the Refuge
40 Manager to work in conjunction with the State to come
41 up with the threshold amount. The reason I think that
42 makes sense rather than including a hard number is that
43 just in this meeting we've had the last two days, my
44 impression is that we've heard either different
45 recommendations, or different trajectories as far as
46 the caribou populations for these different areas. And
47 so my concern is that with rapidly changing
48 environmental conditions that things are changing very
49 fast, and my concern with putting a hard number in
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1 there is, as has already been mentioned, it may be too
2 late by the time we hit that trigger point, that number
3 may not even be appropriate right now, or it might not
4 be appropriate next year, because of changing
5 conditions. And so if we delegate the authority to the
6 Refuge Manager to make a call on an annual basis, I
7 think that gives more flexibility to the management of
8 this herd.

9

10 So I can come up with language, or
11 maybe someone with OSM, I mean I think we could use
12 similar language in something else we did in the last
13 couple of years, I just don't have it in front of me.
14 But if someone could supply that language I am happy to
15 either make an amendment or include that in a motion.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So
20 I'm going to.....

21

22 MR. KOSO: Della.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

25

26 MR. KOSO: I listened to Pat's proposal
27 earlier there prior to all this discussion, and I think
28 he had it hit pretty close on this proposal there if he
29 could read it again maybe. Because I think he pretty
30 much stated in his proposal what we've been talking
31 about right here and maybe it needs to be tweaked a
32 little but maybe if he can reenter his proposal that we
33 had and we could go from there.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think, Rick,
36 that that was -- we can't make a motion right now. I
37 think we're in the discussion, Regional Council
38 discussion to what is basically what is on record here
39 on Page 83. And I do like what Rebecca was suggesting.
40 But the question now is if someone can maybe make
41 recommendation on how to reflect what the change would
42 be and then someone could make a motion.

43

44 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair, this is
45 Kendra.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
48 Kendra.

49

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1 MS. HOLMAN: I was just going to bring
2 it up that this was considered as an alternative within
3 this analysis. And I've been just -- so you guys know,
4 there is a little bit of language already, it's on Page
5 95, other alternatives considered, of your meeting
6 books. It's not the regulatory language but there is a
7 little bit of information on this as it was considered
8 an alternative.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Because the date
11 for Unimak caribou is August 1st to September 30th, it
12 doesn't open again like 9D does in November through
13 March.

14
15 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, this is
16 Dave Crowley.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Dave.

19
20 MR. CROWLEY: I have just a quick
21 comment regarding the proposal that we are putting into
22 the Board of Game. It's kind of a step-wise proposal
23 so that we can manage the herd proactively as it grows.
24 So, for example, if the harvestable portion is greater
25 than 25, the harvest -- or the bag limit will be one
26 bull. If the harvestable portion is greater than 100
27 then we go up to three. And then we've got one more
28 step to go to four caribou if the harvestable portion
29 is over 200. I just don't see us even getting to 100.
30 Given the history of the reported harvest on the herd,
31 you know, the highest ever reported that we saw was
32 around 20 back about 20 years ago. Maybe the
33 Subsistence Division has different harvest numbers but
34 at any rate the harvest is low. But this proposal that
35 we've got to the Board of Game is a means to deal with
36 that outside of the regular board cycle to be able to
37 increase the bag limit as the herd grows.

38
39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Dave.

42
43 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is
44 Lisa.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Lisa.

47
48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I just wanted to
49 kind of add on to what Kendra and Dave were saying, is,
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1 yeah, that other alternative considered suggested by
2 OSM is similar to what Dave was just saying for the
3 Board of Game proposal, where it would be to change the
4 harvest limit from one bull, to change that to up to
5 three caribou, and then delegate authority to the in-
6 season manager to announce that harvest limit and sex
7 restriction based on the stats of the herd. So, again,
8 it allows that flexibility in management to respond to
9 what the harvestable portion is each year. And so it
10 provides more subsistence opportunity if the herd's
11 doing well versus keeping it at one bull. And so it's
12 kind of similar to what Dave was saying for the Board
13 of Game proposal.

14
15 Thanks.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
18 Okay, so.....

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think that we
25 don't -- why do we need to state that it would be
26 delegated to the Refuge Manager when that's already in
27 regulation and it's already defined in the cooperative
28 agreement, that the State and Federal government are
29 working together on this. And to me, I think that
30 Becky's a wonderful wordsmith, but I think that what we
31 have in that description already, if it just needs a
32 tweak of an adjective or something, would be fine.
33 Where it says the qualified users -- subsistence users,
34 unless the population estimate exceeds a threshold, as
35 defined within the cooperative management plan, and
36 just leave it at that. Because the State and the Feds
37 have their cooperation and they'll come up with some
38 agreement and let it be at that.

39
40 I think 800 might be too much, 500 is
41 probably too low. So I think it's an ambiguous things,
42 and needs to be allowed to be ambiguous and to be
43 resolved between the two management groups.

44
45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
48 Given that -- Rebecca, do you have any comments over
49 what Pat just said.

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1 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair.

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MS. SKINNER: Thanks, Della. It was my understanding from listening to the Staff report that the language in the proposal as written is not sufficient for regulations, that's why I suggested including specific delegation language. I believe that is what we were told and that is why I suggested that. I also think somebody else was trying to make a clarification, maybe they will speak to this issue.

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair, this is Kendra.

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Kendra.

REPORTER: Okay, before you start, Kendra. Hang on. Hang on.

MS. HOLMAN: So the current -- can you hear.....

REPORTER: Hang on please. Everybody, I'm getting another conversation in the background I can hear. If we could all mute our phone so we could hear Kendra, and everybody could hear each other, it would be great. So please check your phone, make sure you're muted if your name is not Kendra.

Thank you.

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

MS. HOLMAN: The current delegation of authority letter is to issue emergency and temporary special actions so that would need to be addressed for the alternative in regards to Pat's comment. It's not to manage. Currently it's only for those emergency and temporary special actions.

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1 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
4 Rebecca.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: So, Kendra, if I could
7 just make sure I'm crystal clear on what you're saying.
8 There is currently delegation of authority in place,
9 but it is only for emergency and special actions and
10 would not apply to this regulation that we are talking
11 about right now; is that correct?

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Katya, maybe you
14 could help me with this. Because at the state-wide
15 meeting, when this was discussed, and the ability to
16 look to the Refuge Manager to make those decisions, for
17 some reason I got the sense that if there was ability
18 to harvest more the Federal Manager could make that
19 determination. Am I wrong there, or basically can you
20 help me out?

21

22 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa, I can
23 address that question. So currently the Izembek
24 National Wildlife Refuge Manager has the authority to
25 set the harvest quota, close the season and set any
26 permit conditions for caribou. They can also close and
27 reopen Federal public lands to non-subsistence hunting.
28 But the current regulation is -- the Federal regs are
29 closed to everyone except False Pass and so the current
30 proposal is to modify that closure to expand
31 opportunity both under Federal regulations, so instead
32 of just False Pass, expand it to all Federally-
33 qualified users and then to open it to all users, so
34 including people under State regulations if it exceeds
35 a population threshold. And so my understanding is
36 some Council members are suggesting, instead of having
37 a set population threshold in regulation, to delegate
38 that authority to the in-season manager so that the
39 opening and closing of Federal lands under, you know,
40 to non-Federally-qualified users could be determined on
41 an annual basis versus having it fixed in regulations.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But for purposes
44 of the Regional Councils, we can only recommend for use
45 by Federally-qualified users, subsistence users and if
46 it goes on to the State, basically, that's between the
47 State and the Federal manager; is that correct?

48

49 MS. GREDIAGIN: Well, I mean, yeah, the

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1 Regional Council has no authority over what the State
2 regulations are, but Federal regulations can close
3 Federal lands to non-Federal users, so effectively
4 there'd be no hunting under State regulations if the
5 Federal lands are closed. I mean so even if -- I mean
6 currently there is no State season on Unimak Island,
7 but if the State opens a season but Federal lands
8 remain closed then effectively there's no -- there's
9 still no State hunting.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, that's
12 kind of what I was -- yeah. So Federal Staff, can
13 somebody help us with this, given on all this
14 discussion, on how best to do this proposal. It is 10
15 after 12:00 right now.

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa. I mean
18 it's really up to what the Council wants to do, whether
19 the Council wants to change -- keep the population
20 threshold at 800, change it to 600 or some lower
21 number, or change it to delegate that closure, whether
22 or not it's open, to an in-season manager. So it's
23 really up to however the Council wants to proceed. And
24 as long as we understand your intent we can work on the
25 regulatory language.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I think
28 that's where.....

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca,
31 may I speak

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

34

35 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. So I think I can
36 clarify where we are. My understanding is from what
37 everyone has said on the Council, we don't want to set
38 a hard number, we want to delegate. I think what Della
39 was just asking, is do you have a recommendation for
40 language that we can include in our motion to make sure
41 that this regulation does what we are intending. So I
42 don't think anyone is disagreeing that what we're
43 wanting the Refuge Manager, or whomever, we want them
44 to be able to make that call on an annual basis, or not
45 be locked in to one number. So what is the regulatory
46 language that will allow us to do that. And then I
47 think Pat raised the question, is any language
48 necessary at all. What I'm understanding from you is
49 that, yes, we do need some language about delegating
50

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1 authority, now we're just looking for what is that
2 language so that we can appropriately include it in our
3 motion.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And basically
6 with OSM's preliminary conclusion, support Proposal
7 WP22-38b with modification to establish a population
8 threshold, not of 800 caribou, but to be recommended by
9 State and Federal management, or in-season manager.
10 Would that work, if we just put in-season manager?

11

12 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, this is Lisa.
13 And, I mean your intent is perfectly clear and so,
14 honestly, off the top of my head, I can't say exactly
15 what the best regulatory language would be. But, yeah,
16 we can finesse it later, or if the Council really wants
17 to we could -- I could think about it over lunch and
18 get back to you, but I think your intentions are clear
19 and so we can work on what the exact wording would be
20 in regulation later.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, so let's
23 go ahead and do this, let's go ahead and break for
24 lunch. And then come back with -- because we are at
25 the point of making a motion, so that's the question,
26 of the language of the motion. So why don't we just
27 take a break and maybe come back about 1:15, and
28 hopefully we will have the wording. Is that agreeable?

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Della.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, is that
33 good?

34

35 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, that's perfect.
36 And if our discussion on the record is enough I'm
37 comfortable with that. I just didn't want us to make a
38 motion thinking that, you know, we'd have this new
39 regulation go into place and then it turns out that we
40 didn't include some sort of magic language that we
41 needed and the regulation was no good. So I'm just
42 trying to avoid that situation. But, yeah, I think
43 your plan sounds great.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thanks.
48 Everybody we'll go ahead and recess until 1:15.

49

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0258

1 Thank you.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, that's the
8 polling of your Council, and as I said there's an email
9 with the modified language but I'm sure Lisa can cover
10 it if people do not have access to their email.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Vince. And, maybe, Lisa, are you online?

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, Madame Chair, yep,
18 this is Lisa.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I see the
21 language in my email but I don't think Rick has access
22 to email so I would just go ahead, for the record, read
23 your recommendation.

24

25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, okay, sorry, just
26 a moment. I accidentally closed it. Let me bring it
27 back up here.

28

29 MR. KOSO: I got it Della.

30

31 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay, I have it open
32 now. So it would be support WP22-38b with modification
33 to remove the closure from the unit-specific
34 regulations and delegate authority to the Izembek
35 National Wildlife Refuge Manager to open and close
36 Federal public lands to non-Federally-qualified users
37 annually based on the current population status of the
38 Unimak Caribou Herd in consultation with ADF&G via
39 delegation of authority letter only.

40

41 And then in the document I sent it also
42 has, you know, the modified regulation should read with
43 the Federal lands closure language crossed out and then
44 the delegation of authority letter attached with the
45 additional language bolded and highlighted under scope
46 of delegation.

47

48 CHAIR TRUMBLE: So basically what this
49 does is allows the Refuge Manager to say -- I think

50

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1 currently there was a number of like four bulls by
2 subsistence last -- I don't know if that remains in
3 place, I can't remember what remains in place
4 currently, but this allows for -- because one bull by
5 Federal registration permit and that -- is that
6 basically -- does the Refuge Manager say that you could
7 take 10 Unimak -- or what exactly -- I'm a little
8 confused now?

9
10 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, so currently the
11 Izembek manager has authority to set the harvest quota,
12 close the season and set any needed permit conditions.
13 So for example, the manager could say the Federal quota
14 this year is 10 bulls and then she would close the
15 season if those 10 bulls were harvested under Federal
16 regulations. Then additional language would add
17 additional authority -- or this would delegate
18 additional authority to the manager to open and close
19 Federal public lands to non-Federally-qualified users
20 on an annual basis, based on the current population
21 status of the Unimak Caribou Herd in consultation with
22 ADF&G. So this is the alternative to Federal lands
23 being closed unless the herd exceeds the population
24 threshold, and so instead of having a set number in
25 regulations it would be -- you know this would be more
26 flexible where the in-season manager would open or
27 close Federal lands to people under State regulations
28 based on the population status of the herd that year.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

31
32 MS. GREDIAGIN: So it doesn't change
33 any.....

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Basically in the
36 book it says one bull by Federal registration permit,
37 FC10003, Federal public lands are closed to the taking
38 of caribou except by residents of False Pass, August
39 1st to September 30th. So this is basically saying
40 that -- is changing it to not being closed, to remove
41 the closure of the unit. Does anybody have any
42 comments in regards to the language?

43
44 MS. MELENDEZ: Hello, Madame Chair and
45 Council members. This is Letecia at Izembek National
46 Wildlife Refuge and I am sitting in for Refuge Manager
47 Maria Fosado. And based upon what I'm hearing the
48 language that gives the seasonal Refuge Manager the
49 option to consult with ADF&G for hunt numbers, harvest
50

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1 numbers, the language that I'm hearing so far sounds as
2 though it would be appropriate but I'm willing to
3 listen to further comments before making a final
4 decision.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: To Izembek, I didn't
13 catch your name, I can share your email so you have it,
14 unless Lisa's already done it, you would have the
15 language that the Council is looking at for action on
16 this proposal but I didn't catch your name.

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I just forwarded
19 it to -- I just forwarded it to her.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. All right, that's
22 great. And, again, for the Refuge Staff there, I'm
23 sure the Council, any time you have questions you can
24 request the Chair to recognize you because this is an
25 important action.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Vince, I
30 would like to hear some of the Federal Staff, have you
31 reviewed that language and what are your comments?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anyone.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'll jump in here.
38 I think what this is doing is it maintains the current
39 season and Federal register permit, that didn't change.
40 It's just taking out the closure and then it is in the
41 delegation of authority letter, it's adding in there
42 for the scope of delegation to open and close Federal
43 public lands to non-qualified users, annually, and
44 that's what you discussed earlier is an annual
45 approach, based on current population status of the
46 Unimak Caribou Herd in consultation with Alaska
47 Department of Fish and Game.

48

49 So listening to you this morning it

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1 seems to align with what you wanted, that the 800
2 number was, you know, questionable and paraphrasing
3 Pat, 500 may be too little, so this would allow more
4 direct action annually by the managers, Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game and Refuge Manager. So
6 that's how I understand it, Lisa, can correct me or add
7 on.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I guess where
10 I'm at with this, Vince, is if we look at the language
11 in the proposed regulation, the language has changed
12 technically. And then you have the OSM preliminary
13 conclusion now. So that's kind of where I'm at, since
14 this language has changed, do we need -- what is the
15 proper procedure. A motion to accept the language as
16 modified and then I still would question OSM's
17 preliminary conclusion, whether they approve the
18 recommended language.

19
20 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Della, this is
21 Lisa. So the modified language that you received from
22 Vince that I worked on over lunch and I just read into
23 the record, that is what my understanding of what the
24 Council, you know, wanted, a reflection of your intent,
25 and I just, you know, kind of formalized it into what
26 the regulations would actually read and look like, you
27 know, in the CFR and the delegation of authority
28 letter. So if the Council agrees with the modified
29 language I sent then you could just adopt that, or
30 maybe it's not an accurate reflection of what the
31 Council's desire is.

32
33 As far as the OSM preliminary
34 conclusion goes, OSM was just responding to the
35 proposal as submitted, to identify that population
36 threshold, and so OSM suggested 800 based on the
37 current population objectives, but based on feedback
38 from ADF&G and Council concerns, I mean OSM is not --
39 we don't feel super strongly about that 800 number, we
40 were just putting something out there since that was
41 what the proposal submitted was for.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

44
45 MS. GREDIAGIN: So OSM, as far as their
46 preliminary conclusion goes, we're pretty flexible to
47 that.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you
50

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1 for the clarification.

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think you were
10 asking where you can proceed from here. And this is
11 your proposal, you submitted it, and even if it was
12 submitted by someone else, you can modify the proposal.
13 So everything is on the table as far as your proposal
14 to have Federally-qualified users, et cetera, et
15 cetera, and establish a threshold. So it's within your
16 purview to pass a motion adopting, you know, the
17 language that Lisa provided.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: It's there. And then the
22 Refuge Manager is online, and I hope the Alaska
23 Department of Fish and Game, and then the management
24 biologist is online and I'm sure they will share if
25 they have any comments on this language.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So would
28 anyone like to entertain a motion, if someone would
29 make a motion basically to support WP22-38b with
30 modification to remove the closure from the unit-
31 specific regulation and delegate authority to the
32 Izembek Refuge Manager to open and close Federal lands
33 to non-Federally-qualified users annually based on the
34 current population status of Unimak Caribou Herd in
35 consultation with ADF&G Staff via delegation of
36 authority letter only, and then see revised delegation
37 of authority -- so that's there -- so does any one of
38 the Council members want to make a motion to that
39 effect.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Move to accept.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
44 Pat, do I hear a second.

45

46 MR. KOSO: Second, Della.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Rick
49 Koso. Question.

50

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1 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.
2 I have a couple of questions I wanted to ask.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
5 Rebecca.

6
7 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. So my first
8 question is, and unfortunately this is not the language
9 in front of us, but in the language in the book for the
10 proposed regulation is close the taking of caribou
11 except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. I
12 wanted to confirm, are those Federally-qualified
13 subsistence users only the groups that we dealt with in
14 the last proposal that had to do with the C&T, or is
15 this all Federally-qualified subsistence users all
16 throughout the state of Alaska. So that's my first
17 question, and if I can get that answered then I'll go
18 on to my second.

19
20 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hey, Rebecca, this is
21 Lisa. And, yes, the Federally-qualified subsistence
22 users are only the ones that would have the customary
23 and traditional use determination. So if the Board
24 adopts the Council's recommendation that you made for
25 38a, then those would be the communities and the
26 qualified users, you know, that would apply to this
27 Proposal 38b.

28
29 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So I guess I have
30 more of a comment then. It seems like the language
31 that was emailed out over lunch and I think that is
32 currently on the floor strikes me as much more broad.
33 So it delegates the authority to open and close Federal
34 public lands to non-Federally-qualified users. And so
35 we've gone from -- this is how I'm viewing it, from
36 allowing harvest by residents of False Pass, the
37 original proposal in the book then expanded that
38 basically to the Aleutians East Borough, and now the
39 proposed language is going, in my opinion beyond that,
40 to non-Federally-qualified users which is a whole
41 different group altogether. However, if the Council
42 went ahead and moved forward with the language that was
43 sent out over lunch, does that give the Refuge Manager
44 the authority to only allow harvest by residents of the
45 Aleutians East Borough? So basically does the proposed
46 language provide very broad discretion but within that
47 the Refuge Manager could say, all right, I'm going to
48 open a hunt, I feel like -- I've consulted with the
49 State, there's enough caribou there that we can open a
50

1 hunt but it's only going to be for residents of the
2 Aleutians East Borough, or the residents that have the
3 C&T determination. Can you clarify that?

4
5 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Rebecca this is
6 Lisa. In the proposed language, if the Refuge Manager
7 closes Federal public lands to non-Federally-qualified
8 users then it would only be open to the people with the
9 customary and traditional use determination. So it
10 would only be open to the Federally-qualified users
11 which in this case would be the residents of Unit 9D,
12 False Pass, Akutan. So I think it's just different
13 ways of saying the same thing, you know, a closure to
14 non-Federally-qualified users is the same as being open
15 only to Federally-qualified users. So it's kind of the
16 same as in the.....

17
18 MS. SKINNER: Okay. But I.....

19
20 MS. GREDIAGIN:proposed
21 regulations except.....

22
23 MS. SKINNER: Right. Well, no -- but I
24 want to clarify because I want to make sure we're not
25 skipping a step. Because the proposal that's in the
26 book specifies that the hunt would be open to
27 Federally-qualified users. We have not skipped that
28 language entirely, it's nowhere in the proposed
29 language, and we've now going to opening and closing
30 lands to non-Federally-qualified users. So is it
31 already assumed that the Federally-qualified users will
32 have access to a hunt or do we need an actual
33 regulation that says that. Because like I said, our
34 original change was going from the current regulation
35 which only allows hunt by False Pass and we were going
36 to expand it to the rest of the communities in
37 Aleutians East Borough. The current language on the
38 floor, as far as I can tell, doesn't do that.

39
40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, so my -- it just
41 does it in a different way. My understanding from the
42 Council -- the Council was concerned about putting some
43 population threshold, like an actual number in
44 regulation, you guys wanted more flexibility, and the
45 way to gain that flexibility is to delegate authority
46 to an in-season manager to, you know, open and close,
47 on an annual basis. So if there's something in unit-
48 specific regulation then it would either need to be a
49 hard number, or you could just say Federal public lands
50

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1 are closed to the taking of caribou except by
2 Federally-qualified subsistence users, and that doesn't
3 provide any flexibility for opening based on current
4 population status of the herd. And so currently what's
5 in regulations, except by residents of False Pass,
6 that's actually a Section .804 restriction, where it's
7 only open to False Pass, not all Federal users with
8 C&T.

9
10 So sorry, I guess -- I feel like maybe
11 I'm not quite answering your question, so sorry if you
12 need to restate something. But I think it's just
13 getting at it in a different way. It's achieving what
14 your intent is but it's just -- yeah, maybe a little
15 confusing how it's worded in the regulation.

16
17 MS. SKINNER: So my question is the
18 language that was sent out at lunch, does that provide
19 for a hunt by all the Federally-qualified users?
20 Because that phrase, Federally-qualified users, has
21 been removed so that language is not in the language
22 that was sent out at lunch. So I just want to make
23 sure that if we move forward with this, is this
24 actually broadening the people who can hunt from just
25 False Pass to all the other Federally-qualified users
26 that we talked about before lunch.

27
28 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, yes.

29
30 MS. SKINNER: So I think what you're
31 telling me is, yes, it's assumed, then that's okay, I
32 just want to make sure.

33
34 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yep. Yep, it's
35 assumed, yeah.

36
37 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della.
40 When we have the ability to request and ask for harvest
41 for Federally-qualified subsistence users in the
42 communities of Unit 9D and 10, we don't have any
43 authority to make any actions for any non-Federally-
44 qualified users. That's something that's between the
45 State and the Federal government, if the State wants to
46 open it up for getting permits to harvest caribou on,
47 in this case, Unit 10, which the majority is Federal
48 lands, but we don't have anything to do with that. We
49 don't make that decision; is that correct, that's
50

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1 between the State and the Feds?

2

3

4 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Della, this is
5 Lisa. The Council and the Federal Program have nothing
6 to do with the actual State regulations. So I mean if
7 the Board of Game approves opening a season and harvest
8 limit, then, yes, the Federal Program and the Councils
9 don't have anything to do with that. But the Federal
10 regulations can close Federal public lands to people
11 hunting under State regulations. And so since Unimak
12 Island is basically all Federal land, if there's a
13 Federal lands closure then that effectively eliminates
14 anyone hunting under State regulations, even if there
15 is an open State season.

15

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So when you open
-- the Refuge Manager -- all Refuge Managers have that
authority, that was passed by the Board, there's no
question there what their authority is. I think the
thing that -- and I was -- that Rebecca was saying and
I have a problem with is the term, open and close
Federal lands to non-Federally-qualified users, when we
were making this for Federally-qualified subsistence
users unless the population estimate exceeds. The
bigger question was limiting or putting a number on
that population threshold. So I think going back to
this and saying with modification to establish a
population threshold, as recommended by State and
Federal management, I'm more comfortable with that
language than what's in front of me right now.

And maybe it's just clearer when I see
it and read it that way and not reading between the
lines, if someone wants to read between the lines.

I don't know.

MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Maybe, and Lisa can --
maybe the language in there has to be -- it seems like
you and Rebecca are concerned that there's not language
in there about threshold, but there's language in there
about population status. So I don't know if that would
help, that the language would change to threshold level
or something like that. I hope this helps but.....

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1 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Della, this is
2 Rebecca. So just to clarify. I am not concerned that
3 the word threshold isn't in there, what I'm concerned
4 about is, from my perspective, we went from a proposal
5 that slightly broadened the eligible hunters from False
6 Pass to include False Pass plus this other very limited
7 list of communities with the C&T determination; that's
8 what we were trying to do. The language that's
9 currently in front of us completely removes the closure
10 altogether. So to me that's a much bigger step than
11 what I think was in the original proposal.

12
13 But, yes, part of what we're talking
14 about is instead of using a set number like 800
15 caribou, we want a threshold to be recommended by the
16 people who are working most closely with the stock
17 numbers and so that gets to the delegation of
18 authority.

19
20 But the issue I'm having right now
21 doesn't have to do with including the word threshold,
22 or even talking about a threshold, it's because this
23 seemed to go from opening the door to a little bit
24 wider to throwing the door wide open. I mean that's
25 how I'm interpreting this language.

26
27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is
28 Lisa, if I could respond to that.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

31
32 MS. GREDIAGIN: I think there's just
33 confusion about how this delegation of authority works.
34 So it's not throwing the door wide open, as Rebecca's
35 concern, it's just putting it in the hands of the
36 Refuge Manager. And so it would be up to the manager
37 to decide whether or not to open or close Federal lands
38 to those non-Federally-qualified users. And so that's
39 the difference, is before it said, you know, a
40 population -- Federal lands are closed, except by
41 Federally-qualified users, unless there's a population
42 threshold, but since the Council isn't comfortable with
43 stating a hard number in regulations and delegating
44 that to the manager to decide, then it's up to the
45 manager to decide whether or not to open or close those
46 Federal lands on an annual basis.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But basically
49 the Federal manager already has that authority?
50

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1 MS. GREDIAGIN: I mean the Federal
2 manager has authority to close to non-Federally users
3 but this gives more direction on closing it on the
4 population status of the herd and consulting with Fish
5 and Game on that. You know the language that's
6 currently in, you know, the standard language in all
7 delegation of authority letters, it's kind of covering
8 bases in an emergency situation, it's not really
9 expected to be used on an annual basis kind of like,
10 you know, the setting harvest quotas, as something done
11 routinely every year, where a closure to non-Federally
12 users, that's not a routine thing, that's a very --
13 something, yeah, done in an unforeseen emergency
14 circumstance. Whereas this modification is making that
15 Federal land closure much more routine because it's
16 understood it's going to change based on population
17 status of the herd.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So basically our
20 request was to include the other communities as part of
21 -- recognizing them as part of the Federally-qualified
22 users, not non-Federally-qualified users, and that's
23 where I'm not comfortable with that language. We
24 passed a customary and traditional use determination
25 recognizing two more communities as part of the
26 Federally-qualified user communities for Unit 10, and
27 then we're taking this and going to open this to non-
28 Federally-qualified users based on the delegation of
29 authority of the Refuge Manager. So now I'm -- that's
30 why I'm saying, now I'm more confused than when we
31 started with this because we just totally went on the
32 other side of the road here and I'm not sure where the
33 middle ground it.

34
35 MR. RINALDI: This is Todd Rinaldi.

36
37 MS. GREDIAGIN: I mean if it makes the
38 Council.....

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Lisa.

41
42 MR. RINALDI: This is Todd Rinaldi with
43 Fish and Game, could I add something to help clarify.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

46
47 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, so and I'm going to
48 be speaking a little bit on behalf of the Refuge here
49 because I'm going to explain a little bit how the
50

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1 process works -- or how we perceive the process from
2 the State perspective.

3

4 So with the changed language, what it
5 basically is going to do is it's going to remove the
6 regulation that currently has a closure for non-
7 Federally-qualified hunters in that unit. And the
8 Federal manager has that authority under its delegation
9 of authority currently. So even though that gets
10 removed, the default will be that those Federally-
11 qualified hunters that you just discussed in the
12 previous proposal, those folks would be qualified to
13 hunt on Unimak in years when the harvestable surplus
14 was not high enough to open it up to all users,
15 basically non-Federally-qualified users. So that would
16 be the default.

17

18 And so in years where there is a
19 harvestable surplus that's going to exceed the ability
20 of Federally-qualified hunters to reach that seasonal
21 quota, we would be talking with the Federal managers
22 about opening it up under our existing registration
23 hunt that we have proposed to the Board of Game, that
24 would then allow additional State hunters to come in
25 and hopefully optimize that harvest so that the herd
26 doesn't get away from us as it grows.

27

28 So I guess the key thing for me is it's
29 by default -- the way the Federal system is set up, by
30 default, Federally-qualified hunters are going to get
31 the first option unless the State and the -- the State
32 has data to justify that the harvestable surplus is
33 greater. And as we discussed early this morning, we
34 are concerned and I believe the Federal U.S. Fish and
35 Wildlife Service is concerned about this herd growing
36 too fast and our inability to reign it in.

37

38 So Federally-qualified hunters would
39 not lose their option, they would still -- even if it
40 was opened up to non-Federally-qualified people, you
41 would still have the ability to hunt it as a Federally-
42 qualified hunter, and if there was a State hunt in
43 place you could -- and/or use the State option to hunt
44 on that.

45

46 I'm hoping that didn't confuse anyone.
47 I'm hoping that helped clarify it.

48

49 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca,

50

0270

1 can I ask another question.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
4 Rebecca.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. So, yeah, part
7 of my challenge is I didn't have the subsistence
8 regulation book in front of me. So my question is --
9 or, I guess, statement first. Currently caribou is --
10 so it says, Federal public lands are closed to the
11 taking of caribou, except by residents of False Pass.
12 So nobody can hunt caribou in Unit 10 except for
13 residents of False Pass. If we proceeded with the
14 language that's on the floor right now, that closure
15 would be completely lifted. Does that mean that any
16 Federal subsistence user could go in and hunt caribou,
17 or is it limited to only the communities with a C&T
18 determination, and if it's limited, where does it say
19 that?

20

21 MS. GREDIAGIN: Rebecca, this is Lisa.
22 And it would be limited to only those communities with
23 a customary and traditional use determination to hunt
24 under Federal regulations. And, you know, I guess it's
25 just kind of an understanding of Federal regulations, I
26 can't point to exactly where it says that in the CFR or
27 the regulation booklet, you know, off the top of my
28 head, but it's just a basic tenant of the Federal
29 Program, is that the Federal regulations only apply to
30 people with a customary and traditional use
31 determination. Now that wouldn't affect people hunting
32 under State regulations, this current modification is
33 delegating authority to the in-season manager to make
34 those determinations on a State hunter.

35

36 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So with that
37 clarification, understanding that even with this
38 language it's still only open to residents of
39 communities with a C&T determination, I guess that does
40 answer one concern I had.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So basically if
45 you look in the regulation book on Page 55 it has
46 caribou, Unit 10, residents, Akutan, False Pass, King
47 Cove and Sand Point. What we did earlier is add Cold
48 Bay and Nelson Lagoon. The actual harvest -- under
49 harvest limits it shows, Federal public lands are
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1 closed to the taking of caribou except residents of
2 False Pass. Now, I'm going to be a little bit --
3 well, I'm going to be honest because -- and I'm going to
4 tell you what my discomfort is in doing this. Is I'm
5 not comfortable with this language on the non-Federal-
6 qualified user without discussing this with the
7 community of False Pass. Opening this to Federally-
8 qualified users, I'm okay with that. I'm not okay
9 going beyond that without talking to people in False
10 Pass. If that happens, that's where the State piece
11 comes in, in here, and that's between the State and the
12 community of False Pass and the Refuge Manager. So
13 that's where I'm having a bit of problem with this
14 language. And I'm not sure -- that's just -- yeah,
15 that is basically what I have a problem with.

16

17 I feel like we just took a big leap
18 here and I understand the reasoning behind it but I
19 just don't know that I agree with it. That's my
20 discomfort level with it.

21

22 So maybe Pat or Rick, what are your
23 thoughts? Pat you've been a part of this process with
24 us on Unimak forever so what are your thoughts?

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat here. I
27 can see all the sides here on the discussion.
28 Initially -- I don't think the way it is written for a
29 proposal or written, the suggested writing from Staff,
30 at all, excludes the preference for folks at False Pass
31 or the priorities that we set up before. I think this
32 redefinition is just trying to find a way to address a
33 population threshold. I think that it could just
34 easily be left that way and it still would make sense
35 to me.

36

37 One question I have on the suggested
38 writing, regardless of what happens, is, it says
39 Federal qualified users, annually, based on current
40 population status, which is the whole thing, is that
41 the Refuge Manager would make that judgment. But I
42 don't know that having been involved in resource
43 management, that you want to lock it in to only an
44 annual basis because you've got spring and fall
45 surveys, something might happen to reverse the
46 decision, so I think if you just dropped annual, to me
47 it works fine. Or you could just dropped the annual
48 and just take a little bit of the verbiage from that
49 first proposal and I think it would give you what you
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1 want.

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In the general description at the top of the page, 83, that pretty well defines that it would remain within the residents of that neck of the woods, and then you go to Step B, and then Step C after consultation with the State.

So I guess it's up to you folks to get comfortable, but the one phraseology that I would ask to reconsider is, annual, because we want our Refuge Manager to be able to make that decision whenever the information becomes available, that it's necessary. Because you could start out based on the spring but then find out, oh, gee, there was a mistake or something could happen and then you'd want to reverse it or reduce it so I think just leaving it in the manager's pocket is the way to do it.

So I'd toss it to Rick.

MR. KOSO: Hi Della. I agree with Pat and most all of what he said there. You know I think we agreed to go ahead and let the Federal and the State manage this and, you know, we have to trust them to a certain degree. I know we've gotten tied up on a couple of issues but we have to start somewhere. And so, you know, I still stand with the Pat's motion there and I think we could beat on this forever. I think we'll never become satisfied 100 percent because I think there's always a little bit distrust with the people land the Feds and also the people in the State.

So that's where I stand. I just think that we have to start somewhere and I think with the State and the Feds working together they'll make sure that the caribou, you know, stay plentiful for all hunters and if it isn't then, you know, the residents of the area there get the priority. So that's where I stand on this whole thing.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick. Coral, do you want to make a comment.

MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess my thoughts on this are it's been a long conversation and it seems like what people want is not quite pinpointed. It seems like there's some grey areas in interpretation. And I guess what I would recommend is

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1 not moving this forward and maybe put it into -- oh,
2 and also you were saying you weren't changing some kind
3 of language without talking to the people in the area,
4 and I think that's always our concern there, the people
5 in the area are the ones that are going to have to live
6 with this, so if we're not comfortable with it yet and
7 we're not comfortable with the language, I think maybe
8 it head to a work group and really get that to where --
9 I think it's possible to get it to a place where people
10 want it and I think that's how we should go about it.
11 Get it to a place where we want it, where the wording's
12 good, where people in the living area are going to be
13 able to live with it and make it clear. That's another
14 thing, too, is clarity. It's hard enough reading all
15 the State subsistence and Federal subsistence,
16 sporthunting, guiding, fishing, it's hard enough
17 reading all the regulations. Regulations should be
18 clear to everyone and if we don't have that clarity I
19 don't think it's ready to be voted on.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Question for Staff.
26 Della, this is Pat.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: What's the timeline on
31 these proposals. Do they have to be done with our
32 Council here this fall in order to make it to the
33 Board, in order to make a decision for next year?
34 There's a timeline here and I don't know that going to
35 a work group, is that going to bugger it up. Thank
36 you.

37

38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks, Pat.
39 Through the Chair, this is Lisa. And the Board will be
40 considering this proposal in April. So the Council
41 could theoretically take this up again in spring, or
42 winter, you know, February or March, before the Board
43 would meet in April. I mean so, yeah, if the Council
44 really wants to go that route it's a possibility. You
45 know typically the fall meeting is the time to put
46 their recommendations on the record and that gives
47 Staff time to include it in the analysis and send it
48 out for review and get comments from the State and the
49 ISC Committee, but there have been times where
50

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1 proposals have come back before Councils at their
2 winter meetings before the Board meets in April.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you guys are looking
9 at, which you'll confirm, that your meeting would be
10 February 22nd and 23rd, so there is, as Lisa laid out,
11 time there before the Federal Board meeting in April.
12 So there is time there. And that's it. I gather
13 there's some phone line problems.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I don't know if
16 there's any phone line problems. But basically --
17 well, it's up to the Council. Rebecca, what are your
18 thoughts, and then Natasha.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks, Della, this
21 is Rebecca. So, yeah, I apologize, not having that
22 regulation book in front of me until about 10 minutes
23 ago was really hindering my comprehension, my full
24 comprehension of exactly how this regulatory language
25 would come out. So after looking at the regulation
26 book, the C&T usage for Unit 10 includes residents of
27 Akutan, False Pass, King Cove and Sand Point, so those
28 are the communities that are listed as eligible -- this
29 is my interpretation, eligible to get caribou. So if
30 the closure, the closure right now, only allows False
31 Pass, if that closure were lifted, then any of those
32 other communities, plus the ones that we talked about
33 for a C&T determination would be eligible to hunt.

34

35 So I think I've come around to agreeing
36 with Lisa's statement that the proposed language is
37 really just a different way of saying -- so instead of
38 -- we kind of limited it -- we said, well, we're
39 opening it to this specific list of places. The
40 proposed language says, well, we open it to everyone
41 who's qualified, which is the same as the list of
42 places that we had, so I think it is saying the same
43 thing. I would be comfortable with this language
44 because I think that it does represent the intent of
45 the original proposal and reflects the conversation
46 today and the desire to not have a set number of
47 animals like 800, but to allow the in-season managers
48 to make that decision through delegated authority.
49 However, if the rest of the Council did want to form a

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1 working group to make sure that we're clear on this, I
2 am okay with that as well. It sounds like we do have
3 time to do that.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

8
9 Natasha.

10
11 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks, Madame Chair. I
12 am okay with either as well, moving forward with the
13 way it is or if others wanted to go the route of having
14 a working group. I'd go along with either.

15
16 Thanks.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So do I
19 hear a motion to approve WP22-38b as recommended on the
20 -- amendment -- modifications.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: On question. Are we
23 leaving the annual in there or does that mess things up
24 for the manager?

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think
27 basically they set a limit.....

28
29 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Pat, this is.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do you not set a
32 limit annually and then close by emergency order if
33 there was a reason too? Aren't these harvest limits
34 set annually?

35
36 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Pat, this is
37 Lisa. I mean having the word annually in there
38 probably doesn't make too much difference one way or
39 the other, just kind of clarify that this decision will
40 be made routinely, you know, each year, each season.
41 Yeah, I guess it'd be up to the manager whether they'd
42 really feel like in the middle of the season they would
43 need to change because of new information coming in,
44 but I don't think it would limit them one way or the
45 other if that word annual is in there or not.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Pat, back. That's
48 fine. That explains it, thank you.

49
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We've got
2 to get moving guys or we're going to be here all night.
3 Do I hear a motion to approve WP22-38b with
4 modifications.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat.....

7
8 MS. SKINNER: Della, I think you
9 already had a motion on the table.

10
11 MR. HOLMES:Madame Chair, I'd
12 like to move that we do.....

13
14 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, if Vince could just
15 confirm, I think we already have a motion on the table.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we do.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Okay. With permission of
20 the second I'd like to withdraw the first motion and
21 then present the one that we've just worked out for
22 consideration by our Council.

23
24 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I could rescind the
25 second, too.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So Pat
28 you're going to make a new motion supporting the
29 modification?

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Yes. Yes.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: Just the way it was just
36 presented by the Staff and we've discussed for probably
37 almost an hour. I'd like to make that wording the
38 motion.

39
40 Thank you, Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do I hear a
43 second to the motion.

44
45 MR. KOSO: I'll second, Della.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made and
48 seconded. Discussion.

49
50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question.

4

5 MR. KOSO: Call for the question.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Roll call.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Madame Chair, I'll
10 read what I understand the latest motion is and I
11 apologize if I get it wrong. It's basically, if I
12 understand correctly, it was the language that was
13 provided in an email from OSM Staff and it reads:

14

15 Support WP-38b with modification to
16 remove the closure from the unit-specific regulations
17 and delegate authority to the Izembek National Wildlife
18 Refuge Manager to open and close Federal public lands
19 to non-Federally-qualified users annually based on the
20 current population status of the Unimak Caribou Herd in
21 consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game via delegation of authority letter only.

23

24 And that would result in the existing
25 language of crossing out or eliminating the language,
26 Federal public lands are closed to the taking of
27 caribou except by residents of False Pass and it
28 maintains the current harvest of one bull by Federal
29 registration permit with season dates of August 1
30 through September 30th.

31

32 So that is what I understand. If the
33 mover and the second, if that captures it, then I
34 believe there's a question on the floor to vote.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question has
37 been called, Vince, I was asking for the roll call vote.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you. Let me
40 get my list here. All right.

41

42 So we'll start -- I don't know if
43 Melissa's on. Melissa.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Natasha.

48

49 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Della.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. Yes, I
4 guess.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: We'll take that as a yes
7 then? Okay, Rebecca.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

12

13 Coral.

14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: No.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Rick.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Rick, are you online.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I'll come back to
26 Rick.

27

28 Pat.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Rick, are you back
33 online.

34

35 MR. KOSO: Yes, I said yes on that,
36 this is Rick.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: So you voted yes?

39

40 MR. KOSO: Yes.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. So the motion
43 passed -- the amended motion passes with five to one.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. The next
48 item on the agenda is statewide proposal, WP22-01.

49

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0279

1 MS. KENNER: Are you ready for me.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, and it's
4 on Page 28 of your papers, or the book. Go ahead.

5

6 MS. KENNER: Shall I begin?

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

9

10 MS. KENNER: Okay. Good afternoon,
11 Madame Chair and members of the Council. As Della just
12 said this proposal analysis begins on Page 28 of your
13 Council books that were sent to you and is also
14 available at the Federal Subsistence Management Program
15 web page at doi.gov/subsistence/regions, look for the
16 Kodiak/Aleutian region meeting materials. My name is
17 Pippa Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office of
18 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

19

20 So this proposal, 22-01 was submitted
21 by the Office of Subsistence Management and requests to
22 clarify who is and who is not a participant in a
23 community harvest system. First, I'll describe
24 community harvest systems in Federal regulations.
25 Community harvest systems generally allow hunters to
26 harvest animals up to a community harvest limit.
27 Individual harvest limits such as one moose do not
28 apply to hunters in a community harvest system. The
29 community harvest limit might equal the number of
30 hunters in a community, for example, each hunter may
31 continue to harvest until the community harvest limit
32 is met.

33

34 Now, these regulations generally
35 describe what animal, species may be taken, where they
36 may be taken and who may take them.

37

38 The general regulation describing
39 community harvest system -- excuse me -- community
40 harvest limit is split between Pages 31 and 32 in your
41 Council book. It says, an animal taken under Federal
42 or State regulations by any member of the community
43 within an established community harvest limit for that
44 species counts towards the community harvest limit for
45 that species. An animal taken as part of a community
46 harvest limit counts toward every community member's
47 harvest limit for that species taken under Federal or
48 State of Alaska regulations.

49

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1 Now, what this regulation doesn't say
2 is that a person might not want to participate in their
3 community harvest system. For moose, for example.
4 This proposed regulation clarifies that a person can
5 request a registration system where only people who
6 register may participate in the community system. So
7 our proposed regulation reads: for the purposes of
8 this provision, all residents of the community are
9 deemed participants in a community harvest unless the
10 Board approved framework requires a registration as a
11 prerequisite to harvesting or receiving any fish,
12 wildlife, or shellfish, pursuant to that community
13 harvest, in which case only those who register are
14 deemed participants in that community harvest.

15
16 Currently there are no community
17 harvest systems in regulation in the Kodiak/Aleutian
18 region.

19
20 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
21 support this Proposal 22-01. And, finally, this
22 Council is the first to act on this proposal. The
23 proposal is a request to change general regulations
24 that affect all regions of the state so we will be
25 asking all Regional Advisory Councils to act on this
26 proposal.

27
28 Thank you, Madame Chair and Board
29 members, that's the end of my presentation, and I'm
30 available to answer questions.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
33 there any questions for Pippa in regards to her
34 summary.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Pippa, could our
41 Council opt out on this. We've done that before when
42 the question of use of bear parts of handicrafts, based
43 on what our elders had provided us several years ago,
44 there was a proposal statewide and we decided to opt
45 out on that and allow the areas that did do that to do
46 it, to continue. And I'm kind of thinking beings that
47 we don't particular do community harvest permits here,
48 if we do go for this, I think that we need to answer
49 the question whether this would affect the total
50

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1 overall harvest limit because if you have community
2 harvest setup of 50, and then you have other people
3 that are opting out, you still have 50 moose to take or
4 whatever.

5

6 So, myself, I would just defer it to
7 the other Councils for their approval but not do it in
8 our region.

9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, may I
13 respond?

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead.

16

17 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair
18 and thank you, Pat. This is Pippa with OSM. So these
19 regulations already exist in Federal regulations. What
20 OSM is proposing is that we allow an opt-out, meaning
21 to allow a registration system so people who do not
22 want to participate in their community -- in the
23 community harvest system don't have to. So these
24 regulations are already there. We're trying to clarify
25 that you can have this registration system. So in
26 addition to that I don't -- you know, there's a couple
27 of things that you brought up. One is not deliberating
28 on it at all and not collecting the public comments.
29 Another thing is to go through the process of
30 collecting all the comments and then maybe taking no
31 action. I'm going to need to help from Council
32 Coordination Division or Lisa Grediagin on exactly what
33 the consequences are. I can tell you that the Board
34 would really appreciate knowing what your point of view
35 is on this issue.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So we might want
40 to go around and ask each Council member what their
41 point of view is. Rebecca, what's your thoughts on
42 this?

43

44 MS. SKINNER: I tend toward liking
45 additional clarity so I actually like the proposal, if
46 that's the question.

47

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

50

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1 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks, Madame Chair. I
2 also appreciate additional clarity. This is the first
3 one of these that I've been on the Council that we've
4 had a discussion about for the statewide prior to any
5 of the other Councils having an opportunity to weigh in
6 so I'm going to continue to listen and hopefully learn
7 more from my colleagues.

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

11
12 MS. CHERNOFF: Sorry. Took awhile to
13 find my mute. I don't see an issue with going through
14 with this. I know I'm not -- I just kind of glazed
15 over it because I'm not really familiar with it and we
16 don't really do it here. But I wouldn't mind it
17 continuing through its process and really looking into
18 it and getting familiar with it.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
21 Rick.

22
23 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm kind of at a loss.
24 I don't know of anybody that does that down in our
25 region. There may be but I'm not familiar with
26 anybody. So as far as me getting involved in it, it
27 doesn't affect our communities, you know, I would just
28 opt-out of it and let the people that are involved in
29 it make the decisions.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So that leaves
32 me. I think that for the purposes of statewide, it's
33 already in place and this just adds more clarification
34 to it so I would actually support this. And that we
35 don't -- may not use it at this time but it gives -- I
36 mean that opportunity's there whether we use it or not.
37 The question is whether or not we agree with the
38 language change, is that correct, Pippa?

39
40 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
41 question, Madame Chair. I was reading and missed it,
42 could you repeat that.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So this is
45 already in place so what is being asked is the change
46 of language, or language that's added for more
47 clarification on who can actually harvest for a
48 community and how it affects a community. And the idea
49 is -- our thoughts technically is that there aren't any
50

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1 communities within Kodiak or the Aleutians that utilize
2 this, however, my thoughts are maybe there will be an
3 opportunity somewhere in the future, but whether we --
4 the real question is whether or not we support the
5 language because this is already in place?

6

7 MS. KENNER: I couldn't have explained
8 it better myself. This is Pippa for the record. Thank
9 you, Madame Chair.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Pat.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was thinking on
20 this a bit and I guess my only concern is, you know, as
21 long as it's done in a way where it's not going to
22 affect the total amount of whatever can be harvested.
23 But it got me thinking listening to folks comments, is,
24 I know, in our region the State occasionally does this.
25 I know like the Dig Afognak got a permit to take deer
26 for, you know, show kids how to harvest them and
27 butcher them and stuff and other things, and I think
28 occasionally they've done things in the Game Division,
29 so I wouldn't necessarily be against it. And I was
30 just thinking that it might be advantageous because I
31 know that young gentleman, Tyler, that works with Lisa
32 Scott [sic] is working with Chris Price out at Unalaska
33 on trying to develop a community harvest permit on the
34 State side for McLees Lake in a way in which they could
35 charter a boat, legally, to go out and do a community
36 harvest. So I guess I'd back off and say I'd go ahead
37 and go with the proposal as long as the, you know, the
38 Staff can assure that, you know, I -- I guess I have to
39 have confidence in the State and the Feds that they
40 wouldn't overharvest. So I'll reverse my position and
41 say I'd be in favor of this proposal.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44

45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So we have to go
49 through the process, is that correct, I need to get

50

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1 consultation for tribes or ANCSA Corporations -- and
2 somebody is typing.

3

4 REPORTER: Can everyone please mute
5 their line.

6

7 MS. KENNER: It's me, I apologize.
8 This is Pippa.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So do I need a
11 report from Board consultations from tribes and ANCSA
12 Corporations.

13

14 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. Board
15 members. This is Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the
16 Office of Subsistence Management. There were no
17 questions or concerns during the consultation.

18

19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
22 Orville. Agency comments, ADF&G.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Federal.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional
35 Advisory Councils. I think we may have covered our
36 comments and questions to Pippa, but is there anybody
37 else or anything else to add?

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
42 Advisory.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
47 Resource Commissions.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0285

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of
2 written public comments, Vince, were there any?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Public
7 testimony.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
12 recommendation. Do we have a motion to adopt WP22-01.

13
14 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.
15 I'll make that motion.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Do I hear
18 a second.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Second. Pat.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made and
23 second. Discussion.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
28 question.

29
30 MR. KOSO: Question.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
33 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
38 sign.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
43 Moving on. WP22-12, deer Unit 6, and that is on
44 Page.....

45
46 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, I think
47 we're on 22-02.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry.

50

0286

1 For some reason I've been doing this, this whole
2 meeting is missing a line here.

3

4 MS. KENNER: Oh, that's okay. I also
5 want to add this is Pippa Kenner. I think I was
6 supposed to inform the Council that there were no
7 written Federal -- there were no written public
8 comments on Proposal WP22-01, and, therefore, none were
9 presented to you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Nobody
12 said anything when I called it so I figured that was
13 the case.

14

15 So WP22-02.

16

17 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
18 And good afternoon to Madame Chair and members of the
19 Council. And the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-
20 02 begins on Page 46 of your Council books. And as I
21 mentioned before can also be found at the web page. My
22 name is Pippa Kenner, again, for the record, and I'm an
23 Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management
24 in Anchorage.

25

26 So Proposal WP22-02 was submitted by
27 the Office of Subsistence Management and requests to
28 remove language from designated hunting regulations
29 prohibiting the use of a designated hunter by a member
30 of a community operating under a community harvest
31 system. So we're going to pull that apart a little
32 bit.

33

34 Earlier we were talking about community
35 harvest systems and now we're going to switch and we're
36 going to talk about our designated hunter system. So
37 current designated hunter regulations are shown to you
38 on Page 48 of your Council book, and they state:

39

40 If you are a Federally-qualified
41 subsistence user, you may designate another Federally-
42 qualified subsistence user to take deer, moose and
43 caribou on your behalf unless you are a member of a
44 community operating under a community harvest system.
45 The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter
46 permit and must return the completed harvest report.
47 The designated hunter may hunt for any number of
48 recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits
49 in his or her possession at any one time.

50

0287

1 So what we propose is to remove the
2 language that says: you may designate another
3 Federally-qualified subsistence user. The language
4 we're proposing to remove is unless you are a member of
5 a community operating under a community harvest system.
6 And this is because there are some people -- members of
7 communities and community harvest systems that wish to
8 designate another harvester to take an animal on their
9 behalf.

10

11 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
12 support Proposal WP22-02. And, again, this Council is
13 the first to act on this proposal and provide a
14 recommendation to the Board. The proposal is a request
15 to change a general regulation that affects all regions
16 of the state. We are asking all Regional Advisory
17 Councils to act on this proposal.

18

19 Thank you, Madame Chair. That's the
20 end of my presentation. I'm available to answer
21 questions.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
24 questions for Pippa.

25

26 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's start with
29 Coral -- perfect. Go ahead, Coral.

30

31 MS. CHERNOFF: So, thank you, Pippa.
32 So this proposal is a request to remove language, can
33 we make suggestions to remove additional language while
34 we're -- so I'm interested in where it says, where
35 designated hunters may have no more than one harvest
36 limit in possession at any one time, I guess I'm
37 interested in removing that. And my feeling is that
38 subsistence hunting a lot of times is a matter of
39 opportunity and limiting the time it takes to get, so
40 it seems to me that in the sporthunting, I think that
41 -- that has that same kind of language where you can
42 have no more than one harvest. But I think that works
43 great for sporthunting, which is a different kind of
44 hunting, whereas subsistence is a food collection. I
45 think being able to get more permits, like say, you
46 know, get four permits for four deer would be way more
47 timewise, and effort-wise and cost-wise for a
48 subsistence hunter.

49

50

0288

1 So if that's a possibility I would like
2 to talk about removing that. And if not -- well, I
3 just thank you for your response.

4
5 MS. KENNER: Yeah, thanks for the
6 question. Through the Chair. One of the things I'd
7 like to clarify is that the general regulation says
8 that a designated hunter may hunt for any number of
9 recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits
10 in his or her possession at any one time. Now, that's
11 the general harvest regulation. There is another
12 regulation that your Council has approved in unit-
13 specific regulations. One is for Unit 9 that says a
14 Federally-qualified subsistence user of 9C and 9E can
15 take bull caribou and there is no limit to how many he
16 can have in his possession at one time. And also for
17 Unit 9D, your Council has approved a unit-specific
18 regulation concerning caribou and there is a limit of
19 four harvest limits in his or her possession at one
20 time. And this is in your book on Page 49. And also
21 in Unit 10, on Unimak Island, you may have up to four
22 harvest limits in your possession at one time for
23 caribou.

24
25 So in addition to that information I
26 wanted to provide, I want to let you know that I think
27 the Board would have an issue with putting the change
28 -- with recommending a change like that because we have
29 not advertised that change to the public. But, of
30 course, the Council can do it. I think that the Board
31 might have a problem because there wasn't enough time
32 given for the public to respond through public notice.

33
34 Thank you very much for the question
35 and that's the end of my answer.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Pippa, just
38 for clarification. This proposal requests to remove
39 language from designated hunting regulations
40 prohibiting the use of a designated hunter permit by a
41 member of a community operating under a community
42 harvest system. So if we're looking at -- just so I
43 understand this right, if we're looking at 9D and you
44 can have up to four caribou, are you saying -- what are
45 you basically saying, are you removing the designated
46 hunter or is it from a community harvest?

47
48 MS. KENNER: From a community harvest.
49 We're going to remove the language that says unless the
50

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1 recipient is a member of a community operating under a
2 community harvest system. And those cross outs begin
3 on Page 50 and you can see that that statement in all
4 of these regulations have been crossed out and that's
5 what the proposal is, to cross out that statement.

6

7

8 To add to that answer, I'd like to add
9 more, Madame Chair. And that is, again, this is a
10 regulation that will not reduce opportunity, it's meant
11 to increase opportunity for people who live in
12 communities that are working under a community harvest
13 limit.

13

14

Thank you.

15

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But none of our
communities at this point are working under a community
harvest limit; is that correct?

MS. KENNER: That's correct, Madame
Chair. This is Pippa for the record.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So that's
kind of where I was wondering about and then when
looking at the Unit 6, they have in their unit,
specific language that looks like -- that follows more
along the line, I think, of the State -- Federal -- or
State designated hunter, which is the line, 65 years of
age or older, at least 70 percent disabled, or
temporarily disabled; is that -- so Unit 6 basically is
-- their would remain the same as what they have in
place?

MS. KENNER: It would, Madame Chair.
This is Pippa for the record. It would remain the
same, except -- let me get to the page number for those
that have the book in front of them -- on Page 51 you
can see that the language; unless the recipient is a
member of a community operating under a community
harvest limit would be rescinded.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay.
All right, thank you. Pat, do you have comments.

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I'd say go
for it.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, do you
have comment.

0290

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha.

8

9 MS. HAYDEN: I don't have any comments.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay. So
12 I guess at this time we'll go through the process real
13 fast.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair -- oh, I'm
16 sorry, never mind.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca has to
19 leave at 3:00 o'clock for a little bit so we might try
20 to get through the process on these and then the other
21 statewide proposals I think were information only. So
22 going through this process, do we have any tribes of
23 ANCSA Corporations. Orville.

24

25 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. There were no
26 questions or comments on the consultation. Thank you,
27 Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
30 Orville. Agency comments, ADF&G.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Federal.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tribal.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory group
43 comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any more
48 Regional Council comments.

49

50

0291

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
4 Advisory Committees.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
9 Resource Commissions.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summary of
14 written public comments. Pippa.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 This is Pippa for the record. There were no written
18 public comments.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any
21 public testimony.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
26 recommendation, motion to adopt. Do I hear a motion to
27 adopt WP22-02.

28

29 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, so moved.
30 This is Natasha.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a
33 second.

34

35 MS. SKINNER: I'll second. This is
36 Rebecca.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Discussion.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for
43 question. All in favor signify by saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
48 sign.

49

50

0292

1 (No opposing votes)

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(No opposing votes)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

And I guess it's 3:30 for Rebecca and she will be leaving for a short while. So statewide proposals, C&T determination of all rural residents outside Kodiak/Aleutian region and this says information only. I'm not sure who's taking that up.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is

Lisa. I'm here to address any questions you have on the statewide proposals. It's really up to the Council how much information they want on these. I mean given it's not an action item, so given, you know, the time crunch feel free to skip this item. The tables are in your book for reference or if you have any questions or you want me to go through them one by one I'm happy to do whatever the Council would like.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Basically

since it's informational is there any Council have any items that they would like brought to their attention. Questions on any one of them.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We will

move on. I've got review Alaska Board of Game statewide proposals, they're not in the meeting book, Vince, do you have -- who.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes. But, Madame Chair,

just to make sure my notes are reflective on Proposal No. 2, that you were supporting the OSM justification for your action on WP22-02. I believe that's what you were indicating in your discussions.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Can you repeat

that.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, sorry. You were

taking up -- Pippa was presenting WP22-02, which was dealing with change of, you know, community harvest system for the designated hunter permit, and I believe your motion and action was in support -- based on, I should say, by the justification provided by OSM on Page 59.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is correct.

0293

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you. Now,
2 we're looking at Board of Game proposals. Chair Della
3 and I talked weeks ago about the option of bringing up
4 Board of Game proposals at your Council meeting. I do
5 not represent Alaska Department of Fish and Game. But
6 I can help the Council through, if they so desire, and
7 let me think now. The best bet if you don't have a
8 paper copy that shows yellow highlighted ones then you
9 need to go to the website and that would be Alaska
10 Board of Game Central, Southwest region, supplemental
11 proposal index. So in there, Della and I talked, and
12 there was four proposals in there. Again, it was my
13 assessment from way up in Fairbanks and, of course with
14 input from Della, that these four proposals may be of
15 interest.

16
17 So with that Proposal 205, I'm just
18 basically going to give you the title and see if you
19 want to go any further on it. Proposal 205 is to
20 reauthorize the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd
21 Intensive management Plan. So that's one of them that
22 we looked at. And it's quite lengthy. I'm checking
23 here to make sure but I'm almost certain it's from the
24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game -- yes, it is. So
25 if there's interest you can go to the next file --
26 apologize, if we were in person this would be a little
27 bit easier. That would be in the file, Alaska Board of
28 Game proposals 205 and 206.

29
30 Okay, not hearing any -- and I'm not
31 ignoring that it was mentioned earlier that Kodiak, as
32 well as others in your region, have very active
33 Advisory Committees so I hope that they also will be
34 looking at these proposals.

35
36 (Pause)

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Hearing none on
39 that.....

40
41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Vince, if I
45 might make a.....

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Because these
50

0294

1 documents, I don't think we have with us, I could be
2 wrong, they're not in the book, you referenced a
3 website, can you repeat that.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Sure, I can. I apologize
6 for that. That is the
7 www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions/ka_materials.

8
9 REPORTER: Okay, and before you go on,
10 Vince. Vince, hold on just a minute. If I could ask
11 everybody to check their phones and make sure you're
12 muted. There's either a TV in the background or
13 conversations in the background, I'd appreciate that.
14 Also just out of respect for the speakers, please.
15 Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tina.
18 Vince, where I was headed with this is you are talking
19 about the Alaska Board of Game statewide proposals, and
20 you said they're under the DOI.gov.subsistence, is that
21 where they're at or do I go to the ADF&G?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the ones that you
24 and I discussed were put into a file with those titles.
25 The one we're looking at now is, you know, central
26 southwest proposal index. And, again, I don't know if
27 you want to take these up.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: What I was going
30 to recommend, just so we have time to pull them up,
31 since we don't have the documents, is to just kind of
32 table this for a little bit and then move on to the
33 next item to the 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring
34 Program and then if anybody wants to go back and take a
35 look at the Board of Game statewide proposals they can
36 maybe take a look at them. And if there's any
37 recommendations or comments they'd like to make in
38 reference to them, maybe that's what we can do because
39 they're just not readily available.

40
41 MS. CHERNOFF: Della.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I think I
46 heard Rebecca first, maybe, and then Pat.

47
48 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, this is Coral.

49
50

0295

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Or Coral, go
2 ahead.

3
4 MS. CHERNOFF: There is a packet of
5 these proposals in our booklet near the back so there
6 are four in the areas of Unit -- oh, no, two, three,
7 four. Yeah, there's four for King Salmon area
8 proposals, Units 9 and 10, and then there is a couple
9 of bird proposals, too, so they are in our packet.
10 Mine are near the back of my packet.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do you have a
13 page number?

14
15 MS. CHERNOFF: I do not because they
16 start with Page 1 -- let's see, it's after the annual
17 report reply process revision and after the Akhiok,
18 looks like the harvest summary.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. What she's
21 referencing is materials that were supplemental to the
22 book, I believe, and then we also had them placed on
23 the website. So, again, maybe your direction is wise.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to
26 tell you, I've never been so confused about a Board
27 packet in my life. This is kind of because this thing
28 is in piecemeal almost but that's okay, that's my
29 problem, not yours. But, anyways, if there's any other
30 comments in regard to the statewide proposals, maybe
31 you can go ahead Council if you have any comments.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I know it'd be nice
38 to have details on these. I did look a few up but I
39 can't -- my computer is so old that if I listen to the
40 conference here then I have to reload my whole
41 computer. But there are those points on the Unimak
42 caribou that you identified. I think shortening the
43 wolf trapping season, I'd sure be against that, period,
44 in Unit 9 and 10. Wolverine doesn't matter because
45 there's not so much but I'd go along with the State.
46 But the -- there's a big zinger in there, I usually try
47 to get all the -- of Coral's committee there on birds,
48 but there's a whole bunch of them in there that would
49 reallocate harvest to non-residents for Emperor goose
50

0296

1 and I think those are ones that we'd probably want to
2 put our two bits worth in. But we can come back to
3 those later if we can get time.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
8 comments.

9
10 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, Della, this is
11 Coral.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

14
15 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, so I guess I have
16 some comments on the migratory bird proposals that are
17 in if we are going to cover this right now. If we're
18 going to put it off for later then I'll wait. So. I
19 know you had talked about coming back to these
20 proposals when they were in front of everyone.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If it's okay
23 with everybody to come back to it. I honestly don't
24 have it in my packet that I can see. Also I'm online
25 to take a look, if that's all right with everybody.

26
27 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, because there is a
28 closing a non-resident season for emperor goose and
29 then a bunch of other proposals for increased non-
30 resident hunting that I think we should probably cover.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
37 you.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, we could just lump a
40 bunch of them together at a time and then just stroke
41 them out with a no. Thank you, Madame Chair.

42
43 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

46
47 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I looked at those and
48 they're all on emperor goose there and, you know, I
49 have a problem with almost every one that I seen on
50

0297

1 there. The reason being is that they're saying that
2 the locals never shot enough or they don't harvest
3 enough to make a difference but the reason they don't
4 harvest enough is we're only allowed one. And 99
5 percent of the people that come out of King Cove and
6 False Pass and Sand Point and other places in our area,
7 it's just too darn expensive for them to go out to
8 shoot one goose. The people that want these geese are
9 these people that are flying into Cold Bay for -- with
10 most of these guides, they come out hunting and they
11 all sign up for this one goose and they want to hang it
12 on the wall but our local villages, our people, they
13 want that for food source. And going out and getting
14 one it just doesn't make sense. So there's really a
15 difference between the folks that use them in the
16 villages and the people that are requesting all this
17 extra hunting time. So I'm totally against all that
18 right now until we can get -- you know, you got 28,000
19 and working on it, and until they get it up high enough
20 to where those people can go out and shoot a half a
21 dozen of them to make it worth their while then, you
22 know, I'm certainly against all this other stuff.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I totally agree
25 with what you just said, Rick, thank you. Because I
26 can't even find the paperwork but I will find it. So
27 if we can just hold that off right now and then move on
28 to the 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And
29 I'm hoping in the future -- I know, Vince, everything's
30 been really busy and things kind of got a little off
31 track with all this but if we can put the names of the
32 person that's going to do this specific report in the
33 future, whoever's putting these packets together, it
34 would be helpful. So moving on, whoever's going to
35 present that report.

36

37 MR. STONE: Good afternoon, Madame
38 Chair and Members of the Council. My name is Jared
39 Stone and I am a Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
40 Subsistence Management. I'm here today to present you
41 with a brief overview of the Fisheries Resource
42 Monitoring Program and some of its accomplishments to
43 date. You can find these materials in your Council
44 books on Page 127. And I will give you a short
45 overview of the Monitoring Program, briefly describe
46 the funding process, give an overview for the Southwest
47 region and then finish by requesting Council comments
48 on any of the projects submitted for the
49 Kodiak/Aleutian region. This is not an action item.

50

0298

1 There is no motion necessary for this process.

2

3

4 The Office of Subsistence Management
5 administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
6 and funds research and monitoring that advances
7 projects that are strategically important to the
8 Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Monitoring
9 Program also supports collaboration and cooperation
10 among Federal agencies, the State of Alaska, and Alaska
11 Native and rural organizations.

11

12 I'll now go into describing how the
13 Monitoring Program's funding process works.

14

15 The program is divided into six
16 regions, which are listed on Page 130 of your Council
17 books. These regions correspond with Federal
18 subsistence fisheries areas and generally hold stock,
19 harvest and community issues in common. Some regions
20 have multiple Councils, such as the Southwest region,
21 which has both the Bristol Bay and Kodiak/Aleutian
22 Councils. During the first step of the process the
23 Regional Advisory Councils with support from OSM Staff
24 and Federal and State fisheries and land managers
25 ensure the Monitoring Program focuses on the highest
26 priority subsistence fisheries information needs for
27 the region. Councils ensure issues of local concern
28 and knowledge gaps are related to subsistence fisheries
29 are identified for priority information needs
30 development. And these information needs influence and
31 guide the rest of the funding requests. Ideally,
32 principal investigators will work closely with Councils
33 in order to develop strong proposals that are
34 responsive to those needs. The Office of Subsistence
35 Management provides technical assistance as needed.

36

37 The second step of the funding process
38 is requesting new project proposals, which the program
39 does every two years. Submissions must be complete, on
40 time, address priority information needs and address
41 the five criteria outlined in the notice of funding
42 opportunity in order to be competitive. Once
43 submitted, the Technical Review Committee then
44 evaluates and scores each project proposal package.
45 The Technical Review Committee is a standing
46 InterAgency Committee of senior technical experts
47 brought together to evaluate project proposals and
48 ensure that the Monitoring Program is maintaining
49 consistency with its mission. It is the responsibility
50

1 of the Technical Review Committee to develop the
2 strongest possible Monitoring Program for all regions
3 across the state based on the evaluation criteria,
4 which includes strategic priority, technical and
5 scientific merit, investigator ability and resources,
6 partnership and capacity building and cost benefit of
7 the project. A more detailed description of the
8 criteria can be found on Page 132 of your Council
9 books.

10

11 Once a Draft Monitoring Program is
12 developed it's brought before the Regional Advisory
13 Councils for their input and comments. This is where
14 we are at in the current cycle and we'll come back to
15 this in a moment. Additional comments on the Draft
16 Monitoring Program for the Kodiak/Aleutian regions will
17 be provided by the InterAgency Staff Committee. These,
18 along with comments developed by the Council are all
19 provided to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board
20 takes into consideration comments and concerns
21 generated by the process and endorses the Monitoring
22 Plan. Final approval of the Monitoring Plan is made by
23 the Assistant Regional Director of OSM.

24

25 So now that I've discussed how the
26 Monitoring Program works, we are now at a point in time
27 where we are seeking your input on the proposed
28 projects for the Southwest region, which includes both
29 the Kodiak/Aleutian and Bristol Bay. For the Southwest
30 region you can find the figures that I'm about to
31 reference on Page 136 of your Council books.

32

33 Since 2000 the Office of Subsistence
34 Management has funded 60 projects costing 11.9 million
35 for the Southwest region, and that is Figure 1. Of
36 these the State of Alaska received funds to conduct 27
37 projects and the Department of Interior had 27 projects
38 funded. Other organizations had three projects funded.
39 And Alaska rural organizations had one project funded
40 as you can see in Figure 2. In the Southwest region,
41 you can see from Figure 2 that the project leads have
42 been predominately the State of Alaska and the
43 Department of Interior agencies. For the 2022 cycle,
44 there is an anticipated \$2.25 million available for new
45 projects statewide. The available funding amount for
46 2022 is budgeted for each projects first year, not the
47 total project request. And this is ultimately subject
48 to the final budget determined by the Assistant
49 Regional Director.

50

0300

1 For the Southwest region there were a
2 total of seven projects submitted during the current
3 cycle. The projects are listed in numerical order by
4 project number. Justifications for each of the
5 proposed projects by the Technical Review Committee can
6 be found on Page 138 of your Council book. And the
7 projects executive summaries which were submitted by
8 the primary investigators are located on Page 144.

9
10 So we have seven projects that were
11 submitted for this region, of which, four are in the
12 Kodiak/Aleutian region, which includes the Buskin River
13 sockeye salmon stock assessment and monitoring;
14 networks of network, subsistence harvest trends of
15 Aleutian and Alaska Peninsula communities on Federal
16 lands and waters; False Pass and Nelson Lagoon
17 subsistence harvest monitoring and traditional
18 ecological knowledge investigation; reliable estimates
19 of subsistence harvest and uses in Ouzinkie and Port
20 Lions, and for the Bristol Bay region three submitted
21 projects and they include the Chignik River subsistence
22 harvest surveys and escapement indexing; improving Lake
23 Clark sockeye monitoring in a changing climate; and
24 subsistence harvest and uses of salmon and other wild
25 resources in Manokotak, Alaska.

26
27 So this wraps up a short summary of the
28 projects under consideration. And as a reminder,
29 today, I'm asking for your comments on any of these
30 proposed projects in the Southwest region. Again,
31 there is no action item needed for today. What we want
32 to ensure is that selected projects have the greatest
33 chance at successfully answering the Councils priority
34 information needs as possible. We also want to know if
35 the Council has any specific concerns about a project
36 based on the provided materials.

37
38 That concludes my presentation for
39 today and would be glad to take any comments or
40 questions you might have.

41
42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Is
45 there any questions or comments in regards to this
46 report.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

49
50

0301

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think that the
4 forming a joint study group between the two Councils, I
5 participated on it the last time, between here and
6 Bristol Bay, because we have a geographic definition as
7 opposed to other areas and so there was a time when it
8 was disproportional to Bristol Bay but it's balanced
9 out now. And I think with the discussions that we have
10 with their subcommittee, I think have really proved out
11 well. And I think one of the points that I'm glad is
12 hopefully getting solved was the funding for McLees
13 Lake because we lost it for two years because of some
14 mis-assumption on the evaluation group at OSM, that it
15 would be funded somewhere else when everything had been
16 cut across the board, and so it's really imperative to
17 have McLees continue and the Buskin continue, and then
18 updating of the subsistence harvest surveys; those are
19 critical. And it's reasonably balanced out in this
20 last 2022 on Table 1 between projects between our two
21 sub areas within our region. So I'd like to commend
22 the folks that are making those decisions for
23 supporting those items.

24

25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
28 Are there any other comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I guess,
33 hearing none, thank you for the report, Jared.

34

35 MR. KOSO: Hey, Della, I got a question
36 on this. Are you still there?

37

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

40

41 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I got a question for
42 Lisa, and I don't know if this is the right deal but
43 it's the only place I see where we're talking about
44 that, and I was just wondering, Lisa, do we still do
45 out on Thin Point and Mortensens Lagoon, with those, or
46 has that just been in the past?

47

48 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair and Rick,
49 this is Tyler Lawson with Fish and Game.

50

0302

1 MR. KOSO: Yeah.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tyler.

4

5 MR. LAWSON: Yep. We do not have a
6 weirs at Mortensens or Thin Point to my knowledge. I
7 think 2006 was the last time they were in place.

8

9 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I was just kind of
10 curious on that because both of them are really
11 depressed. I know we don't even have a subsistence
12 fishery in Mortensens anymore and Thin Point has been
13 totally depressed for getting subsistence fish, you
14 know, a lot of people from King Cove have a hard time
15 getting it. So I was just curious if you guys had
16 plans in the future to maybe instate that or is that
17 just a dying deal?

18

19 MR. LAWSON: Hope, there has been some
20 discussion about that. There's just kind of some
21 logistics and then the funding part to figure out. But
22 we're happy to talk more with the Board about that and
23 capacity in the future with it.

24

25 MR. KOSO: Okay, thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We have brought
28 those up, Rick.

29

30 MR. KOSO: Okay, thanks, Della.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Last year.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

35

36 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rebecca
39 and then Pat.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I think Jared had
42 asked if we had comments on any of the projects, and,
43 unfortunately I don't have -- my comments are not super
44 specific. But I did want to put a word of support in
45 for the Chignik River project, insofar as it relates to
46 Chignik salmon. I think over the last several years
47 Chignik returns have been really abysmal and, in
48 general, I support projects that are going to start to
49 take a look at what might be going on there.

50

0303

1 So that was all, thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
4 Rebecca. Pat.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Am I on. My phone isn't
7 -- yeah, there's also a Chignik River sockeye thing
8 that will be coming up on funding where our two
9 committees recommended to look at Chignik because of
10 the problems on different year classes not showing up,
11 like the Buskin, Chignik, and then McLees, not this
12 season but last season was also missing three ocean
13 fish, and it seems like the older sockeye smolt, the
14 ones that are spending longer in the water are having
15 trouble getting home. And so we have endorsed looking
16 at scale growth patterns for fresh and salt water for
17 Chignik and then also for Kodiak and McLees to try and
18 determine what's happening. Is it in the freshwater or
19 is it in the ocean. And so our little joint committee
20 really recognizes the importance of Chignik because
21 there's a whole lot of Chignik folks that live in
22 Kodiak and so they're really trying to find out what's
23 happening in the ocean and one way you can do it is by
24 looking at scales. And I think if everyone thinks back
25 to Ellen, and I always get her name wrong, Yasumiishi,
26 the NOAA scientist that presented the ocean temperature
27 information for the Gulf of Alaska, was talking about
28 the blob, or this huge warm pattern and that really can
29 affect the return of sockeye.

30

31 And anyway, and then I forgot the main
32 point I wanted to raise, so I'm sorry, Madame Chair.
33 But I think this is such an important program across
34 the board, and I sure hope we can continue -- oh,
35 Rick's question on funding for weirs. With the new
36 Governor there's been some -- anyway the programs for
37 the big weirs in the State, I think Chignik, Karluk,
38 and Ayakulik in our region are some of the biggest red
39 producers and the only way that those weirs are funded
40 through the State is by a cost recovery fishery, where
41 they go out and catch fish before the fishermen do and
42 then they sell them and then that money carries over to
43 the following year to run the big weirs. And so weir
44 funding is a real skimpy thing right now with the
45 current politics in Juneau.

46

47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48

49 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Pat, I understand

50

0304

1 that. I agree with you there. But I know they do it on
2 the hatcheries where there's State cost recovery for
3 hatcheries but I never knew that they did cost recovery
4 for other stuff, so, okay, thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
7 other comments or questions.

8

9 MR. STONE: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Jared, is that
12 you.

13

14 MR. STONE: Yes, thank you, Madame
15 Chair. And through the Chair. Pat and Rebecca, thank
16 you both for your comments here and I'll be taking
17 these to the Board for further consideration. There
18 was an added component to the proposed Buskin River
19 project to perform an age analysis and so the
20 investigators are listening to your priority
21 information needs that we developed earlier in the year
22 and I sure look forward to working with the Council in
23 the future years. And so the things that I heard from
24 the Council is that you are all in support of the
25 reliable estimate of subsistence harvest of Ouzinkie
26 and Port Lions. You'd like to continue the volunteer
27 working groups for the PIN development, the priority
28 information needs, between Bristol Bay and the
29 Kodiak/Aleutians. It sounds like a word of support for
30 the McLees Lake and Buskin River and that is what I
31 have written down.

32

33 Did I capture all of your thoughts and
34 comments?

35

36 MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca. I'm
37 sorry, did you capture the support for the Chignik
38 River project, or my support?

39

40 MR. STONE: Yes, thank you, Rebecca.
41 This is Jared.

42

43 MS. SKINNER: Thank you.

44

45 MR. STONE: And, yes, I did write that
46 down and I just didn't mention it, but I do have it
47 written down here. Thank you.

48

49 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

50

0305

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Jared. I'm going to recommend, Council, that we put
3 off the identify issues for the FY2021 annual report.
4 The next item fall 2021 Council application nomination
5 open season. And then move on to agency reports, and
6 then we still have to go back to the statewide
7 proposals. Is that agreeable with everyone?

8
9 MR. HOLMES: Yep.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And we have
12 agency reports with a time limit of 15 minutes, if we
13 can stick with that, it would be great, so we'll do the
14 best we can. So are there any tribal governments that
15 would like to do a report. I think Sun'aq might have
16 had a written report in the packet, or an email -- it
17 was emailed.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any Native
22 organizations, and I have Koniag in bold written on
23 this.

24
25 MR. PANAMAROFF: Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

28
29 MR. PANAMAROFF: This is Tom Panamaroff
30 with Koniag.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

33
34 MR. PANAMAROFF: Thank you. I'd just
35 like to announce to the group that Koniag has entered
36 into a contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
37 to provide community affairs liaison services to the
38 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. And this position has
39 been taken by Amy Peterson of Old Harbor and Amy will
40 be working with the Refuge to communicate with the
41 villages on Refuge activities and communicate back to
42 the Refuge on village activities. And, we, at Koniag
43 are really excited and happy to be able to partner on
44 this important program and we look forward to it to
45 leading to more opportunities to collaborate and
46 partner with the Refuge in the future. So just wanted
47 to let you know that we have Amy on board. She's
48 working out of our Koniag office in Kodiak and I'm sure
49 that if you haven't already met her, when the situation
50

0306

1 provides you'll get an opportunity to meet her and
2 really enjoy working with her. So I just wanted to
3 give you that update.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
6 there any comments.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Tom, I think that's
13 great because for years our Council's, one of our
14 priorities was the Federal Refuge replacing Tonya Lee's
15 position because of her real critical role of
16 communications and organizing and getting the word out
17 to the villages and basically I think we've forgotten
18 or given up after five or six years since she left.
19 And I think Amy will be a wonderful person to do that,
20 and I think with your funding hopefully that will
21 really, really enhance things because a lot of times
22 when something's coming up, you know, I'll forward
23 things to Sun'ag or NVA, but, heck a lot of my contacts
24 in the villages have passed away. So I think this is
25 just going to be a critical role for her to fill and
26 she's a really good person.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. PANAMAROFF: Thanks, Pat.

31

32 MR. BRADY: Madame Chair, this is Mike
33 at Kodiak. I'd like to also say something.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mike.

36

37 MR. BRADY: Yeah, so thank you Koniag
38 for stepping up and partnering with us on this really
39 important position and we've worked with Amy the last
40 few days and she is a real go-getter and we're excited
41 to have her help us to do a better job communicating
42 with all the villages. So she will be filling that
43 role of our RIT position, Pat. So please reach out to
44 her and give her your concerns and hopefully, you know,
45 we can do more in the field as well so we really look
46 forward to working with Amy.

47

48 Thanks, Tom.

49

50

0307

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
2 other comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'd like to.....

7
8 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
9 Natasha.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
12 Natasha.

13
14 MS. HAYDEN: Yeah, I just also want to
15 express my excitement that Ms. Amy Peterson is going to
16 be joining through that partnership between Koniag and
17 the Refuge. She's amazing and I look forward to her
18 involvement. Welcome Amy.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
21 comments.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, this is
26 Della. This is such positive news. I know this
27 Council is very supportive of this position and has
28 tried to continue it on, at least, not only for Kodiak
29 Refuge, but also we've always lacked that position with
30 Izembek. And the concept of utilizing, and the
31 teamwork between the Refuge and the region, I think is
32 a good model and I would like to be able to see how you
33 guys have gotten that work and I think it's something
34 other regions maybe in the state might want to take a
35 look at because that position, I think, is so important
36 for communications, especially when you have large
37 areas like we do. And just being able to get the
38 information out and the ability to communicate is so
39 important. But good -- I think that's just a great
40 idea and I'd love to see how that works in the model
41 form.

42
43 MR. PANAMAROFF: Thanks, Madame Chair.
44 I'd be glad to have a conversation with any of you
45 about it. It's part of our hope, too, is that a
46 successful partnership like this be -- a public/private
47 partnership like this between the corporation and the
48 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will lead to similar
49 opportunities in other regions of the state. So kind
50

0308

1 of excited about being the trailblazer on this and
2 available to have discussions with any and all of you
3 on maybe letting you know how we did it. It takes a
4 willing, you know, a willing customer, that being the
5 Fish and Wildlife Service and the Refuge in Kodiak and
6 building off of good relationships that we've
7 established with the Refuge is critical. So with that
8 I'll let you get back to your meeting.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And,
11 Tonya, in my opinion, was the perfect model on how that
12 position should work. So I'm excited to hear you guys
13 are doing that. Thank you.

14
15 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. Go
18 ahead.

19
20 MR. PETERSON: Hi, this is Amy
21 Peterson, Koniag Community Affairs Liaison. I just
22 wanted to say thank you everybody for such a warm
23 welcome. And my ears are always open and my hands are
24 here for helping so if anybody needs anything, please,
25 reach out. If I don't know I will, you know, go back
26 to Mike and we'll figure it out together and we'll get
27 an answer back to you.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Amy,
32 nice to meet you. All right. U.S. Fish and Wildlife,
33 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge report.

34
35 MS. MELENDEZ: Yes, good afternoon,
36 Madame Chair and Council.....

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair. The
39 wildlife reports start on Page 161, and I believe you
40 directed that we will get back to future annual reports
41 after these agency reports.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is correct,
46 Vince. We have three items to go back on. So Izembek,
47 go ahead.

48
49 MS. MELENDEZ: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0309

1 My name is Letecia Melendez from Izembek National
2 Wildlife Refuge reporting out for our Refuge Manager,
3 Maria Fosado, who had to leave Cold Bay unexpectedly.
4 We also have joining us on the call our stationed
5 biologist, Allison Williams, who can answer any
6 questions anybody might have detailing any of our
7 biological projects.

8

9 I would like to first open up by saying
10 that as we all have had to adjust to the normal of the
11 pandemic, we have had to adjust our projects and on our
12 last report we were able to operate on most of our
13 projects based upon approval from our upper management,
14 which factored in all the CDC guidelines. So we were
15 fortunate enough to be able to do those projects and
16 during that timeframe we made sure that we kept all of
17 our partners and our communities as safe as possible.
18 However, in recent weeks, Covid19 cases across Alaska
19 have increased at alarming rates. And in the news it's
20 been reported that the state is now the highest -- has
21 the highest case rates in the nation. The
22 unprecedented strain on our medical care system and
23 healthcare providers have been paramount. So medical
24 professions across the state have called on Alaskans to
25 avoid activities that may increase the risk of needing
26 emergency medical services or hospital care. In light
27 of this unpredictable situation, our upper management
28 unanimously agreed to pause field work at this time.
29 We listened and we will heed to the call for caution.

30

31 With that said, we are moving forward
32 with some projects but only providing logistical
33 support. Looking at our report, which you will find on
34 Page 166 in the book, starting off with our caribou
35 Federal subsistence hunts we have our Federal
36 subsistence hunt on Unit 9D, the Southern Alaska
37 Peninsula Herd, also known as the SAP Herd. This is a
38 split hunt so the first split is from August 1st
39 through September 30th and the second half begins on
40 November 15th and ends on March 31st. The harvest
41 limit is three caribou in Unit 9D, which was increased
42 from a limit of one bull caribou last year. As you
43 look down you can see the table, on Table 1 for 2021,
44 and in that table we have our participating communities
45 for the Federal subsistence hunt that includes Cold
46 Bay, False Pass, King Cove and Sand Point. 60 permits
47 were allocated, 17 permits were issued and there was a
48 report of one caribou harvested. We also have a
49 Federal subsistence hunt on Unit 10, Unimak Island, for
50

0310

1 False Pass residents only. And that hunt starts August
2 15th and ends on October 15th. The Fish and Game
3 supported an increase of harvest to total threebulls --
4 well, it was a total of three bulls and was increased
5 up to five caribou in Unit 10. 10 permits were
6 allotted, five permits were issued and three caribou
7 were harvested.

8

9 Moving on to our annual brown bear
10 survey. Izembek Staff completed an annual brown bear
11 survey in August on the National Wildlife Refuge and
12 Unimak Island. The Staff flew replicates of survey
13 areas, one in the morning and one in the evening to
14 test differences in bear visibility and activity
15 between different times of the day. The minimum
16 population count for Izembek was 152 bears with 20
17 litters and only 43 cubs. And for Unimak Island was
18 108 bears with 12 litters and a total of 24 cubs.

19

20 Moving down to the waterfowl, our
21 annual tundra swan population survey. Izembek
22 completed the annual tundra swan population survey in
23 May. The crew consisted of pilot biologists Dan Pippin
24 out of Alaska Peninsula Becharof, Allison Williams, our
25 biologist, and the Refuge Manager, Maria Fosado. The
26 survey crew observed a total of 109 swans and 117 nests
27 within the Izembek survey unit, which represents the
28 unique non-migratory population of tundra swans was
29 found on the Southern Alaska Peninsula, which observed
30 169 swans and 23 nests. Swan densities in both survey
31 units were higher than observed in surveys in 2017
32 through '19 but remained lower than the most recent
33 count in 2016. If you look on the next page you'll see
34 a map that indicates in the Izembek unit when it was
35 first being surveyed in 1978, which is outlined in blue
36 and then you can see where the Pavlof unit survey was
37 added in 1984, which is in green.

38

39 Moving on to the landbirds, Alaska
40 landbird monitoring survey. This survey was planned to
41 be performed by Staff of the Migratory Bird Management
42 Program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
43 however, it was delegated to the Izembek Staff due to
44 travel restrictions and the Covid pandemic. The
45 breeding survey is a long-term and international
46 monitoring program operated across North America and is
47 a joint effort between U.S. Geological Survey and the
48 National Wildlife Refuge Center. The breeding bird
49 survey first began at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge
50

0311

1 in 1993 and were annually done until 2009. Surveys
2 resumed in 2019, and cancelled in 2020 due to Covid19
3 pandemic but resumed again in 2021. The survey route
4 covered 25 miles of roads across the Refuge and through
5 Cold Bay. The survey points averaged about a half mile
6 where observers counted and detected birds for
7 approximately three minutes and observers detected 34
8 unique species during that survey.

9
10 Our habitat projects. The eelgrass
11 abundance productivity monitoring. We have David Ward,
12 who is now a retired USGS biologist, who has been
13 working with us for over 25 years on an extremely
14 important component of the Refuge which is the
15 eelgrass, which is a contributor to the diversity and
16 volume of wildlife in the lagoon. It provides
17 protection, habitat protection and nutritious marine
18 food sources and is an attractant for the migrating
19 black brant, of course. Very important food source for
20 them as well. It's approximately a 150 acre mile
21 making it the largest eelgrass bed in the world. This
22 project was conducted in April but due to the caution
23 that we're heeding with our upper management it will be
24 cancelled for its second scheduled survey which would
25 have been taking place August. The assistance to have
26 that done would include David Ward, but Damian Menning
27 is from USGS, he's a biologist, they both were going to
28 come down and conduct some more surveys but, again, it
29 was cancelled due to ongoing Covid pandemic.

30
31 Invasive species management was a
32 standalone survey. A group from the U.S. Fish and
33 Wildlife Service, Alaska Invasive Species Program
34 traveled from Anchorage and was here in September to
35 conduct various surveys in an area for invasive
36 species. Surveys included surveying the road system
37 for terrestrial invasive species, plants, water bodies
38 with high use levels for aquatic invasives and
39 surveying marine environments for invasive European
40 green crab.

41
42 We also had our Brant age ratio
43 biological project that was cancelled. It was to be
44 conducted in October. It would have marked the 59th
45 consecutive year of collecting brant productivity data
46 in Izembek. The productivity index for the entire
47 Pacific Brant population is generated from ground and
48 boat-based count ratios of adults to juvenile birds
49 conducted in Izembek Lagoon and adjacent areas each
50

0312

1 fall when the birds are staging for migration. Because
2 the project would require a minimum of surveying 15,000
3 brant via flocks from shore and from boats, it was just
4 too many folks to bring on board for this particular
5 project.

6
7 The Steller's Eider banding and habitat
8 sampling. We got the green light on that, we're
9 continuing to do that. The work is part of an ongoing
10 study to characterize the habitat conditions, determine
11 diets, understand body condition and habitat use of
12 eiders molting in Izembek during the fall. As part of
13 this project, benthic samples were collected in the
14 lagoon in July of 2021 and will be sampled again in
15 September to characterize benthic prey availability for
16 eiders, and to contrast with historic sampling results
17 to understand changes in benthic communities that may
18 contribute to the observed declines in Steller's eiders
19 molting at Izembek. Benthic data will form the basis
20 for a Master of Science degree for a graduate student
21 working here out of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

22
23 The sealings. We actually performed
24 some sealings here at Izembek. During the May
25 registration bear hunt Staff sealed 18 bears and this
26 was in Unit 9 and 10, 16 which were non-resident
27 hunters. We actually sealed five grey wolves. It says
28 one in there but we actually sealed one thereafter.
29 And 10 river otters that were sealed here. We also
30 increased our sealing in the walrus tusks and sealed up
31 to 22 of those.

32
33 Thank you, Madame Chair and Council
34 members. This includes the report for Izembek National
35 Wildlife Refuge. If anyone has any questions I'm happy
36 to help answer those.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
39 questions or comments.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well,
46 congratulations. I'm really happy that you're being
47 able to get things done with the Covid, that's
48 difficult enough, and really appreciate your work. And
49 I noticed that you had a pilot from Becharof, so that's
50

0313

1 good, because some of the past Administrations out
2 there have had troubles when someone would get sick or
3 the plane would fall out of its maintenance cycle and
4 then the bear surveys wouldn't be done. So anyway
5 that's the same with the caribou. So I appreciate you
6 folks trying to keep doing what you're doing.

7

8 Thank you, very much.

9

10 MS. MELENDEZ: Thank you, Pat, for that
11 comment.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
14 comments.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I have a
19 comment, I guess, Letecia. In the eelgrass abundance
20 and monitoring, you said it was put off -- the dates on
21 it were supposed to be between August 9th and the 22nd,
22 and following that you have species management and that
23 was August 14th to September 4th, and I did get called
24 from the gentleman that was doing that study to be able
25 to do some work on King Cove Corporation lands close to
26 Russell Creek so we allowed him to do that. And then
27 the brant ratio you said that's been put off, and
28 because of Covid, and I guess I was just kind of
29 curious because I don't think -- it seemed like things
30 totally got really shut down until almost in September,
31 because our meeting was this month, and that's kind of
32 when we got the word, about mid-September, that we
33 couldn't meet face to face. But the other thing is, on
34 the caribou, because on my list to call, there's no
35 designated hunter permits in what you sent us, so if
36 you could throw some in the mail. I've had two
37 requests for them and I've been extremely busy, I have
38 to apologize, so if you could send some of those over
39 it'd be great. And then just a comment.....

40

41 MS. MELENDEZ: Did I hear you
42 correctly, Madame Chair, you would like some designated
43 permits, is that correct?

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, they're
46 always sent with.....

47

48 MS. MELENDEZ: Designated hunter
49 permits?

50

0314

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, they've
2 always been sent with the subsistence permits, there
3 isn't any in the packet -- there aren't any in the
4 packet. And then just make a comment in regard to the
5 2021 Federal subsistence take on caribou. Last winter
6 was probably one of the worst winters for weather I've
7 seen in a long time, we had nothing but basically high
8 winds after high winds and storm after storm so people
9 were pretty limited to try to get out and get caribou
10 last winter and so hopefully that's not the case this
11 year and we'll just see what happens.

12
13 But other than that I don't have any
14 other comments.

15
16 MS. MELENDEZ: Madame Chair and
17 Council, RAC members.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
20 you, Letecia. So the next item on the agenda is Alaska
21 Maritime. I think we've kind of -- didn't we cover
22 that, maybe not.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: No, we didn't. We
25 covered their report, it's on Page 161 and there may be
26 somebody online to hit the highlights.

27
28 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair, Jeff
29 Williams here. I'd be happy to present the report
30 which starts on Page 161 if you'd like.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Jeff.

33
34 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair
35 and members of the Council. 2021 is kind of winding
36 down for the Refuge. Just a couple of comments in
37 general nature so that the Council is aware of
38 activities that the Refuge has undertaken this year.

39
40 Our number 1 priority was dealing with
41 Covid this year and how we can safely conduct field
42 operations this year. Our number 1 priority was
43 keeping neighboring communities and our own Staff safe.
44 We went to extraordinary measures involving strict
45 quarantines before boarding a vessel. It also meant
46 that the ship did not dock at any communities so that
47 we would not be the vectors of bringing Covid into our
48 communities that are immediately adjacent to the
49 Refuge. So that made a lot more sailing time and
50

0315

1 longer trips and so we only touched base at Homer. We
2 were able to safely do it, the ship returned to -- the
3 research vessel returned this morning for the season so
4 we did not have any cases and successfully deployed
5 seabirds camps that monitors things all summer.

6

7

8 Our visitor center was open briefly for
9 a period in June and served over 16,000 people here at
10 Homer. That's way down from what we normally expect,
11 about 60,000 visitors here at the visitor center on a
12 normal year. The visitor center is closed again due to
13 the Delta variant.

13

14

15 We have seabird camps that went out to
16 monitor the status of seabirds at six different camps,
17 it says five different camps -- six different camps all
18 the way from outside of Sitka, the Bering Islands of
19 Kenai Peninsula, (indiscernible - muffled) and St.
20 Matthew up in the north. Sailing only from Homer and
21 supporting those camps meant that the ship traveled
22 over 24,000 miles this year all at 10 knots. So a lot
23 more fuel burning this year to do that and avoid ports
24 of calls at Adak, Dutch Harbor and other locations too.
25 But everyone made it back. The crews have been back
26 for about two weeks now. They're summarizing data
27 right now. We will be able to report card, a kind of
28 quick snapshot of what's happening in the marine
29 environment to the Council later. They are meeting
30 today, the technicians, 14 technicians we had in all
31 these camps are meeting today to kind of get the
32 initial feedback, which we can provide to the Council.
33 One of our camps in the (Indiscernible) Islands was
34 closest probably of anyone to the large earthquake in
35 July, magnitude 8-plus. They safely rode it out but
36 the cabin was a mess and basically everything fell off
37 the shelves in there but they were safe.

37

38

39 We have a fair bit of work involving
40 invasive species throughout the Refuge. It's just
41 easier to prevent problems than it is to fix them later
42 and it's just difficult to do that. The Refuge is
43 working together with the Aleutians Pribilof Islands
44 Association, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, DEC,
45 Department of Agriculture and the communities of Adak
46 and Atka to keep them informed of a long-term vision
47 that the Refuge and others are -- have for a rat free
48 Aleutians. So a very broad goal to have. The first
49 step is a feasibility study for rat eradication on
50 Great Sitkin Island, some of that work began this year

50

0316

1 and will continue into 2022. The reports are being
2 written up now on those activities and we'll be able to
3 provide those later.

4
5 About eight years ago we set up five
6 enclosures for cattle on Chirikof Island, that's
7 southwest of Kodiak Island, to see what things looked
8 like without cattle grazing. There are lots of cattle
9 there, they are unmanaged right now. I encourage you to
10 look at the picture of one of the enclosure on Page --
11 I don't have that right here in front of me but it's in
12 the report there. We remain very concerned about the
13 impact of introduced cattle, particularly on cultural
14 resources. Historic village and cemetery sites are
15 being severely degraded by the cattle in that area and
16 a lot of that heritage is being lost on Chirikof Island
17 right now in addition to the effects on wildlife and
18 plants and soil.

19
20 I already discussed some of the work
21 that we've done on caribou at Adak, I'll probably just
22 skip that for the moment and happy to answer any
23 questions if there any more on that.

24
25 What we call biosecurity, that is
26 keeping invasive species out of places where they don't
27 already exist is a focus that we've really ramped up.
28 In this last year, we, that is the Refuge, is perhaps
29 one of the major potential vectors of invasive species,
30 particularly plants, by transporting those into novel
31 and new areas that they don't exist already and so
32 we've instituted what we call a biosecurity plan that
33 will help prevent that from happening in the future.

34
35 In other news that might be of interest
36 to Council members. A fair bit of formerly used
37 defense sites clean ups occurring on the Refuge and, in
38 particular, Great Sitkin Island, which was a naval
39 fueling operation in the -- beginning in 1942, a huge
40 legacy of abandoned fuel tanks and fuel lines and just
41 a real mess. And that was abandoned basically by 1963.
42 Fuel remains, still in a lot of the pipelines and
43 stuff, contamination was documented a long time ago
44 into the early '90s. That's one of the first things I
45 did when I first came here in the early 1990s. But
46 2021 was the first serious effort to kind of clean up
47 what began more than 60 years -- more than that, 70, 80
48 years ago almost now. The Army Corps of Engineers is
49 the agency responsible for that. There's some
50

0317

1 photographs of the locations and the substantial
2 infrastructure there in the report. A large group of
3 people working together on that. There was cultural
4 surveys involved in there documenting location sites,
5 making sure that none of those were affected. Massive
6 underground grid of pipes and transported fuel,
7 batteries and PCP-filled transformers, a lot of that
8 was collected and some was documented for future plans
9 to remove. A lot of the fuel has been kind of
10 weatherized into either asphalt or tar-like surface
11 that will be removed and you can see some of those
12 photographs.

13

14 Covid had a lot of effect on how we do
15 our operations. And there was really kind of a switch
16 to remote and outdoors types of things to try and still
17 be, and connect with people here in Homer, but also in
18 remote locations to. Our education specialist, Kendra
19 Bush really kind of shifted gears a lot, teaching over
20 100 classrooms, either sometimes in-person earlier in
21 the season and even today right outside here under some
22 kind of pop up tents outside in a safe Covid
23 preventative manner. Probably over 2,000 people
24 locally, that's basically half the number that normally
25 we would reach, and normally we would send Kendra out
26 to other remote communities to engage in environmental
27 education. Some of the numbers are in there, in the
28 report.

29

30 I am also happy to say that we were
31 able to support youth camps in a few communities this
32 year with direct funding for them and also support from
33 our education Staff in Paul, in Unalaska and also Sand
34 Point and each camp is kind of unique to its own
35 community and has its own special approach to things.
36 We were able to, at the St. Paul seabird camp, enjoy --
37 the ship was able to -- we weren't able to come ashore
38 there but the crew was there doing field work and doing
39 counts of seabirds on the cliffs at St. Paul from a
40 distance from the ship and so we were able to engage
41 with the seabird camp kids. There's a great picture in
42 the report. It was a big hit with the kids to be able
43 to talk to the biologists on the radio there and for
44 them to kind of have realtime feedback of what's going
45 on in there.

46

47 So those are some general things about
48 what the Refuge is doing in a broad approach and we
49 will be able to provide information to the Council
50

0318

1 throughout the winter as soon as the summaries and
2 stuff get done.

3

4 So that concludes my report and I'd be
5 happy to answer any questions.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
10 there any comments.

11

12 MR. KOSO: Della, it's Rick here.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

15

16 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I got a question. Are
17 you guys counting caribou on Kagalaska too across from
18 Adak. I know you had 10 there that you supposedly
19 eradicated. I heard there was more on Kagalaska again.

20

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Yep, Rick, thank you for
22 the question. We did not do any counts this year. We
23 kind of had a bare bones approach. We minimized the
24 number of people that were on our ship and really just
25 kept it to our seabirds crews and a few biologists this
26 summer and just kind of a minimal skeletal type of --
27 we had people at Kagalaska this year. They were doing
28 surveys for rats as part of this rat free Aleutians
29 initiative that I mentioned. There were caribou
30 spotted on Kagalaska Island, but it wasn't really -- it
31 certainly wasn't an aerial survey, which we really need
32 to do in that kind of rugged territory. But they were
33 seen and there was documentation of just the continued
34 increase in the number of trails that are evident
35 through some of that new habitat as caribou continue to
36 expand on to Kagalaska. But no formal survey. I could
37 get you a number but there was a few animals seen in
38 one place but it wasn't an extensive survey, Rick.

39

40 MR. KOSO: All right, thank you.
41 That's all I really needed. Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
44 comments or questions.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

49

50

0319

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's a good
2 report. I think you were really wise with your pre-
3 field work quarantine of the Staff that you took out on
4 the Tiglax. I wish NOAA had done that so we wouldn't
5 have a big hole in the ocean information from them
6 because I think that's probably driving a lot of the
7 problems that we're seeing in salmon throughout the
8 Gulf of Alaska.

9
10 And then I also wanted to thank you a
11 lot on the -- a couple years ago when you took the
12 folks from Atka to Attu, I think that was really a
13 wonderful thing to do.

14
15 And you're cleaning up the Great
16 Sitkin, starting that. I know when I did my salmon
17 survey work in '82, that was one of the places my Staff
18 reported as being a whole mess and we pointed out to
19 Fred Zellemaker at the time so that's hopefully
20 something good.

21
22 I might suggest on Chirikof, with the
23 cultural sites, that maybe you connect with Tom
24 Panamaroff with Koniag here in Kodiak and talk to him
25 about maybe trying to figure some joint venture with
26 Koniag, our largest Native Corporation, and perhaps
27 with the Alutiiq Museum to maybe figure out some way to
28 do one of your little barrier fences around the old
29 village and the cemetery site there because those are
30 real treasures for our community and also for the
31 State.

32
33 But overall great job there, thank you
34 so much. Bye.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
37 other comments or questions.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
42 thank you for the good report.

43
44 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,
47 moving on, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.
48 Supplemental packet.

49
50

0320

1 MR. BRADY: Hello, Madame Chair, this
2 is Mike. I'm here.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

5
6 MR. BRADY: So, yeah, you'll find we're
7 in the supplemental material. I'll do some of the
8 report and then Joy Erlenbach who is the wildlife
9 biologist will do bears, goats and berries.

10
11 So if you look at Page 2, we did get
12 back out to Akalura and were able to continue that
13 work, the fish weir there. And also on Page 2, the
14 water monitoring for salmon habitat, we were able to
15 collect that data this year as well and also did
16 collect data in Larsen Bay and Old Harbor.

17
18 And then skipping down to Page 5, the
19 coastal seabird information and the marine mammal
20 surveys that we did were around Afognak Island this
21 year and that information will be provided in the fall
22 meeting.

23
24 The migratory bird calendar contest
25 this year was bird language and stories and we did
26 submit artwork from some of the villages for that.

27
28 And then I'll draw your attention to
29 Page 6. We had two ANSEP students helping us with
30 berry monitoring and invasive this year and that was
31 Kaitlyn Hanson and Alexandria Burks, and so we really
32 appreciate their assistance this summer. They did get
33 out quite a bit. In the Invasive Species Program we
34 were able to accomplish treatments in 27 sites.

35
36 So other than that I'll turn it over to
37 Joy for bears, berries and goats. Joy, you on there.

38
39 MS. ERLNBACH: Yeah, thanks Mike.
40 Hey, everyone, in May we flew our brown bear population
41 assessment survey in the Shearwater and Kiliuda survey
42 areas. The estimated densities of bears in Shearwater
43 was 181 independent bears per 1,000 kilometers squared,
44 which was lower than the estimated density in 2005.
45 The estimated density in Kiliuda was 239 independent
46 bears per 1,000 kilometers squared, which was similar
47 to the estimate from 2005.

48
49 For berries, in July and August we
50

0321

1 monitored berry abundance on the Refuge and found later
2 fruit ripening than typical. Low elderberry abundance
3 in monitored sites and variable salmonberry abundance
4 by site and elevation. Salmonberries in the Red Lake
5 area were especially sparse in mid-elevations but were
6 abundant at low elevations.

7

8 For goats, unfortunately we were not
9 able to conduct our mountain goat survey this year.

10

11 Back to you Mike if you have anything
12 else.

13

14 MR. BRADY: No, that's our report.
15 Thank you. We'll take any questions.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Pat here.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any questions --
20 go ahead, Pat.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I want to compliment
23 you on all your hard work there, Mike. And,
24 particularly, dropping off that packet to my door
25 because my printer is dead as a doornail. It helped me
26 a lot to get through this meeting. I think you're
27 really great on having those interns. I think that's a
28 really capital program to help our community.

29

30 And then I had a question for you on
31 the sea otter surveys. In the past, oh, a few years
32 back it was reported, it'd be nice sometime if you
33 could maybe put together something in terms of years
34 that you've done that on the distribution and numbers
35 like, you know, by major bay, or something like that
36 because that's, I think, of quite interest to our sea
37 otter committee.

38

39 And your berry stuff is really good to
40 know. And I thought your escapement at Akalura is
41 pitiful, that's the lowest escapement I've heard of in
42 the 45, 47 years I've been here in Kodiak. But,
43 anyway, good job overall.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. BRADY: Yeah, thanks, Pat. I will
48 talk to Bill and Robbin about that sea otter data and
49 get back to you. I will say that we did have some

50

0322

1 problems in 2020 and that might be part of the low
2 numbers. We'll have to wait and see how that comes
3 out. But this year the fisheries biologist, Kevin
4 Vanhatten, has told me that the numbers are much higher
5 in Akalura and we'll wait and see what those numbers
6 are.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
9 comments or questions.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
14 thank you for your report. Next item we have on the
15 agenda is National Park Service, but I don't see
16 anything there. Is there anybody online to give a
17 report.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll
22 move on to ADF&G, Mark Witteveen. I know that his
23 report was in the handout.

24

25 MS. KRUEGER: Hi, Madame Chair. This
26 is Kelly Krueger with the Alaska Department of Fish and
27 Game. Can you hear me?

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Kelly.

30

31 MS. KRUEGER: Okay, thanks.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can hear you.

34

35 MS. KRUEGER: I'll be doing the report
36 on the Buskin. It's in the supplemental materials.
37 It's a PowerPoint presentation if everyone wants to
38 follow along. So it is second to last on the
39 supplemental materials, titled 2021 Buskin River
40 Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment.

41

42 So this is just a quick presentation on
43 our sockeye salmon stock assessment project this year.
44 The primary objectives for this study are to census
45 sockeye salmon escapement, estimate age composition of
46 escapement and harvest and summarize sex and length
47 data. We have a written report, which is also in the
48 supplemental materials, and that's the last item on the
49 list which starts with ADF&G update through September
50

0323

1 1st, 2021.

2

3

4 Next slide, Slide 2. This shows the
5 escapements of sockeye salmon through Buskin River and
6 Lake Louise from 2012 to 2021. Our weir count for
7 sockeye salmon at Buskin River this year through
8 September 1st was 2,263 fish. This was well below the
9 current escapement goal range of 5,000 to 8,000 fish
10 and was the lowest estimated escapement on record. The
11 Department closed the subsistence, sport and commercial
12 fisheries targeting Buskin River sockeye salmon and
13 subsistence salmon fishing was closed by emergency
14 order on June 15th. The Buskin River weir was
15 operational on May 17th and was removed on August 4th
16 and we installed our lower Buskin weir on August 1st
17 and sockeye salmon continued to be counted through this
18 week. While we're still compiling data fish seemed to
19 be of fairly average size and a preliminary look at
20 scales indicate a fairly normal age composition. We
21 will be looking more at that data throughout the winter
22 and we'll report, if we find anything else, at the
23 spring 2022 meeting for the RAC.

23

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The next slide, Slide 3. This is the
run timing for the Buskin River sockeye salmon. And
this shows that the 2021 run had late and sporadic
timing compared to previous years with a significant
number of fish passing after July 31st. The peak day
was June 16th with 333 sockeye counted. Many of those
later timed fish could have been destined for our Lake
Louise weir which I will talk about next.

Our Lake Louise weir had a run much
higher than average this year. Through September 1st a
total of 1,464 sockeye salmon were counted through the
weir with 1,355 counted on September 1st which
coincided with a very heavy rain event. For
comparison, the recent five year average for Lake
Louise is 95 fish. Many of these were likely counted
through the lower weir as well but some were in their
spawning colorations and could have entered the river
before we put the lower weir in. The Lake Louise weir
was in place from June 1st through September 13th, and
when we pulled the weir on September 13th we counted
1,896 sockeye total for Lake Louise.

We submitted our Buskin proposal for
OSM. This is Slide 5. It's been submitted and we're
waiting on notification of a successful proposal.

1 As discussed during our spring 2021
2 presentation to the RAC we removed subsistence sampling
3 in the Lake Louise weir from our proposal. Subsistence
4 sampling was originally included in the FRMP project
5 due to concerns about age differences in subsistence
6 harvested sockeye versus sport harvested sockeye. An
7 analysis of scales did not show any significant
8 differences in age between the sport and subsistence
9 harvested fish. In addition, we removed the Lake
10 Louise weir from our upcoming proposal. This component
11 was originally added in the project in 2002 to provide
12 complete escapement counts of sockeye salmon returning
13 to the Buskin River drainage. The recent five year
14 average escapement, so from 2016 to 2020 for Lake
15 Louise was 95 fish, as I said before. The run timing
16 for Lake Louise seems to be later than that of Buskin
17 and fish tend to push hard during heavy rain events.
18 Habitat for sockeye spawning and rearing in Lake
19 Catherine is marginal and tank compared to Buskin
20 Lake.

21
22 For our new proposal we have a new
23 objective within our proposal and that is to measure
24 the sockeye salmon scales for freshwater and saltwater
25 growth phases. This was an FRMP priority objective
26 need listed for the Southwest Alaska region. We plan
27 to measure freshwater and saltwater annual growth from
28 digitized scales from the most prominent Buskin River
29 sockeye salmon age classes which are ages 1:2, 2:2,
30 1:3, and 2:3 fish. Correlations between growth
31 measurement data and various climate indices will be
32 explored as well as the relationship between ocean
33 growth and the sibling relationship, which is the
34 proportion of fish that return after two years in the
35 ocean versus those that return after three years. And
36 this will help us better forecast the Buskin River
37 sockeye salmon run. In addition, the growth
38 measurement data will be explored to evaluate the
39 relative health of freshwater residents time, which is
40 used as an index for the productivity of the freshwater
41 environment. And the cost differences between this
42 proposal and our previous proposal is a cost savings of
43 \$39,000. This proposal totaled 490,000 versus our
44 previous one, or current proposal, which is funded at
45 529,000.

46
47 The next slide, Slide 6, is about our
48 intern program. Our intern program continued in 2021.
49 This year our interns were Audrey Longheim and Lucas
50

0325

1 Parker, which are on this slide. This program annually
2 employees two top qualified students to work on the
3 Buskin project between June 1st and July 31st. Interns
4 gain knowledge, principles involved in fisheries
5 management and research while obtaining field
6 experience and fisheries data collections methods and
7 techniques. Since 2003, 21 of 33 interns have returned
8 to work for Fish and Game at some point and we're
9 really proud of that number, that so many interns come
10 back to work for the State, either seasonally as
11 technicians or as biologists. We will be recruiting
12 soon for two interns for the 2022 field season if our
13 funding request is successful.

14

15 And with that I will take questions and
16 thank you to the OSM FRMP Program for providing funding
17 for this project.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Do I
20 hear any comments or questions.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: I'll let somebody else go
23 first.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Well, if not this is Pat,
28 Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Kelly, it's a very
33 good report. I commend you folks on your intern
34 program. And I'd point out that the regional sportfish
35 management biologist went through that years ago and I
36 think it's really a credit to what you folks do in
37 working with young kids and training them, and then
38 also the outreach things that you've done in the past
39 with different classrooms coming out to check things
40 out at the weir. I think it's really swell that your
41 proposal to look at fresh and saltwater growth in the
42 scales, I think that should help quite a bit to solving
43 the mystery of why we've had some of these catastrophic
44 changes. I know last year the only reason -- not this
45 season, but last year that they even got the escapement
46 was because of the sea lions, not because of the
47 strength of the returning run. And I think that Mark
48 mentioned then that the three ocean fish were really
49 low so I'm going to ask Tyler when he gives his report

50

0326

1 on McLees, because they had a bad year two years ago,
2 what kind of age composition was short there. And, you
3 know, you folks are number 1 priority for our Council,
4 and I'm just really glad you're able to get this
5 information and help everybody out on the island and in
6 town to know what's going on.

7

8 And so I just want to salute you folks
9 and thank you and thank you very much for your super
10 hard work.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair.
15 Thanks, Pat. That means a lot. Hopefully next year
16 we'll be able to do more outreach and education with
17 different kids. We were able to host the Youth
18 Conservation Corps through the Refuge at the weir so
19 they came and looked at the weir and we talked to them
20 about how the weir works and how to age scales and some
21 different things. So that was fun and hopefully next
22 year we'll be able to do some more. For the ages, we
23 still have our weir in the water but once we pull it
24 later this week, we'll be able to sit down and age the
25 scales and see what the trends look like and hopefully
26 have some better information for you guys at the spring
27 meeting to discuss.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
30 comments, or questions.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
35 thank you for your report.

36

37 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I have
40 Tyler Lawson, update on McLees salmon weir, verbal
41 update.

42

43 MR. LAWSON: Yes, hello, Madame Chair
44 and members of the Council. For the record this is
45 Tyler Lawson, the assistant area management biologist
46 for the South Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians Island.
47 I'll be giving an update on the McLees Lake sockeye
48 salmon enumeration weir on Unalaska Island.

49

50

1 This past summer saw a healthy
2 improvement in the run compared to 2020. As a
3 reminder, McLees has an escapement goal of 10,000
4 sockeye salmon. In 2020 the weir only passed 5,037
5 which was a historic low. And as a result of that Fish
6 and Game extended the 500 yard closure there for
7 subsistence fishing for the duration of the run. Pat
8 had asked about what we saw in our scale analysis out
9 there and in 2020 we saw that the run was 1:2 dominant
10 whereas usually McLees is a 1:3 dominant system. And
11 it's likely that those 1:3 fish were negatively
12 impacted kind of by what Pat and Kelly had discussed
13 before mirroring some of what we saw elsewhere in the
14 region, it was a really bad run for sockeye across the
15 South Peninsula in 2020. But we had guessed that those
16 1:2s being more dominant in 2020 would hopefully bode
17 well for this year and we'll find out here soon. I'll
18 be looking at those samples this winter and we'll be
19 able to provide an update at the next RAC meeting about
20 how the 2021 scale ages look for the McLees sockeye.

21
22 But this year the weir passed 16,173
23 sockeye and Fish and Game was able to open up fishing
24 all the way to the outlet stream perimeter on July
25 12th. And the anecdotal reports from our technicians
26 out there at McLees stated that a good number of people
27 were able to make the trip out from town to catch
28 enough fish to fill up their smokehouses and freezers
29 and it was a good pretty good summer for weather out
30 there from what the technicians told me in their daily
31 reports.

32
33 At this point in time the weir still
34 has funding for two more field seasons, and with that
35 in mind this past summer was also the second year that
36 Fish and Game collaborated with Aleutian Aerial to
37 perform salmon surveys on McLees via drone. And we're
38 hoping to have four years of data to calibrate the
39 accuracy of those drone surveys to see if they are
40 suitable as a cheaper back up alternative if we have
41 trouble getting funding for McLees again in the future.

42
43 As always we need to express gratitude
44 to Chris Price and Shandra and the Q-Tribe for
45 providing support on this project, and I'd also like to
46 thank Jared Stone and the OSM Staff for all of their
47 administrative support and for providing the funding
48 for the weir. And I'd be happy to take any questions
49 that anybody has.

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, do you have
2 any comments or questions.

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, thanks for
9 answering that question on the 1:3s. I think that's
10 probably paramount in the change. It sounds like the
11 escapement you got this year is kind of memorable to
12 some escapements in previous years. I think the
13 exciting thing about McLees lake is that if you have a
14 relatively more sun in the summer that thing basically
15 turns green with a broth and really improves the
16 escapements in future years. And so I'm just tickled
17 to death that you folks were able to get funding back
18 for McLees and I know that the Q-Tribe is very happy
19 with working with you folks and I just think what
20 you're doing is really swell because that's one of our
21 highest priorities in the region. And -- oh, did you
22 have problems getting ashore this year? I think
23 pointing out some of the hazards of being a field
24 biologist.

25
26 MR. LAWSON: Yep, yeah, it took us
27 three attempts to actually land to get the weir
28 installed this year. On the first attempt we were able
29 to make it on to land but as we turned around to head
30 back we got hit by a swell and got tossed in the surf
31 and got a little wet. Which I was a little bit
32 embarrassed about it at first but when we got back town
33 and told people it sounded more like a right of passage
34 out at McLees than anything. A couple of folks told me
35 that when they go out there they have to wear drysuits
36 to do their fishing so that's kind of how that beach is
37 out there.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think it's
40 exciting also to be looking at the drone surveys. I
41 know they are getting some good information there for
42 Unalaska. But then that does make it a backup, but it
43 doesn't get your sampling of the fish, and although
44 it's certainly a lot less exciting than trying to fly
45 the lake and the stream. The last time I did it was in
46 a Grumman Goose and that was exciting in itself, and
47 then the pilot the next year ended up dying in a crash
48 and he was probably the most experienced Goose pilot in
49 the state so it is just kind of dangerous to get things
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1 done out there. But I think what you're doing is so
2 important to the community. And I understand that
3 you're also trying to work with the Q-Tribe on helping
4 them get some ability to do a community harvest for
5 subsistence and I think that's really great for them to
6 get some help doing that.

7

8 So thanks a whole bunch.

9

10 MR. LAWSON: You're welcome, no
11 problem.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
14 comments or questions for Tyler.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
19 thank you Tyler, it's a good report and nice to hear
20 positive news.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Vince.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if Mark is
27 on. He provided, you know, a Buskin River sockeye
28 salmon fishery and stock assessment project report. So
29 I don't know if he's online. Copies were provided to
30 you in the mail and they're also on the website for
31 future reference.

32

33 MR. WITTEVEEN: Yes, this is Mark
34 Witteveen, and I am online here. Kelly just gave the
35 report that summarizes that written report but I think
36 she referenced where the written one was as well so I
37 think we're covered.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, that's
40 correct. I think I asked for you, Mark, on the report
41 but Kelly did give the report. Okay, thank you.

42

43 The next item on the agenda is OSM.

44

45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thanks, Madame Chair.
46 This is Lisa Grediagin with the Wildlife -- I'm the
47 Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM and I'll be
48 giving the OSM report.

49

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0330

1 All right, so on behalf of OSM I'd like
2 to thank all Council members for your exceptional work
3 that you do on behalf of your communities and user
4 groups during these trying times. We value your
5 expertise and contribution of your knowledge and
6 experience to the regulatory process. It has been very
7 difficult for all of us dealing with the Covid19
8 environment.

9
10 As you've learned from Chairman
11 Christianson's letter dated August 20th, 2021, we are
12 holding all 10 fall 2021 Regional Advisory Council
13 meetings via teleconference. This decision was made
14 with the utmost consideration and concern for the
15 health and safety of Council members, families, rural
16 communities, the public and Staff who are all part of
17 Council meetings. The health and safety of everyone is
18 our highest priority. The DOI guidelines advise that
19 people avoid travel and refrain from meeting in person
20 to minimize risk and help prevent the spread of
21 Covid19. The Regional Advisory Councils are the
22 foundation of Alaska's Federal Subsistence Management
23 Program. The Federal Subsistence Management Program
24 recognizes that in-person meetings are preferable,
25 however, until we can ensure the safety of all
26 participants we will follow current guidance and hold
27 all meetings via teleconference. We thank you for
28 being willing to participate in the lengthy
29 teleconferences and appreciate your patients as we deal
30 with the various technical issues that arise from the
31 poor telephonic connection, the vast distances involved
32 and differing communication systems throughout the
33 state.

34
35 Some updates on the OSM Staff.

36
37 Since your last Council meeting in
38 winter 2021 the following OSM Staffing changes have
39 occurred. We are very pleased to announce that Ameer
40 Howard has joined OSM as our new Deputy Assistant
41 Regional Director. Ameer previously worked in OSM as
42 policy coordinator.

43
44 We are also very pleased to see that a
45 number of Staff that worked at OSM for awhile grew with
46 the program and got promoted.

47
48 Katya Wessels was promoted from Council
49 Coordinator to Supervisor of the Council Coordination
50

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1 Division.

2

3 Myself, Lisa Grediagin, was promoted
4 from Wildlife Biologist to Supervisor of the Wildlife
5 Division.

6

7 Robbin LaVine was promoted from
8 Anthropologist to Policy Coordinator.

9

10 Additional good news is that three
11 wildlife biologist positions at OSM were filled. Tom
12 Plank came to OSM from the Bureau of Land Management,
13 or BLM, in Utah. Bryan Ubelaker came to OSM from BLM
14 in Anchorage. And Kendra Holman came to OSM from the
15 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Anchorage.

16

17 We also had some departures at OSM
18 through retirement and new opportunities.

19

20 We bid a fond farewell to Donald Mike,
21 Caron McKee and Zach Stevenson.

22

23 The OSM team is diligently working on
24 building capacity and will be filling several new
25 positions in our anthropology, Council Coordination,
26 Fisheries and Regulatory Divisions, along with adding
27 additional administrative support. And, an additional
28 note is the application period is currently open right
29 now for two subsistence Council Coordinator positions
30 and these are GS12 positions. The job announcements
31 are currently posted on USAJobs -- the USAJob.gov
32 website. And so we ask that Council members help
33 spread the word and help find us -- sorry -- help us
34 find great candidates for these key positions in the
35 Federal Subsistence Program. And if you have any
36 additional questions regarding these positions you can
37 call Katya Wessels at 907-786-3885.

38

39 Moving on to RealID for travel to
40 Council meetings. Over the past two years we have been
41 reminding Council members about the change in
42 requirements for IDs at airports. Beginning May 3rd,
43 2023 every air travel will need an RealID compliant
44 driver's license or other acceptable form of
45 identification, such as a passport, to fly within the
46 United States. This is applicable even when you fly on
47 small Bush carriers. Please note that all Council
48 members will need to make sure that they have their
49 required RealID for travel to the fall 2023 Council

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1 meeting.

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And lastly an update on the lawsuit from the State of Alaska.

As you were previously briefed, on August 10th, 2020 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted Emergency Special Action WSA19-14. This special action allowed the Village of Kake to engage in a community harvest of two antlered moose and five male Sitka black-tailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit was a temporary special action WSA20-3 which closed Federal public lands in Units 13A and 13B to non-Federally-qualified moose and caribou hunters. As part of the lawsuit the State asked the court to issue two preliminary injunctions. One to prevent the Unit 13 closure from taking effect and another vacating the Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board from allowing any additional emergency hunts related to the impacts of Covid19. On September 18th the U.S. District Court denied the State's request for a preliminary injunction on the Unit 13 closure. The court found that, because the State has not demonstrated either a likelihood of success or serious questions on the merits of its claims, the court need not consider the remaining elements of the preliminary injunction analysis.

Two months later on November the 18th, the Court also denied the State's motion for a preliminary injunction on the Kake hunt after Judge Gleason concluded that the State had not demonstrated a likelihood of success on the merits, raised serious questions on the merits of its claim, or demonstrated any likelihood of irreparable harm.

While these rulings on preliminary injunction are encouraging, they did not resolve the litigation. Recent developments are that settlement negotiations between the Department of Justice, the DOI Solicitor's Office, USDA Office of General Counsel, and the State proved unsuccessful. A briefing was completed at the end of August 2021 and we are now awaiting the Court's decision.

Based on legal guidance, Program Staff does not comment on any active litigation directed against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what we have reported here.

0333

1 I would be happy to answer any
2 questions.

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

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
8 there any questions or comments.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me, Pat.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was wondering,
15 that was a pretty in-depth report, faster than I could
16 keep notes. I didn't see anything in our packet. I was
17 wondering if you could take what you reported to us and
18 give it to Vince to email, or if the Council doesn't
19 want it if you could email it to me I'd sure like it.
20 And the court suits is also something interesting to
21 try to think out a bit. And I always like to keep
22 track of who the Staff is. So thanks a lot for the
23 update.

24
25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yep, thanks, Pat.
26 Yeah, we can absolutely mail that out OSM report to
27 you, at least, and the other Council members, if
28 interested.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
31 Because I think a couple Council members aren't here,
32 just go ahead and send it to Vince and he could share
33 it with all of us. Thank you for the report.

34
35 All right. Do people need a short
36 break or are we good to keep going here.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Then we'll keep
41 going.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I guess
46 we'll just keep going. The next thing we have to back
47 up on is we have the statewide proposals with C&T
48 determinations and that one was mainly informational
49 only so I think -- I don't know that we need to do
50

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1 anything with that at this point unless somebody wants
2 to pull one of them forward to discuss.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me, my other phone
9 that tells me what I'm doing, the battery died. I was
10 thinking that on some of these, there's some that I
11 think would affect our region. I think the intensive
12 management findings for Unimak and the two there 25 and
13 26, having not read them but I think those will be
14 shook out. The one I'm wondering about is Proposal 30
15 shorten the wolf trapping season in Units 9 and 10. I
16 think we don't need details on that. I think an
17 absolute no on that would be appropriate for our
18 Council.

19

20 And then as Coral pointed out we've got
21 a whole bunch of things on reducing the Emperor goose
22 harvest and I think Rick commented on them and maybe we
23 could just take all those in one big group together and
24 go for a no on them.

25

26 So, thank you, Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
29 Pat. I was referring to there was a section on the
30 WP22, on determinations of rural residents. But we'll
31 go ahead and move on to what you suggested and I do
32 have mine pulled up on the internet. So if we could
33 look at Proposals 15 and 26 first and that is the
34 review of intensive management findings for Unimak
35 caribou and determine objectives if applicable. And
36 Proposal 26 is determining C&T uses of Unimak Caribou
37 Herd, Unit 10, Unimak.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Are the Peninsula State
40 biologists still with us?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I don't
43 know. Do we have anybody from ADF&G online that could
44 go through these proposals.

45

46 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
47 Natasha.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,

50

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1 Natasha.

2

3

MS. HAYDEN: I'm going to have to sign off here in a few minutes to go to a -- I have an obligation at 5:00 o'clock, so I apologize. I'm not sure how to be able to find out if we're going to be coming to an end at the end of the day or do you have a sense of how much longer we're going to need to go?

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Basically we have this to go through and then identify issues for the annual report, and then the dates of the next meeting. So I suspect if we can go through maybe this Proposal 25 and 26 which are on the Units 9 and 10. If any Council member has any comments on this. I'm going to -- I'm hoping maybe Vince or somebody is listening that can send in any comments from the Council in reference to these proposals.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair. The actual proposals were mailed and they're also online in a file there at the website. So in respect to Fish and Game, if they were tracking this meeting by the meeting book agenda, the meeting book agenda did not have this topic on it. It somehow got misplaced. So they were not aware that you were going to look at Board of Game proposals. So -- and they may jump on now, but I want to get that on the record, that it somehow just did not get in the book, the agenda that did have Board of Game would be possibly looked at.

So Proposal 25, I can try to give a summary of it and then you guys can decide from there. Again, I do not work for Alaska Department of Fish and Game so I -- but, anyway, Proposal 25, if it's okay I can give you kind of a quick summary. Again, there's a lot of verbiage here but I'll try to cover as much as I can.

MS. SKINNER: Della, I just wanted to jump in. Rebecca joined the meeting again. And did I understand correctly, are we hoping that Vince is going to capture our thoughts on these proposals and then actually submit written comment on behalf of the RAC. Della, was that your question?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That was the comment. I think that was the plan also because they do affect our area, especially the issues around the

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1 Emperor geese. But we figure we can kind of take these
2 in blocks, so we were looking at Proposal 25 and 26, we
3 can take them one at a time, on the wolf and wolverine
4 trapping and then the other main one -- the big one, I
5 think is on the next page, is Proposal 35 through 49
6 that have been turned in with regard to Emperor geese.

7

8 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you, Della.
9 This is Rebecca again. And last question, are you
10 looking for a motion to submit comments for these
11 different blocks of proposals or is our comments made
12 on the record, is that sufficient?

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Vince, what
15 would be the proper procedure here. I think if there
16 was Council consensus to make comments in regards to
17 these. Maybe for the record let's go ahead and just do
18 the motion, it just makes it a lot cleaner.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Madame Chair, when
21 I've worked with other Councils, we would draft a
22 letter under your signature to the Board of Game, your
23 actions on individual proposals so there is a formal
24 record -- and your record, and then it also goes into
25 the formal records for the Board of Game.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

28

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

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: If you want to send the
35 comments to the Board of Game you should just have a
36 motion to send Council's comments on these proposals.
37 So send a letter with comments. You should have a
38 motion on these.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
43 So I guess at this point, Rebecca, if you want to make
44 a motion and someone second it, then we'll go through
45 each of these proposals and write down what our
46 comments are in reference to them.

47

48 MS. SKINNER: Okay. This is Rebecca.
49 I don't mind making a motion. If I could just get
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1 clarification from either Katya or Vince, do you need a
2 separate motion in relation to each of these Board of
3 Game proposals?

4

5 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya. No, you
6 don't need a separate motion. You just need to have
7 one motion for a letter and, you know, that the draft
8 will go to the Chair and the Chair will review it
9 before it's sent. So just make a motion that it
10 reflects the Council's comments made on the record
11 during this meeting.

12

13 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So if this is the
14 right time I'll make a motion that a letter be prepared
15 that reflects comments made on the record by the RAC in
16 relation to Board of Game proposals, and the letter
17 would be addressed to the Board of Game. And the
18 letter would be drafted and then sent to Della for her
19 signature and review.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
22 Rebecca. Do I hear a second.

23

24 MS. CHERNOFF: Second. Coral.

25

26 MS. HAYDEN: Second.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I got a
29 second by Coral. With that we'll go on with
30 discussion. And in the discussion maybe first we'll
31 talk on Proposal 25, Vince, do you want to just -- 25
32 and 26. So, Vince, if you want to go ahead and just
33 give a review of what those proposals are about.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair.
36 Proposal 25 is to identify big game prey populations
37 and objectives. The way I understand it now is that
38 there is some population objectives, this is for the
39 caribou herd, the Southern Alaska Peninsula Unimak
40 Island. And they're looking at changing it to a
41 negative finding or a positive finding for 1,000 to
42 1,500 with a harvest objective of 20 to 150. My
43 understanding is the current population objective is
44 1,500 to 4,000 with a harvest objective of 150 to 200.
45 And I'm going to leave it at that because -- well, it's
46 -- there's a lot of complexity to it. But it is there
47 and hopefully you guys can see the copies of it and
48 it's proposals from the Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game and comments are due on these by January 8th. So

50

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1 that's 25.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: Della.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I'm going
9 to -- I've been having -- go ahead.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, can we -- can we
12 ask everyone to mute, please.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Everyone please
15 mute your phones. There's a lot of -- it sounds like
16 paper on a microphone. I'm still trying to basically
17 pull it up. You said 1,500, what was -- I thought the
18 -- I thought they listed -- okay, yeah, I didn't think
19 it was that high, 1,500. I'm still trying to pull it
20 up. I've been having some issues with the internet. I
21 keep getting knocked off. So are there any other
22 comments in regard to what Vince just read.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Is there
27 any other.....

28

29 MR. HOLMES: I missed it because my
30 phone died but I'll go with the flow.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Vince, can
33 you repeat that real fast, what you just said.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. What I understand
36 -- because what they do is the new language is
37 underlined and in bold. So the existing language for
38 population, which is for the Southern Alaska Peninsula
39 Unimak Island. The current thing is positive finding,
40 their population objective is 1,500 to 4,000 and their
41 harvest objective is 150 to 200. What they're
42 proposing is to have a negative finding or to find a
43 positive finding and change the population objective
44 down to 1,000 to 1,500 and the harvest objective down
45 to 20 to 150 caribou.

46

47 So that's the real bare bones of this
48 proposal.

49

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1 (Pause)

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
6 Rebecca.

7

8 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. So I do
9 not -- I am not familiar enough with this topic and I
10 guess I also note the reference to, depending on what
11 the Board did with the caribou it would change the
12 Unimak wolf management area or it would be repealed
13 from regulations. So I don't know enough about this to
14 make a motion. I am not sure how I would vote on a
15 motion that were made but I am hoping either there's
16 going to be more discussion from people more familiar
17 with the actual State management of this in this area,
18 otherwise if nobody is going to make a motion on it --
19 or I guess we're not doing a motion, we're capturing
20 comments at this point, but if we don't have enough
21 comment to actually put into a letter maybe we could
22 move on. Because I know the Emperor goose ones we're
23 definitely going to have comments on that. So I guess
24 I just don't want us floundering if we don't have
25 enough for a comment, let's just, you know, figure that
26 out and then move on to the next one.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd be inclined to
31 move on.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, so the
34 next one is Proposal 26. I can't pull this up at all,
35 I don't know why. It's not -- okay, so -- there's
36 Proposal 26, Vince, do you want to summarize what
37 Proposal 26 is.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair, and
40 I'm hoping that Pippa may still be online because this
41 is under the State and it's looking at the State's
42 customary and traditional use of game populations. And
43 they want to determine the customary and traditional
44 use of Unimak Island Caribou Herd, Unit 10, Unimak
45 Island. So what is the issue: the Board is required
46 to identify game population or portions of populations
47 that are customary and traditionally taken or used for
48 subsistence. If a positive C&T finding was applied to
49 the combined mainland and island herds, then the last --
50

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1 well, I'm losing it -- I don't understand the C&T
2 determinations for the State, what impact -- what
3 management part do they address, so maybe Pippa can
4 help out on that so we get the best information to you.

5

6 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I can talk to you
7 about it in a broad sense. This is Pippa Kenner with
8 OSM. If Robbin is on, she actually may know more.

9

10 So in the State system -- may I ask who
11 that proposal's from, who submitted the proposal, do
12 you know?

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's from the Alaska
15 Department of Fish and Game.

16

17 MR. KOSO: ADF&G.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: And if you look at the
20 website it's -- I'm trying to find the name of it real
21 quick here, it's Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game.....

23

24 MS. KENNER: That's okay. That's okay.
25 That's what I wanted to know.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

28

29 MS. KENNER: And so in the State
30 system, subsistence regulations cannot be adopted
31 unless there is a customary -- a positive customary and
32 traditional use determination for those animals. So
33 the C&T in State regulations includes the animals and
34 the area. And if the animals in that area have a
35 customary and traditional use determinations then
36 subsistence regulations can be adopted. And the
37 subsistence priority in State regulations must be
38 observed.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: So, Madame Chair, if the
41 State determines a positive C&T for this particular
42 herd, then the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
43 recommends that the Board postpone establishing an ANS,
44 which is an amount necessary for subsistence, for the
45 herd until the population reaches management goals and
46 harvest consistent with traditional levels are
47 sustainable. So there is that coupling into amount
48 necessary for subsistence, but Fish and Game is asking
49 for a delay on Board action on that until the
50

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1 population reaches management goals.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

4

5 MS. CHERNOFF: Della.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, do you have
8 any comments in regards to what's been said?

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to
13 assume as far as Proposal 25 and 26 at this point
14 there's no comments. I can't pull up these
15 proposals.....

16

17 MS. CHERNOFF: Della.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:online.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Della.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: There is my
24 problem.

25

26 REPORTER: Is that you Coral?

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

29

30 REPORTER: Della, did you want Coral to
31 go?

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm sorry, yes,
34 go ahead.

35

36 MS. CHERNOFF: So I guess in looking at
37 reading this what I'm capturing from this is that there
38 was already a customary and traditional -- a positive
39 determination but now they want to separate the herd.
40 So there was a positive determination under the
41 Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd and then now it says,
42 because the caribou are now managed as a herd separate
43 from the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd, there is no
44 C&T finding specific to the USH (ph). So they're
45 trying to separate it out and get a new customary and
46 traditional use. And I guess I didn't hear that
47 captured when the proposal was talked about a few
48 minutes ago. So I don't know if that makes a
49 difference to you in how you want to deal with it or
50

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1 just move forward.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I can't read it. My
8 computer keeps going down. But I think Coral's
9 interpretation of it is probably quite logical because
10 of the statement they had in the -- 25 had them
11 combined, so in my mind if they're working towards
12 trying to come up with a State C&T for Unimak Island
13 and separate the two out then I'd be inclined to say
14 yes for both them. And even though it'll take longer
15 than what we have it'll end up being a similar
16 situation to what you have over in King Cove and Unit 9
17 for having either type of permit to get. So if a
18 person had options on either one, availability, I
19 think, is something important. So I don't think it
20 would mess up subsistence at all so I'd be inclined to
21 vote yes on both then.

22

23 MR. KOSO: Della, Rick here.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Rick, do
26 you have comments.

27

28 MR. KOSO: Yeah. I mean we beat this
29 up pretty hard earlier today but I know the State is
30 trying to separate it out for customary and traditional
31 deal on the Southern Peninsula. So I'm kind of with
32 Pat on this deal, I think we should let them do their
33 thing and get it right. The State decided -- you know,
34 they're working separately with the Feds on Unimak so
35 on this I would say if the State's looking to do their
36 C&T for, you know, Unit 9 then I would agree that we
37 let them do that. So I'd agree with Pat on saying yes
38 to both 25 and 26 right now.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, is that
41 agreeable with everybody else. Rebecca, you had
42 mentioned different earlier.

43

44 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, this is Rebecca. I
45 mean we're not voting, the motion was to put together a
46 letter that would capture our comments. Personally, I
47 feel like we didn't discuss these in enough detail. I
48 don't understand them well enough for myself to feel
49 comfortable, you know, if I did have to vote yes or no,
50

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1 but if everyone else wants to include comments in the
2 letter, I guess that's fine. But I -- we didn't have
3 the State biologist here to walk us through this and I
4 feel like we're kind of -- half the people, it seems
5 like, don't have the materials in front of them and
6 it's just not clear to me if we even really understand
7 what these mean.

8

9 So those are my comments, thanks.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I can't
12 even pull them -- I can't pull anything up online.
13 It's just so frustrating. Oh, look at this, proposal
14 book, finally.

15

16 MR. KOSO: Yeah, so if we don't vote on
17 these here or send in a letter of either support or
18 non-support of our actions, then they will follow
19 through anyway whether they got our yes or no on them,
20 if I'm not mistaken; is that what will happen?

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're just
23 basically making comments on them, Rick.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Well, you could have a
26 whole bunch of sport -- excuse me, Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. Go ahead,
29 Pat.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Well, you could have a
36 whole bunch of -- you know, at the Board of Game Board
37 meeting you could have a whole bunch of guides and
38 sport people say they didn't even want to consider
39 having a C&T for those areas and I think that from what
40 Coral read it sounds to me that it would be getting
41 them moving forward in a positive way towards a State
42 C&T on Unimak because they needed to separate that out
43 and define it. So I would like to put forth a motion
44 that we take a position to send to the Board of Game to
45 support Proposal 25 and 26. And then if folks don't
46 want to they can say no and that's it.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Pat.....

49

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1 MR. HOLMES: I guess I would need a
2 second.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, the
5 procedure we took was a motion was made to send a
6 letter in reference to these proposals. So this letter
7 is going to reference Proposal 25 and 26 and it would
8 basically say that the KRAC supports Proposals 25 and
9 26.

10
11 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And basically
14 the comment that Rebecca made was, because we can't
15 seem to see the actual wording, I can't. I can pull
16 this document up and it tells me what the proposals are
17 but I can't find where to get the information to read
18 the actual proposal. And so then we go down to
19 Proposals 30 and 31 which is shortening the wolf
20 trapping seasons in Units 9 and 10 and then close
21 wolverine trapping and hunting in Unit 10. I just
22 don't know where these proposals are, the actual
23 wording is, I can't find it.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think if you look
26 at -- excuse me, Madame Chair. In the back of that
27 packet that came with that little brief thing of -- it
28 has Page 1, 2 and 3, but there was also something that
29 we got that has Page 32, it discusses the Unimak and
30 game things and it's Proposal 25 and 26 is discussed in
31 that packet that I got from Vince. So I think it does
32 explain that when I look at those. On Page 32, that, I
33 think is intensive management. It talks about the
34 population objectives, harvest objectives. And then on
35 No. 26 it says determine customary and traditional and
36 basically they're both from the Alaska Department of
37 Fish and Game. And scanning through them quickly I
38 think they are trying to accomplish what Rick was
39 proposing, is that they're trying to come up with
40 something similar to what we have already determined
41 ourselves and to separate out Unimak from South
42 Peninsula. And so I think we've got the information
43 here, at least I have in this part of the packet I got
44 from somebody.

45
46 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair, this is
47 Coral.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, are you
50

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1 there?

2

3

MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, I'm here.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do you have a
6 comment.

7

8

MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess I'd like
9 to suggest maybe that we do or say nothing about these
10 since we don't kind of have a consensus and we just
11 move on to the next proposal. But I think it was good
12 to see these proposals, I think they're important for
13 the area and, you know, I guess I would suggest that,
14 you know, yours and Ricks area and you're really
15 familiar with it, that, you know, you make sure people
16 are aware of the proposals and understanding them.

17

18

19

MR. HOLMES: Well, Madame Chair, I
20 don't think that we don't have a consensus unless we
21 have a vote to decide that.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We already have
23 a motion on the floor, Pat, to send a letter in
24 reference to these various proposals so I don't -- at
25 this point whatever anybody decides I'm okay with it
26 just to get -- to move on.

28

29

30

31

32

33

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37

I'm going to be honest, I have never
29 been so disorganized in a meeting as this meeting. I
30 usually can go through everything, I organize myself.
31 I've gotten pieces here and pieces there and I finally
32 get a booklet and then I'm trying to go to the internet
33 and our internet keeps popping on and off. So I
34 apologize for my frustration but it's not been easy.
35 So given that whatever you guys decide in regard to
36 Proposal 25, 26, 30 and 31, I think I'm fine with. So
37 there's Proposals.....

38

39

40

MR. HOLMES: Okay. Madame Chair, I
40 guess.....

41

42

43

44

45

46

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:35 through
43 49, that we definitely were going to oppose those
44 having to do with the Emperor geese, and I think that's
45 the easy ones. But as far as the 25 and 26.....

47

48

49

50

MR. HOLMES: Well, all I was trying to
48 do is determine whether we had consensus or not, Madame
49 Chair. And we have two against and two in favor but we

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1 haven't heard from the other folks.

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Well, consensus means
4 agreement so if there's two against you will not have
5 consensus.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: That's fine.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And so at this
10 time.....

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Let's move on then.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:I think
15 we'll just leave 25 and 26 off the table. The next one
16 would be 30 and 31 is shortening the wolf trapping
17 seasons in Units 9 and 10 and then close wolverine
18 trapping and hunting in Unit 10.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody
23 have comments. Go ahead, Pat.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think shortening
26 the wolf trapping season in Unit 9 and 10 from all the
27 actions our Council has taken before on the predator
28 control, I think that it would be good to be against
29 those because that would reduce the harvest of wolves
30 and I think that would end up slowing things down with
31 the caribou recovery. So I think on Number 30 I would
32 be inclined to say against that.

33

34 The wolverine one, I read that through
35 to the end and basically the only wolverines that are
36 available in that whole area are a small number on Unit
37 10 so I think -- I don't know anybody that traps and so
38 I think that voting yes to close the season there and
39 support the State biologist's position is the way I
40 would look at those two.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Can I just
45 ask.....

46

47 MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca, I agree.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just out of

50

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1 curiosity, does it say on these proposals who submitted
2 them.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game.

6

7 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair, this is Rick.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

10

11 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I lost my last phone
12 there, it ran out of batteries so I might have missed
13 -- I don't know if you heard me or not, but, you know,
14 I had a chance to look at both of those proposals and I
15 second Pat's motion to go ahead and accept them. So I
16 just wanted to let you know that I'm in favor of those
17 and I didn't see anything in there that would hurt our
18 area. I just see improvement to our area, both 9 and
19 10.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: Which ones, Rick?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I don't
26 know where you're getting 9 and 10, we were talking
27 about Proposal 26 and 27 [sic] on Unimak and then.....

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF: I think he was talking
30 about the area.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, gotcha. So
33 we were talking about Proposals 20 and 31, Rick,
34 because Pat suggested not supporting shortening the
35 wolf trapping season, to say no on Proposal 30 and yes
36 to 31, closing wolverine trapping and hunting in Unit
37 10. There are wolverines in our area but I don't know
38 anybody that's been trapping them. Unit 10, I don't
39 know either there if anybody's trapping wolverines.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca, I tried
42 to speak up before. I support Pat's suggestions for
43 Proposal 30 and Proposal 31.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
46 Rebecca.

47

48 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. I also agree with
4 Pat on both of those, oppose Proposal 30 and support
5 Proposal 31. And, Della, you had asked who submitted
6 those proposals. Proposal 30, which was shortening the
7 wolf trapping season was proposed by a Jeff Lucas, and
8 the other proposal, 31, was proposed by Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay.
12 Thank you. And I do know who Jeff Lucas is. So, Rick,
13 what are your comments in regard to what Pat suggested,
14 no on 30 and yes on 31?

15

16 MR. KOSO: If you can repeat it for me,
17 Della.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Pat's
20 suggestion was to say no on Proposal 30, which is
21 shortening the wolf trapping season and I don't think
22 we want to do that. We want to continue, hopefully
23 people can get rid of -- control the wolves. Proposal
24 31 was yes to close the trapping and hunting in Unit
25 10.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: For wolverine.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: For wolverine.

30

31 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della, I agree with
32 that. Yeah, I'll agree with that.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And I
35 agree too. And I think Natasha may have left, she said
36 she had to be somewhere at 5:00. So, okay, I think
37 we're good to go there. Proposal 35 through 49.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to --
42 go ahead, Pat, what's your comment in regards to -- or,
43 Rick, I'm going to say Rick, you were talking about
44 Emperor geese earlier so I'm going to let you talk
45 about these ones to start off.

46

47 MR. KOSO: Yeah, okay, Della. I was
48 looking at those proposals and most of them, I would
49 say probably 90 percent are from guided hunts and, you
50

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1 know, I would say probably, you know, 90 percent of
2 them are looking for, you know, wall mounts instead of
3 food. And I know they got, what 28,000 Emperors
4 they're hoping to reach and I hate to turn this over to
5 the outsiders to come in and shoot up these Emperor
6 geese when in our communities, the reason that the
7 locals are not going out and getting these is they're
8 not going to go and spend a lot of money and take a
9 skiff or a boat to a certain area where they can shoot
10 these. It's just too costly for one bird. They're not
11 going to go out for one bird. They're going to go out
12 for groceries, they're going to go out for food. And
13 so the guides, they want to go out for one bird, that's
14 fine, they want to mount it on their wall. Well, the
15 Native people of King Cove, as far as I understand and
16 other places in our area, they want to go out where
17 they could shoot six, eight and make it worth their
18 while, so it just doesn't make sense to me that, you
19 know, we'd approve something like this until we get
20 plenty of Emperors that we could have a regular open
21 season.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

24

25 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

26

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

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. So I would
31 suggest, and this is for Vince's benefit, or whoever's
32 writing the letter, that the letter specifically
33 support Proposal 32, which was proposed by the AMBCC,
34 and then oppose Proposals 33 through 50. I know people
35 have been saying 49, but it looks like Proposal is in
36 the same category. And that the comments we make in
37 subsequent discussion could be captured in the letter.
38 So reasons for supporting Proposal 32, and then reasons
39 why we don't agree with having essentially more non-
40 resident permits for harvesting Emperor geese, and that
41 would be Proposals 33 through 50.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, because 32
46 says close non-resident season for Emperor geese. And
47 then 33 is allocating 50 percent of the permits for
48 harvesting geese in Unit 9, 10 and 17 to non-residents,
49 so we would want to -- we wouldn't want to support 33.

50

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1 And then 34 is the same thing, allocating 50 percent.
2 And I think I also wanted to add to Rick's comment and
3 we heard it a little bit in what I read yesterday from
4 a local resident that lives in Cold Bay year-round.
5 When these guys come in, and they're coming in to hunt
6 the Emperor goose, they're also -- because they're
7 going to be hunting, you can hunt up to, I think it's --
8 Rick can correct me if I'm wrong, I'm thinking it was
9 like 51 or 52 birds a day which totals the various
10 species available. So when that happens, that has a
11 big impact when they're basically killing these birds
12 and basically they're taking -- they're taking the
13 breast and throw the rest of the bird away, it's a big
14 loss. It has a big impact on what's available and it
15 is happening now.

16
17 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della, I just wanted
18 to say, you know, I'm not against guided hunts. I know
19 we have some locals that do it and we have some people
20 that come in and set up residencies, not year-round
21 residencies, but they do set up businesses and stuff in
22 Cold Bay and it does help the local economy and the
23 town there to have these people come in. So I'm
24 certainly not against having these people come in.
25 What I am against is them giving them a lot of permits.
26 And what I'd like to do is there's a lot of locals that
27 don't shoot birds because of the fact they're not going
28 to go out and get one bird, they want to go out and get
29 enough for dinner and when you have four or five kids
30 in the family one bird ain't going to do it. So I'm
31 just at a point where, you know, when we get enough
32 Emperors on the table where we can have a regular
33 season or a better subsistence hunt then I would
34 certainly be not against this.

35
36 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

39
40 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi, Della. So I just
41 attended the State AMBCC meeting and I would just like
42 to say that, yes, I think we should support Proposal
43 32. The AMBCC has worked for several years to open the
44 Emperor season. It's a great team of really dedicated
45 and professional people. It consists of Alaska
46 Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
47 Service and the Native Caucus from all areas around the
48 state. So I think we should just support this proposal
49 for the reasons that we support the work of the AMBCC
50

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1 who are dedicated to the conservation -- both the
2 conservation of the Emperor while also supporting
3 opportunities for subsistence users.

4
5 So there's two management plans. They
6 work on two separate management plans. One is for the
7 fall/winter, which we know as the sport hunt. The
8 other is for the spring/summer, which we know as the
9 subsistence hunt. So originally -- so right now Alaska
10 allocates 25 of the currently 500 birds to non-resident
11 in a draw permit. After a couple of years of working
12 through these management plans, AMBCC forwarded their
13 plan to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a
14 proposal and in that hunt the Emperor Goose Committee
15 and AMBCC had asked that there be 1,000 resident hunt
16 for the fall season and then continued harvest for the
17 spring season. So the AMBCC never asked for non-
18 resident hunts. Through the meetings they were never
19 in support of non-resident hunts at this early trial
20 period. And then, of course -- and then as it went
21 through the Board of Fish and Game, they threw 25 non-
22 resident hunts on there.

23
24 So that's kind of a little background
25 on this. So, once, again -- so then in the second year
26 -- after the first year of the hunt they did a survey
27 and numbers were down. So they have three levels that
28 they have the birds at. And so we're kind of in a
29 cautionary population status. So according to the
30 management plan, when we enter into that status then we
31 come back to the table and we make a plan for
32 conservation methods. So what we did is reduced the
33 hunt from 1,000 down to 500 s statewide, and then
34 there's different zones. The Kodiak and out on the
35 Aleutians for the fall hunt, they have higher numbers
36 than up north because we have more birds out this way
37 in the fall so our numbers for harvest are higher. So
38 we reduced our numbers. We agreed on higher education
39 and outreach. We agreed to really impress, when
40 everybody went back to their towns and villages and
41 relatives, we really impressed that we don't, you know,
42 we're sort of hunting with caution and we don't really
43 need to hunt, like don't hunt if you don't need to. So
44 we really put a lot of effort into that. And then the
45 Yukon Delta area agreed to not do any egg gathering of
46 Emperors. So a lot of talk happened at the AMBCC level
47 about, well, then how about if we take away half of the
48 hunt. So non-residents didn't make any effort -- so
49 there was no efforts put forth to reduce their numbers
50

1 so all the effort was put forth through the subsistence
2 users through AMBCC. We were a little disappointed in
3 that. And then in 2020 we didn't have surveys. And
4 then this last survey the numbers were down again, and
5 what we've just agreed to is just status quo. We've
6 already reduced the number that are available. And
7 then we've really bumped out our education and
8 outreach. They've put videos on. Apparently when
9 you're on the internet, I don't know, Facebook, and
10 YouTube the video will come up, you know, and it talks
11 about hunting, hunting carefully, hunting for the
12 future so that message comes up. And we've passed
13 around fliers. And then here in Kodiak we, in the
14 springtime, did a permitted hunt and we had, I think,
15 47 people apply for a spring permitted hunt.

16
17 So then I guess leading into the other,
18 most of the proposals, which are asking for more hunts,
19 we're a bit disappointed that -- so Alaska has been
20 really spending a lot of time and effort and supporting
21 not hunting the birds so that the population goes up,
22 and so a lot of these -- in these proposals they
23 mention that -- like one says, we've learned that most
24 Alaskan hunters are simply not that interested in
25 hunting Emperors and that demand for this species is
26 largely for non-resident. They also talk about how
27 there's a lot of birds that aren't being taken. And so
28 we're working on some outside messaging for that too.
29 So they're ill-informed. Their reasoning on where they
30 want to increase the hunt, their reasoning is false.
31 So I would hope that we don't support any of those for,
32 I guess that reason, them not understanding that we're
33 really working hard in-state to conserve that bird.
34 And AMBCC is doing a lot of work to get the message
35 across that we're still kind of in a -- we're in a real
36 kind of a touchy conservation period for these birds.

37
38 I guess that's it. That's all I have
39 to say. I would hope to support Proposal 32, while not
40 supporting the rest, 30-50 [sic].

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I solidly
45 agree with Coral, that was a really excellent summary.
46 And earlier I was just trying to point out the 32 on
47 non-resident, and you did a marvelous job, Coral, I
48 totally agree.

49
50

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1 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I totally agree with
2 Coral on that too. She gave a good report there.
3 Yeah, I'm in favor of what she said there, you know, in
4 supporting 32 and opposing all the rest of them.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. What I
7 would recommend on this is that when I get to this
8 section in the letter on comments on these proposals,
9 that a draft would be provided to Coral, and others if
10 they so desire, to make sure I capture it all. I tried
11 to capture most of it but it would be great if they had
12 an opportunity to review the comments that were just
13 discussed that would be in the letter to the Board of
14 Game.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I think
17 that's great because she had some very good supporting
18 reasoning why they should not be supported. And just
19 trying to keep the population to where we can harvest
20 is -- all these -- how many years that we couldn't, you
21 know, we don't want to get to that point again. So I
22 think basically that's pretty much a consensus.

23
24 Rebecca.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. So
29 given our motion, I think we've agreed to not do
30 anything with 25.26. No. 30 is a no. No. 31 is a yes.
31 32 is a yes. 33 through 50 is a no. Is that correct?

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Roger that.

34
35 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. So
38 we've got a motion on the floor as far as any more
39 discussion.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
44 call for question.

45
46 MR. KOSO: Question.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All in favor
49 signify by saying aye.
50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
4 sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
9 Thank you, everybody. Some tough things on our plate.
10 The next item on the agenda I believe is identify
11 issues for 2021 annual report.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I'll just
14 give you a quick outline of what goes into a report.
15 You have a summary on what, you know, what the annual
16 reports do and that's on Page 159 in your book. So
17 basically what I wanted to point out is that the annual
18 report provides the Council an opportunity to address
19 the directors of each of the four Department of
20 Interior, and Department of Agriculture in their
21 capacity as members of the Federal Subsistence Board.
22 The Board is required to discuss and reply to each
23 issue in every annual report and to take action when
24 within the Board's authority. When it's outside the
25 authority, they would refer it.

26

27 So based directly from Title VIII of
28 ANILCA, Section .805, the description for the annual
29 report is that it would address, identification of
30 current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and
31 wildlife populations within the region. So that's
32 anticipated subsistence uses. The next is evaluation
33 of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish
34 and wildlife populations from public lands within the
35 region. So that is looking at needs. The third part
36 in the annual report is a recommended strategy for the
37 management of fish and wildlife populations within the
38 region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs
39 related to public lands. And a fourth part,
40 recommendations concerning policies, standards,
41 guidelines, and regulations to implement strategy.

42

43 So that is the sideboards, parameters
44 for your annual report. So I'll stop there and see
45 what topics you would have for your next annual report.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
48 Vince. Any items that the Council would like to add to
49 our annual report.

50

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1 MR. HOLMES: A couple things, Madame
2 Chair.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: Two things that come to
7 mind are the needs of the respective Refuge Staff and
8 filling their empty positions, and the same with OSM
9 filling empty positions that they need in the support
10 of accomplishing those. I can see -- and those
11 particularly relating to our caribou things in 9 and 10
12 and then also all the work that the Maritime is doing
13 in the Aleutians. So that's at least a kickoff there,
14 I'm kind of brain dead.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Anything
17 else.

18
19 MS. CHERNOFF: Della.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

22
23 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess I would
24 like to -- I don't know how many things have been
25 listed because I got kicked off the phone so I just got
26 back on. But I think really implying, you know, our
27 need for seating of alternates. I think this meeting
28 for us kind of got a little tricky with not having
29 members in attendance or if people have to leave, can't
30 make it until the end of the meeting and we have things
31 we're still voting on or things like that, we really
32 get impacted by that. So I know we've asked about the
33 process of alternates but I think it'd be imperative
34 that maybe we get some alternates appointed.

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
37 Katya Wessels.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

40
41 MS. WESSELS: I would like to address
42 what's just been said about the alternates. So as the
43 Council knows that during the last charter change the
44 Secretary added the new language to the Council
45 charters under the membership and designation section
46 of the charter, and that section reads: Alternate
47 members may be appointed to the Council to fill
48 vacancies, if they occur out of cycle. An alternate
49 member must be approved and appointed by the Secretary
50

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1 before attending the meeting as a representative. The
2 term for an appointed alternate member will be the same
3 as the term of the member whose vacancy is being
4 filled. But what I want to clarify about this, you
5 know, they say if a vacancy occurs out of cycle, and a
6 vacancy occurs in the situations when a Council member
7 passes away, they move out of the region or they
8 resign. So the only alternates that have been approved
9 by the Secretaries is the alternates that are sort of
10 sitting in the wings and if a vacancy occurs, then that
11 alternate can be appointed and come to the meeting.
12 And that's one thing.

13

14 So you can't have alternates just
15 because a Council member is busy and cannot come to the
16 Council meeting. You can't have alternates come in
17 your place and attend that meeting. That's not what's
18 being allowed.

19

20 And the other thing, even to have the
21 alternates to fill a vacancy out of cycle, you need to
22 have enough applications for the region. And that will
23 be the next topic of your discussion, you know, the
24 open period for Council applications, that is open
25 right now. But, you know, I just want to say briefly
26 that during the last two appointment cycles, the
27 Kodiak/Aleutian did not have enough applications. The
28 Kodiak/Aleutian region did not have enough applications
29 to fill the vacancies.

30

31 So I just want you to be very clear
32 when you are formulating your topics for your annual
33 report that you understand these details. That the
34 alternates can be only for the purpose of filling out
35 of cycle vacancies. And in order to have these
36 alternates you need to have more than enough
37 applications to fill your seats and then also have
38 enough qualified applicants to be vetted as alternates
39 and be waiting if there are any vacancies that occur.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
44 Thank you, Katya. In reference, also, to that in our
45 letter, in response to this issue, it's a result of
46 insufficient applications. In 2019 and 2020 the Board
47 could not provide recommendations to the Secretaries of
48 Interior and Agriculture to fill all of the vacant
49 seats on the Council. And there were no applicants to
50

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1 recommend for alternate positions because we didn't
2 have enough applicants and we still have one vacant
3 seat open on our Council. So it's something, I think
4 we've got to really look at trying to talk people into
5 getting on, whether they're younger people, or just
6 trying to get people to get involved is what we need to
7 make an effort to do.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think that one
14 thing, I don't know if it was when you weren't on the
15 Council, but I think at one time we had asked to be
16 notified prior to the deadline as to whether or not we
17 had enough applicants. And I think if we had that type
18 of working relationship in this process, I think that
19 it would help us on our outreach. And, quite frankly,
20 I've been sending out the notice to lots of folks on
21 emails but I think that at times, in the past, like
22 this last go around where we didn't have enough
23 applicants, I had sent it out to a bunch of people and
24 I had no idea that they didn't get -- nobody followed
25 through. So if we don't know from the administrative
26 level whether or not we've got enough people applying
27 then it's hard for us to go and forge ahead. So we
28 need some kind of verbiage to say that the Council
29 would like to help in outreach for filling vacant seats
30 but we would need to be notified prior to the deadline
31 whether or not we had enough applicants.

32

33 So is that reasonable?

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Pat, I'm
36 going to -- I think that's reasonable but I don't know
37 that that's going to be what we need. One of the
38 things.....

39

40 MR. HOLMES: No, but it'd help.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:that
43 follows on what you're saying is that RIT and if we've
44 asked them to consider them to look at the model of
45 what Kodiak did with Koniag as -- for the future, is
46 looking at something like that and doing -- because if
47 we had an RIT at Izembek -- I'm going to be honest, we
48 don't get a lot of interaction with Izembek at all. I
49 probably have more just because I'm the Chair than
50

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1 anybody else, but there's not a whole lot unless you
2 live in Cold Bay. There's no outreach, there's no
3 visiting the communities, it's been a big problem. And
4 it's something that I've brought up on many occasions,
5 you know, does anybody get a hold of anybody in False
6 Pass, does anybody talk to anybody in Akutan. Our area
7 is so big, you know, miles and miles, and even just how
8 do we address that so there is more communication and
9 education that's being put out there than what's being
10 done now. And that's part of the, I think, the bigger
11 picture, not only for me trying to get more people
12 involved, or request people. The other part, though,
13 that's been tough is this pandemic, and even just
14 trying to see people at any kind of level because --
15 that has an impact also.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Amen.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But should we
20 make a suggestion for them to look at that, what Koniag
21 and Kodiak Refuge is doing because I think that is
22 amazing?

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Yes, I think so. I think
25 so.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And the sea
28 otters was the other thing and when we're looking at
29 our annual report, I think we covered that really good.
30 Do we feel comfortable with the sea otters at this
31 point but to continue to work with Marine Mammals.

32

33 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Food
36 security. That's just an ongoing issue. Closure
37 reviews. I think we've covered this -- I think that's
38 been pretty well covered.

39

40 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca. I
41 have a question.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

44

45 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, so when you just
46 said food security is an ongoing issue, did you mean
47 that that would be included in our annual report or it
48 would not?

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, just maybe
2 Katya can help me with that. Is that -- the lawsuit is
3 still ongoing; is that correct?

4
5 MS. WESSELS: Well, yes.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So if we were to
8 reference the food security would we basically say that
9 we support the food security?

10
11 MS. WESSELS: Well, you can talk about
12 food security in your annual report, that's -- I don't
13 think that's a problem.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay.
16

17 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, so this is Rebecca.
18 I would like to have a paragraph on food security. And
19 I would like some reference to the Covid, and the
20 impacts of supply chain challenges because of Covid,
21 and it just underscores the importance of having
22 reliable and adequate access to subsistence resources
23 for our communities to ensure food security. So I
24 think that it is very timely to talk about food
25 security and it's not specific to a lawsuit, it's not
26 even specific to Covid, it's important to our
27 communities. But we can point to a few things that are
28 happening right now that we can use to illustrate why
29 access to subsistence resources remains so important to
30 our communities.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I fully
35 agree.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: What about
40 invasive species -- go ahead, Pat.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Well, to follow-up on the
43 food security, I was thinking, you know, if a person's
44 well established in a community, you have connections
45 and I just had somebody drop by a king and silver and a
46 big rock fish during our talk, but a lot of people
47 don't have that kind of contact and I'm not a
48 Facebooker but I'm wondering if we maybe could get
49 support from the tribes or Native Corporations or
50

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1 within our own group to have some kind of like a -- I
2 think they have some kind of Facebook sites on, you
3 know, vegetables and stuff, but why not something -- a
4 model that could be developed for each community in our
5 region where you could have a place where you could
6 just send a note saying, gee, you know, my skiff got
7 killed, I could use a couple fish. And some places the
8 word gets around really easy and some places it
9 doesn't, but that might be a model to think about
10 trying to develop somehow.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks, Pat. I
15 actually was fortunate and got some halibut and some
16 red snapper yesterday so I was happy. My favorite fish
17 is red snapper. Okay. What about invasive species.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think continuing
20 comments of support to Sun'ag on their research on the
21 crayfish even though it'll be repetitive. I think that
22 that's a really important thing because that could be a
23 very major factor in why things have crashed and
24 hopefully we'll find out with the more intensive scale
25 analysis. You know because if it comes up showing both
26 saltwater and freshwater are doing fine, then something
27 else is causing the problem and it might well be the
28 crawdads. So I think it's worthy of mentioning.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If you make
31 comment that continued support of Fish and Wildlife
32 with BIA providing funding and technical support to
33 continue on with looking at the crayfish issue in
34 Kodiak, Buskin.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Right. And I'm sure the
37 folks out, you know, I haven't talked to anybody in
38 Atka in a few years but I'm really tickled, and I
39 should have mentioned it to the Maritimes, I'm really
40 tickled that they're helping them on rats for some of
41 the more remote places where we do have small villages
42 because it's totally incredible. At night there you
43 can shine a flashlight and see 300 beatty little red
44 eyes. And I think that would be, you know, support on
45 efforts for invasive species including rats, you know,
46 would be a good comment to work in there.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks, Pat.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I just want to
8 build on that too. Pat did mention invasive species,
9 but I think we have a lot of monitoring programs and
10 reporting programs and I would like to see them support
11 some more efforts in eradication. Like we do have --
12 the Refuge seems to have some pretty good eradication
13 efforts and programs because I know, like, I might have
14 been on the RAC six years now or something like that
15 and I remember in the beginning hearing reports of
16 crayfish. And then while I applaud all the efforts for
17 Sun'aq, certainly in going forward and finding a grant
18 to gather those crayfish; in those five years, or four
19 years that population has grown tremendously. So I
20 don't know if there's anything we can do about it at
21 this point.

22

23 And then moving forward I've seen
24 several pictures of mink on the Buskin. I think mink
25 can be some -- quite a voracious little eater of fish
26 too. We have them near our -- we have them over on
27 Near Island and down by the fuel docks. I think both
28 fuel docks have mink. And so the mink population seems
29 to -- I'd like to get on top of that before it gets of
30 hand, they're definitely an invasive species.

31

32 So I would like to impress on really
33 putting some effort into some eradication of invasive
34 species, if they could start sort of looking that
35 direction rather than kind of move out of, you know,
36 reporting and information gathering, and support other
37 organizations and funding that, maybe more eradication
38 type.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We might have to
41 be careful with that.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, you were
46 going to make a comment.

47

48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. A point of interest
49 is that I've noticed the mink population has increased
50

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1 with the rats in Pearson Cove here and that they're a
2 major predator of rats and, you know, and no offense
3 but they really don't get deep diving into the water,
4 not like land otters do for fish. And so I don't mean
5 to be rude but I think they do play a very important
6 role in our ecosystem. So sorry to contradict.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
11 So basically we can add that in there. Anything else.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So between now
16 and maybe when we get the draft if anybody thinks of
17 something we could probably consider it.

18

19 So, Vince, did you get all of that?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I did get that and
22 you captured it in your last sentence the latter part.
23 If I understood correctly, if other annual report
24 topics come up they would send them to me and obviously
25 copy Katya because hopefully not too far in the
26 distance there'll be a new Regional Coordinator for you
27 and so I will do as best I can on the annual report and
28 all that through my detail and then others would pick
29 up from there. So I appreciate, do copy Katya if
30 there's additional annual report topics. And obviously
31 if I don't understand and I have in my notes a specific
32 name, sure, I'll be giving you a call and saying,
33 Coral, I didn't understand clearly what you were saying
34 there, could you enlighten me a little bit more and
35 that will help with the writing.

36

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

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I think that the
43 best, you know, approach to the annual reports is that
44 we, Vince, we, or the OSM draft the topics and then
45 send the draft to the Council members that initiated
46 that topic and then you work on the language and then
47 the report is put together after that and then the
48 Council can look at it together in its entirety at its
49 next meeting, during the winter 2022 meeting cycle. I

50

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1 think that that would be the best approach to things.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

6

And I think maybe just a reference too, in thanking them for the support on the Unimak caribou and the sea otter issue. I know sometimes some of these things are out of their purview but they've been supportive of trying to get Staff to help us and point us in the right direction. And just a thank you to the Staff for helping us to do what we need to do in what we are requesting. Because they do a lot of work in that arena and it's much appreciated. Yeah, so just thanking them I think would be a good thing.

10

11

12

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16

17

Anything else.

18

19

(No comments)

20

21

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think the only other item now I've got is confirming the winter 2022 meeting, date and location and then fall.

24

25

MR. MATHEWS: And your calendars are on Page 173 and 174. And as we mentioned earlier at your last meeting, I believe it was, you guys selected February 22nd and 23rd and if I understand correctly a meeting in Kodiak.

26

27

28

29

30

31

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

32

33

34

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

35

36

MS. WESSELS: Yes, we also have on the agenda the topic of the open period for the Council's applications and nominations and I think Vince has a little presentation for you on this because I think it's very important for the Council members to help us.

37

38

39

40

41

42

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, okay, go ahead. Fall 2021 Council application nomination season.

44

45

46

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I appreciate that and I appreciate Pat's comments and others comments on efforts to get the word out. But basically the nomination open season is happening. And so with that,

47

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1 I, and I think the whole OSM Staff would like to thank
2 all the Council members for your service on the Council
3 on behalf of the user groups that you represent. And,
4 personally, I thank you for your patience. We've had a
5 lot of hurdles to get over, and, Della's leadership and
6 all your patience is just phenomenal. Anyways, your
7 knowledge and experience is of great value to the
8 Federal Subsistence Program. In my opinion and others,
9 it's the foundation of the program.

10

11 We are currently going through some
12 difficult times during the pandemic but at the same
13 time we are constantly working to have a robust --
14 Councils with full memberships. And we are looking to
15 you, Council members, for help because you are the
16 connection to the communities that you represent. The
17 2022 Council application period was open on September
18 17th, so we are encouraging you and some of you are
19 already doing this, we are encouraging you to help us
20 to spread the word about in the region, communities and
21 recruit new applicants throughout your region. You
22 know the people and the region. You also can share
23 firsthand experience what it means to serve on the
24 Council and what is involved and how much time it
25 takes. You can also nominate candidates if someone is
26 interested in applying but is having a hard time
27 filling out an application. The application packets
28 are available on the website and that's the one I
29 mentioned earlier, but it's,
30 www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions, and a fillable copy
31 can be posted soon as well. We're planning on mailing
32 a number of application packets to current Council
33 members and when you receive them you can hand them out
34 to interested persons or organizations and tribes.

35

36 I'm going to jump off the script here a
37 little bit. If you do share with people that you think
38 are interested, I'd recommend you share those names
39 with Katya and the new Coordinator because then that's
40 what Pat was signaling earlier, there may need to be a
41 further call because they go oh I got it, but, oh, I
42 get it, I'll apply now. So, please, when you do
43 provide that and you're comfortable sharing the name of
44 the person you gave the application to, that helps a
45 lot.

46

47 Okay.

48

49 And additionally, we are mailing 2,000

50

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1 copies of the application packet to various addresses
2 across the state. If someone needs a copy to be faxed
3 to them we can do it as well. We are hoping to have a
4 good number of qualified applicants applying this year
5 so we're able to fill out all the vacant seats and have
6 alternates, which you just discussed, available for the
7 situations when Council members resign, move out of the
8 region or pass away.

9
10 We would really appreciate your help
11 with this recruitment this year. And, again, I think
12 earlier on we talked about encouraging you to look out
13 to younger ones. And younger adults, et cetera, and
14 youth, you could also invite them, hopefully when we
15 have a face to face meeting but if not, and it's not in
16 their community, invite them to listen in by
17 teleconference. That'll go a long way. I work with a
18 lot of youth and we just got to kind of nudge them
19 along a little bit, especially when they're younger.

20
21 So with that, that's the information on
22 the upcoming nomination period.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And just a
25 question, because the 2021, that was me, Natasha and
26 Melissa, and I know I got all of my stuff in, so what
27 we're looking at is 2022 which would be the vacant
28 seat, and then Pat Holmes, we've got Rick Koso and Sam
29 Rohrer.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: If you're looking at the
32 list, yes, that would be correct. I'm trying to find
33 that list as quick as I can. But those that are listed
34 with the number year of 2022 are the ones that are up
35 in this round of nominations.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I would also
38 like to make a suggestion because.....

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: So Pat -- I'm sorry, go
41 ahead.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I just
44 named them, Pat, Rick and Sam and a vacant seat. And
45 then also because it seems like there was a problem at
46 one time getting -- submitting an application by email
47 and there might have been a mixup somewhere, I would
48 recommend that if you have these applications being
49 emailed, that they be sent to more than one person if
50

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1 it's not a hardcopy being sent in the mail.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
4 is Katya.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Katya.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we have separate
9 applications for the incumbents and this is what Pat
10 and Rick and Sam would be, they would be the
11 incumbents. And that's correct, their terms expire
12 next year and we have another vacant seat on the
13 Kodiak/Aleutian. But the other thing, what I wanted to
14 add is, you know, the Council members, they really are
15 the connection to the communities and you know people
16 in your communities. You know who might be a good
17 person. You can share your experience of working on
18 the Council, what it entails, what time commitment that
19 it is, what difference does it make for the people in
20 the communities, for the users, for the user groups,
21 you know, it would be great if you can encourage
22 younger people to apply for Council memberships so you
23 can pass along your knowledge to them. We have on some
24 Councils some younger people and they really work well,
25 you know, they really learn quick and it would be great
26 if Kodiak/Aleutian gets a member or two that are a
27 little bit younger than the current Council members so
28 you can pass your knowledge. So if you know a person
29 who can be a good Council member, you can also nominate
30 them. You know they don't necessarily need to fill out
31 the application. For example, if there's somebody who
32 is shy, or, you know, maybe needs help filling out the
33 application, you can nominate that person and if -- I
34 mean with their agreement, of course, that they agree
35 to apply, you know, you don't want to nominate somebody
36 who doesn't know. But it would great if you could help
37 us this way. You know we are trying to do what we can,
38 we are posting information about this open period in
39 the newspapers, we have radio spots, we have TV ads,
40 we've put it on Facebook, you know, we're mailing
41 applications, it's on our website, but we still need
42 the personal connection, we need the personal outreach.
43 So I would really encourage Council members to help us,
44 especially your region, we did not get enough
45 applications, we have one vacant seat, we want to have
46 all the seats filled at least, if not have alternates.

47

48 So thank you for your attention. Thank
49 you very much for your service, we really appreciate

50

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1 it.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
4 I think we got the message.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we've
9 got the dates of the -- it says confirm winter 2022
10 meeting dates and locations. We had the February
11 winter meeting. So can we just basically select our
12 fall meeting at our winter meeting or do we need to do
13 that now?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: You just need to
16 confirm.....

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS:the dates at this
21 time for your winter meeting. Sorry.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I wrote this
24 down somewhere, Vince, when you said it, but I don't
25 see what I wrote down.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: It's listed as.....

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: According to the calendar
30 -- I'll leave it up to Pat because I think Pat has it
31 right in front of him.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, it's February 22 and
34 23 for the winter meeting in Kodiak.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: I would like to suggest if
39 it'd be possible for the fall meeting, we are going to
40 have a commitment to go take care of our grandkids in
41 August and September so if we could go maybe like the
42 third week or fourth week in September, that would kind
43 of give me -- give us a little week break before we got
44 back -- or when we got back. And also if we were going
45 to be considering trying for Cold Bay again then the
46 week of the 19th or 26th is a good time to see
47 waterfowl and go silver fishing or whatever else.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So just

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1 basically let's -- it'd have to be the 27th and 28th
2 because you would do a fly in on the 26th and then
3 hopefully there's somebody flying out of Cold Bay on
4 the 29th. My only concern with that is if it's
5 possible to go up one week, and the reason for that is
6 using Chris as an example. This last week in
7 September, because of year end it gets pretty hectic
8 for some of these organizations.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that'd be swell.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So the week of
13 the 19th. So the meetings would be maybe the 20th and
14 21st, fly in would be the 19th and fly out on the 22nd,
15 Cold Bay.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Maybe the Staff could
18 check and see, you know, on best guess on plane
19 availability because we might need to flex that one way
20 or the other.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, when we
23 get closer, who knows. We've had our challenges.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Roger that.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I don't
28 have anything else, guys. I want to make a comment
29 though.

30

31 First of all, I want to apologize for
32 my -- I just totally felt so disoriented, or a little
33 bit of confusion here, and I'm not usually this way but
34 we did get through the meeting, but I apologize.

35

36 The second thing, I just want to thank
37 Vince. Vince is the Coordinator for Eastern Interior,
38 and is it Western Interior, and the crash of their
39 salmon has kept him literally running and he's been
40 able to help but I don't think we were able to do, I
41 think, work as close as we usually would if I had if it
42 had been with a different Coordinator, but I just
43 wanted to thank him for helping out and doing what
44 needed to be done to get us through this meeting. And
45 I'm hopeful that we do get a Coordinator in the near
46 future, that those positions get filled, because it's
47 so important. And it's hard to go through the shift
48 from one to another and especially with somebody that
49 doesn't really know our region very well. But, you
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1 know, it is what it is. And I'd just like to thank him
2 for that.

3

4

5 And thank everybody for your hard work
6 on here because I'll tell you what this Council is
7 pretty strong in their beliefs and what you guys push
8 forward on and listening to the concerns and the wishes
9 of the communities that you represent.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 I guess we just do closing statements
13 and adjourn. So anybody want to jump in.

14

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, yeah, I wanted
17 to thank Vince because I know he's been trying to
18 handle so many different things and I thought he did an
19 incredible job as well as did the rest of the Staff and
20 getting good reports. I think it was a difficult
21 meeting but I think it was -- we made a lot of
22 progress. And I just want to thank everybody on the
23 Council and the Staff. And, particularly, since Covid
24 and so many people dying of that and just dying of old
25 age in my age group, that I just wanted to say it's
26 been an honor to work with all you folks and I think
27 you're all swell, so take care.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
29 And don't forget to fill out your application.

30

31

(Laughter)

32

33

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick.

34

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MR. KOSO: You called me Della.

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MR. KOSO: Yeah. Well, first of all I'd
like to thank everybody on the Board there. I think
with what we went through today with everything we had
and what we didn't have, I think we accomplished a lot.
I think everybody pretty much stood together and spoke
their mind and so nobody had to guess at all in my mind
here during this meeting. But I know we had a lot of
support from the Staff and our Coordinator and it'd be
nice to get one soon. But I know on this -- when I
went to reapply and I know it took about a year and a

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1 half to get reapplied the last time I came on, and I
2 think I missed one or two of the meetings because of it
3 but it is what it is. So anyways thank you very much
4 and I enjoyed the meeting.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick,
7 and welcome back. Natasha, are you online or are you
8 still gone.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, thank you, Della.
15 I just want to say thank you to all the Staff who
16 provided our materials and took these couple days to be
17 here with us and answer a lot of questions for us. I
18 always appreciate that, all the effort you put in. Of
19 course, your work starts much earlier than ours does.
20 And thank you so much, Vince, for all the emails,
21 keeping in touch and just really being on top of it.

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: And I want to thank all
29 the people for not muting their phones, some of it's
30 amusing, some of it's not. And I hope everybody goes
31 through the rest of the winter healthy and gathering
32 lots of subsistence foods.

33

34 Thank you everyone.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
37 Coral.

38

39 Rebecca.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I just want to
42 thank everyone, all of the Staff people that put the
43 meeting together and presented and all of the Council
44 members. I feel like we had a lot of discussion on a
45 couple of things that we maybe weren't expecting to
46 have quite so much discussion on but I think it was
47 really good discussion. I think it was necessary
48 discussion. So in my opinion this was a really
49 productive meeting. And I look forward to meeting up
50

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1 again here in a few months.

2

3 Thanks.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
6 Rebecca. Okay, I just want to tell everybody, the
7 Staff and Katya, thank you for all your help and
8 helping us. And everybody just keep safe and with this
9 Covid, God willing we'll be able to see each other here
10 face to face in February. So happy holidays, and be
11 safe. And a motion to adjourn.

12

13 MS. SKINNER: So moved.

14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca and
18 Coral.

19

20 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral seconded.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question. All
27 in favor signify by saying aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
32 sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And before I
37 forget, thank you, Tina, for your help.

38

39 REPORTER: You're welcome.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, guys, bye.

42

43 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Kodiak/Aleutian
44 Council, you guys are wonderful.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

49

50

