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BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELEPHONIC
October 26, 2021
8:43 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Nanci Morris Lyon, Chair
- Dan Dunaway
- Lary Hill
- William Trefon
- Richard Wilson

Regional Council Coordinator, Robbin LaVine (Acting)

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Telephonic - 10/26/2021)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MS. LAVINE: So this is Robbin. I do
8 want to let people know, for those of you have joined
9 us, some of you may not be aware that there has been a
10 suggested change to the agenda. We are now actually
11 going to officially start the meeting, so, Tina, can
12 you turn on the recording now.

13

14 REPORTER: Yes, we are on.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: And I would note that it
17 is 8:43 a.m. Next on the agenda will be a roll call
18 and establishment of quorum and then we hold an
19 election of officers and then I will pass the gavel.

20

21 So roll call.

22

23 One moment, please.

24

25 MS. WESSELS: Robbin, this is Katya.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Yes.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: I just want to make sure
30 that Tina has turned the recording on.

31

32 REPORTER: Yes, I do.

33

34 MS. LAVINE: Uh-huh. Thank you. And,
35 court reporter, can you please give us your name.

36

37 REPORTER: It's Nickelle, N-I-C-K-E-L-
38 L-E.

39 MS. LAVINE: Nickelle?

40

41 REPORTER: Yes.

42

43 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. So for the
44 record my name is Robbin LaVine and I'm the Subsistence
45 Policy Coordinator with the Office of Subsistence
46 Management and today the designated FACA Federal
47 Officer for this meeting. Every year, well, actually I
48 need to back, I need to establish quorum, thank you.

49

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1

So I will start with Nanci Morris

2

Lyons.

3

4

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yep, here.

5

6

MS. LAVINE: William Wasillie Trefon.

7

8

MR. TREFON: He's here.

9

10

MS. LAVINE: Was that a here?

11

12

MR. TREFON: Yep, I'm here.

13

14

MS. LAVINE: There you are.

15

16

MR. TREFON: Could you hear me?

17

18

MS. LAVINE: Yep, I can hear you, I can
hear you Billy.

19

20

21

Dan Dunaway.

22

23

MR. DUNAWAY: Here.

24

25

MS. LAVINE: Richard Wilson.

26

27

MR. WILSON: Here.

28

29

MS. LAVINE: Lary Hill.

30

31

MR. HILL: Here.

32

33

MS. LAVINE: Samantha Ann Herrick.

34

35

(No comments)

36

37

MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, for the
record, Samantha Ann Herrick has moved out of the
region and can no longer officially represent the
Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council.

38

39

40

41

42

Robert A. Larson.

43

44

(No comments)

45

46

MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, for the
record, Robert A. Larson is -- his term is expiring
this year and he will not be able to attend. Given
Samantha's move from the region we are down to six

47

48

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1 seated members on the Council. Given Robert Larson's
2 inability to attend, we have five of six seated
3 members. We have a quorum.

4

5 And now election of officers. So once
6 again this Council has already held officer elections
7 during the winter 2021 meeting, however, due to some
8 procedural challenges at the time we need to hold
9 elections for the Chair again. So at this moment I
10 would like to open the floor for nominations for
11 Council Chair.

12

13 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson. I nominate
14 Nanci Morris Lyon.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Thank you.

17

18 MR. HILL: Lary Hill. Second that
19 nomination.

20

21 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Lary. Do I
22 hear any other nominations.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan here. Move to close
25 nominations.

26

27 MR. TREFON: Move nominations close.

28

29 MS. LAVINE: Hearing none, I declare
30 the call for nominations closed and I would like to
31 entertain a vote for Nanci Morris Lyon to be nominated
32 as the Chair of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
33 Council. All in favor say aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 MS. LAVINE: All opposed, same sign.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 MS. LAVINE: Passed unanimously. Well,
42 thank you. So Nanci, I'm now going to pass the gavel
43 back to you and you can proceed with the agenda say for
44 one bit of business -- one bit of business actually
45 before I pass the gavel. And I need to make an
46 announcement on the opportunity for public comments
47 during this Council meeting.

48

49 So Council meetings are an important

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1 way for the public and tribes to give oral and written
2 testimony and comments on issues of concern related to
3 subsistence management in this region. Opportunities
4 provided throughout the meeting include at the
5 beginning of each day, there's an opportunity to
6 provide testimony on non-agenda items. The Council
7 Chair will announce these opportunities daily. Then
8 there is an opportunity to provide oral comments on the
9 wildlife proposals and closure reviews after an analyst
10 presents proposal analysis. The order of receiving the
11 comments is outlined on Page 33 of your Council book,
12 and the Council Chair will call for this public oral
13 testimony after each presentation. There will also be
14 opportunities to submit written public comments on
15 proposals during the meeting. So if you have a written
16 comment, please email it to subsistence@fws.gov.,
17 that's subsistence@fws.gov. Please clearly indicate in
18 the title of the email which proposal or closure review
19 you are commenting on. The comments need to be emailed
20 prior to the proposal being presented to the Council.
21 If less than 10 written comments are received, we will
22 read them into the record, if more than 10 comments are
23 received they will be tallied and the result will be
24 presented to the Council prior to their deliberation.

25

26 And, with that, I now pass the gavel to
27 Nanci.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, well,
30 thank you, Robbin. Thank you everybody for, you know,
31 taking time out of your day, and, attending another
32 very challenging meeting like this. I'm sure hoping
33 here one of these days we can be back in person again
34 and get this done in a manner that we can actually see
35 each other and communicate with each other a lot
36 easier.

37

38 In an effort to have a little bit, I
39 guess, order to find out who all we've got with us, can
40 we perhaps do introductions by agencies. Robbin, do
41 you know which agencies are online and we can just go
42 agency by agency to find out who's with us.

43

44 MS. LAVINE: Yes, I think we can do
45 that. I think that's an excellent idea. Would you like
46 me to call out the agencies?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would,
49 please.

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1 MS. LAVINE: All right. All
2 representatives of Park Service please say hello and
3 introduce yourself.

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7
8 MR. RYAN: This is Chris Ryan. I'm the
9 Acting Superintendent of Katmai National Park and
10 Preserve, Alagnak Wild River and Aniakchak National
11 Monument and Preserve.

12
13 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Chris.

14
15 MR. RYAN: Good morning.

16
17 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Good morning, this is
18 Susanne Fleek-Green. I'm Superintendent at Lake Clark
19 National Park and Preserve.

20
21 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Susanne.

22
23 MS. CHISOLM: Good morning. Hi, my
24 name is Linda Chisolm. I am the Cultural Resources
25 Program Manager and Subsistence Coordinator for Katmai
26 National Park, Aniakchak National Monument and Alagnak
27 Wild Preserve.

28
29 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Linda.

30
31 MS. RUPP: And this is Liza Rupp,
32 Cultural Resources Program Manager and Subsistence
33 Coordinator for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.
34 Good morning.

35
36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38
39 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Liza.

40
41 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning, this is
42 Dylan Patterson with the National Park Service,
43 Regional Subsistence Team.

44
45 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Dylan.

46
47 MS. SKORA: Good morning, this is
48 Leslie Skora. I am the Wildlife Biologist at Kamai
49 National Park and Preserve, Aniakchak Monument and
50

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1 Preserve and Alagnak Wild River.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Leslie.
7 Anyone else with us from the Park Service.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Hey, Robbin.....

10

11 MS. LAVINE: How about -- yes, yes.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: This is Dan. Do we have
14 to redo all those officers for the RAC or just the
15 Chair or how.....

16

17 MS. LAVINE: Dan, just the Chair.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh.

20

21 MS. LAVINE: Just the Chair, so you all
22 are in good stead, Mr. Vice Chair.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, well, I'm glad to
25 know that, thank you.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Yes, you're welcome.
28 Thank you. And for those of you listening online,
29 please remember we are hearing some background chatter
30 so do mute your phones. Press star six -- is it star
31 six for mute, guys, or -- I think it is star six, but
32 please find some way to mute your phone. That will
33 really help our court reporter. Thanks.

34

35 So who is online with U.S. Fish and
36 Wildlife Service.

37

38 MR. MOSS: Good morning, everyone. I'm
39 Danny Moss. I'm the Acting Refuge Manager for Alaska
40 Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges.

41

42 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Danny.

43

44 MR. SMITH: Good morning, Bill Smith.
45 Supervisory Biologist for Alaska Peninsula and Becharof
46 Refuge, King Salmon.

47

48 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Bill.

49

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1 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman with Togiak
2 National Wildlife Refuge. Good morning.

3
4 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Andy.

5
6 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, this is
7 Kendra Holman with OSM.

8
9 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Kendra.

10
11 MR. MOOS: Good morning, this is Kenton
12 Moos, Refuge Manager for Togiak.

13
14 MS. LAVINE: Kenton Moos.

15
16 MR. MOOS: That's correct.

17
18 MS. LAVINE: Good morning. Good
19 morning, Kenton.

20
21 MR. HARRIS: Good morning, this is
22 Frank Harris. Fish Biologist with the Fish and
23 Wildlife Service, the Southern Alaska Fish and Wildlife
24 Service Field Office.

25
26 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Frank.

27
28 MR. GERKEN: Good morning, everybody.
29 This is John Gerken, Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm
30 also the Federal in-season fisheries manager for
31 Bristol Bay, Chignik, AK Peninsula.....

32
33 MS. KLEIN: Good morning, this is.....

34
35 MS. LAVINE: Was that -- was that John
36 Gerken?

37
38 MR. GERKEN: Yeah, Robbin, can you hear
39 me.

40
41 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, we heard a couple
42 voices at the same time so just confirming, John
43 Gerken. Thanks.

44
45 MR. GERKEN: Thank you.

46
47 MS. KLEIN: Good morning, this is Jill
48 Klein. I was just trying to chime in. I'm the Regional
49 Subsistence Coordinator for U.S. Fish and Wildlife
50

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1 Service and InterAgency Staff Committee. Good morning.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Jill.

4 Anyone else with us from U.S. Fish and Wildlife
5 Service.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. LAVINE: How about the Alaska
10 Department of Fish and Game.

11

12 MS. JONES: Hi, good morning. This is
13 Bronwyn Jones with the Division of Subsistence in
14 Anchorage.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Bronwyn.

17

18 MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark Burch
19 from the Department of Fish and Game in the Palmer
20 office.

21

22 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mark.

23

24 MR. RINALDI: Good morning, this is
25 Todd Rinaldi. I'm with the Department of Fish and
26 Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation out of Region 4
27 in Palmer.

28

29 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Todd.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MS. LAVINE: Anyone else from the
34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MS. LAVINE: How about BLM.

39

40 MS. MILLION: Good morning. This is
41 Bonnie Million, I am the Field Manager for the BLM's
42 Anchorage Field Office.

43

44 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Bonnie.

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 MS. LAVINE: Those here representing
49 our Bristol Bay area tribal and governments and Native
50

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1 organizations.

2

3 MS. CARTY: Good morning. This is
4 Courtenay.....

5

6 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, Robbin.

7

8 MS. CARTY:Carty, Curyung Tribe.

9

10 MS. LAVINE: That was Courtenay.

11

12 MS. CARTY: Yes, ma'am.

13

14 MS. LAVINE: Good to hear you
15 Courtenay.

16

17 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, Robbin and
18 everybody. This is Gayla Hoseth with Bristol Bay
19 Native Association here in Dillingham and I have my
20 team with me. I have Cody Larson, Heidi Kritz and Renee
21 Rocky.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: So Gayla with Cody Larson,
24 Renee, who was the others?

25

26 MS. HOSETH: Renee Rocky and Heidi
27 Kritz.

28

29 MS. LAVINE: Heidi Kritz. Good to hear
30 your voice, welcome all.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 MS. LAVINE: Anyone else from our
35 tribal governments or Native organizations.

36

37 MR. ANDERSON: Hi, Robbin. George
38 Anderson with the Chignik InterTribal Coalition.

39

40 MS. LAVINE: Hello, George.

41

42 MR. ANDERSON: Hello.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 MS. LAVINE: And who is here from the
47 Office of Subsistence Management.

48

49 MR. LIND: Good morning everybody,

50

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1 Bristol Bay. This is Orville Lind, Native Liaison for
2 the Office of Subsistence Management. Good morning.

3

4 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Orville.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Good morning everyone.
7 This is Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division
8 Supervisor with OSM. Thank you all for joining the
9 meeting and I'm happy to hear everyone online.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Katya.

12

13 MS. KENNER: And this is Pippa Kenner
14 with OSM.

15

16 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, this is Lisa
17 Grediagin, Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM.

18

19 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Lisa. Good
20 morning, Pippa.

21

22 MR. STONE: Good morning, Jarred Stone,
23 Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
24 Management.

25

26 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Jarred.
27 Anyone else from OSM.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. LAVINE: Who's here from the Forest
32 Service.

33

34 MR. RISDAHL: Hi, Robbin. This is Greg
35 Risdahl, the Subsistence Program Lead for the U.S.
36 Forest Service.

37

38 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Greg. Now,
39 I'd ask our general public who's online to introduce
40 themselves.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. LAVINE: If there's anyone online
45 from the general public you're welcome to speak up now.
46 And as I mentioned at the beginning of the meeting,
47 there will be opportunities for public comment on
48 agenda items as we progress through the agenda, and, in
49 particular, the wildlife proposals and closure reviews.

50

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1 There is an opportunity for public comment at that
2 time.

3

4 MR. GUSSEY: Good morning, this is.....

5

6 MS. ROSS: Hi, good morning, this.....

7

8 MS. LAVINE: Oh.....

9

10 MR. GUSSEY:Walker Gussey.

11

12 MS. LAVINE: Oh, please go again,

13 Gussey.

14

15 MR. GUSSEY: Good morning, this is
16 Walker Gussey. I may have missed my agency, I'm with
17 the Bureau of Land Management out of Anchorage, Law
18 Enforcement Pilot.

19

20 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Walker.

21

22 MR. GUSSEY: Good morning.

23

24 MS. ROSS: And good morning, this is
25 Izzy Ross with KDLG Radio over in Dillingham.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Izzy.

28

29 MR. CARLTIKOFF: This is Daren
30 Carltikoff, Nondalton Tribal Council.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: Daren.....

33

34 MR. CARLTIKOFF: Carltikoff, Nondalton
35 Tribal Council.

36

37 MS. LAVINE: Daren -- Carl -- can you
38 spell that, please Daren, I'm sorry.

39

40 MR. CARLTIKOFF: C-A-R-L-T-I-K-O-F-F.

41

42 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Daren. Hearing
43 no more voices I will pass the gavel back to Nanci.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
46 Robbin, very much for that. Thank you all of you for
47 calling in and participating in our meeting here in the
48 next couple of days. We appreciate your interest, your
49 help and your participation as well.

50

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1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So I'm going
5 to go ahead and ask for a motion on the agenda and we
6 need to review and adopt it. I'm going to suggest that
7 whoever makes the motion consider the alternative
8 agenda that we have put in front of everybody that was
9 sent out here the other and we've got things
10 rearranged. And just as a matter of explanation, we
11 had some miscommunication on dates and I'm only going
12 to be available today for a brief amount of time and
13 then I'll turn the gavel over to Dan or Robbin to take
14 care of the rest of the meeting and then I'll be
15 available all day tomorrow. And because of that, we've
16 kind of redone the agenda. I hope everybody's had a
17 chance to take a quick look at it and hopefully
18 everybody can work with it. If there are any questions
19 about it I encourage those to happen now and then we
20 can put it on the table for approval.

21

22 MR. WILSON: Getting quite a bit of
23 feedback Nanci from somewhere.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Sorry to
26 hear that.

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I guess I have one
29 question about an item on the agenda, should I do it
30 now or wait -- this is Dan.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Will it
33 change the vote on the agenda?

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: No, it shouldn't.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Well,
38 let's go ahead and put it on the table and then we can
39 ask the questions.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, this is Dan. I'll
42 move to adopt the suggested alternative agenda
43 recognizing Chairman Nanci's travel schedule. And it's
44 my understanding that by doing this we will assure us
45 that we have a quorum when we get to our action items
46 tomorrow. So I move to adopt the alternate agenda as
47 submitted, or as I received it by email.

48

49 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson here, second.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I've
2 got a motion and a second. Any discussion. Dan.

3
4 MR. TREFON: Question.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan you
7 still had a question.

8
9 MR. TREFON: This is Billy.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Hang on a
12 minute.

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. My one question is
15 are we going to have any person from like North Pacific
16 Fisheries Management Council discuss this Bering Sea
17 bycatch or Gulf of Alaska bycatch is my only, or is it
18 just this pamphlet sent out. Over.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So last I
21 heard we were going to have a presentation. Robbin,
22 can you update us on that.

23
24 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, yes, this is
25 Robbin. We do have representatives prepared to respond
26 and present their report tomorrow morning, per our
27 discussion, Nanci. And, actually before -- before you
28 take action on the alternative agenda, I don't know
29 when the best time is for this but OSM would like to
30 issue an apology to the Council and meeting
31 participants for rearranging the agenda so shortly
32 before the meeting. These changes were necessary
33 because of a miscommunication of meeting dates between
34 the department and new Program Staff. So now some of
35 the Council members are not available during parts of
36 the first meeting day, right, so we have moved most of
37 the action items to the second day of the meeting and
38 we're sorry for the inconvenience and we are grateful
39 for your flexibility. Thank you all. And I just
40 wanted to get that out there, thanks.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
43 Robbin. Okay, Billy called for the question. All in
44 favor of approving the alternate agenda please signify
45 by saying aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

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1 Motion passes. We'll proceed forward with our alternate
2 agenda which will bring us into reports because I still
3 have enough time, I'm going to go ahead and ask for my
4 Council member's reports first. Dan, would you like to
5 go ahead and give us your report.

6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you, Madame
8 Chair and thanks to Robbin for the clarification on
9 presentations earlier. It seems like I had a list of
10 items here, it's been kind of a busy summer.

11
12 Let's see, first off, I wanted to
13 acknowledge the passing and.....

14
15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participants not muted)

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY:here of Ralph
19 Anderson from BBNA. He made a big contribution to
20 especially the fisheries aspects of subsistence and how
21 the RAC operated. I think, he, and some other folks,
22 maybe earlier RAC members managed to convene some
23 meetings early on, planning meetings that allowed the
24 Bristol Bay RAC to be very, I think, proactive and
25 organized in fisheries research programs early on.

26
27 Other things. We had a boomer salmon
28 run. A lot of people got fish. Of course, very, very
29 concerned of the low number and small size of kings in
30 the Nushagak. I believe we just squeaked into the
31 bottom end of the escapement goal. I heard that tidbit
32 the other day in another meeting.

33
34 I'm not sure how to rate the
35 subsistence or hunting for moose this fall. I know
36 people were pretty successful but overall I don't know
37 how to view it. I don't have enough information and I
38 think Fish and Game will give us a report later and I'm
39 looking forward to it.

40
41 One aspect that's really changed for
42 the Dillingham area for non-tribal members, Curyung is
43 the major land holder in the vicinity of Dillingham and
44 Aleknagik area on the road system and shortly before
45 moose season they closed their lands to hunting, berry
46 gathering, plant gathering, they allowed crossing,
47 hiking and camping, I believe, and I'll welcome any
48 corrections. But I think for non-members that
49 qualified it kind of changed the patterns for,
50

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1 especially berry picking, small game hunting and for
2 some big game hunting. It's just kind of a new thing
3 people are going to have to adapt to.

4

5 And that's about all I can think of for
6 now, thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
9 you, Dan. And I would just like to also acknowledge
10 Ralph's huge contributions to, you know, the Regional
11 Advisory Council and his huge contributions to us, in
12 general, as a region. I would just like to ask for a
13 moment of silence in his honor and we'll continue then.

14

15 (Moment of silence)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
18 you, everyone. Richard, would you like to give your
19 report please.

20

21 MR. WILSON: Yeah, good morning, all.
22 Rich Wilson here. I haven't really written a whole lot
23 down here for my report for this year. I think I'll
24 just kind of work from the cuff as we go through the
25 day here.

26

27 You know we had a very busy summer. A
28 lot of challenges with Covid and things like that going
29 on in our communities here. But fish ran late here in
30 our sector of the day but they did come in and came in
31 with decent numbers.

32

33 You know we've talked about like
34 ptarmigan and hare, those numbers, I see, you know, the
35 ptarmigan here in this area and up north a bit are
36 flocking up, I can see that there's quite a bit more
37 ptarmigan around, which is real great to see.

38

39 Moose season there was fairly good
40 success in some areas here and some areas were not so
41 good. I guess I'd be interested also to hear the
42 reports on how that all came down with management
43 there.

44

45 But not a whole lot right now, I'll
46 pass it on. Thanks.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
49 Richard, appreciate that. Lary, would you care to go

50

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1 next please.

2

3 MR. HILL: Okay. Let's see, moose, we
4 had very fair amount of success. Some areas were more
5 heavily used than others and one, like Bill could
6 probably address up in the Chulitna area.

7

8 We got a lot more fish on the lake,
9 something we've seen, we haven't seen in probably 10
10 years, carcasses piling up on the beaches, we haven't
11 seen that in a long time.

12

13 A lot of bears. There's like two
14 groups, the ones that live in the area came out and
15 they all did well, nice and fat and round. Then it
16 seems like we had another group come in about, oh,
17 three weeks after the main group were here and they
18 weren't as in good a shape as the ones that stayed all
19 summer. We suspect they might have come from the Inlet
20 side, when the fish run out there they come over to our
21 side.

22

23 Let's see rabbits and ptarmigan, very
24 few. Again, I saw one ptarmigan this summer. I don't
25 know, I hope it finds a mate somewhere.

26

27 I had one comment. Still see what
28 amounts to trespass by the guides and sport hunters and
29 fishers on private land or allotments. There doesn't
30 seem to be much we can do about it, people pushing
31 their limits and I understand there's financial issues,
32 but, you know, we'd sure like to see less of that.

33

34 Other than that, Covid concerns, I've
35 never had to be a hermit but I felt like it the last
36 year. Other than that, I'm done.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
39 you, Lary. I had some trouble there with my phone
40 sorry about that. Billy, would you like to go ahead,
41 please.

42

43 MR. TREFON: Yeah, this is Billy here.
44 I don't have a whole lot to report. I wasn't home
45 pretty much all summer, I was actually on fire
46 assignments. But from what I've been hearing and what
47 I can gather the salmon return has been strong. It has
48 been for the last several years and it's been even
49 better this year. And just like Lary, we have a lot
50

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1 more bears than usual. They don't seem to be bothering
2 anybody in the village right now, but other than
3 passing through.

4
5 Small game, I have no idea, like the
6 ptarmigan and the rabbits because it's been a long time
7 since I hunted one. But I know there's a lot of
8 grouse, they're up in the lake right now, because my
9 dog here has been hunting grouse all summer.

10
11 As for hunting moose and the amount of
12 traffic -- actually this began last year with Covid --
13 it had to do with Covid, the amount of air traffic for
14 sporthunting's been very limited, even in the Chulitna
15 River, and the success was also limited in the Chulitna
16 and where people were hunting.

17
18 Other than that I don't think I have
19 anything else to report.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
22 you very much, Billy, appreciate it. Glad to know
23 you're back home safe and sound after a busy summer for
24 you.

25
26 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And then I'd
29 -- yep, you bet, welcome back. Thank you to everybody
30 and their observations and thank them for them.

31
32 The only things I really have to add is
33 I still have major concerns about our brothers and
34 sisters down south in the Chigs. Appreciate having
35 somebody online here for that and their fisheries down
36 there. I sure hope that we can continue to work on
37 those and see if we can't get them healthier and coming
38 back sooner.

39
40 Also had some concerns about some of
41 the studies that I've been reading about the shorebird
42 die-off, it still seems to be going on around here and
43 we'll look forward to any updates that we can get
44 throughout this meeting on that.

45
46 And other than that, yep, lots of bears
47 as well, definite increase in the areas that I frequent
48 with my business as well as when I'm out playing and
49 hoping that some of them can find a new home too for
50

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1 next year before it rolls around.

2

3 With that being said, let's go ahead
4 and see if anybody has any public or tribal comments on
5 non-agenda items this morning.

6

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

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, Robbin,
11 go ahead.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: I believe we leapfrogged
14 over Agenda Item No. 7, review and approve previous
15 meeting minutes found on Page 5 of your Council books.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, you're
18 absolutely right, thank you for that and we can back up
19 to that without a problem. Would anybody care to place
20 those on the table.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: This is Dan here. I move
23 to adopt the minutes as in the book. I read them over
24 and they look pretty complete to me. Over.

25

26 MR. WILSON: This is Rich Wilson,
27 second.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
30 Dan and Richard. We have them on the table, is there
31 any discussion about the minutes.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
36 hearing none. Call for the question.

37

38 MR. WILSON: Question.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
41 question's been called. All in favor of adopting the
42 minutes as presented please signify by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, very
47 good. That passes unanimously. Thank you, Robbin.
48 Sorry, I didn't mean to do that, I'll try to look at my
49 agenda a little bit more carefully here. Then we'll

50

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1 jump back down here to 9 for the public and tribal
2 comments on non-agenda items.

3

4 MR. TREFON: This is Billy here.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
7 Billy.

8

9 MR. TREFON: Yeah, speaking on behalf
10 of my tribe, hopefully there's -- also I got a letter
11 here, well actually it's not a letter, but an agenda
12 for January with the Fish and Game which is very
13 important for 9B is the extended moose hunt, I think
14 that's something that I think we should look into
15 because we support that.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let
18 me see a spot on here where we can take that up.

19

20 MR. TREFON: Fish and Game might have
21 more.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: This is Robbin. Can I,
24 again, could you confirm the report you're interested
25 in and let's look at the agenda. I can potentially work
26 with Nanci on that, where that might fit in.

27

28 MR. TREFON: Okay. It's the Alaska
29 Department of Fish and Game, they send out proposals
30 which will be happening in January for voting and the
31 extension for the moose hunt on 9B.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Is that one
34 that we missed when we went through these?

35

36 MR. TREFON: I'm not sure. I'm not too
37 sure if I was here but it's actually on the State's
38 agenda for January.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: That's on the, yeah, the
41 State, the Board of Game meeting -- this is Dan.

42

43 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, so
46 that's.....

47

48 MS. LAVINE: I believe that's Board
49 of.....

50

0021

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
2 Robbin.

3
4 MS. LAVINE: That's for Board of Game
5 Proposal 204.

6
7 MR. TREFON: Yes.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. You
10 know let's have a discussion on that Billy, I'm looking
11 here, probably towards the end of our meeting under new
12 business, if we want to support that. Can we --
13 Robbin, can we get -- for tomorrow can we get a copy of
14 that document so that we have that.

15
16 MS. LAVINE: I will -- I will obtain
17 that Board of Game Proposal 204 for you and make sure
18 that all members receive it. I'll send it out this
19 evening.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, that
22 would be perfect. That'll give us some time to look it
23 over and do some research. And hopefully somebody from
24 Fish and Game here will be able to give you an assist
25 on that.

26
27 MR. TREFON: Okay, appreciate that.
28 Because I also have a Nondalton Tribal member listening
29 in and hopefully they have more input tomorrow.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.

32
33 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, no
36 problem, thank you Billy. Any more public or tribal
37 comments on non-agenda items.

38
39 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, this is
40 Gayla Hoseth with BBNA.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, Gayla,
43 go ahead.

44
45 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. I just wanted
46 to say if we were going to bring up Alaska Department
47 of Fish and Game Board of Game proposals, that we might
48 want to look at the emperor goose proposal that was
49 submitted by AMBCC. I don't have that number on it.
50

0022

1 But it was to close it to non-resident hunters.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, I had
4 seen that. That might be a very good idea to. Because
5 this cycle mix up here with Board of Game, I think that
6 might be a good idea if we could add that to it as well
7 and I don't remember that number either but I saw it.

8

9 MS. HOSETH: All right, thank you,
10 Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any others.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, I
17 think those are two important items that we can take up
18 tomorrow after we've had a chance to review what is in
19 writing in front of us and we can have a discussion if
20 we want to lend our support to them.

21

22 Okay, then 10, old business, .805(c)
23 report, Robbin, that's you.

24

25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27

28 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Madame
29 Chair. Members of the Council. For the record, again,
30 this is Robbin LaVine. I am the Subsistence Policy
31 Coordinator with OSM but I am acting DFO for this
32 meeting. I would request, before I go in, make sure
33 that your phones are muted, star six for muting your
34 phones and I'll proceed.

35

36 So I'm going to present you with a
37 brief summary of the Federal Subsistence Board's 2021
38 .805(c) report to the Council. And materials for this
39 agenda item can be found on Page 12 of your meeting
40 materials book.

41

42 Section .805(c) of the Alaska National
43 Interest Lands Conservation Act provides that the Board
44 will accept the recommendations of a Council regarding
45 take unless the recommendation is not supported by
46 substantial evidence; the recommendation violates
47 recognized principles of fish and wildlife management;
48 or adopting the recommendation would be detrimental to
49 the satisfaction of subsistence needs. When a
50

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1 Council's recommendation is not adopted the Board is
2 required to provide the reasons and facts for their
3 decisions to the Council. And these are provided in
4 the annual .805(c) report.

5
6 So as you can see, this year your
7 Council only received a cover letter for the .805(c)
8 report and that is because the Board deferred to the
9 Council's recommendations on the four fisheries
10 proposals affecting your region. The Board adopted
11 Fisheries Proposal 21-05, that was a proposal to
12 clarify Federal regulations regarding subsistence
13 fishing in the marine waters of fishing districts and
14 the Board adopted Proposal 21-07 to revise the Federal
15 subsistence fishing regulations for the Bristol Bay
16 area by removing the scheduled fishing closures in the
17 Egegik River. And the Board rejected Fisheries
18 Proposal 21-06, a proposal to revise Federal
19 subsistence fishing regulations for the Bristol Bay
20 area to specify that salmon may be taken by dipnet,
21 beach seine and gillnet only, unless otherwise
22 specified and the Board rejected FP21-08, proposal to
23 revise the Federal subsistence fishing regulations for
24 the Bristol Bay area by removing the scheduled fishing
25 closures in the Egegik River. And all of these actions
26 were consistent with the Council's recommendation.

27
28 Thank you, Madame Chair and members of
29 the Council for your attention and I'm ready to answer
30 any questions you may have.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
33 Robbin. Hearing none, why don't you continue on with
34 the next item as well.

35
36 MS. LAVINE: Okay. So the next item --
37 one moment, really quick, I'm on the wrong page guys,
38 hold on. So the next item under old business is the
39 Board fiscal year 2020 annual report replies. And I'm
40 going to provide you with a summary. The materials for
41 this agenda item can be found on Page 14 of your
42 Council book.

43
44 So the Board appreciates your effort
45 through your annual report to the Board on issues
46 outside of the regulatory process that affect
47 subsistence users in your region. In fiscal year '20
48 there were four topics of concern on the Council's
49 annual report.

50

0024

1 Topic 1 was in regards to public
2 participation in the Regional Advisory Council
3 meetings. The Board recognizes the importance of
4 public participation and that it is a challenge to
5 maintain public participation when meetings are held
6 via teleconference and there is no visual contact. The
7 Board supports utilizing the Teams platforms for any
8 Council meetings when Council members request it and
9 the Board directed OSM to conduct a more extensive
10 outreach for this fall 2021 meeting.

11
12 Topic 2 was in regards to the Chignik
13 salmon fishery. The Board is very aware that for the
14 last three seasons the Chignik River watershed salmon
15 returns neither met escapement goals nor provided for
16 much opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence
17 users for subsistence fishing and this is coupled with
18 unprecedented restrictions. The application for
19 funding harvest studies in Chignik area through the
20 FRMP program is under review now and a funding decision
21 will be made in early 2022. When the Council reviews
22 the 2022 draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan it
23 should provide recommendations regarding the importance
24 of this project for your region.

25
26 Topic 3 was in regards to Staffing at
27 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in
28 Dillingham. The Fish and Game communicated to the
29 Board that they had hired Mr. Brian Riley as the
30 wildlife biologist Area 3 area manager in Dillingham in
31 early 2021, however, we heard recently that there has
32 been some changes with the status of this position and
33 you can direct your questions to ADF&G regarding this
34 and they will be providing a report later in this
35 meeting.

36
37 And the last topic, Topic 4, was in
38 regards to the Council's concerns for brucellosis. The
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game continues to monitor
40 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd for brucellosis and in
41 January 2021 received high positive test results from a
42 relatively high percentage of caribou sampled during
43 the collaring operations. The public was informed
44 immediately through service announcements and outreach,
45 monitoring will continue, and the public is asked to
46 report observations of the disease. In addition, a
47 team of State and Federal outreach specialists have
48 been working collaboratively in the development,
49 production and distribution of additional information
50

0025

1 materials for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. A caribou
2 publication specific to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd has
3 been produced, copies were sent to the Council members
4 and it is also available on the ADF&G website. The
5 Board has included two information fact sheets on
6 brucellosis which can be found on Pages 19 and 27 of
7 your meeting materials book.

8
9 The Board thanks the Council members
10 for representing the concerns of the Bristol Bay region
11 through your annual report.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
14 you very much, Robbin, appreciate that. And I did see,
15 hopefully all you guys have seen the brochures that
16 they sent out, they're nice and I thought they had a
17 lot of good information in them. And hopefully we can
18 continue to get updates on that as the herd progresses
19 and the disease progresses and hopefully dissipates in
20 the near future, and I'm sure in our reports we'll hear
21 more about that, so appreciate it.

22
23 Then annual report reply process
24 briefing. Robbin, that's you as well, if you want to
25 continue.

26
27 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 Yes, that's me again. For the record, this is Robbin
29 LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator for OSM and the
30 acting DFO for this Council meeting. The meeting
31 materials for this agenda item can be found on Page 32
32 of your Council books and this is not an action item.

33
34 So while we recognize that this item is
35 new business for the Council, we chose to address it
36 here, in old business, following your review of the
37 annual report replies from the Board. This way the
38 annual report reply process is fresh in your mind as I
39 present the briefing.

40
41 During the Federal Subsistence Board's
42 August 2021 work session the InterAgency Staff
43 Committee briefed the Board on the annual report reply
44 process and possible revisions to improve workload
45 efficiency and response to Regional Advisory Council
46 concerns. The Board reviewed and discussed the report
47 reply process and agreed to forward this topic to the
48 Councils for your input on the suggested revisions,
49 including possible ideas of your own. As you aware,
50

0026

1 ANILCA, Section .805 authorizes the Councils to prepare
2 an annual report containing information related to
3 important subsistence resource issues within their
4 region. These reports are valuable as they provide the
5 Board with a broad holistic picture of local resource
6 conditions and the subsistence issues facing
7 communities across rural Alaska. With this knowledge
8 the Board can make informed decisions. Historically
9 the Board has strived to provide responses to every
10 topic listed in annual reports regardless of its
11 authority to address the issues raised and it's unclear
12 if Board responses on all annual report topics are
13 helpful to the Councils, while taking considerable
14 Staff time to complete. The ISC has suggested process
15 revisions to consider annual reports serve solely as a
16 mechanism for informing the Board of local conditions
17 and needs and they proposed letter writing as a means
18 for requesting Board response to topics of concern.
19 Under this scenario Councils could ask their
20 Coordinator to write a letter to the Board if there are
21 annual report topics to which they are specifically
22 requesting a response.

23
24 These are just suggested revisions,
25 they're not intended to diminish the ability of the
26 Councils to report to the Board. And Councils will
27 still receive responses from the Board when requested.
28 And these are only suggestions. You, the Council, may
29 have other ideas about a more efficient and responsive
30 annual report and reply process. To that end, we are
31 asking you to think about what you want from the Board
32 in terms of replies as you develop and confirm your
33 2021 annual reports between the fall and winter
34 meetings. So we'll take this up again when we meet in
35 2022.

36
37 So, once, again, this is not an action
38 item, not until your winter meeting. And thank you I'm
39 ready for your questions.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, so
42 right now before we open it up for questions, they're
43 considering to make these changes for letter writing
44 and their open to other suggestions should we have an
45 idea that we feel will allow us to be better heard and
46 better understand what our needs are; is that correct?
47

48 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, that is correct.
49 You know especially when we're looking at issues that
50

0027

1 the Board does not have authority over, then how can
2 the Board be best responsive to you. Are annual
3 reports and Board replies helpful, are there other ways
4 in which the Board and Office of Subsistence Management
5 can be more supportive through this process. And so as
6 you develop the issues and topics of critical concern,
7 you can start to think about what may be most helpful
8 from the Board and, you know, is there a different
9 process that would serve you best.

10

11 So that's it. And, again, we are not
12 -- we recognize how invaluable the annual reports are
13 to the Board, this is the way, along with these
14 meetings, the transcripts, your Council member reports,
15 the annual reports are a way to inform the Board to
16 ensure the Board can make informed decisions.

17

18 Thanks.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
21 Robbin. Okay, I'm open for questions if anybody has
22 any.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Nanci, Dan here.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
27 Dan.

28

29 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, you know, I think
30 we've generally been pretty vigorous addressing our
31 concerns to the Board. One thing, and I'm not as
32 familiar on the process and maybe you or Robbin can
33 remind me, do we -- does our Chair usually participate
34 in the actual Board meetings? The one thing I would
35 think of is, you know, physical participation and have
36 opportunity to question and answer right at a Board
37 meeting, okay.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, Dan,
40 I'll go ahead and answer that. Yeah, I attend those
41 meetings and if I can't I'll try and get you or Richard
42 to go in my place. But we are there when our issues
43 are brought before the Board and we do -- I would hope
44 to think that we bring a lot of clarification and are
45 able to answer a lot of questions.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, great. Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep. Anyone

50

0028

1 else.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
6 I'm just going to suggest that we all keep this in
7 mind. I don't have anything off the top of my head.
8 But I know that at times it feels like we're not heard
9 or maybe taken seriously enough. I'm not sure really
10 how to put it into words. But it does seem like there
11 could be certain times when we could be -- we could
12 either be heard better or better action could be taken
13 in some way. So anyway I'm glad that they're open to
14 suggestions and let's just keep our thinking caps on
15 and see what maybe we could come up with, and, as
16 usual, the more heads the better sometimes and maybe
17 some of our other Councils as well will come up with
18 some ideas that we think will work well for us too.
19 I'm assuming that those will get shared with us, is
20 that correct, Robbin, as all the Councils start talking
21 about them.

22

23

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MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Nanci. Yes,
this is Robbin. Indeed, this is an agenda item at
every Council meeting this fall and we will be looking
for substantive feedback and discussion from all
Councils during the winter cycle. Thanks.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
you.

MR. TREFON: Hey, Nanci, Billy here.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Billy,
go ahead.

MR. TREFON: A thought just crossed my
mind. Why don't we invite the local area Advisory
Councils, like Iliamna, Lake Clark, Dillingham,
whatever, these small local area subsistence councils,
like the one I sit on at Iliamna, maybe we could hear
from their Chair, Randy Alvarez on my part, invite
those folks to our meetings for input.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Are you
talking about a more formal invitation I mean they're
always invited.

MR. TREFON: Yes, I'm aware of that.

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1 But like the Park Service, the more input we have from
2 them because they're the one that really have the local
3 feedback like Lary and myself and Randy, we actually
4 got our foot on the ground on what happens in our area
5 with the Local Advisory Committees, they would have a
6 better idea of what's going on in their area, the
7 community.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

10

11 MR. TREFON: It's just a suggestion, a
12 thought that's crossed my mind because I just realize,
13 I mean we have meetings with Iliamna and we talk about
14 the fish and the brown bears and stuff like that but as
15 far as proposal, we just status quo. I never hear any
16 feedback or input from them at this level.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Nope, and I
19 couldn't agree more. It's always helpful to have more
20 voices, especially the knowledgeable ones.

21

22 MR. TREFON: Yep. That was just
23 something that crossed my mind. Just something I
24 thought I'd bring up. Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody
27 else.

28

29 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
30 Robbin.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, go
33 ahead, Robbin.

34

35 MS. LAVINE: I'm really interested in
36 your suggestions and ideas. I'm going to make notes of
37 this idea to invite the Chairs from the local Advisory
38 Committees. I think the State ACs and also the Park
39 Service Subsistence Resource Councils are -- you know
40 the similar groups, and potentially they could be
41 invited, the Chairs could be invited to give their
42 reports nested within the agency reports. That's a
43 thought. I'll look into it. I'll take notes and
44 hopefully we will pass that on to your next Council
45 Coordinator.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That would

50

0030

1 be great. Because I also, just as a side note, can see
2 that as being a method for us to be able to a-- also be
3 able to address proposals more effectively because a
4 lot of these proposals originate from these Councils
5 and the Chairs could give us their reasoning of what
6 direction they were heading in instead of having us
7 trying to figure it out, too. So, good, anybody else.

8

9 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, this is
10 Gayla speaking. I did have a question after you're
11 done with Council's questions.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody else
14 from the Council have a question or a comment.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
19 hearing none, Gayla go ahead.

20

21 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
22 was just curious if the RAC ever heard feedback from,
23 in the previous annual report, I can't remember exactly
24 which year, I was trying to look back through the
25 archives, when we asked for how, at the Federal
26 Subsistence Board meeting, when proposals are being
27 voted upon, to make sure that ANILCA is being followed.
28 And we are waiting to hear back from the Solicitor's
29 office, and I haven't heard anything back, do we have
30 an update on that. For when proposals are being voted
31 on, to avoid the issue that we ran into over the last
32 few years.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, that
35 could be a good question, actually maybe for Katya, if
36 she has an answer on that one.

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Nanci. This
39 is Katya. I really don't have any update on this at
40 this point. Sorry. I can check and see if there is
41 anything new but, Robbin, I will also defer to you,
42 have you heard anything back on this?

43

44 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
45 this is Robbin. Gayla, I will have to look through my
46 notes because this was a big topic of discussion for
47 quite some time here at this Council, and certainly in
48 regards to Wildlife Proposal, what has now become 22-
49 40, and unfortunately I haven't been tracking it. I

50

0031

1 know a lot of the discussions were about the ANILCA,
2 Title VIII and agency-specific regulations.

3

4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted)

6

7 MS. LAVINE: And I can't -- I don't
8 have anything definitive. But let me look through my
9 notes and potentially we can also discuss this at the
10 time that we present Wildlife Proposal 22-40.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I
15 think that's a good plan and that'll give everybody
16 time to see if they can dig up -- to me, it just would
17 -- the very least, I think, we deserve the courtesy of
18 an answer instead of no answer, and I think that at
19 this point that's frustrating more than anything else.
20 So I do hope -- let's put that on a follow-up and see
21 if we can find something and then if we can't, then
22 let's get back to the Solicitor's office again and let
23 them know an answer is deserved, if nothing else.

24

25 Gayla, did you have anything else.

26

27 MS. HOSETH: No, I didn't, thank you,
28 Madame Chair. I just don't want it to get forgotten
29 about, like you said, and not have any answers back
30 because we're still waiting for an answer. Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, thank
33 you very much. Thank you, glad you remembered that.
34 Okay, anybody else with questions or comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
39 hearing none, let's move on to new business, Fisheries
40 Resource Monitoring Program, Jarred, that's you.

41

42 MR. STONE: Good morning, Madame Chair
43 and members of the Council. My name is Jarred Stone
44 and I am a Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
45 Subsistence Management. I'm here today to present you
46 with a brief.....

47

48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted)

50

1 MR. STONE:overview of the
2 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and then give
3 some accomplishments to date. You can find these
4 materials in your Council books on Page 164. I'll give
5 a short overview of the Monitoring Program, briefly
6 describe the funding process, give an overview of the
7 Bristol Bay region and then finish by requesting
8 Council comments on any of the projects. This is not
9 an action item. There is no motion necessary for this
10 process.

11
12 The Office of Subsistence Management
13 administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
14 and funds research and monitoring that advances
15 projects that are strategically important to the
16 Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Monitoring
17 Program also supports collaboration and cooperation
18 among Federal agencies, the State of Alaska, and Alaska
19 Native and rural organizations.

20
21 I'll now describe how the Monitoring
22 Program's funding process works.

23
24 The funding is divided into six
25 regions, which are listed on Page 167 of your Council
26 books. These regions correspond with Federal
27 subsistence fisheries areas and generally hold stock,
28 harvest and community issues in common. During the
29 first step of the process the Regional Advisory
30 Councils with support from OSM Staff and Federal and
31 State fisheries and land managers ensure the Monitoring
32 Program focuses on the highest priority subsistence
33 fisheries information needs for each region. Councils
34 ensure issues of local concern and knowledge gaps
35 related to subsistence fisheries are identified for
36 priority information need development. And these
37 information needs influence and guide the rest of the
38 funding requests. Ideally, principal investigators
39 will work closely with the Councils in order to develop
40 strong proposals that are responsive to those needs.
41 The Office of Subsistence Management provides technical
42 assistance as needed.

43
44 The second step in the funding process
45 is requesting new project proposals, which the program
46 does every two years. Submissions must be complete, on
47 time, address the priority information needs and
48 address the five criteria outlined in the notice of
49 funding opportunity in order to be competitive. Once
50

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1 submitted, the Technical Review Committee evaluates and
2 scores each project proposal package. The Technical
3 Review Committee is a standing InterAgency Committee of
4 senior technical experts brought together to evaluate
5 project proposals and ensure the Monitoring Program is
6 maintaining consistency with its mission. It is the
7 responsibility of the Technical Review Committee to
8 develop the strongest possible Monitoring Program for
9 all regions across the state based on the evaluation
10 criteria, which includes strategic priority, technical
11 and scientific merit, investigator ability and
12 resources, partnership and capacity building and lastly
13 cost benefit of the project. A more detailed
14 description of the criteria can be found on Page 169 of
15 your Council book.

16
17 Once a Draft Monitoring Program is
18 developed it is brought before the Regional Advisory
19 Councils for their input and comments. This is where
20 we are at in the current cycle and we'll come back to
21 this here in a moment. Additional comments on the
22 Draft Monitoring Program for the Bristol Bay region
23 will be provided by the InterAgency Staff Committee.
24 These, along with the comments developed by the Council
25 are all provided to the Federal Subsistence Board. The
26 Board takes into consideration comments and concerns
27 generated by the process and then endorses the
28 Monitoring Plan. Final approval of the Monitoring Plan
29 is then made by the Assistant Regional Director of
30 Office of Subsistence Management.

31
32 So now that I've discussed how the
33 Monitoring Program works, we are now at a point in time
34 where we are seeking your input on the proposed
35 projects for the Bristol Bay region. For the Bristol
36 Bay region you can find the figures that I'm about to
37 reference on Page 173 of your Council book.

38
39 Since 2000 the Office of Subsistence
40 Management has funded 60 projects totalling 11.9
41 million for the Bristol Bay region. Of these the State
42 of Alaska received funds to conduct 29 projects and the
43 Department of Interior had 27 projects. Other
44 organizations had three projects funded. And Alaska
45 rural organizations had one project funded. In the
46 Bristol Bay region, you can see from Figure 2 that the
47 project leads have been predominately the State of
48 Alaska and the Department of Interior agencies. For
49 the 2022 cycle, there is an anticipated \$2.25 million
50

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1 available for new projects statewide. That available
2 funding amount for 2022 is budgeted for each projects
3 first year, not the total project request. And is
4 subject to the final budget determined by the Assistant
5 Regional Director.

6
7 For the Bristol Bay region there were a
8 total of seven projects submitted during this current
9 cycle. The projects are listed in numerical order by
10 project number. Justifications for each of the
11 proposed projects by the Technical Review Committee can
12 be found on Page 175 of your Council book. And the
13 projects executive summaries which were submitted by
14 the primary investigators are located on Page 181.

15
16 So we have seven projects that were
17 submitted for the Southwest region, of which, three are
18 in Bristol Bay region, and includes Chignik River
19 subsistence harvest surveys and escapement indexing;
20 improving Lake Clark sockeye salmon escapement
21 monitoring in a changing climate; and subsistence
22 harvest and uses of salmon and other wild resources in
23 Manokotak, Alaska. The last four projects are in the
24 Kodiak/Aleutian region which include Buskin River
25 sockeye salmon stock assessment and monitoring;
26 networks of network, subsistence harvest trends of
27 Aleutian and Alaska Peninsula communities on Federal
28 lands and waters; False Pass and Nelson Lagoon
29 subsistence harvest monitoring and traditional
30 ecological knowledge investigation; reliable estimates
31 of subsistence harvest and uses in Ouzinkie and Port
32 Lions.

33
34 That wraps up a short summary of the
35 projects under consideration. And as a reminder,
36 today, I'm asking for your comments on any of the
37 proposed projects in the Bristol Bay region. Again,
38 there is no action item or no action needed for today.
39 We want to ensure that the selected projects have the
40 greatest chance at successfully answering the Councils
41 priority information needs as possible. And we also
42 want to know if the Council has any specific concerns
43 about a project based on the provided materials.

44
45 That concludes my presentation for
46 today and would be glad to take any comments or
47 questions that you might have.

48
49 Thank you, Madame Chair and members of
50

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1 the Council.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
4 you, Jared, appreciate that rundown. And these are
5 projects that have proposals with them, right, they're
6 not -- this is not the request that we've made for
7 information, these are actual projects that people have
8 put together already that we can decide on or comment
9 on.

10

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MR. STONE: Yes, Madame Chair, that is
correct. These proposed projects have tried to address
any of the priority information needs that his Council
and the Kodiak/Aleutians Council, together, worked to
develop the draft priority information needs. So each
of these projects attempts to address at least one of
those priority information needs.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, good.
I just wanted to make sure because there have been
times the needs have come forward but there's no actual
project that has been put together for it. So I'll
open it up to questions from the Council.

MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, this is
Dan.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, this is for --
dang, I missed your name -- on these projects, when I
read through them -- now I'm trying to find it, some of
these analysis, TRC justification, they seem like they
were hedging, like there was some kind of doubts about
them so I'm a little confused on what the TRC is really
saying in a few of these.

I guess like 22-402, it says, this
project does not directly address any of the priority
information needs, does that mean it might disqualify
this for final approval? Another one here 22-451, it
says while the principle investigator has a proven
track record, it goes on -- the language goes on, it
kind of seems like it's casting a little doubt, so I'm
kind of confused what they're really saying. Okay.

MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
Chair. Member Council Mr. Dunaway, thank you for the

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1 question. You are correct in that each project is
2 being evaluated based on its strategic priority and to
3 be successful at that the project needs to attempt to
4 address one of the priority information needs that the
5 Council has put forward during the call for proposals.
6 Now, with that said, there is some liency towards
7 allowing some projects that at least address a
8 strategic importance for the area and I hope that
9 answers your question.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, kind of. But so
14 the list on Page 175, is that kind of the priority, did
15 the TRC list those in a priority, first to last? Okay.

16

17

18 MR. STONE: Thank you, through the
19 Chair. Mr. Dunaway, no, the projects are not listed in
20 any ranked file. These are just -- basically for
21 housekeeping in our office, we give each project a
22 number so that we can identify it and the order that
23 you see there on Page 175 is not in any way the order
24 in which they were ranked. They are just merely ranked
25 -- or, sorry, they are just merely listed there by
26 their project numbers.

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, that's helpful.

29

30 (Teleconference interference -
31 participants not muted)

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, personally, you
34 know, I'd support the Chignik project. I'd like to see
35 Lake Clark keep going, if possible. And I strongly
36 support the Manokotak project, 22-453. That village is
37 heavy, heavy subsistence users and especially with the
38 closures of caribou and so on, it's going to be really
39 important to track them. All of the projects sound
40 worthy of funding to me, okay. Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
43 you, Dan. I think you bring up a good point that I'm
44 not sure that I -- the question that sprung up in my
45 mind is, if this TRC justification is questionable, are
46 they less likely to be funded or is that just comments
47 on the side.

48

49 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

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1 Those are comments on the side. The projects that seem
2 to do the best, you know, typically are addressing
3 directly the priority information needs that were
4 identified by the Councils. Again, I will preface that
5 comment by saying that sometimes there are instances
6 where there's a strategic importance for a particular
7 project, even if the priority information need was not
8 listed, but it's really up to the investigator to make
9 a compelling point during their proposal to identify
10 that need.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, I
13 understand that. And I also understand that, you know,
14 just like Dan, want to know that these are going to
15 move forward even if they were not worded the way that
16 everybody would like to word them, we can hopefully get
17 the information we need out of them.

18

19 Any other questions.

20

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

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, go
25 ahead.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: I just want to announce to
28 everyone who's online to please make sure that your
29 phones are muted. You can press star six or you may
30 have another means of muting your phone. We are
31 hearing some background chat. So, once, again, please
32 remember to mute your phones.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
35 I'm going to go ahead and bow out now, too, I think
36 most of that came from me. That was the loud speaker
37 here at the airport. But, Dan, if you would please
38 take over I would appreciate it and I will see
39 everybody tomorrow morning at 8:30 in the morning, but
40 I will leave you at 11B with the Aniakchak Subsistence
41 Resource Commission member appointments, which is
42 actually an action item so maybe I'll stick on here and
43 we'll get that taken care of. Linda, if you want to
44 make that presentation for us and then I'll hand it
45 over to you, Dan.

46

47 MS. CHISOLM: Good morning, Madame
48 Chair and members of the Bristol Bay RAC. My name is
49 Linda Chisolm, and I'm speaking to you as the Aniakchak

50

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1 SRC Coordinator. Let me turn on my camera here so I
2 can at least see folks.

3

4

5 I would just like to give you an update
6 on the status of membership for the Aniakchak SRC. We
7 currently have one vacancy for the RAC appointed
8 members. On the SRC there are three members of the
9 nine person Commission who are appointed through the
10 RAC system. So we have one current vacancy, one
11 reappointment in process. We were hoping to have that
12 package ready for you all today and we don't, and I
13 will be in contact with the Coordinator as we move
14 towards the next RAC Meeting and anticipate having that
15 package as an action item for you at that time.

15

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And we also have one position with a
term expiring in fall of 2022.

So here at the Park we will be working
with our support Staff at the region to extend some
recruitment opportunities to members here on the
Peninsula so we can retain our membership and we'd be
happy to hear any suggestions from RAC members for
improving our retention and recruitment.

Thank you very much and I'll stop
there.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
you, Linda. Well, I'm sorry, we didn't get that
person's information put together in time to approve
them. We'd like to keep those seats as filled as
possible and right now we're struggling all across,
even our RAC here, in keeping seats full. So I
encourage everybody to do some extra recruiting and we
all know plenty of people with the kind of knowledge
that we need on all these boards out there. Let's
encourage them and see if we could get a little bit of
enthusiasm going so we could get these seats filled.

With that, though, Dan, I would
appreciate it if you would take over. Again, thank you
everybody. I look forward to hearing from all of you
tomorrow.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, safe
travels Nanci.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

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1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: So Nanci said
2 there was an action item, but do I understand it right,
3 we don't have anybody to act on, Linda?

4
5 MS. CHISOLM: Mr. Dunaway, that is
6 correct. There is not an action item associated at
7 this time.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,
10 thank you for your report.

11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14
15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: We have a
16 Chignik listener on, maybe he can help find somebody
17 because it's been helpful when we have a functioning
18 SRC, so thank you. With that -- well, first off is
19 there any comments from anybody else.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. With that
24 we can go into agency reports. And I guess we'll start
25 off with tribal governments. Who do we have online
26 that wants to make a presentation. Over.

27
28 MS. CARTY: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
29 This is Courtenay Carty, Tribal Administrator, Curyung
30 Tribe. I will be brief in my report today and thank
31 you for the opportunity to be a participant.

32
33 There was no public comment opportunity
34 provided for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
35 I'm not sure that you guys meant to skip through that
36 but just a note there.

37
38 So the -- I guess, folks who are not
39 familiar with the Curyung Tribal Council, we are the
40 Federally-recognized tribe of Dillingham. I, myself,
41 as the Tribal Administrator, would like to take a
42 moment to recognize the one chief we do have on the
43 line with us today although she is here representing
44 the Bristol Bay Native Association in her professional
45 capacity. Gayla Hoseth is the Chief on our Tribal
46 Council and I thank her for her service.

47
48 The mission of the Curyung Tribal
49 Council is to serve tribal members, to preserve our
50

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1 Native cultural values, to protect our sovereign and
2 inherit rights, to promote our social, economic and
3 political progress by encouraging strong leadership and
4 building upon our collective wisdom. And although what
5 you can't see, since we are all just telephonic today,
6 we have four, what I consider fabrics, that are
7 subsistence, education, culture and Native justice and
8 every one of the programs, or projects that we operate
9 here at Curyung have at least one, if not multiple of
10 those fabrics woven into the programming. Subsistence,
11 obviously has its own, but kind of flows through all of
12 them.

13

14 And I guess in my brevity today, I just
15 want to update the RAC, thanking you for your service
16 to our region. It looks like it's really a bare bones
17 crew and we need to do a better job of recruiting our
18 traditional fishers, hunters, harvesters who represent
19 our communities and our people and our resources in
20 this very important forum. I know our tribal council
21 does our best within our community to try to recruit
22 members and will continue working to do so and will
23 hopefully have a couple, perhaps with recommendations
24 from our tribe, to recommend forward in the spring.

25

26 This year -- there has been some
27 mention of the Nushagak Peninsula caribou harvest and
28 the importance of that population here in this meeting
29 already. As some of you know there was not a large
30 hunt opportunity provided. Our tribe, I believe in
31 previous years, had as many as 200 permits to issue,
32 this year we were provided the opportunity to harvest
33 two caribou for the community of Dillingham and our
34 tribal council, with their wisdom, offered a designated
35 hunter, a young high harvesting tribal member, to go
36 out and harvest those tags on behalf of the elders in
37 our community. That hunt has not yet occurred but when
38 it does he will go out, the tribe will pay for gas and
39 supplies, he'll go out and harvest those caribou, bring
40 them back, process and turn them over to our senior
41 center here in town so that it could be shared amongst
42 all of the seniors who participate in our lunch
43 program, operated by the Dillingham Senior Center.

44

45 With that, I think I'll conclude.
46 Thank you for your time. I will do my best to try to
47 provide some comment on different agenda items as I'm
48 available throughout the meeting. A lot of our tribes
49 are, not just alone, but all throughout the region, are
50

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1 very, over worked, might be an understatement, but not
2 only do we have all the tribal operations and all the
3 different programs that we normally oversee, we are
4 inundated with Covid in our communities and having to
5 be first responders in our communities to the Covid
6 pandemic. So I'm literally triple-booked today and
7 double-booked tomorrow but I will do my best to
8 participate as well as I can.

9

10 Thank you so much for your time.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
13 Courtenay. Sorry for the oversight on public comment
14 to the fisheries program, is there anything you wanted
15 to say about that. Over.

16

17 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
18 would just like to provide some general comments. I
19 see BBNA listed on the Manokotak project. I would
20 encourage other PIs to work with BBNA to try to get
21 more representative and well-rounded, I guess, PI Teams
22 so that the communities are very involved in these
23 projects. I also think that projects, based on my past
24 experience, working in the FRMP Program, projects score
25 better when you have comprehensive teams. So I would
26 just encourage our agency partners to work with our
27 village councils and BBNA to make sure that communities
28 are represented also at the PI level.

29

30 The Manokotak project is incredibly
31 important, as you, Mr. Chair, had mentioned during your
32 comments, and I'm happy to see that moving forward. I
33 think it's very necessary work. And without the
34 resource use and sharing network documented, sometimes
35 when -- and I think we've seen this in the past with
36 the do-away of the Togiak River escapement goal, if
37 it's not documented it isn't there and it's not
38 important and that's just not true. And so I would
39 really hope that this project gets funded and that the
40 RAC supports all five of these projects and especially
41 the three here in Bristol Bay.

42

43 Our tribal council does our best to be
44 good neighbors and we talk -- although our council has
45 not reviewed any of these proposals, we talk a lot
46 about Chignik at our council meetings and the
47 importance of conserving and rebuilding that population
48 so that the communities down there can continue their
49 traditional harvest. And so the Chignik project is

50

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1 absolutely imperative and I hope that gets funded as
2 well.

3
4 In conclusion, again, I would just urge
5 all of the agency folks to do their best to work with
6 BBNA on projects in the Bristol Bay region.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay,
11 thank you, Courtenay. Really appreciate -- I know
12 you're usually not too hesitant to speak up, so if we
13 have a little bit of a wrinkle or something -- as you
14 know it's a little harder on these teleconferences,
15 don't hesitate and that goes for other folks as well.

16
17 With that I think I heard tribal
18 representatives from Nondalton, do you have anything
19 you want to comment on.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: How about from
24 Chignik. Are people reading me?

25
26 MR. TREFON: Yeah, you're transmitting
27 there Dan. If you're still there, I have something to
28 do with the moose but we'll discuss it later.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. I'm glad
31 if they're listening in. How about -- I'm sorry, I
32 don't know some of these folks so I don't remember
33 their names, but the gentleman from Chignik.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, I'm not
38 hearing anything. Are there other tribal governments
39 that want to speak up at this time.

40
41 MR. CARLTIKOFF: Yeah, sorry about
42 that. This is Daren Carltikoff from Nondalton Tribal
43 Council.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: You're saying
46 Daren from Nondalton Tribal Council?

47
48 MR. CARLTIKOFF: Yes, it is.

49
50

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1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, please, go
2 ahead.

3
4 MR. CARLTIKOFF: Yes, I was just going
5 to talk about the subsistence moose hunting, about the
6 extension. I think it would be nice if we could either
7 open it up a little earlier than later. Because by the
8 time later in the season they start rutting pretty hard
9 and it'd be nice if we could get it opened earlier than
10 later. And also there's been lots of air traffic
11 that's flying really low over the Chulitna River and
12 it's -- you know, I think it's causing the moose to
13 stay off the river and I think that's just a big --
14 it's a problem for the local subsistence hunters around
15 here when we get these float planes and planes circling
16 over the river and flying really low.

17
18 And caribou, we've been seeing caribou
19 around here but it's been closed for the last, I think,
20 two years, for like 9B. But we do see them and they
21 are looking -- you know, they're looking good but
22 there's not too many of them but they are around.

23
24 I think that's about all I had.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,
27 it's good to hear you are seeing some caribou. I think
28 they're pretty sparse over Dillingham way. So do you
29 have a preferred date the moose season open, or, I
30 haven't done my homework. I am on the Nushagak
31 Advisory Committee but I haven't begun to do my
32 homework for it, but does this extension proposal
33 that's in the supplement, does it make the season
34 earlier or later?

35
36 MR. CARLTIKOFF: It makes it later.
37 Later in the season. I think it's open like a week
38 later than usual.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I see. Well, I
41 would encourage you to work with your Advisory
42 Committee and directly contact the Board of Game on
43 that. I know in my earliest career Fish and Game
44 changed the season when I spent the month of August on
45 Lake Iliamna and even though I -- when they found out I
46 had worked for Fish and Game just as a fish counter, I
47 got yelled at a lot, every place we dropped through
48 while I was actually working for the University of
49 Washington. So make your concerns known.

50

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1 Anything else.

2

3 MR. CARLTIKOFF: No, that was about it.

4 I mean some of the fish, the salmon runs when they
5 first came, we seen a lot of small ones to begin with
6 and then later, like the second week of the run there
7 was bigger ones coming in. I was just wondering were
8 those younger fish coming into the area or just smaller
9 salmon or what.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Is anybody on
12 here involved with fish enumeration going into Lake
13 Clark that could speak to that.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I'm not hearing
18 any at this point, you might want to.....

19

20 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Hi, yes -- sorry,
21 through the Chair. This is Susanne Fleek-Green with
22 Lake Clark National Park. And we haven't -- I am going
23 to report in our agency on the numbers, but I wouldn't
24 say that we thought an increase, or really much of a
25 shift in the size of the salmon, or seeing more younger
26 salmon. We did see that a little bit more up at our
27 Telaquana weir coming from the Kuskokwim drainage, we
28 saw more jacks but not into the Newhalen counting
29 station.

30

31 MR. CARLTIKOFF: Okay.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you for
34 that Susan -- Susanne. Anything else.

35

36 MR. CARLTIKOFF: No, that's all I had.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
39 Daren. I really -- does anybody have any other
40 comments to Daren.

41

42 MR. TREFON: Thanks, Daren, for
43 speaking up.

44

45 MR. CARLTIKOFF: Yeah.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
48 you. Well, Daren, I want to really thank you for
49 participating. I've been in a number of these meetings

50

0045

1 and I don't recall Nondalton Tribal Council calling in.
2 It might be my bad memory. But always like to
3 encourage all tribal and other agencies to participate
4 so thank you very much. With that.....

5

6 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Through the Chair.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.

9

10 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Hi, this is Susanne
11 again. If I could, Daren, thank you very much for
12 joining. And I did want to respond to one other point
13 that I was going to bring up in my agency report, but
14 we certainly heard from subsistence users during our
15 SRC meeting, but really throughout the summer about the
16 increased traffic and noise on the Chulitna River and
17 concerns about the impact on moose in the area and the
18 ability for folks to actually be successful there. The
19 SRC agreed at our fall meeting that they would draft
20 and send a letter to air taxi outfits, lodges, and so
21 to the communities, as a whole, around Lake Clark, to
22 try and highlight the impact that those lower elevation
23 flights have and trying to reduce that noise and also
24 to try and stay out of that area during moose hunting
25 season. So we are hearing you and trying to figure out
26 how we can work with our SRC to address it. You know
27 we don't have jurisdiction over the flight patterns in
28 the area, that's out of our control, but we can
29 certainly work with our SRC and others to educate folks
30 coming into the area about the impacts that that's
31 having. So thank you very much for bringing that up
32 Daren.

33

34 MR. CARLTIKOFF: Thank you, sounds
35 good. Another issue that we had was, I don't know
36 where they were coming from, but I want to say it was
37 Port Alsworth, but I'm not going to but there was
38 actually people coming into the river and doing
39 waterfowl hunting, just hearing shotguns like crazy
40 when they were trying to do moose hunting. So, yeah,
41 that would be good if we could spread the word, that'd
42 be nice, helping all the subsistence hunters.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, that
45 different activities all at once is a tricky thing.
46 Like maybe when some of the -- like maybe Susanne could
47 speak to that, maybe even when Fish and Game does their
48 report they might talk about it, but, yeah, balancing
49 competing uses it gets real delicate.

50

0046

1 With that, is that everything, Daren.

2

3 MR. CARLTIKOFF: Yeah, that's it.

4 That's all I had, thanks.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.

7 We had a person from Chignik, were you prepared to

8 report at this time. George Anderson.

9

10 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, hello, this is

11 George.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Did you have any

14 report you wanted to present to the RAC at this time?

15

16 MR. ANDERSON: Well, I didn't have

17 anything prepared but I noticed in the minutes it was

18 reflected what I was saying last year. Again, this

19 year in the Chignik area we had a few subsistence

20 closures on Federal waters.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, that alone

23 tells you things are pretty tough. But was it slightly

24 better than last year, I did not follow Chignik run

25 escapement information very close this summer compared

26 to some years. How did it turn out? Okay.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya, Dan.

31 Perhaps he dropped off the phone call.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay.

34

35 MS. WESSELS: It sounds like he's not

36 on the call anymore and he might need to call back.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Hopefully

39 he can call back and, you know, we're pretty flexible

40 in letting people offer a comment. So, yeah, I was

41 hoping to encourage him to seek a Chignik member for

42 the Council. We need somebody from that corner, like

43 we need somebody from Togiak.

44

45 With that, just to try to keep things

46 moving here, I guess we'll go to Native organizations

47 next. Who has a report that they want to give, Gayla?

48

49 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I,

50

0047

1 first of all just wanted to, you know, also recognize
2 Ralph Anderson, our President and CEO. It's a big loss
3 for BBNA and it's also a huge loss for the region, and
4 the state of Alaska. And Ralph was in the Natural
5 Resources Department before he moved to our President
6 and CEO. And he's done a lot of work in the Bristol
7 Bay region, as you guys all mentioned earlier. So I
8 just wanted to put that out there and mention Ralph.

9

10 With that being said, you know, hearing
11 things from earlier in the meeting we had -- Nanci had
12 mentioned the shorebird die-offs. And if there's any
13 shorebird die-offs that were recorded in the Bristol
14 Bay region, myself and Heidi, both serve on the Alaska
15 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council for the region,
16 and if there's any migratory bird issues we definitely
17 would like to hear that so we could bring that to the
18 statewide meeting.

19

20 As we could see public participation is
21 always low on the RAC meetings and also in attendance,
22 you know, bringing people to the Federal Subsistence
23 Board meeting on all of these proposals and issues
24 pertaining to our region. One of our main goals here
25 at BBNA is to make sure that we do that education and
26 outreach to the tribes in the region and also we want
27 to target the younger generation and train them up on
28 these processes as we live in a dual management area.
29 And now that we're fully Staffed we're able to start on
30 that outreach and education and hopefully bring people
31 to the next RAC meeting in the springtime. Hopefully
32 we could have a platform to where we could either go on
33 a Teams platform to where we could actually see each
34 other and then also have the telecommunications where
35 we could call in on this line we're using right now. I
36 am concerned of the amount of Council members that we
37 have and that would be something that I will also be
38 helping with, is doing that outreach for people to
39 serve on the RAC. As we're sitting here now we hardly
40 have any Council members that are sitting around this
41 virtual table and we have a lot of issues that are
42 really important to us and we'll try to do the best
43 that we can to recruit and nominate people to serve on
44 this Council.

45

46 Cody Larson has been active with our
47 Partners Program and thank you to Courtenay Carty there
48 at the Curyung Tribal Council for mentioning BBNA's
49 involvement on some of these FRMP projects. And the
50

0048

1 Chignik fisheries is also an issue that we've been
2 working closely on with the sub-region Chigniks for the
3 Bristol Bay region.

4
5 The emperor goose proposal, and I
6 wanted to thank the Council for bringing that issue up
7 because emperor geese is a big concern that we have in
8 the state of Alaska and we want to make sure that we
9 still have the subsistence opportunities to continue to
10 harvest emperor goose and we could get to that when we
11 get to those proposals.

12
13 That's pretty much all I have for BBNA.
14 If there's any questions that you guys have of me or my
15 Staff we'd be happy to answer them. But thank you for
16 this time today.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
19 Gayla, very much. Any Council members comments,
20 questions.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, hearing
25 none. I want to thank you, Gayla, and, yes, some of my
26 earliest experiences on the RAC I was working very
27 close with Ralph, and actually before I got on the RAC,
28 as a Fish and Game biologist working with those joint
29 projects and I was hugely impressed. He was great to
30 work with. And sure am going to be missing him, he had
31 quite a vision and such. So thank you. We can't say
32 enough about his contribution. It's hard to lose him.

33
34 With that, are there any other Native
35 organizations that want to present at this time.

36
37 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, this is George
38 Anderson with the Chignik InterTribal Coalition. I'm
39 sorry, my phone dropped the call.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, go ahead,
42 George.

43
44 MR. ANDERSON: Okay, thank you,
45 appreciate it. Yeah, I was talking about how I noticed
46 our comments were in the minutes there and I would just
47 like to update that. If you could add all of that
48 language, you know, we'd really like to see a
49 restoration program for the chinook and sockeye. And
50

0049

1 maybe update it to reflect the current year heaving
2 shortfalls and also closures on the Federal waters
3 adjacent to the Federal lands. So thank you, I
4 appreciate the opportunity to comment.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. I'm kind
7 of scrambling here a little bit. Specifically, this
8 language you want to include, where does it appear in
9 the discussion of the project? Over.

10

11 MR. ANDERSON: Well, it made it into
12 the comments for last year's summary and I just wanted
13 to bring an update to you. Also we have an application
14 in with U.S. Fish and Wildlife pending approval for an
15 FRMP as well. I don't have any updates on that, I
16 haven't heard anything.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, great.
19 Yes, I think everybody on the Council has been very
20 concerned for Chignik and want to support you as much
21 as possible. Any comments from other members.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, hearing
26 none. How's everyone doing, do we need a real short
27 break or can we carry on. Over.

28

29 MR. WILSON: We're good.

30

31 MR. TREFON: Good.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead, what
34 was that.

35

36 MR. WILSON: I said still good, go
37 ahead.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Roger. Thank
40 you, Richard. With that agency reports, we're down to
41 12C, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Peninsula
42 -- this is Chignik area fisheries update, I guess that
43 would include Becharof as well but go ahead whoever's
44 taking the lead on that one.

45

46 MR. GERKEN: Hey, Vice Chair this is
47 John -- and Council members, this is John Gerken with
48 the Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm based in Anchorage.
49 I'm the Federal in-season manager for the Bristol Bay,

50

0050

1 Chignik, Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands. So
2 I'll give a little update on all of those areas. I'll
3 primarily spend most of my talking time on the Chignik
4 area as it's certainly demanding more attention than
5 the other areas. So give me a second to que up here, I
6 appreciate the time.

7
8 You know all of the assessments of
9 salmon returns in the area that I manage are conducted
10 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game so any of the
11 information that I use in-season for assessment or
12 management is provided by them on an in-season daily
13 basis. We do a fair amount of preseason coordination
14 efforts with them. And then this year, in-particular,
15 with members of the Chignik area. And those efforts
16 were primarily directed at, you know, preseason
17 outlooks for chinook salmon and then also the sockeye
18 salmon that were coming in. There have obviously been
19 continued declines in the Chignik River chinook salmon
20 returns, that's certainly heightening management
21 concerns for the chinook fishery but also there's been
22 poor returns, particularly in the early run on the
23 sockeye salmon, and that's also heightening management
24 concerns for the area.

25
26 Before we get into the details of
27 Chignik I'll just go over the other areas. Some of the
28 Council members have already mentioned that Bristol Bay
29 did pretty well. I don't think I need to spend too
30 much time on that. I did not receive any calls from any
31 subsistence users that were having any difficulties.
32 All of the escapement goals were met, including the
33 chinook salmon in the Nushagak by a few hundred fish.
34 So Bristol Bay obviously did pretty well this year.

35
36 On the Alaska Peninsula, there's the
37 north side and the south side. There are a few sockeye
38 salmon escapements on the north Peninsula that are
39 monitored by weirs. Those are the Nelson, the Bear,
40 the Sandy and the Ilnik systems and all of those were
41 forecasted to make escapement goals and they all did
42 make escapement goals and we did not hear from any
43 Federal subsistence users on the north Peninsula.

44
45 Let's see here, on the south side
46 there's a three sockeye salmon sustainable escapement
47 goals, one at Orazinski Lake, Mortensens Lagoon and
48 Thin Point which does actually have an active
49 enumeration, nor does Mortensens but Orazinski Lake did
50

0051

1 make the SEG goal this year and that was something that
2 was pretty positive. We hadn't seen Orazinski make the
3 goal in quite awhile so that was positive as well. And
4 then no reports from Federally-qualified subsistence
5 users on the south side of the Peninsula either.

6
7 Specific to the Aleutian Islands, you
8 know, fisheries were all forecasted to meet escapement
9 goals and provide harvest opportunity. We have no
10 reports from any of the subsistence users in that area
11 either.

12
13 So I could stop there if people have
14 questions, or I could keep on going straight into the
15 Chignik discussion here.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Council members,
18 any comments, questions.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, hearing
23 none, let's go ahead with Chignik.

24
25 MR. GERKEN: All right, thanks, Vice
26 Chair, members of the Council. The Chignik River
27 management area is composed of five fishing districts,
28 Eastern, Central Chignik Bay, Western and Perryville.
29 You know the escapement goal is for the Chignik River
30 watershed are all based on the counts that are
31 enumerated at the Chignik River weir that the
32 Department runs. The 2021 sockeye salmon was
33 forecasted run size was about 875,000 fish. Initially
34 there was a harvest estimate of approximately 165,000
35 sockeye salmon. That was somewhat similar to the 2020
36 but certainly lower than 2019 and 2018. So those years
37 all had different and higher preseason forecasts. The
38 escapement goals for the early run sockeye salmon were
39 not met in Chignik in 2018, 2019 and in 2020. The late
40 run sockeye salmon has historically met the escapement
41 goal. I think just off the top of my head it's been
42 quite some time since the late run didn't make the
43 escapement goal.

44
45 And then chinook salmon escapement
46 goals were not met in 2021. The goal is 1,300 fish,
47 this year there was approximately just under 1,200 fish
48 counted. The chinook salmon run has not made
49 escapement since 2019 and that was just over the
50

0052

1 escapement -- upper end of the escapement goal -- or
2 excuse me, lower end of the escapement goal at 1,500
3 fish. So chinook has always been kind of hovering
4 right around the lower end of the escapement goal.

5
6 As the 2020 run progressed in Chignik
7 River, you know, the salmon run was below average. We
8 had had a fair amount of preseason communication
9 between ADF&G, the Service, we do provide email updates
10 and, if possible, talk to BBNA as much as we can.
11 George Anderson we talk to quite a bit, he's the
12 representative of the Chignik InterTribal Coalition.
13 We speak with OSM. We speak with the Chignik Regional
14 Aquaculture Association and then also have a number of
15 contacts in each of the villages down there that we try
16 to touch base with prior to the season. I think as
17 people were going in I think there was an expectation
18 for a low return and like this meeting, we would have
19 preferred to do that all in person, but Covid
20 restrictions made these all over phone, teleconference
21 meetings. The Department hosted a commercial fishing
22 stakeholder meeting on May 26th where they talked about
23 the preseason forecast. Myself, and some OSM Staff, we
24 attempted to visit Chignik Lake on June 30th but we
25 were cancelled due to weather, instead we had an in-
26 season teleconference meeting specifically with the
27 Chignik Lake residents on July 1 and then additional
28 meetings with the residents of Chignik Lagoon and
29 Chignik Bay on July 9th. Those meetings were primarily
30 to get people's information on where they were at with
31 subsistence harvest and what they were seeing, what was
32 the quality of fish and as a result of those
33 discussions, you know, there was not -- people were, at
34 that time, you know, roughly 25 percent completed but,
35 you know, historically they would have been a lot
36 farther along than that, but due to those conversations
37 and where the run was at we issued a special action
38 that restricted fishing for early run sockeye salmon to
39 only Federally-qualified users on July 8th and the
40 rationale for that was, you know, the cumulative weir
41 count on July 5th was about 192,000 and that was
42 significantly below the interim escapement objective of
43 -- minimum objective for July 5th which is around
44 300,000, so based on that rate of escapement we felt it
45 was unlikely that the lower end of the goal was going
46 to be met for the early run sockeye salmon Chignik
47 River weir and as such issued the special action
48 restricting it to only Federally-qualified users. This
49 action was later rescinded on July 21st when the
50

0053

1 genetic breakdown between the early and the late run
2 was more late run versus early run so. And then I
3 think the only thing I would add on that is we
4 certainly are aware that it puts a pretty heavy burden
5 on some of the folks there in the Bay and the Lagoon
6 and certainly in the Lake. We do intend, and have gone
7 out there to answer questions directly. We've
8 certainly had some difficulties with Covid getting us
9 in there and talking directly with folks. And I think
10 there is, generally, support within the Lake to have
11 these level of restrictions but, again, that all
12 depends on who you talk to and certainly how people are
13 doing during that time period and certainly at this
14 time it was not good so.

15

16 The second emergency special action we
17 issued was for chinook salmon and that was on July 14th
18 and that was implemented jointly with the Department,
19 so the Department had not allowed any sportfish for
20 chinook salmon, they also restricted State subsistence
21 in State waters and then Federal restricted all harvest
22 of chinook salmon for -- in Federal waters, so that
23 happened on July 14th. It was set to go through August
24 9th but we extended those restrictions through the end
25 of August. And that was all to ensure any continued
26 viability of the chinook river -- Chignik River,
27 excuse, chinook salmon run. Season ending weir counts
28 were roughly 103,000 early run sockeye salmon, 317,000
29 late run sockeye salmon and 1,160 chinook salmon.

30

31 I'll just make a couple mentions, you
32 know, the Department did schedule some commercial
33 periods to get folks out on the water. These were
34 primarily geared at pink and chum salmon. Initially
35 they put fishermen on the outer districts so they could
36 not pick up sockeye in the bycatch but target pink and
37 chum primarily. Those started on July 19th and -- or
38 excuse me, Chignik Bay -- or the outer district opened
39 on July 19th and then they allowed fishing in the
40 Chignik Bay area on August 5th. There was some bycatch
41 of chinook salmon, approximately 1,400 fish in the
42 bycatch and then sockeye salmon was 113,000. That's
43 notable but we don't really know what the genetic
44 background for any those fish were, a lot of those were
45 caught in the outer district so certainly some were
46 Chignik but likely not all of them.

47

48 Federal harvest permits are required
49 for participation in all the Chignik River fisheries so
50

0054

1 we worked with local tribal administrators in
2 Perryville, Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake
3 and in Ivanof Bay to distribute those permits. We only
4 had a few people come in and get subsistence permits
5 this year. And those are due actually back to the
6 office -- the OSM office here by the end of December so
7 we'll see how many of those we get back and actually
8 how many fish people harvested in subsistence this
9 year.

10

11 So at that point I don't have any
12 additional information for Chignik, and I'd welcome any
13 questions, thoughts or comments. Thank you.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Council members.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, I
20 have kind of one. I imagine with the poor conditions
21 of the run you're not getting very much but there was a
22 time when there was a little bit of sport activity on
23 Chignik kings and all, do you have any idea if any or
24 many sport anglers were displaced from your special
25 action?

26

27 MR. GERKEN: There are a couple of --
28 well, I know there is one for sure, one active
29 sportfishing group down there, I don't think they were
30 active this year, and limited activity last year. But
31 certainly once we put out that restriction for chinook
32 it would eliminate targeting, not only in Federal
33 waters, but in State waters since that action was done
34 jointly. So that would be basically all of the
35 freshwater and all of the State run saltwater for
36 targeting the chinook. So if they were fishing they
37 would have been displaced this year.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah, I
40 imagine I think the one guy -- I know one guy that has
41 done a little guiding that lives down there at least
42 part of the time and since he's local I imagine he
43 might have not engaged much anyway to -- I'm just
44 curious if you heard from anybody or were aware of any
45 impacts.

46

47 MR. GERKEN: No, nothing -- no one has
48 contacted me directly on anything specific to chinook
49 sportfish.

50

0055

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
2 Anybody else with questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Is that
7 everything you have, John, at this time?

8
9 MR. GERKEN: That is, yep, thanks Vice
10 Chair Dunaway and members of the Council. I appreciate
11 the time.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. I didn't
14 know if you were going to speak to Becharof Refuge or
15 anything for an overview, but.....

16
17 MR. GERKEN: I'll stick to the fish
18 stuff and let the professionals in those Refuges handle
19 the details there.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Next on
22 the agenda then is Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.
23 Kenton, or one of your Staff going to speak.

24
25 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair, Andy
26 Aderman here, can you hear me.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Hear you loud
29 and clear, very clear, thank you.

30
31 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. Yeah, for the
32 record my name is Andy Aderman, I'm a Wildlife
33 Biologist with the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and
34 I was going to give the Togiak Refuge report here
35 today. In your Council books, our report starts at
36 Page 198.

37
38 The first thing I'd like to mention is
39 under the first topic there Cooperative Salmon
40 Escapement Monitoring Projects, the last paragraph
41 there talks about our vacant fisheries biologist
42 position, for almost five years we've been given the go
43 ahead to fill that position so I'm not sure when the
44 announcement will come out but when it is we'll make it
45 known wide and far.

46
47 Moving down to Mulchatna caribou, we
48 had some plans to deploy some satellite collars out on
49 our west coast here earlier this month but we had a
50

0056

1 pause in our field work activities, region-wide, so
2 that didn't get done. We're planning to make that
3 happen next March or April. And I'll defer to the
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the status update
5 for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. They're a little bit
6 further down on the agency list.

7
8 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou, we were
9 able to get a couple photo censuses in this last July.
10 Interestingly in both we counted a minimum of 258
11 caribou. The estimate is 287 plus or minus 47 caribou
12 and that's about a 50 caribou increase from 2002. We
13 met with the caribou planning committee for this herd
14 in late July and came up with -- or a majority of the
15 committee favored having a hunt with a total of eight
16 permits. Courtenay alluded to Dillingham getting two
17 permits, Aleknagik got two permits and Manokotak got
18 four. And to my knowledge nobody's hunted. I talked
19 with Manokotak and they've done similar to what
20 Dillingham has done, they found a couple hunters to be
21 designated hunters to go out and harvest their four
22 caribou. I haven't heard from Aleknagik yet. So no
23 harvest reported for that hunt and that hunt will go
24 out until March 15th of next year. And then the last
25 thing on Nushagak Peninsula Caribou is the Department
26 of Fish and Game conducted a composition survey just
27 last Friday that resulted in estimates of 48 calves per
28 100 cows and 39 bulls per 100 cows, which are both
29 pretty good numbers. There was a slight decline in the
30 calves but a little better increase in the bulls.

31
32 Moving on to the next page, 199, with
33 moose, back in May of 2020 we were restricted from
34 flying then so we weren't able to go out and check on
35 how many calves were produced. Traditionally they've
36 done pretty good at producing a lot of calves but we
37 don't have that information. When we were able to fly
38 in October of last year, out of 25 cows we saw only
39 four calves total with them, and those four calves made
40 it through to late April. But that's the lowest calf
41 recruitment I've seen since this project began.

42
43 For the 17A hunts, a total of 163 moose
44 were taken and that's by far the most moose that's been
45 reported in one season for 17A.

46
47 I think that's it for moose -- other
48 than I guess the last thing there we had really good
49 calf production again this spring, lots of twins, one
50

0057

1 set of triplets and we're hoping we're able to get out
2 and see how many of those are still alive here next
3 month.

4
5 Moving on to the next page, 200, just
6 wanted to make mention that we did our annual check of
7 25 different monitoring sites and this is related to
8 looking for the invasive plant elodea, and am happy to
9 report that none has been detected thus far.

10
11 And just about done here. Yeah, on the
12 very last page, just wanted to mention that we hired a
13 new Refuge Information Technician in Quinhagak and that
14 person is Jackie Cleveland.

15
16 And with that I'll try to answer any
17 questions you may have.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you, Andy.
20 And always Togiak Refuge has a really nice written
21 report so we can refer back, really appreciate it. Any
22 comments from the Council.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, geez, I
27 have one. Andy, you mentioned some of the weir
28 counting activity formerly on the Kanektok River, what
29 is the status of the Goodnews weir, is it operational
30 or has it been dropped?

31
32 MR. ADERMAN: To my knowledge I think
33 the Goodnews weir is still operational, the Kanektok
34 has not been operational, I believe, since 2016, and
35 that's on that first page, that first item there. But
36 I think that the Goodnews weir has been operating from
37 the Bethel office of Fish and Game.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay. I
40 know maybe it's more of a fade-out operation now, maybe
41 if somebody knows I'd be curious. Thank you very much.
42 Hopefully we can get rid of these Covid barriers to
43 getting work done. Yeah, anybody else.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
48 Andy. Hearing none, let's see that goes to Alaska
49 Peninsula Becharof Refuge. Do we have a spokesman.

50

0058

1 MR. MOSS: Good morning, Mr. Vice Chair
2 and Bristol Bay RAC members. Can you hear me okay?

3
4 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, very well,
5 thank you.

6
7 MR. MOSS: Okay, I'm hoping you
8 received our Refuge notes. I'm not sure exactly what
9 happened, I know we sent them sometime back in -- I'm
10 not sure exactly what happened but hopefully you have
11 them. Just for the record I'm Danny Moss, I'm the
12 Deputy Refuge Manager here at Alaska Peninsula and
13 Becharof National Wildlife Refuges. Our Acting Refuge
14 Manager right now, Susan Alexander's away from the
15 office, and won't be able to attend the meeting today.
16 So what we thought we'd do is I'm going to give some
17 general Refuge updates, and then I'll turn the floor
18 over to our Supervisory Wildlife Biologist Bill Smith
19 and he can speak to our biological program.

20
21 So first off I'll talk about personnel.
22 I'm happy to announce that we have hired a Federal
23 wildlife officer and he's gone through all of his
24 training, been through the Federal law enforcement
25 training center, he's been through his field training
26 program and so he has started his PCS and so I'm hoping
27 he's going to be in King Salmon later this winter. We
28 still have vacancies in our visitor's services and our
29 maintenance programs. We are able to offset that
30 somewhat with our temp and seasonal hires but as we all
31 know it's not like having a dedicated person, full-time
32 employee sitting in those positions. So we still
33 struggle with that.

34
35 We were able to have a little bit of a
36 field season this year and, you know, thankful for
37 that. In mid_July we had a regional invasive species
38 team out here, they were here for a little over two
39 weeks and their objectives were to assess the invasive
40 aquatic and terrestrial plant species, primarily in the
41 King Salmon and Naknek areas. I won't go into all the
42 particulars, I think there's going to be a report come
43 out at some point and I'll be glad to share that with
44 you at that point. But they assessed 152 sites,
45 primarily in the King Salmon and Naknek areas. They
46 did do a road study that involved 81 sites. They
47 traveled roughly 70 miles. During their assessments
48 they did detect some populations of wide sweet clover,
49 foxtail barley, (indiscernible) daisy and then they did
50

0059

1 an assessment down at the lower Ugashik Lake and did an
2 assessment on the orange hawkweed down there and I
3 believe that is actually below the lake and the outlet,
4 maybe a quarter of a mile below the lake and so the
5 team is putting together a plan right now to figure out
6 how we can go in and treat that.

7

8 Moving over to our visitor's service
9 program. Of course, you know, we can't fly down to our
10 villages and present programs, and so since February
11 our visitor's services staff has presented 11
12 environmental educational programs to 917 students, and
13 they've been well received. We've had many teachers
14 reaching out to us asking for additional presentations
15 so we're happy about that.

16

17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)

19

20

21 MR. MOSS: Our migratory bird calendar
22 was a big success this year again as always.

23

24 So that's all I have from just a
25 general Refuge standpoint. If you don't have any
26 questions I'll turn the floor over to Bill Smith.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: First a remark
29 from me, I can't seem to locate any report from you. I
30 can lose emails but I'm wondering if somebody knows of
31 this report that could forward another copy. Does
32 anybody else have comments.

33

34 MR. WILSON: I also did not see any
35 report.

36

37 MR. MOSS: Okay. I was under the
38 impression that it was sent yesterday maybe to Katya, I
39 can check and we'll get that to you quickly.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay.

42

43 MR. MOSS: Bill, are you on the line?

44

45 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I'm here. Vice Chair
46 and members of the Council, I apologize the report got
47 a little bit of a snafu there related to me being on
48 leave and then just coming back today so I will rectify
49 that and send the report through the channels here

50

0060

1 shortly.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Great. That
7 would be most appreciated. Any comments, questions
8 from the Council.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, with that,
13 go ahead, Bill, with your report. Thank you.

14

15 MR. SMITH: Okay. I'll keep it rather
16 brief, we don't have a lot of business in front of the
17 Council today.

18

19 But our moose composition surveys
20 continue to be a high priority even though our big game
21 biologist position remains kind of vacant for the last
22 five years. Last year we flew seven composition
23 surveys compiling that information and sending it up to
24 ADF&G, where the largest utility of that information is
25 obviously -- not just on these trend sites we monitor,
26 but on determining composition and trend for the larger
27 GMUs that ADF&G continues to monitor.

28

29 I think we've discussed with the RAC on
30 many occasions and I'll make the point again that we
31 continue to try to survey the Black Lake area for moose
32 composition given the unavailability of subsistence
33 fishery resources to the community down there and the
34 increased interest in moose composition, harvest
35 information on the Black Lake area. It has continued to
36 be a challenge and in 2020 we weren't able to get down
37 there due to weather. We're going to look for the best
38 possible weather window possible in our survey window
39 from November 10th through December to make sure we get
40 the Blake Lake unit counted this year.

41

42 (Teleconference interference -
43 participants not muted)

44

45 MR. SMITH: We provided -- related to
46 moose we also provided OSM with three year comp trend
47 data on Big Creek and the Park border trend areas
48 related to a graph of Board of Game proposals for
49 Federal Wildlife Closure WCR22-05, a lot of

50

0061

1 complexities related to that information and that data
2 related to the trends -- changes in the trend units and
3 the size of the trend units from the last three years
4 so we tried to help OSM out as much as possible with
5 inference as to what you can and can't say from that
6 data.

7
8 We were able, this year, with Covid, to
9 still undertake one new project this year that's worth
10 noting. Long-term habitat change in monitoring project
11 we initiated in late July and early August. We worked
12 to develop 32 new long-term trend monitoring spots on
13 the Alaska Peninsula which is kind of a dynamic
14 transition zone between both temperate maritime, arctic
15 tundra, and boreal forest ecosystems and our objective,
16 long-term objective is to provide a quantitative basis
17 for kind of evaluating ecological change in maritime
18 tundra which is kind of little studies related to some
19 of the colder Arctic tundra climate. We also kind of
20 worked with repeat photography, we found a lot of
21 historic USGS photos from 1904 and are looking to take
22 repeat photos to show habitat change over time and
23 quantify it a little bit more. We also found a vast
24 amount of photos related to -- in the Chignik region
25 that we were not able to repeat but are looking forward
26 to working with the local community down there to do
27 some repeat photography in the next couple years
28 related to this project in the Chignik. There's been
29 some striking patterns of change in stabilities in both
30 landscape elements and what we see in a lot of greening
31 trends on remote (indiscernible - someone unmuted and
32 typing).....

33
34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted - typing)

36
37 MR. SMITH:and we're working now
38 to summarize some of these baseline species richness,
39 frequency and diversity, indexes from our monitoring
40 efforts this year on these 32 plots. This will be a
41 long-term approach, these plots will be monitored,
42 there'll be more plots established and they're
43 monitored on about a 10 year cycle.

44
45 We hope to start tiering this down to
46 more tangible products related to both caribou habitat
47 and moose habitat and kind of like getting carrying
48 capacity and trends related to woody browse, lichen,
49 sedge but we have not initiated that component of the
50

0062

1 project yet.

2

3

4 We are looking -- we are continuing our
5 water temperature monitoring even with kind of a
6 minimal Staff load definitely contributing to the lakes
7 and streams that support the large sockeye runs in the
8 Naknek and Kvichak district as well as shifting a
9 little bit of emphasis over to some of the chinook
10 streams that aren't monitored quite as much,
11 particularly noticing the declined sports and
12 subsistence harvest in the Naknek district, we started
13 a rather intensive effort on the Big Creek drainage
14 going up off the Naknek into the southern end of the
15 Refuge.

15

16 And that's all I had really to report
17 today.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, that was
20 fast. Looking forward to getting reports on that.
21 Some of that sounds pretty darn interesting. Council
22 members, comments, questions.

23

24 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Rich Wilson
25 here.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, Richard, go
28 ahead, please.

29

30 MR. WILSON: Yeah, say, Bill any
31 reports at all on the caribou, what's happening there
32 population-wise or are we going to hear from somebody
33 else later on how that's going and their health and
34 numbers and harvest, any of that info?

35

36 MR. SMITH: I don't have anything
37 directly for you on that, we haven't -- I believe ADF&G
38 the area biologist will be able to provide you with the
39 best information on the caribou trend.

40

41 MR. WILSON: All right, I guess I'm
42 looking forward to that one. Thanks.

43

44 MR. SMITH: Sure.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Anybody else.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0063

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I'm glad you're
2 getting a little more Staffing. I'm hoping that can
3 continue. Okay, thank you very much, Bill, for your
4 report. BLM, do we have a BLM reporter.

5
6 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, Robbin.

9
10 MS. LAVINE: There are two things I
11 want to bring up. The first is if we look at the
12 alternate agenda -- by the way this has been updated
13 and uploaded to our website for those of you who do not
14 have it -- if we look at the alternate agenda, we were
15 hoping to have the agency reports that describe
16 population, status and abundance of significant
17 resources on the second day. In particular, those
18 resources that will inform the Council's discussion and
19 deliberation on the wildlife proposals and closure
20 reviews. So I am hoping that when we get to ADF&G and
21 perhaps, potentially even Togiak National Wildlife
22 Refuge again, that you might reserve or summarize those
23 population reports for the morning of the second day,
24 that would be tomorrow morning.

25
26 The Chair, Nanci Morris Lyon, was very
27 interested in hearing those as well before proceeding
28 deliberations on the regional proposals and closure
29 reviews.

30
31 So that's one.

32
33 And then, two, I was notified that BLM
34 is offline but should be back on at 10:30 and perhaps
35 we could proceed with Park Service first and BLM after.

36
37 Mr. Chair.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah,
40 that would make sense on reports that have direct
41 bearing on action items tomorrow. I think I'm looking
42 at -- I believe I printed out the alternate agenda here
43 and I'm kind of clicking down it. It's 11:30 now, and
44 BLM is apparently still offline. If National Park
45 Service is ready to go we can kind of take a jump over
46 BLM for the moment. And I know Susanne was on a little
47 bit ago, are you able to give your report now? Over.

48
49 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Sure, thank you, Mr.

50

0064

1 Vice Chair. And just for the record this is Susanne
2 Fleek-Green, Superintendent at Lake Clark National Park
3 and Preserve. I'm going to do a couple of slides for
4 those of you who are on Teams and able to get the
5 visuals. I have a couple of slides there and then I
6 will turn it over to Liza Rupp, who is our Cultural
7 Resources Team Lead, to talk about things that are more
8 in her bailiwick.

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted - typing)

12

13 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: So thank you all for
14 joining us today. We're happy to be here, always
15 happier to be in person but maybe by the spring we can
16 get to that.

17

18 I, also, at the start want to offer my
19 recognition of Ralph Anderson and condolences to his
20 family. You know I've known him for a long time and I
21 can see his face right now and just his very kind and
22 generous heart. So I'm glad Gayla did that recognition
23 earlier, too, he will be missed in all corners of this
24 state for sure.

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted - typing)

28

29 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Let me go ahead and
30 jump into -- I'm just going to do a couple of updates
31 on our natural resources program and projects that we
32 undertook, give you guys some reports on our fisheries
33 in particular, which are on the slides. You'll see a
34 few pictures of our natural resources team that was out
35 in the field this summer. We were able to recruit and
36 deploy a full fisheries crew this summer, which was
37 great, we were able to offer a very safe program in the
38 midst of ongoing Covid challenges and I know it was
39 wonderful to be in the communities talking to folks,
40 very carefully, and letting everyone know how the
41 fisheries were doing. So, as always, we ran two fish
42 counting stations at River Mile 22 on the Newhalen
43 River and up on the Telaquana in cooperation with State
44 ADF&G. We had a very good year on the Newhalen, there
45 were a return of over 560,000 sockeye there which is
46 about 60 percent of what the 20 year average is -- 60
47 percent above -- the 20 year average is about 400,000
48 there so a very good year coming into the Newhalen and
49 Lake Clark.

50

0065

1 To Daren's earlier question about fish,
2 I answered it somewhat but what he -- what folks in
3 Nondalton might have been seeing is that certainly
4 early run sockeye do tend to be smaller. They're going
5 up to the Tazimina Lake area and so they might have
6 just seen those early run Tazimina sockeye going in
7 there.

8
9 At the Telaquana station we had 120,000
10 sockeye come through the weir. This picture here, you
11 can see they go out and just sample fish in full
12 snorkeling gear. It's a great operation there. But
13 that 120,000 was also very strong. Our 10 year average
14 for that watershed is about 96,000 and, again, that
15 feeds into the Kuskokwim watershed, so it's good to
16 have eyes on two different systems and compare both of
17 them.

18
19 Another big effort last year, this
20 year, and then hopefully next year we'll be able to
21 finish it up is the soundscape monitoring program.
22 I've talked about it before. But we have deployed
23 soundscape equipment all over the Park and the Preserve
24 trying to get a handle on really what the baseline
25 sound level is and if we have seen more activity, like
26 on the Chulitna, you know, this is something we're
27 trying to make sure we have a handle on, of the
28 baseline, so that we can monitor it moving forward with
29 more visitor growth, more population in the area to
30 really understand what that change is. And a lot of
31 this is around the Lake Clark region itself, but we
32 also have deployed these same monitoring stations on
33 the Lake Clark coast.

34
35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participants not muted - typing)

37
38 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: We also continue to
39 do invasive plant work. Our SRC members and local
40 communities brought up concerns about the level of
41 aquatic plants at Sixmile Lake so we sent a team out
42 there this summer to do some monitoring. Just so folks
43 know we did not find any invasives there but we
44 certainly have seen increased plant growth and that's
45 what I think a lot of the locals are noticing as well
46 and just getting in the way of the motors, much harder
47 to navigate up and around that lake for subsistence
48 use. So that's something that we will continue to
49 monitor as well.

50

1 And then lastly I've talked about this
2 one too, continuing with our beaver and water quality
3 sampling work. We sent a team to the Priest Rock Creek
4 off Lake Clark this summer. We've done work lower down
5 in Lake Clark last summer. And this is to address
6 concerns raised by subsistence users about increasing
7 beaver dams, you know, people are not hunting them as
8 much so we've seen population growth, seen more dams in
9 the area and concerns about what the damming of those
10 creeks mean to water quality as well as potential
11 habitat.

12
13 I wanted to quickly highlight some of
14 our education outreach efforts here, specifically
15 trying to reach folks in our resident zone communities
16 and the greater Lake and Penn School District. We are
17 still challenged by Covid here, we were not able to go
18 to the communities for a second summer in a row now
19 just because of concerns around Covid. So we did day
20 camp in a box again, and that's the top picture here.
21 Sent them to communities all over really the Lakes
22 region so that kids in the summer have something fun to
23 do that tie back to the subsistence resources in the
24 Park. We also expanded our distance learning program,
25 where we have a ranger who brings in our archeologist,
26 our biologist and does distanced learning instead of
27 community visits. And so this year we were able to do
28 these projects in Port Heiden, Port Graham, Pilot
29 Point, Chignik Lagoon, as well as Tyonek and then
30 several schools on the Kenai Peninsula to cover the
31 Cook Inlet side of the Park. We did have -- very
32 excited, we did have our Quk' Taz'un Culture Camp at
33 Kvichak this summer. We had about 12 youth come in and
34 five elders, knock on wood, continue here safe
35 operations given Covid, but it was wonderful to get
36 everybody back together at historic Kvichak and do a
37 number of projects; Dena'ina language teaching, we did
38 some squirrel snaring projects, we did basket weaving
39 with elders so it was great to see everyone together
40 again and we'll continue moving forward there next
41 summer. I will say if any of your communities are
42 interested in participating in our distanced learning,
43 we're starting to schedule those already. My phone
44 number's at the end here so you could certainly give me
45 a ring and we'll try and make sure that we can get into
46 your schools as well. And we have several new distance
47 learning projects being developed. We already have an
48 inland brown bear project that is fun for the kids to
49 participate in, and we're working on a salmon one and
50

0067

1 then a more cultural resources oriented one as well.

2

3 And then a big highlight, over the next
4 two years, we are filming a Park film. This is the
5 first time Lake Clark will have a full-fledged Park
6 film and we've been doing tribal consultation on that
7 over the winter and will continue that into the spring.
8 We'll be doing four film shoots to hit every season and
9 are really trying to highlight the indigenous history
10 of the area as well as traditional knowledge of the
11 resources. So that's a very exciting project, it
12 doesn't come very often for National Parks up in
13 Alaska.

14

15 And then I'll go ahead and turn it over
16 to Liza at this point and she can jump in to talk about
17 the cultural resource team projects and subsistence
18 projects.

19

20 MS. RUPP: Yes, hello, thank you. And
21 through the Chair, thank you for the chance to present
22 and, again, for the record this is Liza Rupp, Cultural
23 Resource Program Manager and Subsistence Coordinator
24 for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

25

26 And on the slides we have some of the
27 cultural resources projects that we want to highlight
28 from this past year. We were able to complete our
29 Telaquana trail cultural landscape report and it's in
30 the process of getting printed. And I hope when we
31 meet again in person that I will be able to share that
32 document with all of you.

33

34 We also continue our work on the
35 Kvichak National Historic landmark cultural landscape
36 report and we're doing that with a partner out of
37 Portland State so that is ongoing.

38

39 And the other great report that we
40 finalized this year is the Mulchatna River
41 archeological survey which took place from 2000 to
42 2007. It was in conjunction with the State and also
43 members of the Nondalton community. So think, Billy, I
44 don't know whether it was you or your father who
45 participated and Chuck Trefon, and Ada, and Steve
46 Hopson and George Alexie and so we had a lot of
47 community participation over those seven years but it's
48 great that that survey is now complete and is a
49 reference for researchers.

50

0068

1 And as Susanne mentioned, yes, we were
2 successful at holding our Quk' Taz'un Culture Camp, I
3 think it was year number 6 for it. So that's a great
4 ongoing partnership with Nondalton Tribal Council and
5 the Park.

6
7 And, Susanne, if you want to flip to
8 the next slide.

9
10 Yeah, so our subsistence projects,
11 again, Susanne mentioned a couple of them, but one of
12 the big ones that we are starting this year in
13 partnership with ADF&G are our comprehensive harvest
14 surveys of Port Alsworth and Nondalton. So I know that
15 Bronwyn Jones, who I think was on the meeting earlier,
16 I'm not sure if she will speak to this, but anyway
17 we're partnering with Bronwyn and her Staff and Park
18 Staff to update these community harvest surveys which
19 have not been done, I think, since 2004 so obviously
20 changes have occurred in the last 17 years so we want
21 to update those.

22
23 And then, yes, the other two,
24 continuing with our beaver impact study as well as the
25 vegetation monitoring, both of which were projects that
26 were brought to our attention by community members and
27 our SRC. And we will be looking for additional
28 projects to be funded this coming year.

29
30 And then just as a recap, in your -- we
31 do have sort of a fuller summary that is in the meeting
32 booklet, I think it starts on Page 208 so that covers a
33 few more projects that Susanne and I didn't cover. So
34 some of our other important work that we've been doing
35 so if you want to take a look on Page 208.

36
37 And that is about all I had and I'm not
38 sure if anyone has questions for us, or Susanne.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank.....

41
42 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: And my phone
43 number.....

44
45 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY:you very
46 much.

47
48 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:just for folks,
49 if you are not on the screen, is 907-781-3080. Again,
50

0069

1 if -- we've published a lot of reports, have several
2 coming, like Liza said, so if you would like copies of
3 those we can send them out when we get them printed.
4 Also, again, happy to schedule these distance learning
5 opportunities where our rangers and biologists beam
6 into classrooms all over Southwest Alaska but frankly
7 it's getting to be all over the United States, too, but
8 our priority is communities in Southwest Alaska and the
9 Kenai Peninsula.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you,
12 very much. Lots of interesting stuff. Council
13 members, comments, questions.

14

15 MR. HILL: Hi, Dan, this is to Liza or
16 Susanne. Did you mention the great archeological find
17 with respect to that bow.

18

19 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Sure, thanks, Lary.
20 Liza, do you want to tackle that one.

21

22 MS. RUPP: Sure. Yes, we are in the
23 process of -- actually I have emails going back and
24 forth while I'm on this meeting. We're hoping to send
25 out a letter to a tribal partners and community members
26 about this, but, yeah, thanks, Lary. We had some
27 researchers doing water quality work up on the
28 Telaquana Lake area and one of the eagle-eyed natural
29 resources researcher found -- spotted a wooden bow
30 poking out of the water and we were able to get it
31 successfully and safely back to our collections room
32 here in Anchorage and so our Park archeologist, Jason
33 Rogers, and our curator Katie Meyers, have been
34 researching the bow. Over the last couple weeks we've
35 had experts come in Aaron Leggit from the Museum and
36 Rich Vanderhook, who's the State archeologist, and
37 everyone's very interested in this bow. We're not sure
38 exactly its origin. It does not look like -- it's not
39 typical of a Dena'ina shaped bow, it's more typical of
40 a Yup'ik or maybe an Alutiiq bow so we're -- it's
41 interesting that it's, yeah, sort of perhaps far from
42 its original homeland, where it was actually located.
43 So we're doing more research and I know Jason's going
44 up to Fairbanks this weekend to take a look at some of
45 their collections. But it's in beautiful state of
46 preservation and we will be sharing photos of it, and
47 as much information as we can as we learn more about
48 it. So stay tuned. We hope to -- yeah, we'll have
49 more info and more visuals to share with folks soon.

50

0070

1 But, Susanne, anything to add to that?

2

3 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: No, that's great,
4 thank you, Liza. Thank you, Lary.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: That's
7 fascinating, anybody else.

8

9 MR. TREFON: Yeah, Billy here.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead, Billy.

12

13 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I got a couple
14 questions probably pertaining to Buck and Liza. One is
15 about Mulchatna Caribou Herd, what is the population
16 and are they being monitored around the Park and are
17 they still calving in the Mulchatna area. And the
18 other thing is with this sounding base system you're
19 setting up here, is the corporation working with you
20 guys in Chulitna?

21

22 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: I can tackle the
23 second question there, Billy. Thank you, very much.
24 And through the Chair, and, again, for the record this
25 is Susanne Fleek-Green. On the soundscape, no, we are
26 -- we certainly are talking to the corporation but it
27 is not a cooperative project. We would entertain that
28 if they were interested at all for sure. And we have
29 been talking to them about a couple other projects and
30 on the Chulitna, again, we very much heard from
31 subsistence users and Nondalton residents who have
32 concerns about sound levels there as well as just
33 airplane traffic, and, frankly some new jet boat
34 traffic there that hasn't been seen in the past so
35 we're monitoring all of that.

36

37 And on your first question, for the
38 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, we do surveys, I don't have the
39 most recent numbers, I can get them but I know that we
40 report them to ADF&G so they are probably going to be
41 in the roll-up that ADF&G presents on. And then I don't
42 know if Liza's heard but I can quickly reach out to
43 Buck and ask him about the calving in the Mulchatna
44 area. I have not heard of any reports of that.

45

46 MR. TREFON: Okay. Yeah, because all
47 I've been getting, like Daren said, there's only sparse
48 amounts of caribou here and there, usually lone bulls,
49 five, six here and there. But as far as the Mulchatna

50

0071

1 Caribou Herd, they're almost nonexistent here.

2

3 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: I will make sure to
4 jump back in at the discretion of the Chair when hear
5 back from Buck on that one Billy.

6

7 MR. TREFON: Okay, that sounds great.
8 I do have another question. This has to do with what
9 Lary brought to my attention about less than healthy
10 bears coming into the area. First group would come in,
11 and then all of a sudden this group that looked like
12 they were coming from the inlet and looking unhealthy
13 because I haven't seen any bears here but maybe up
14 there, in the Park.

15

16 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: They're all in Port
17 Alsworth.

18

19 MR. TREFON: Federal Good, keep them
20 there.

21

22 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: We seen a lot of
23 bears this fall. There's a lot of bear activity up in
24 the northern reach of the Lake and around Port
25 Alsworth. I don't know why that is, the sort of, you
26 know, late fall fish die-off has not been any
27 different. It's not like we've seen higher levels of
28 fish up on the beaches so I don't know why the
29 population has shifted, if that's truly what happened.
30 But we haven't really heard much in terms of either
31 bears with weight loss or looking more sickly. Again, I
32 can ask Buck about that and see what he knows.

33

34 MR. TREFON: Okay, that sounds great.
35 That would be interesting because the bears that have
36 been coming through here -- listening to the dogs, all
37 they're doing is wandering through, they don't seem to
38 be bothering anybody.

39

40 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Uh, that is
41 interesting. Because, again, the salmon run has not
42 been -- we've had several years in a row now with a
43 really healthy salmon run so I don't know why you might
44 be seeing more sickly looking bears.

45

46 MR. TREFON: I don't see any here but I
47 mean that's what Lary was seeing, maybe it's on the bay
48 side.

49

50

0072

1 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Okay.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, is that
4 everything?

5

6 MR. TREFON: I'm good here.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, Billy,
9 thank you very much for that, and Susanne. Anybody
10 else with comments.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I'll add a
15 couple. I appreciate the pictures, a little bit of
16 diversion. And it really warmed my heart to see Mike
17 and Dolly's picture in there. I did have one question,
18 on this archeological survey, which two communities
19 were you going to be doing those actions in, I didn't
20 get notes on that?

21

22 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Sure, through the
23 Chair. It's not an archeological survey, it's a
24 harvest study. So in theory we do these every 10 years
25 or so, we have not done one in awhile so we'll be doing
26 Nondalton and Port Alsworth. This was really
27 requested, again, by our SRC, given the significantly
28 increasing population of Port Alsworth which, in the
29 latest census now, is, the highest population community
30 in the Lake and Penn Borough, to get a sense of what
31 residents are harvesting, when, which species,
32 answering those kind of questions. So the harvest
33 surveys are conducted by ADF&G.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
36 I kind of ran things together there. Well, I think
37 it's always good to update those and so, yeah, that's
38 great. Side note, Port Alsworth just shrank by five
39 people, well, two adults and three little ones have
40 moved to Dillingham just this week, or last week. So
41 thank you for that.

42

43 Any other comments, questions from
44 anybody.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, with that
49 I guess we can move to Katmai Park. Linda, are you
50

0073

1 taking the lead?

2

3

4 MR. RYAN: This is Chris Ryan I'll
5 speak for a few moments before turning it over to
6 Linda. Hello everyone, I'm on a four month detail as
7 the Acting Superintendent of Katmai, Alagnak and
8 Aniakchak. My normal job is as the Superintendent of
9 Amistad National Recreation Area in Southwest Texas on
10 the border with Mexico. I previously worked for two
11 summers as a ranger at Katmai at Brooks Camp and in the
12 Preserve back in the 1980s so it's almost like coming
13 home for me. I'm glad to be here. At this point I'll
14 turn it over to Linda, who is the Cultural Resources
15 Program Manager and Subsistence Coordinator for the
16 Park.

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MS. CHISOLM: Thank you, Chris. And
good morning, again, to the Vice Chair and fellow
members of the Bristol Bay RAC.

I would just like to update the RAC on
our recent Aniakchak SRC meeting. We met last week
October 19th in a teleconference mode, which as we all
know has been very challenging for folks the last, you
know, two years that we've been doing this. And
unfortunately we were just shy of a quorum. But that
being said the SRC members have been reviewing the
Federal proposals for Unit 9, with attention to Unit 9E
(ph), which is their subunit for Aniakchak as well as
Board of Game proposals. And I anticipate that when we
have our winter RAC meeting that I will have some
official comments on those proposals for the RAC. At
this point the SRC is suggesting a meeting in January,
either the 18th or the 25th, and that's pending the
Federal Register notice process.

So I think at this point I will turn to
Dylan Patterson and Dylan can give the RAC members an
update on some of our funded proposals that we've been
working on and projects. We also have Leslie Skora
with us here today to talk about wildlife updates. So
I'll turn to Dylan next.

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Linda. Good
morning, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the Council. My
name is Dylan Patterson and I'm a Pathways Anthropology
Intern on the National Park Service Regional
Subsistence Team.

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1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted - typing)

3
4 MR. PATTERSON: I wanted to give you a
5 brief update on a project we're developing that seeks
6 to document traditional ecological knowledge on a
7 satellite population of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
8 occupying the Katmai Preserve area. While Mulchatna
9 population decline continues to challenge subsistence
10 users across the Bristol Bay region we hope to learn
11 more about this satellite population and its
12 relationship to the larger herd. Concerns about this
13 population were originally brought to our attention by
14 the Kokhanok residents during the 2019 Federal
15 Subsistence Board meeting, so we hope to work closely
16 with knowledge bearers in Kokhanok and other local
17 communities throughout the duration of this project.

18
19 We are currently working with local
20 community members and village councils as well as BBNA
21 to develop plans for starting this research in 2022 and
22 to submit a funding proposal to the NPS Subsistence
23 Advisory Council later this week. We also look forward
24 to partnering with ADF&G to align this project with
25 comprehensive harvest surveys set to take place in the
26 Katmai Preserve area in early 2023. And we hope that
27 traditional knowledge documented in this project will
28 compliment the aerial survey data Leslie Skora has been
29 collected on the same satellite population ultimately
30 contributing to an improved understanding and
31 management strategy.

32
33 With that, if there are no questions, I
34 think I'll turn it over to Leslie to give a brief
35 update on those aerial surveys.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MS. SKORA: Okay. This is Leslie
40 Skora. I am the Wildlife Biologist at Katmai and
41 Aniakchak and the Alagnak. And I can proceed with some
42 of the wildlife updates for the Park and then, yeah,
43 I'm happy to take any questions after.

44
45 So I'll start with our bear monitoring
46 effort in the Park and Preserve. This year we saw many
47 bears, an increase from previous years, so it's looking
48 like an upward trend.

49
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0075

1 And then moving on to this year we
2 began a pilot study for ptarmigan, again, in both
3 Katmai Park, Preserve and in Aniakchak and the pilot
4 year went very well. We were able to get to multiple
5 sites within each of those units and we have -- we plan
6 to continue this survey next year and work toward
7 wrapping up those surveys next year and then being able
8 to provide abundance estimates for ptarmigan.

9
10 And then next I'll move on to the
11 caribou counts that Dylan mentioned. This past winter
12 Federal through Mary, we conducted counts for caribou.
13 This is the first year we've done this study but, yes,
14 conducted counts within the Preserve and surrounding
15 areas in those winter months just to get an idea of a
16 number that we're dealing with. And we had counted
17 about 300 individuals during this count and we'll be
18 continuing the survey effort this winter to look at
19 variations between years and within season.

20
21 And, finally, we'll be working towards
22 conducting moose surveys later this fall and into the
23 winter and, yes, can hopefully work around any Covid
24 restrictions and always the impacts that weather brings
25 but we're still hoping to conduct those surveys.

26
27 And, with that, I'm happy to take any
28 questions.

29
30 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Rich Wilson.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
33 Richard.

34
35 MR. WILSON: Yeah, thank you. Yeah,
36 thanks for that update there. Do you guys have any
37 numbers on, you know, like the bear population in the
38 Preserve area. You just gave some numbers on the
39 caribou, and do you have any numbers on the moose
40 population and how those two are doing. Okay.

41
42 MS. SKORA: Uh-huh. We have not been
43 able to conduct a population estimate in the Preserve
44 since, I believe around the year 2009 and we'd have to
45 look at what that density estimate was. What we're
46 doing with continuing the aerial surveys that we do in
47 the Preserve and ground monitoring, is to see if there
48 are changes in trends between the time periods when we
49 can do those density estimates so judging by the stream
50

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1 surveys that were conducted this year it seems that
2 we've been having increasing numbers of bears using the
3 salmon spawning streams from the past several years.
4 And we are hopefully going to conduct another density
5 estimate with assistance from our inventory and
6 monitoring program at the regional office within
7 hopefully the next few years but, yeah, until that time
8 we just have these counts monitoring trends and not
9 abundance estimates.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Rich
12 here again.

13

14 MS. SKORA: Uh-huh.

15

16 MR. WILSON: Yes, thanks. You know I
17 think it's important also that when you guys -- you
18 know this is a new monitoring system for you there to
19 try to get some idea of what's going on in that area,
20 you need to be, I feel, in contact with the community
21 members that are involved, you know, that have been
22 involved, you know, Kokhanok, Igiugig, you know,
23 anywhere in this 9C and east of Unit 9B there, people
24 that, you know, have been in and out of that area using
25 those resources either, you know, fall months, winter
26 months. You could probably get a whole lot of
27 information from the locals while you're doing your
28 studies.

29

30 MS. SKORA: Absolutely, yes, I agree
31 and it's been great having Dylan Patterson join the
32 crew with Katmai at the regional office and can
33 hopefully be able to make that outreach happen. Yeah,
34 I agree that there's a wealth of knowledge there as far
35 as traditional uses and numbers of bears and other
36 subsistence species of moose and caribou. So hopefully
37 with Dylan's added support to the team we can make some
38 of this outreach happen and hopefully Covid numbers
39 will be on the decrease so making -- or having in
40 person contact, which I feel like is always easier than
41 on the phone and remotely, hopefully this can be a
42 thing that we can work toward in the future.

43

44 MS. CHISOLM: Through the Chair, this
45 is Linda Chisolm responding to Mr. Wilson. I hope that
46 we can continue the trajectory as well and at our next
47 RAC meeting I can give an update on some of the
48 cultural resource program projects where we've reached
49 out and started to work with Igiugig and also Kokhanok.

50

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1 So I see multiple things happening at once, and for my
2 part I'm really excited to start really building some
3 good momentum with collaboration.

4

5 MR. WILSON: Yeah, through the Chair.
6 Richard here again. Yeah, thanks. You know and also,
7 you know, you'll find out more info on the -- hopefully
8 you'll.....

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted - typing)

12

13 MR. WILSON:gather more info on
14 the population increase with people in that area and
15 those affected areas, all those river systems that have
16 salmon running up them. They're being pretty heavily
17 utilized now by sports and it would be nice to know
18 what those numbers are looking like. Because I know
19 Igiugig really is throwing up flags on their
20 subsistence use for trout and I just would, you know, I
21 would like to see these monitoring programs also
22 include, you know, the trout in these streams. This
23 area, Katmai, is increasingly getting more and more
24 anglers in the system and the system is starting to --
25 and other areas are really feeling it. So I would just
26 encourage you to, you know, keep an open door for that
27 one so that we can stay ahead of it instead of, oops,
28 you know, it's too late, let's shut her down kind of
29 thing.

30

31 So thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you,
34 Richard. Anybody else have comments or questions.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, with that,
39 I want to make a couple. Appreciate the work that
40 you're doing on that. It had popped into my mind
41 earlier in the meeting, like, I wonder what's happened
42 in checking that small caribou population out of
43 Kokhanok, so I'm really tickled to hear you're working
44 on it. I think some of the members of Kokhanok,
45 themselves, will be very happy. And with that regard,
46 have you already had some contact with members of
47 Kokhanok village.

48

49 MS. CHISOLM: Through the Chair. This

50

0078

1 is Linda Chisolm. Yes, we have. The Park participated
2 in a tribal council meeting earlier this fall. And the
3 Superintendent Mark Sturm, and our detailing
4 Superintendent Chris Ryan have had some follow-up calls
5 with community members as well.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, that's
8 really good to hear. I have rather frequent
9 correspondence with some folks in Kokhanok and I know
10 at times they feel a little forgotten so hopefully
11 that's not the case. So that's really good to hear.
12 Because that was kind of that -- some of the
13 restrictions on the Mulchatna herd and we find out
14 about this, like you call it, a satellite herd, I'm
15 really glad to hear of that attention to it.

16
17 Kind of personal observation. I'm
18 getting the sense that these giant salmon runs seem to
19 be really supporting vigorous growth of bear
20 populations. I had friends showing pictures of groups
21 of eight bears and one spotted in Naknek and it seemed
22 to me there was a sow last year raised four cubs,
23 brought them all the way into this summer as yearlings
24 and that's quite an accomplishment but it means a whole
25 lot more bears everywhere.

26
27 So thank you very much for that.

28
29 Is there anything else, comments from
30 anybody else.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Now, looking at
35 the agenda then, Alaska Department of Fish and Game was
36 next, but, Robbin, should we be thinking of waiting
37 until tomorrow for their report. I'll look to you on
38 that.

39
40 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 This is Robbin. Actually we had postponed the BLM
42 report until after the NPS reports so we have
43 remaining, BLM, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
44 and then the Office of Subsistence Management report.
45 We are requesting that the remaining agency reports are
46 broad in general, and that reports on caribou and moose
47 and small game populations, status and abundance are
48 addressed and presented tomorrow before your action
49 items.
50

0079

1 So we're almost at noon and we have
2 three reports left. I'm going to kick it back to you
3 as to what you may decide to do. Should we complete
4 today's agenda with a report from BLM, a report from --
5 a general report from ADF&G and the OSM report, or
6 should we have lunch first and then take those up after
7 lunch.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you
12 for that. I had not looked at the clock for a little
13 bit and I snuck off for a piece of pilot bread so I'm
14 doing okay. What's the pleasure of the Council.

15
16 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Rich Wilson
17 here. You know, tomorrow we have proposals and
18 sometimes proposals can be quite lengthy and
19 conversation and stuff and I guess I'm in favor of
20 hearing what we can today from ADF&G and that way we
21 can take notes and if we have questions maybe it won't
22 linger on quite so long tomorrow. That's my view of
23 it.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, that's a
26 good point. Other members.

27
28 MR. TREFON: Billy here, I support
29 Richard.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Lary.

32
33 MR. HILL: Yeah, do the one report and
34 the rest tomorrow.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, is there
37 anybody else on. I'm losing track of who's on and
38 who's off but we don't have very many on right now. So
39 are you voting to forge ahead with the one or two more
40 reports here and then take lunch.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Sounds good.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay.

45
46 MR. TREFON: Yes.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: So is BLM
49 available are they still waiting until tomorrow.
50

0080

1 MS. MILLION: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
2 Yes, this is Bonnie Million, Field Manager for the
3 Anchorage Field Office. I'm online and available to
4 give an update now if that's your pleasure.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I think I'm
7 reading the lets forge ahead, I appreciate you're on
8 now so unless somebody hollers wait, let's move ahead.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MS. MILLION: Excellent. Thank you so
13 much everybody for your flexibility, I had a
14 conflicting meeting this morning that I just couldn't
15 get out of. So, again, my name is Bonnie Million. I am
16 the Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management
17 Anchorage Field Office. We have an update in your
18 meeting materials on Page -- oh, gosh, 204, I believe,
19 of your meeting packet and that's the update for our
20 entire field office. We cover about 24 million acres
21 stretching from north of the Arctic Circle all the way
22 down to Southcentral.

23
24 I did want to highlight a couple of the
25 bullet points in that update specific to the Bristol
26 Bay area.

27
28 First, we are continuing to partner
29 with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Togiak Refuge, on
30 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, providing some funding for
31 collaring and hopefully increasing our participation
32 with some of that monitoring going on in that area.

33
34 In addition, we're continuing to
35 partner with the Bristol Bay Flyfishing and Guide
36 Academy. That's been an organization that we've been
37 -- had a pretty successful partnership with over the
38 years and it's been really meaningful to some of my
39 Staff to be able to participate with that.

40
41 And then the last item that I wanted to
42 give folks a head's up on is over in the Platinum Mine,
43 Goodnews Bay area. Our mining and aquatic Staff are
44 working with the current mining claimant in that area
45 to move forward with a Salmon River fish passage
46 enhancement project. We're looking to reconnect the
47 salmon habitat within that river that is currently
48 blocked by some of the historic mining tailings that
49 occurred in that area and we're really hoping to make
50

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1 some forward momentum on that within the next year to
2 reconnect some of that available fish habitat.

3

4

5 And then the last item, it's actually
6 not in my update, I just kind of wanted to give a
7 head's up to the Council. There is a project that's in
8 a very, very initial stages with FERC and the Nushagak
9 Cooperative Electric, it's called the Nuyakuk project,
10 it's a hydro-electric project. The BLM is currently
11 awaiting a right-of-way application associated with
12 that project. It looks like there are some power lines
13 that are potentially going to be crossing BLM lands
14 down in the Bristol Bay area. We don't have that
15 application yet, as soon as we do I am sure we will be
16 reaching out to communities, tribes and the Subsistence
17 Council here for public comment and input on our
18 processing of that application.

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So short and sweet, that's all I had
for the Council. I'd be happy to take any questions or
clarifications that I might be able to provide at this
time.

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Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Wow, efficient.
Council members, comments, questions.

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MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Rich Wilson.

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MR. HILL: Bonnie, this.....

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ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I had two guys
there, it sounds like I heard Billy, go ahead.

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MR. TREFON: Negative, that was Rich
Wilson and someone else.

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ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, Richard.

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MR. WILSON: I'll stand down to my
elder over there. I think that was Lary.

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ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, Lary.

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MR. HILL: Yeah, Bonnie, this is Lary
Hill. A question about the hydro project with the
powerlines. What's the status on those, are they going
to be all above ground or are they going to be

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1 underground?

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3

4 MS. MILLION: That's an excellent
5 question and honestly at this time, Mr. Hill, I'm not
6 sure. We -- I have been participating in some of the
7 -- not participating in, I should say I've been
8 listening in on some of the public meetings that FERC
9 has been holding on that project. I believe the last
10 batch of public meetings they had was maybe back at
11 like the end of September. And I'm more than happy --
12 I can forward your Office of Subsistence Management
13 facilitator some information on the project and she
14 might be able to disseminate that to the Council. But
15 right now we're waiting with baited breath for that
16 right-of-way application so I can hopefully, next time
17 we have one of these meetings, I can come with a little
18 bit more information for you.

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MR. HILL: Okay. I was just curious
about the waterfall in the area and the above ground
powerlines. That's all I had, thank you.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, Lary,
maybe I could jump in a little bit. I've been able to
sit in on a couple of the meetings and follow that
pretty close. First off the Nushagak Cooperative has
an absolute commitment to no harm to salmon as first
guiding principle. But there's this natural falls
there on the New Nushagak, which, I think, was kind of
formed by a large marian and possibly underlain with
some bedrock. They're proceeding extremely slowly and
carefully. I think they've just pushed their study
seasons back a year, partly due to Covid, but above
ground powerlines, I believe, are the plan if this ever
comes to fruition. I was just trying to find a link, I
think I can find some links and provide them to you to
catch up with what information is out there. They had
a meeting about two weeks ago and then last Friday the
Wood-TikChik Park had their Council meeting, which,
again, some of the Nuyakuk hydro project effects and
there was more discussion of it. Also Fish and Game's
been closely monitoring it because there's going to be
a number of studies.

Beyond that I can't really say a whole
lot other than I think they're committed to using one-
third or less of the water flow. One of the very
interesting things that makes this thing worth at least
looking at this hard is they have 60 years of water

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1 level, water flow data, thanks to, it might be BLM,
2 which is kind of an unusual situation in Alaska. There
3 would be no dam built, no enhancement of that.
4 Personally, as I've watched the most current design --
5 for a long time they were going to try to draw water
6 from four miles away right out in the middle of TikChik
7 Lake, I believe it is, at some depth so there'd be very
8 low likelihood of interference with out-migrating small
9 fish. More recently they're talking about making a
10 short pen stock around the Nuyakuk Falls which would be
11 massively less expensive but then that really elevates
12 the concerns of its impacts on both up stream and down
13 stream migrating fish. So since it's run by local
14 residents, I think there's a pretty high commitment to
15 do no harm.

16

17 I can try to find more information and
18 share it with you. We could even invite Nushagak to
19 discuss it at a meeting if you'd like. Over.

20

21 MR. HILL: Thank you, Dan. No, that was
22 pretty much my question. I suspected most of it would
23 be above ground. Thank you.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
26 And then somebody else was asking, was that Richard.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Yeah, Dan -- Mr. Chair --
29 through the Chair. I got a question for Bonnie there,
30 or just a suggestion there. You know you say you got
31 some funding that is going towards helping out the
32 Mulchatna herd and collaring and I'm just wondering if
33 Katmai with their Staff being so low and stuff, if
34 there's any way that the two of you get together and
35 help with some of that monitoring on this new satellite
36 herd over there in the Preserve. That was my comment.

37

38 MS. MILLION: Thank you so much, Mr.
39 Wilson for that comment. I -- absolutely, I mean we're
40 always happy to partner with anyone. Western Alaska is
41 a huge, huge area and however we can best be efficient
42 and especially in helping out our sister agencies,
43 we're definitely there for sure.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. WILSON: Well, I'm glad I could
48 make that connection. Thanks.

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1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Is that it
2 Richard?

3
4 MR. WILSON: Yes, it is for now.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you.
7 Speaking of short Staffed, something I was going to
8 mention in my report and I think it will come up with
9 the Fish and Game report, is, we had a very, very
10 short-term area biologist in Dillingham. He came, he
11 saw, he went, and they are now recruiting. So that's
12 hurt. So for a long time I've been -- personally, I
13 have just been happy at how coordinated and cooperative
14 so many of the agencies are here between the Togiak
15 Refuge, Park Service, BLM and Fish and Game working on
16 the moose and caribou in the area. And I hope we can
17 -- all our agencies can get restaffed and maintain a
18 healthy cooperative program.

19
20 With that, so should we try to get --
21 do we want to wait on Fish and Game report until
22 tomorrow, or what about the Office of Subsistence. I'm
23 kind of looking to you, Robbin, and to the potential
24 contributors on -- and the Council, what's your
25 pleasure. Over.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson here. I'd
28 kind of like to hear the ADF&G report and then I'd be
29 good from there.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I think Todd
32 Rinaldi was on earlier, Todd, are you -- how long of a
33 report do you have and are you ready to present at this
34 time? Over.

35
36 MR. RINALDI: Hi, good afternoon. This
37 is Todd Rinaldi. I have a report for the discussion on
38 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd but I can expand that
39 discussion to other topics, as necessary. Are there
40 areas that you would like to be briefed on?

41
42 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I think people
43 would be very eager to hear about moose and bears,
44 that's the one thing I'm thinking is you had a pretty
45 long report for the Wood-TikChik Park and I kind of --
46 finally remembered the meeting and stepped in in the
47 middle of that and missed quite a bit. But if the rest
48 of the Council's ready I'm ready to forge ahead. Over.

49
50

0085

1 MR. TREFON: Yeah, this is Billy. I'm
2 eager to hear what the report that the State Department
3 of Fish and Game had to say. And if OSM is not too
4 long get it done today and listen to just proposals
5 tomorrow.

6
7 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, Ma'am.

10
11 MS. LAVINE: I understand your interest
12 in proceeding through the agenda with efficiency, it's
13 wonderful, we are really early on in the day. The one
14 thing that I would request you consider is that the
15 Chair Nanci was also very interested in hearing
16 resource reports -- specific resource reports that
17 pertain to the wildlife proposals and closure reviews
18 tomorrow while she is able to attend. And,
19 additionally, while we -- you know, if something was to
20 happen and we lost any one of you four then we would
21 lose quorum. So what we may request is if there is
22 anyone representing ADF&G that could give a general
23 agency report for the Bristol Bay region and then the
24 OSM report, which will be a couple minutes long, and
25 then we could conclude business for the day and begin
26 again, continuing from Day 1 with the remainder of the
27 agency reports specific to resource assessment.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, that's an
32 excellent point. And if we get buried too much in the
33 details of the ADF&G report today we'd probably have to
34 repeat it for Nanci tomorrow. So first I'll look to
35 Todd, is there kind of like a really brief overview
36 that would -- or would we better wait for the whole
37 thing tomorrow? Over.

38
39 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, thank you. Thank
40 you. Yes, I could provide a very quick overview of
41 recent events that won't -- try as I may, I will try
42 not to get too deep into details here.

43
44 But real quick I believe that you just
45 mentioned we are without a Dillingham area wildlife
46 biologist. Since Neil Barton was in that position
47 we've gone through two area biologists in three years.
48 Folks are, they're just not finding what they want in
49 the community and find it challenging so a lot of
50

0086

1 different factors have influenced that but we are
2 actively seeking out new candidates. We have -- as you
3 may recall, I mentioned previously that we've moved the
4 Assistant Area Biologist from King Salmon to Dillingham
5 but we've had a hard time filling that position and we
6 are in the second or third round of advertising for
7 that position. And Brian has just left in October and
8 we currently have an advertisement open for that
9 position. And so we're working through a lot of
10 different challenges and it's not challenges specific
11 to Dillingham, it's just challenges with hiring, the
12 pandemic, and people's desires to live in remote
13 communities and work and finding qualified candidates;
14 and that's what's been a challenge here for us.

15
16 So we extended a moose hunt this fall
17 in Unit 17A, I think it was about seven or eight days,
18 in part because we were well over our objective and
19 obviously most of the land in 17A is Togiak Refuge and
20 we've worked that out with them and provided additional
21 opportunity. I believe Andy mentioned earlier that 17A
22 had one of its higher fall harvest than we've had in a
23 number of years or even ever and it's needed,
24 considering where that population is at. And
25 unfortunately the 17C population is not in a great
26 situation. I'll get into detail on that later but we
27 did receive -- got a request from the community to
28 extend the fall 17C registration hunt and we were
29 unable to meet that accommodation due to conservation
30 concerns amongst some other things. And this is the
31 first year that the Mulchatna caribou hunt has not been
32 offered on State or Federal land. And you've heard a
33 report on the Nushagak harvest and population
34 enumeration. And we've just completed a composition
35 assessment for the Mulchat -- for the Nushagak last
36 week and Andy presented that information there.

37
38 I'll just leave it at that. Those are
39 the three main highlights and I'll be getting into more
40 detail on all of that tomorrow.

41
42 Any questions, thank you.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you, Todd.
45 Questions.

46
47
48 (No comments)

49
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0087

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, wow,
2 that's efficient and it does take care of some
3 business. So we'll postpone the rest of Fish and
4 Game's report for tomorrow. Is OSM, do they have a
5 short item to cover, is that Orville.

6
7 MR. LIND: Yes, good afternoon, Acting
8 Chair. This is Orville. I'm prepared to give the OSM
9 update.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Unless
12 there's something that the Council wanted to ask Todd
13 before we moved on to Orville, if I hear no questions
14 Orville, go ahead and jump in here.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MR. LIND: Okay, hearing no questions.
21 Cami everyone. Council Members, Richard, Billy, Lary,
22 Dan, good to hear you guys on. Good to hear Nanci on.

23
24 So, you know, on behalf of OSM I do
25 want to thank you Council members for the exceptional
26 work that you do on behalf of your communities, your
27 user groups and, you know, during these stressful
28 times. And we value your expertise and contribution of
29 all the knowledge and experience to this regulatory
30 process. It's been very challenging for all of us
31 dealing with the Covid19 environment.

32
33 As you learned from -- probably have
34 seen Chairman Christianson's letter dated August 20th,
35 2021, OSM is holding all 10 fall 2021 Regional Advisory
36 Council meetings via teleconference. And of course
37 this decision was made with the utmost consideration
38 and concern for the health and safety of, not only
39 Council members, but families, and rural communities,
40 the public and, of course, Staff, who are all part of
41 the Council meetings. The health and the safety of
42 everyone is our highest priority. The Department of
43 the Interior guidelines advise that people avoid travel
44 and refrain from meetings in person to minimize risk
45 and help prevent the spread of Covid19. The Regional
46 Advisory Councils are the foundation of Alaska's
47 Federal Subsistence Management Program. And we
48 recognizes that in-person meetings are preferable,
49 however, until we can ensure the safety of all
50

0088

1 participants we will follow current guidance and to
2 hold all meetings via teleconference. Again, we really
3 appreciate the willingness to participate in the
4 lengthy teleconferences and we appreciate your patience
5 as we deal with the various technical issues, and poor
6 connections, and, you know, there's vast distances
7 involved here and we have different communication
8 systems throughout our state.

9
10 Since your last Council meeting in
11 winter 2021 the following OSM Staffing changes have
12 occurred. We are pleased to announce that Ameer Howard
13 has joined OSM as our new Deputy Assistant Regional
14 Director. Ameer previously worked in OSM as the policy
15 coordinator.

16
17 We are also very pleased that a number
18 of our Staff that worked at OSM for awhile grew with
19 the program and got promoted.

20
21 We have Katya Wessels who was promoted
22 from Council Coordinator to Supervisor of the Council
23 Coordination Division.

24
25 And we have Lisa Grediagin who was
26 promoted from Wildlife Biologist to Supervisor of the
27 Wildlife Division.

28
29 And, I, Robbin LaVine was promoted from
30 Anthropologist to Policy Coordinator position.

31
32 Very happy with that.

33
34 Additional good news is that we also
35 have three wildlife biologist positions at Office of
36 Subsistence Management filled. Mr. Tom Plank came to
37 us from the Bureau of Land Management, BLM in Utah.
38 Mr. Bryan Ubelaker came to OSM from BLM in Anchorage.
39 Kendra Holman came to OSM from the U.S. Army Corps of
40 Engineers in Anchorage.

41
42 However, we have also had some
43 departures at OSM through retirement and new
44 opportunities.

45
46 And we bid a fond farewell to Donald
47 Mike, and by the way, Council, Bristol Bay RAC Council,
48 Donald says hello, and he says to tell them that he's
49 saying hello with a smirky smile. Caron McKee and Zach
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0089

1 Stevenson also have moved from OSM.

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The OSM team is diligently working on building capacity and will be filling new positions in our Anthropology, Council Coordination, Fisheries and Regulatory Divisions, along with adding additional administrative support.

Over the past years we have been reminding Council members about the change in requirements also for the IDs at airports, RealIDs. Beginning May 3rd, 2023, as a reminder, every air traveler will need to present a RealID compliant driver's license or other acceptable form of identification, via passport, to fly within the United States. This is applicable even when you fly on small Bush carriers. Please note that all Council members will need to make sure that they have their required RealID for travel to -- travel that may happen in the fall 2023 Council meetings.

Last, but not least, information 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 19-14. 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 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 the 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 in 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 18th, the Court also denied the State's motion for a preliminary

0090

1 injunction on the Kake hunt after Judge Gleason
2 concluded that the State had not demonstrated a
3 likelihood of success on the merits, raised serious
4 questions on the merits of its claims, or demonstrated
5 any likelihood of irreparable harm.

6
7 While these rulings on preliminary
8 injunction were encouraging, they did not resolve the
9 litigation. Recent developments are settlement
10 negotiations between the Department of Justice, the DOI
11 Solicitor's Office, USDA Office of General Counsel, and
12 the State proved unsuccessful. A briefing was
13 completed at the end of August 2021 and we are now
14 awaiting the Court's decision.

15
16 Based on legal guidance, Program Staff
17 does not comment on any active litigation directed
18 against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what we
19 have reported here.

20
21 Woo with all that said, Dan, I will
22 take any questions or comments and I'm sure if I don't
23 know the answer our Staff will.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
26 Orville. Always fun to hear your sunshiny voice.
27 Council members.

28
29 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Rich
30 Wilson here.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, go ahead.

33
34 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Orville, for
35 that report there. You fit that position very well.
36 And I just want to pass along that smirky smile back to
37 Donald.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. LIND: I will let him know,
42 Richard, thanks for that.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Anybody else.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
49 Orville. Yeah, I'm feeling a little bit chagrined. I
50

0091

1 learned of Donald departing, he kind of snuck out the
2 back door on us and I was wishing that we were going to
3 have an in person meeting that we could discuss among
4 us Council members some acknowledgement of Donald's
5 faithful and hardworking service. Came to really
6 cherish seeing him at every meeting, what a fine man.
7 And something fun about this RAC, I feel we mostly end
8 up as friends. Maybe we could all still think about it
9 tonight, if there's something we could do -- a gesture
10 we could do as Council members to.....

11

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted - typing)

14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY:even at
16 this late date, or even a little later, to thank Donald
17 for his work.

18

19 One other thing, maybe, Orville, you
20 can explain, on these lawsuits, the court says that
21 they didn't see that they would have success, I'm trying
22 to figure out what that means. Does that mean that the
23 court didn't see that they would successfully challenge
24 the.....

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted - typing)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY:issue at
30 hand; is that what that means? Over.

31

32 MR. LIND: To the Chair, Dan, I'm going
33 to refer you to Robbin if she's still online.

34

35 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin
36 and I'm just reviewing the exact spot in our report.
37 The court found that because the State had not
38 demonstrated either a likelihood of success or serious
39 questions on the merits of its claims, the court need
40 not consider the remaining elements of the preliminary
41 injunction analysis.

42

43 Mr. Chair and members of the Council. I
44 feel ill prepared to explain further. I'd have to kind
45 of confer again and pick apart some of that legal speak
46 myself with the Solicitor and I -- and I wasn't -- I
47 wasn't -- yeah, I wasn't prepared to do so so I am
48 sorry about that.

49

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0092

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, their
2 legal language isn't really English so don't worry
3 about it too much, I was just curious.

4
5 So, okay, with that any other comments
6 from Council members.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Should we then
11 recess until 8:30 tomorrow, is that the proper process.

12
13 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.
14 Yes, it is indeed, and we'll post on the website for
15 anyone that may have hopped out and thought to join us
16 this afternoon, that we have concluded today's business
17 and will recess until tomorrow at 8:30.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. What's
20 the pleasure of the Council -- do I need a motion to
21 recess, is that how we do it?

22
23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted - typing)

25
26 MS. LAVINE: This is Robbin. Do I have
27 any more of my more seasoned OSM associates online.

28
29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, usually that
30 is how it's done.

31
32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you so much. So,
33 yes, we need a motion to recess until tomorrow at 8:30.

34
35 MR. TREFON: This is Billy, I make a
36 motion to recess until 8:30 tomorrow.

37
38 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson, second.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
41 Motion made and seconded. Do we have any discussion.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MR. TREFON: Question.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I think I heard
48 Billy call for the question. All those in favor of
49 recessing, I guess indicate aye.

50

0093

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, I agree, too. So thank you everybody. And I guess in a way this is kind of cool, we can catch up on a few chores and ruminate on what we've learned so far. And thanks to everybody this morning who's presented and provided us information. And we will look forward to seeing you at 8:30 a.m., tomorrow, same station.

MR. WILSON: Thanks, Dan.

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

