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BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELEPHONIC
October 27, 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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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Telephonic - 10/27/2021)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, let's go ahead and start then if everybody's ready. Can we -- Richard would you mind, please, give us an invocation again before we get started.

MR. WILSON: Sure. Sure can.

(Invocation)

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you very much for that. And then Robbin, would you please do a section by section roll call again, depending on who everybody's with so we know who's online.

MS. LAVINE: I would be delighted. Okay, and before we begin, I will remind people to star mute, and make sure that your phone is muted, if you have other means of muting your phone. It will help us to hear each other and be respectful. Also for those of you who may have an opportunity to joy us -- join us via Teams, that is for visuals only, primarily instructions and there will be no sound available via the Teams platform, you'll need to call in for that.

So let's get started.

Let's start with the Forest Service. Who, online, is with the Forest Service.

MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Robbin. This is Greg Risdahl, the Subsistence Program Leader for the USDA Forest Service. Nice to be here.

MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Greg. Who is with us from BIA.

MR. CHEN: Hi, Robbin. This is Glenn Chen with the Subsistence Branch of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

MS. LAVINE: Hi Glenn. Anyone else.

(No comments)

0097

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3

4 MS. LAVINE: Who is with us
5 representing tribes and Native organizations in the
6 Bristol Bay region.

7

8 MR. LARSON: Good morning, Robbin. This
9 is Cody Larson with BBNA and here with me is Renee
10 Rocky. We will have Gayla Hoseth joining us soon and
11 Heidi Kritz.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Cody. Cody,
14 you're with, I'm sorry -- I know Gayla is.....

15

16 MR. LARSON: BBNA.

17

18 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, I mean who else is
19 with you, sorry?

20

21 MR. LARSON: Oh, sorry, Renee Rocky.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: Okay.

24

25 MR. LARSON: And Heidi Kritz.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: And Gayla will shortly be
28 joining.

29

30 MR. LARSON: Yep, that's correct.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Who else.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MS. LAVINE: Courtenay, are you still
37 with us?

38

39 MS. CARTY: Sorry, Robbin, I am here. I
40 was on the other line with one of our chiefs discussing
41 the caribou proposal this morning. Courtenay Carty,
42 Curyung Tribal Council, Tribal Administrator, good
43 morning.

44

45 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Courtenay.
46 Anyone else.

47

48 MR. FINA: This is Mark Fina. I'm with
49 the Alaska Seafood Coop that -- we were asked to give a
50

0098

1 presentation on bycatch and Chris Woodley, I think, is
2 already on. He's doing the presentation with me.

3

4 MS. LAVINE: Excellent. So Mark and,
5 your associate, who's that?

6

7 MR. FINA: Chris Woodley.

8

9 MR. WOODLEY: Chris Woodley.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Chris Woodley, and you are
12 with?

13

14 MR. WOODLEY: Groundfish Forum and the
15 Alaska Seafood Cooperative.

16

17 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mark and thank
18 you, Chris. We're so glad to have you this morning.

19

20 Who's with us from the Alaska
21 Department of Fish and Game.

22

23 MS. JONES: Hi, good morning. This is
24 Bronwyn Jones again with Subsistence Division.

25

26 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Bronwyn.

27

28 MR. MERIZON: This is Rick Merizon.....

29

30 MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark

31 Burch.....

32

33 MR. MERIZON:with the Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game.

35

36 MR. BURCH:Alaska Department of
37 Fish and Game in the Palmer office.

38

39 MS. LAVINE: I believe we have both
40 Rick Merizon and Mark Burch, correct, you guys chimed
41 in at the same time.

42

43 MR. MERIZON: Correct. Sorry about
44 that.

45

46 MS. LAVINE: Glad to have you both on.
47 No worries.

48

49 MR. RINALDI: Good morning, this is

50

0099

1 Todd Rinaldi. I'm a Regional Management Coordinator
2 with the Division of Wildlife Conservation out of
3 Palmer.

4
5 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Todd.
6 Anyone else joining us from the Alaska Department of
7 Fish and Game.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MS. LAVINE: Who is with us from the
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MS. LAVINE: And by the way, really
17 quick, I will be asking for OSM Staff shortly. So U.S.
18 Fish and Wildlife Service Staff, who's online.

19
20 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, Togiak
21 National.....

22
23 MS. KLEIN: Oh, hi, good morning, this
24 is Jill.....

25
26 MR. MOSS: Danny Moss, Alaska.....

27
28 MS. LAVINE: I heard two people --
29 Danny?

30
31 MR. MOSS: Yes, from Alaska Peninsula
32 Refuge.

33
34 MS. LAVINE: And, Danny, your last name
35 again?

36
37 MR. MOSS: Moss, M-O-S-S.

38
39 MR. SMITH: Bill Smith.....

40
41 MS. LAVINE: I heard.....

42
43 MR. SMITH:Supervisory Biologist,
44 Peninsula Becharof Refuge.

45
46 MS. LAVINE: Bill Smith.

47
48 MR. SMITH: Correct.

49
50

0100

1 MS. LAVINE: Okay.

2

3 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, Togiak
4 National.....

5

6 MS. LAVINE: I heard Andy Aderman.

7

8 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

9

10 MS. LAVINE: And, Andy, when you were
11 introducing yourself there was also another person who
12 spoke at the same time, can you speak back up.

13

14 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, this is Andy
15 Aderman, Wildlife Biologist with Togiak National
16 Wildlife Refuge.

17

18 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Andy.

19

20 MR. ADERMAN: Good morning.

21

22 MR. MOOS: Good morning, this is Kenton
23 Moos, the Refuge Manager for Togiak National Wildlife
24 Refuge.

25

26 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Kenton.

27

28 MS. KLEIN: Good morning, this

29 Jill.....

30

31 MR. HARRIS: Good morning. This is
32 Frank Harris, Fisheries Biologist with the Southern
33 Alaska Fish and Wildlife Field Office.

34

35 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Frank. And
36 who was speaking up at the same time.

37

38 MS. KLEIN: Hi, this is Jill Klein.
39 Regional Subsistence Coordinator for U.S. Fish and
40 Wildlife Service based in Anchorage.

41

42 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Jill.

43

44 MS. KLEIN: Good morning.

45

46 MS. LAVINE: So just because there was
47 so many folks speaking up at different times, I want
48 you to listen to the names I have and if you don't hear
49 yourself on that name -- on that list, can you please
50

0101

1 speak up. I have Danny Moss, Bill Smith, Andy Aderman,
2 Kenton Moos, Frank Harris and Jill Klein. Are there
3 any others from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MS. LAVINE: All right. Who's joining
8 us from the National Park Service.

9

10 MR. RYAN: This is Chris Ryan, Acting
11 Superintendent of Katmai.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Chris.

14

15 MR. RYAN: Good morning.

16

17 MS. CHISOLM: Good morning. This is
18 Linda Chisolm, Cultural Resource Program Manager and
19 Subsistence Coordinator for Katmai and Aniakchak.

20

21 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Linda.

22

23 MS. SKORA: Good morning. This is
24 Leslie Skora, the Wildlife Biologist for Katmai and
25 Aniakchak.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Leslie.

28

29 MS. RUPP: Good morning. This is Liza
30 Rupp, Cultural Resource Program Manager and Subsistence
31 Coordinator for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

32

33 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Liza.

34

35 MS. RUPP: Good morning.

36

37 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning. This is
38 Dylan Patterson with the National Park Service Regional
39 Subsistence Team.

40

41 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Dylan.
42 Okay, anyone else from the Park Service.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. LAVINE: Has anyone joined us from
47 the Bureau of Land Management.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0102

1 MS. LAVINE: No one from the BLM this
2 morning.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MS. LAVINE: Anyone else that I have
7 missed, if you have joined we are introducing ourselves
8 and this can also be for anyone calling in who may be
9 interested in listening to the meeting or providing
10 public comment today, please speak up, you know, where
11 you're from, who you are and we look forward to
12 inviting you into our meeting.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MS. LAVINE: So anyone else in
17 attendance that we have not yet heard from.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. LAVINE: Okay. So before we begin,
22 really quickly, I do want to talk about public
23 comments. Council meetings are an important way for
24 the public and tribes to give oral and written
25 testimony and comments on issues of concern related to
26 subsistence management in the region. So opportunities
27 provided throughout the meeting include at the
28 beginning of each day, there's an opportunity to
29 provide testimony on non-agenda items. The Council
30 Chair will announce these opportunities daily. There
31 is an opportunity to provide oral comments on the
32 wildlife proposals and closure reviews after an analyst
33 presents proposal analysis. The order of receiving the
34 comments is outlined on Page 33 of your Council books,
35 and the Council Chair will call for this public oral
36 testimony when it's time. There will also be
37 opportunities to submit written public comments on
38 proposals during the meeting. If you have a written
39 comment, please email it to subsistence@fws.gov. Please
40 clearly indicate in the title of the email which
41 proposal or closure review number you are commenting
42 on. The comments need to be emailed prior to the
43 proposal being presented to the Council. So, please,
44 once again, if you have any comments you want to submit
45 on proposals you can do so by emailing them to
46 subsistence@fws.gov, and -- and I need to back up
47 because I can see my colleagues have let me know that
48 even though I said I would call for OSM Staff to
49 announce themselves I neglected to do so.

50

0103

1 So can I hear from our OSM Staff
2 online.

3
4 MR. LIND: Good morning, Robbin.
5 Madame Chair and Council members. This is Orville
6 Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
7 Management. I was jumping up and down waiting to
8 report. Good morning everyone.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Orville.

13
14 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Madame
15 Chair and members of the Council. This is Katya
16 Wessels, Council Coordination Division Supervisor with
17 OSM. Thank you.

18
19 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Katya.

20
21 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. This is
22 Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

23
24 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Kendra.

25
26 MR. STONE: Good morning. Jarred
27 Stone, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
28 Subsistence Management.

29
30 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Jarred.

31
32 MR. VICKERS: Good morning, Robbin.
33 Good morning, Council. Good morning everyone else.
34 This is Brent Vickers, Supervisor Cultural
35 Anthropologist with OSM.

36
37 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Brent.

38
39 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, this is Lisa
40 Grediagin, Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM.

41
42 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Lisa.
43 Anyone else joining us from OSM.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MS. LAVINE: All right. Now, that I
48 have made an announcement -- well, actually anyone else
49 joining us who may have called in and would like to
50

0104

1 introduce themselves, so one more time. One more call
2 for anyone else to introduce themselves.

3

4 MS. HOSETH: Hey, Robbin. This is
5 Gayla Hoseth with BBNA.

6

7 MS. LAVINE: Hey, Gayla, you joined us.

8

9 MS. HOSETH: Hi.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Hi. Okay, so thank you
12 all for joining and now we have done roll call and
13 introductions. I have informed people of their
14 opportunities for public comment throughout the
15 meeting. Again, I'll remind people to press star six
16 and I pass the gavel back to Council Chair Nanci Lyon.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks,
21 Robbin, I appreciate that very much. And, Dan, I'm
22 just going to ask you real quick for a report on where
23 we got yesterday and if you had anything that you
24 wanted me to make note of.

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Nanci. We
27 clipped right along and got through nearly all the
28 agency reports. We ended up with Todd Rinaldi giving
29 us a real brief outline of some of the kind of
30 background material for Fish and Game, didn't get into
31 any populations or numbers, we figured we'd do that
32 when we discussed proposals and such. And then Orville
33 gave a nice happy wind up of the status of OSM and
34 Staffing and such. And so I believe we are ready to
35 address Bering Sea bycatch and so on there and No. 13,
36 but I'll defer to Robbin if there's something we jumped
37 over that we need to get back to. Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
40 Dan. Yeah, I just wanted to get a quick report from
41 you. I'll ask for anybody to give any public testimony
42 on non-agenda items to go ahead and do so.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
47 hearing none. Robbin, did you have anything you
48 wanted, if not, let's go ahead with our presentation.

49

50

0105

1 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Nanci. Through
2 the Chair -- or to the Chair. I would only ask one
3 more time if there's any public comments. There may
4 have been folks that missed the opportunity to provide
5 public comments on agenda items yesterday so we might
6 want to just see if anyone is available or if they
7 weren't able to press unmute very quickly, I pause for
8 that.

9

10 MS. CARTY: Good morning, this is
11 Courtenay Carty.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Courtenay,
14 go ahead.

15

16 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
17 wasn't sure if I should speak up because it's kind of
18 an agenda item but it sounds like Robbin cleared that
19 up. I just wanted to address the ADF&G Staff report
20 yesterday regarding the wildlife biologist position
21 here in Dillingham and probably my comment would reach
22 over into other position throughout the region with all
23 the different agencies. And encourage those employers
24 to perhaps recruit at the ANSEP program, either in the
25 Anchorage campus of UAA or the Fairbanks campus.
26 Alaska Native Science Engineering Program recruits
27 students from rural Alaska, Alaska Native and non-
28 Native alike to get into science and engineering fields
29 and that might be a natural place for you to gain a
30 candidate who would come to Dillingham or any other
31 rural community and want to stay and have some
32 longevity in a position and perhaps reduce that high
33 rate of turnover.

34

35 Thank you, and good morning.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Excellent
38 idea, Courtenay. I appreciate you bringing it forward.

39

40 Anybody else, please.

41

42 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I wouldn't
43 mind.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Hi Dan.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: This is Dan. I'd comment
48 on Courtenay's -- yeah, that's a good idea Courtenay.
49 Just for background for everybody and partly a little
50

0106

1 disclaimer. I've been talking to Todd Rinaldi and sent
2 a letter and correspondence to Todd, including the
3 Commissioner and another person higher up than Todd,
4 about the next biologist for Dillingham. I think we've
5 had healthy congenial discussion about finding people
6 oriented managers who are interested in dealing with
7 the consistency as much or more than, you know, pure
8 research and stuff. So they're working hard on it and
9 I think they understand that a lot of us are really,
10 really concerned about the lack of Staffing. Anyway,
11 that's a really good idea, Courtenay, thanks.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I
14 totally agree on that Dan. It used to be we were just
15 worried about getting reports, now we're worried about
16 having people to make the reports for us that have any
17 value. So, yep, all of us need to work on this
18 together and help solve the problem. Okay, anybody
19 else that would like to make comments or have any
20 questions for Courtenay.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
25 hearing none, we'll move on. Hang on, I got to flip
26 back and forth here to get to my agenda. Let's go on
27 to our Bering Sea bycatch presentation. And I do
28 appreciate you being here, Mark and Chris and we do
29 look forward to hearing your presentation.

30

31 MR. WOODLEY: Great. Thanks, Madame
32 Chair. This is Chris Woodley, I'm the Executive
33 Director of Groundfish Forum, do you have me okay?

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I do.

36

37 MR. WOODLEY: Okay, great. Great. All
38 right, hey, well, thank you everyone for the
39 opportunity to speak. With me today is Mark Fina who's
40 the president of our harvester cooperative which is
41 known as the Alaska Seafood Cooperative. I just wanted
42 to start off by saying, boy, it's been a long time but
43 back in the day when I was in the Coast Guard I spent
44 quite a bit of time out in the Bristol Bay region in
45 the early 1990s. I'd come out every spring for doing
46 tank vessel inspections for Smith Lighterage and
47 Moody's Operation out there and met a lot of folks out
48 there who I think are still around, Tim Sands with
49 ADF&G and unfortunately I don't get out there hardly at
50

0107

1 all now. But always enjoyed meeting the people out
2 there and, you know, really great memories from that
3 region. So I just wanted to pass that along.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

6

7 MR. WOODLEY: So what we wanted to do
8 today was to provide you with a brief overview of our
9 fleet, which is known as the Amendment 80 Sector, our
10 bycatch in the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands
11 region. I think you're all aware the bycatch is a very
12 prominent topic this day so we wanted to just kind of
13 walk through our bycatch numbers for different species
14 and then, you know, talk about our operations a little
15 bit and what we're doing, you know, day in, day out to
16 minimize our bycatch as much as we can.

17

18 So if that sounds okay I'll go ahead
19 and get started.

20

21 We're known as the Amendment 80 sector,
22 and that consists of five member companies that operate
23 19 trawl catcher processor vessels in the Federal
24 fisheries of the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Gulf
25 of Alaska. Our companies directly employ about 2,200
26 people and our operations in Alaska support about 2,800
27 year-round jobs in 11 Alaska coastal communities
28 primarily in our main offload ports of Unalaska, Kodiak
29 and Adak. What we fish for are flat fish, rock fish,
30 acramaceral, and all of these fisheries are certified
31 by the Marine Stewardship Council and the Alaska Fish
32 -- or the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management
33 Program as well managed and sustainable. We're very
34 proud of our sustainability ratings and we work very
35 hard to make sure, you know, that, again, we're trying
36 to minimize our bycatch and minimize our impacts on
37 habitat.

38

39 For those of you who don't know,
40 Alaska's flatfish fisheries are actually the largest in
41 the world. Alaska, according to NOAA Fisheries,
42 Alaska's flatfish fisheries in the Gulf and the Bering
43 Sea are the largest provider of flatfish food to the
44 world and that's something, again, that we're very proud
45 of. One last thing we'd like to talk about with our
46 fleet is that our fleet has -- there's a lot of
47 misinformation out there about, you know, level of
48 observer coverage on our boats but we actually have two
49 observers on our boat 100 percent of the time for every
50

0108

1 fishery that we participate in. So you've got a 24/7
2 observer coverage on our boats, all of our hauls are
3 monitored, sampled, we report our catch -- both catch
4 and bycatch daily to NOAA Fisheries. Are vessels are
5 equipped with monitoring cameras to aide observers in
6 their oversight function and so we -- you know, we have
7 a very good sense of what our -- you know, not only
8 what our catch numbers are for our directed catch, but
9 also our bycatch numbers as well.

10

11 So if we could switch or move to the
12 next slide, I think the next slide is halibut bycatch.
13 And, Mark, do you want to talk about halibut bycatch?

14

15 MR. FINA: Sure. Our fleet -- as some
16 of you may know our fleet is required to discard
17 halibut. Any of the trawl fisheries are not allowed to
18 retain halibut so it all must be discarded. Anything
19 that we catch is there for bycatch.

20

21 We are limited by a strict cap on the
22 amount of halibut we can use. Right now it's 1,745
23 tons of halibut. Even with that our bycatch -- that
24 seems like a very big number, and it is a big number,
25 but when you compare it the amount of fish we catch
26 with our halibut it actually is relatively small as a
27 rate. We have been under one half of one percent
28 halibut in our catches over the last handful of years
29 and we have worked very hard to reduce our halibut
30 bycatch during that time period, and we use several
31 things to do that. We target fish and choose locations
32 and times of day to keep our halibut bycatch low. Some
33 fisheries halibut bycatch is much higher at night so we
34 won't fish at night. Some fisheries it's seasonal so
35 we try not to fish in targets that seasonally have high
36 bycatch rates. Typically when we move into a new area
37 we use small tests, we also use excluders in a lot of
38 cases, we have communications among vessels and have
39 used weekly calls in our fleet to talk about what rates
40 are being seen where. We have an avoidance plan under
41 which vessels get penalized, and companies get
42 penalized if they don't meet relatively low bycatch
43 rates so there aren't -- so we've eliminated outliers
44 in our fleet, outliers being boats that have
45 significantly different rates than what the rest of the
46 fleet has had.

47

48 And then the last thing which I'll
49 spend a little bit more time talking about is deck

50

0109

1 sorting. And you can see in the photo here a man
2 carrying a fish, one of our crew members carrying a
3 fish, he's carrying the fish to put it down a discard
4 chute and this was a program that we spent about five
5 or six years developing. And the reason why it took a
6 long time is because the observing accounting for our
7 catch and bycatch is very stringent and National Marine
8 Fisheries Service, who regulates us, wanted to make
9 sure that the program accurately accounted for the
10 halibut that are discarded and accurately accounted for
11 the mortality. So we have an observer on deck when we
12 discard halibut off the deck who counts every halibut
13 that goes over and measures every fifth one or 10th,
14 depending on the situation to -- and checks the
15 viability of the fish, whether it will survive when
16 it's returned to the water, to make sure that we get an
17 accurate count of how much halibut we have and the
18 mortality of the halibut that we have in our bycatch.
19 We've been able to use this to make some pretty
20 substantial reductions in our discard mortality.

21

22 If you can move to the next slide
23 please.

24

25 You can see this is a time series of
26 our halibut mortality. And you can see back around
27 2003 our fleet was maybe 2,700, 2,800 metric tons of
28 halibut mortality and in the last three or four years,
29 looking at say 2015, '16, '17, '18, '19, '20, you can
30 see that we're down below 2,000 metric tons and
31 actually down below 1,500 metric tons and, you know,
32 close to 1,000 metric tons. So we've cut it in half
33 over that time period. A lot through the efforts of
34 deck sorting, which came in during 2013, '14, '15 but
35 then the other measures that we were using started to
36 have some effect around 2008 or so and that's when we
37 also had a change in the management of our fisheries
38 that allowed us to do more to address our bycatch.

39

40 Our halibut bycatch, as I said, is
41 under half a percent, which is actually better than any
42 of the other major West Coast fisheries up and down the
43 coast for the trawl fisheries on the West Coast in
44 terms of rate of bycatch. I think our fishery right now
45 is the est trawl fishery on the West Coast, up and down
46 the Coast.

47

48 One last thing that I want to mention
49 on halibut bycatch that I think is relevant for this

50

0110

1 group is that we are -- there is only one area in the
2 Bristol Bay area that we're allowed to fish and that's
3 up in the Togiak region and it's only open from April
4 1st to June 15th. We typically don't start there until
5 around May 1st and that's because we don't find good
6 enough catch rates for our targets or bycatch rates for
7 halibut until that time. When we move in we have a
8 pretty strict set of rules within our cooperative for
9 monitoring how things are going, we do short tows and
10 we move on rules. If you find that you're not -- you
11 find that your halibut bycatch rates are high and we
12 also have -- we have a pretty strict protocol that if
13 the fishing in that area isn't better than other areas
14 we move out. So, you know, we have actually a pretty
15 small connection to the Bristol Bay region with respect
16 to our fishing.

17
18 One other thing that I'll just touch
19 on. I don't know how familiar you all are with the
20 management of the IPHC, but one thing that the
21 subsistence fishing is not affected -- the amount of
22 fish available in a year is not affected by our
23 bycatch. Subsistence is prioritized in the rules that
24 the IPHC has which it's fairly common, but you all know
25 the rules better than I do with respect to how
26 subsistence gets prioritized. But it's prioritized in
27 the IPHC process, too, to make sure that subsistence
28 gets access first.

29
30 And I think that's all I had on
31 halibut. Chris, do you want to go back to you for the
32 crab discussion on the next slide?

33
34 MR. WOODLEY: Sure, sounds good. So
35 next slide, please. So the next two slides are just
36 providing, again, some information on red king crab
37 bycatch. I think you probably all saw the news this
38 year that the red king crab -- the Bristol Bay red king
39 crab fishery was closed for the first time since 1994.
40 You know the last several years the survey numbers
41 coming back for the red king crab fishery were pretty
42 low so I mean it's really sad that the fishery is going
43 to get closed this year but I think for, you know, the
44 crab fleet and for people who participate, you know,
45 extensively in the Federal fisheries process, it really
46 wasn't a big surprise. But nonetheless there are some
47 pretty extensive measures that kick in at these low
48 levels of survey abundance.

49
50

0111

1 So I guess the first thing to say is is
2 that, you know, NOAA and State of Alaska manage our --
3 you know, manage these crab fisheries and as it relates
4 to bycatch it's an abundance based management system.
5 So when crab stocks are low our bycatch for the trawl
6 sector gets cut. So next year starting in January the
7 trawl bycatch is going to be reduced by 67 percent and
8 then in addition to it there's an area closure which
9 will kick in that we'll be prohibited from operating
10 in. So the graphic that you have on the slide here on
11 the lower right, if you -- everything to the right of
12 that red line is going to be closed to our fishery next
13 year, 2021, with the exception of that yellow hued
14 postage stamp there just to the west of Bristol Bay.
15 That's the area that Mark talked about earlier, which
16 is a seasonal opening. We're in there, you know, May
17 1st through probably the first week in June, but it's a
18 very short opening. But otherwise our boats are not
19 operating up in that area -- or in the Bristol Bay
20 region. So just wanted to point that out.

21
22 Historically trawl bycatch -- so the
23 table that I put up here was put out by the stock
24 assessment authors for the various crab fisheries and
25 what this shows is what the percent of trawl bycatch is
26 as a percent of total fish removal. So that means the
27 directed fishery, the cost recovery fishery, discards
28 from the directed fishery, our bycatch, all of that
29 gets totaled up and then the column with the circle
30 around it is what the percent is of -- or our percent
31 of the removal. So from 2010 to 2020 trawl bycatch has
32 accounted for less than two percent of the total
33 removal. Most of the removals are coming from the
34 directed fishery and then discards from the directed
35 fishery.

36
37 Let's see here, and another thing to
38 keep in mind is that so these closures that are going
39 to kick in in 2022, they're -- the regulations for
40 those closures were actually written back in the late
41 '90s and this is the first time that the closure area
42 has ever kicked in so we're kind of in unchartered
43 waters here as far as what the effects of that will be
44 but it is a new thing in that regard.

45
46 So if you could move on to the next
47 slide, please.

48
49 And I apologize in the title, that
50

0112

1 should be 2010 to 2020, not 2001. So as it relates to
2 snow crab or opilio crab, the same general principles
3 apply is that when the, you know, the stocks are down
4 at very low levels which means, you know, there's an
5 abundance based management system for this fishery as
6 well, which means that our bycatch -- the amount of
7 bycatch that we're allowed to have will also drop and
8 there's also potential closures -- area closures
9 associated with it. The first point being that the PFC
10 limit -- or our bycatch would be automatically reduced,
11 the amount that's available to us will be reduced by 45
12 percent. A lot of the area where snow crab, you know,
13 part of what the survey is showing is that snow crab
14 are moving in a northwest direction and they are -- and
15 a lot of that area is actually off limits to our
16 fishing. The area is called the Northern Bering Sea
17 research area. If you can imagine a line going out
18 from Nunivak Island north, most of that area is --
19 north of that line is -- you know, we're prohibited
20 from fishing in there with the gear that we use. So a
21 lot of where the opilio crab are moving to are areas
22 that we're not allowed to fish in anyways. Our trawl
23 bycatch of opilio has historically been below one
24 percent, you know, of the total mortality of all the
25 fishery removals and the last couple of years it's been
26 very, very low. In terms of Council management going
27 forward, this stock has -- I don't know if the letter
28 has come out yet but the expectation is is that this
29 stock is going to be declared as overfished and that
30 will trigger a process within the North Pacific
31 Fisheries Management Council which requires a
32 rebuilding plan, which provides -- and part of that is
33 reviewing -- carefully reviewing all sources of
34 removals from the fishery and going through, you know,
35 a very extensive process to bring that -- to rebuild
36 that stock. This is not the first time that the stock
37 has had to be rebuilt, it had to go through a
38 rebuilding plan back in 2000 but, again, we're -- for
39 both the crab fisheries, you know, it's very, very
40 important that we do our part to reduce our bycatch.
41 We are currently working with the Bering Sea Research
42 Foundation which is a science group that's run by the
43 Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers and we're working with them
44 on research going forward to, you know, continue to
45 minimize our bycatch to the extent that we can.

46

47 So with that, if you want to shift to
48 the next slide, I think we're ready to talk about
49 salmon and that'll be it. Go ahead, Mark.

50

0113

1 MR. FINA: Yeah, so I'll speak to this
2 slide. As you can see this is salmon bycatch and it's
3 separated into the pollock fishery bycatch and the non-
4 pollock fishery bycatch. Non-pollock is black in both
5 of these and on top of the orange bar which is pollock
6 fishery bycatch. And our bycatch has historically been
7 a relatively small part of it. I guess for one thing
8 for just Chris and I, in any of these slides where we
9 have trawl -- where we isolate a trawl section of the
10 fleet, I think and in the crab fisheries as well as
11 these fisheries, we're part of the segment that we
12 identify, so we're not all of the black bar, we're part
13 of that black bar, probably a significant share in all
14 cases. But the halibut fishery numbers that you saw
15 are the only ones that are Amendment 80 fleet alone.
16 So as you can see in these slides we have had some
17 chinook bycatch over the years. We are -- our non-
18 chinook has been a -- a pretty small part of the non-
19 chinook bycatch. I guess we are -- we have had
20 measures in place for several years internally to
21 control our bycatch. We regularly get updates, weekly
22 updates on how much bycatch we have of salmon in some
23 internal reports that we use as well as we use an alarm
24 system, which is a monitoring system that we have for
25 monitoring all our catch, internally, that sends out
26 alarms out to boats any time they exceed 10 salmon in
27 their bycatch. So we don't have as an elaborate as a
28 plan for salmon as we do for other species but I do
29 think that it's a -- you know, we know that we need to
30 be sensitive to our chinook bycatch and we do respond
31 when we see bycatch incidents in our fleet. And that's
32 really all we had on the salmon bycatch topic.

33
34

Chris.

35
36

37 MR. WOODLEY: Yeah, one last thing we
38 wanted to say is earlier this year, I think it was back
39 in May and June we had gotten a notification from Tim
40 Sands that there was concern about that our vessels may
41 be picking up chinook bycatch in our spring fishery
42 there in that postage stamp area that we showed in a
43 previous slide. There was a lot of concern about that
44 but, you know, again, we've got two observers on board
45 and we have daily catch reporting to NOAA fisheries and
46 we did not have any chinook salmon bycatch in those
47 fisheries. We don't typically up when we're in that
48 spring fishery there in the Bristol Bay area. So I
49 know there was a little people who were really
50 concerned about that and we did speak directly with Tim

0114

1 Sands and gave him our data and had a good conversation
2 with him but we just wanted to make sure that people
3 were aware that if you heard that earlier this year,
4 that those rumors weren't true.

5

6 And that's the only other point I
7 wanted to add.

8

9 MR. FINA: And I think with that we can
10 handle questions if you have any.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That is
13 great, thank you guys. I certainly appreciate that
14 presentation. If there's questions, I'd like to open
15 it up to Council members first, any questions.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I do, Nanci. But
18 it seems like I'm always yacking, I want to defer to
19 other Council members first if they have something.
20 Okay.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's okay,
23 go ahead and start us off, others can formulate theirs.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you. First,
26 I want to thank you guys for coming and presenting. I
27 really appreciate it. For about a year, maybe a little
28 more -- I'm on Facebook way too much, but there's been
29 a -- as you are well aware there's a growing just out
30 and out anger and some of its misunderstanding of the
31 trawl bycatch situation. I think lately it's growing
32 out of the Anchorage area with some of the restrictions
33 and reductions on sport harvest of king salmon. So I
34 want to thank you guys for coming.

35

36 I have to say, though, I'm annoyed that
37 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council did not
38 provide any person to present. I want to make that
39 clear, I'm unhappy about that. Also it seems to me
40 that this group is probably the lowest impact fishery
41 out there and I was hoping to hear from the cod and
42 pollock trawl fishery. But if somebody wanted to
43 respond, go ahead.

44

45 MR. FINA: To us, I guess, as much as I
46 hate saying this, we are the biggest halibut bycatch
47 user. Although I do think that our impact on that
48 fishery is overstated by some of the Facebook posts
49 that you're mentioning. And, you know, we take it very
50

0115

1 seriously and we put a lot of effort into keeping our
2 numbers as low as we can keep them in that fishery.
3 You know we know that those fish are sought out by
4 others whose businesses depend on them so we do put a
5 lot of effort into keeping our halibut bycatch low.

6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks for that,
8 appreciate it. This Council one time joined with some
9 of the other Councils on the West Coast to really
10 insist on much more vigorous bycatch control and I
11 think there was some compromise met, I'm not sure it
12 entirely satisfied the Councils but it was a move in
13 the right direction. Yeah, I've been a little bit back
14 and forth, I've corresponded with some of your most
15 heated critics but trying to get a handle on it. I'm
16 glad to see the bycatch is apparently declining,
17 however, I have to say this whole pamphlet is designed
18 to minimize the apparent impact. And, yes, I'm glad
19 you're working hard and I hope you continue to do so.
20 I'm glad to see you -- and it's not just halibut. When
21 you see severe restrictions on salmon fisheries on the
22 Kuskokwim and the absolute closures on the Yukon, it's
23 a whole lot more than that. And also as small as the
24 bycatch is it falls on -- it doesn't satisfy people who
25 have had to sit and look at a closed fishery all
26 summer. Now Bristol Bay hasn't had that but our kings
27 are in poor shape.

28
29 So I was hoping we were going to hear
30 information on species composition and size composition
31 of this bycatch. I'm pretty sure it's not all adult
32 kings, near spawning stage, but I was just curious to
33 see some real breakdowns on that. Do you have any
34 information on that?

35
36 MS. MADSEN: Madame Chair, Stephanie
37 Madsen.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
40 Stephanie.

41
42 MS. MADSEN: Yeah, hi, my name's
43 Stephanie Madsen. I'm the Executive Director of the
44 At-Sea Processors Association. Unfortunately there was
45 kind of a -- maybe I dropped the ball on providing you
46 a presentation, I know that timeline has already passed
47 but I am on. We represent the off shore catcher
48 processors in the pollock fishery in the Bering Sea.
49 So I am here to answer questions since I missed the
50

0116

1 presentation deadline. So I'd be happy to answer any
2 questions or, if appropriate, I could give you a brief
3 summary on current Council actions and the work that my
4 fleet is doing. I do not represent the in-shore fleet,
5 just the off shore fleet. I just want to let folks
6 know on the line that I am on and willing to
7 participate to the extent that it's appropriate.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
12 Stephanie, for introducing yourself and stepping in.
13 Council members if there's no concern or problem, I'd
14 like to invite Stephanie for her presentation to see
15 what's going on there, is there anybody who would not
16 prefer to hear that.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, hi, Nanci, this is
19 Dan. Long time Stephanie since we were in Dutch
20 Harbor. Good to hear you on. I'd be eager to hear
21 what you -- any information you could share. Thank
22 you.

23

24 MS. MADSEN: Well, appreciate it. I
25 did go over the list and I know many of you from my
26 long participation out in Unalaska, Dutch Harbor, I
27 lived out there for 19 years as many of you know and
28 was able to visit the Bristol Bay area many summers
29 when I worked for the Shoreside Processors years ago.

30

31 I guess, briefly, I know that you're
32 all well versed in the salmon bycatch. We've been
33 regulated since -- specifically regulated since 2010.
34 We have incentive plans that are required by the
35 Council and approved by National Marine Fisheries
36 Service where we have to provide incentives to our
37 fleet that reduce -- incentive reducing salmon bycatch
38 both for chinook and chum in any abundance of pollock
39 and salmon. We also have a threshold that changes for
40 chinook when there's a low abundance indicator based on
41 a three river index. I'm sure you're all very familiar
42 with that because that's been around for awhile. I'm
43 think it's important to note that the industry has not
44 backed off. My fleet has not backed off at all in our
45 interest in reducing our salmon bycatch as much as we
46 can.

47

48 Our chinook bycatch is much lower than
49 in previous years. We have a rolling hot spot program,
50

0117

1 we have an outlier program that penalizes any vessel
2 that doesn't improve its behavior. It is a behavior
3 based program basically. It's to try to incentive
4 captains to improve their performance in bycatch.

5

6 I know that this year, really the focus
7 has been on chum salmon because the numbers were so
8 great. And I think the other thing that many of you
9 know but I will share again, there is genetics that are
10 being taken in both our fleets for chinook and chum.
11 So every 10th salmon -- chinook salmon is genetically
12 tested. Every 30 chum salmon is genetically tested.
13 And we get those genetic reports annually. For chum
14 salmon we are actually getting spacial and temporal
15 information in the Bering Sea so that we can better
16 focus our management measures, mitigation measures on
17 those areas and times when Western Alaska chum are
18 present in the Bering Sea. So we are getting more and
19 more sophisticated information that will help us when
20 we are trying to mitigate our bycatch.

21

22 I will note that the most recent chum
23 genetics for our Bering Sea bycatch really demonstrates
24 that over, I guess I don't have the percentages in
25 front of me, but the majority of the chum salmon that
26 are caught in our fleet, in the Bering Sea, are Asian
27 origin. And I think that's important for chum anyway
28 because there is so much hatchery fish out there and I
29 know that your area is also concerned about hatchery
30 production, the impact on wild stocks, the competition
31 for food. We are concerned about that as well and I
32 think that devoting time to talk about research both on
33 chum and chinook is very important and we're very happy
34 to participate.

35

36 So I think from the Council
37 perspective, they are paying attention. I mean the
38 testimony is pretty emotional and from my personal
39 experience, I emphasize with people that are not able
40 to go to fish camp and pass on the cultural activity so
41 we are paying attention. I think the Council requested
42 just what someone asked for, and that is the adult
43 pelimsy* that will demonstrate the fish that we catch
44 in our bycatch, what is the true impact to Western
45 Alaska streams. That's called the adult pelimsy*
46 quotation. They're going to update that with the most
47 recent information for chinook and they're also going
48 to see if they can't do one for chum salmon. They
49 don't quite have the terminal stream information on

50

0118

1 chum that they do on chinook so it's a little bit more
2 difficult but both of those activities are square in
3 the Council's radar and will be available for us to
4 understand better about the current situation for
5 salmon bycatch.

6
7 So I know I've provided you a lot of
8 information quickly but I hope that this has helped and
9 I'd be happy to respond to questions.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
12 you very much. I certainly appreciate that. Dan, go
13 ahead, I'm going to give you the floor back.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, great. Well, thank
16 you very much, Stephanie, appreciate it. I was a
17 little alarmed that I hadn't had -- I still wish North
18 Pacific was on but hearing from the pollock and cod
19 fishery helps a lot. Going back to the presentation
20 from our other folks I missed exactly what stock has
21 been designated or will be as overfished. Go ahead.

22
23 MR. WOODLEY: Yeah, this is Chris
24 Woodley again. Yeah, so it's our understanding and,
25 again, I'm not sure that the letter has come out yet,
26 but that it will be the opilio fishery that will be
27 declared overfished this year and, again, what that
28 does is that trigger -- under the Magnuson-Stevens Act,
29 it triggers a very elaborate stock rebuilding plan.
30 But, again, I haven't seen the letter yet, but I
31 believe that was very much the supposition is that was
32 going to happen.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you very
35 much. That's alarming. As a former assistant Bering
36 Sea/Aleutians crab manager, that makes me feel a little
37 sick that, as a management agencies, still haven't
38 quite got a handle on this. They had to lock up the
39 Sand Point office with a total closure, all crab
40 fisheries out of the South Peninsula, it was a horrible
41 feeling.

42
43 MR. WOODLEY: Yeah.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm glad they're taking
46 action. Well, I think this Council -- well, I'll speak
47 for myself. I'm still very concerned and I think there
48 should be ever downward pressure on this bycatch. I was
49 trying to get a handle on if it's just a new awareness
50

0119

1 among maybe like the sport user group out of the road
2 system area, or if things were changing, I'd have to
3 look deeper but this is a good first step. I'm glad to
4 see that it's not being neglected. We see pictures on
5 Facebook of a lot of fish being discarded, sometimes
6 they're claiming it was halibut but it's pretty obvious
7 it's probably other fish and not halibut, they weren't
8 even shaped right. So, yeah, I'm still hoping that
9 maybe at the winter meeting we could have the North
10 Pacific Management Council representative speak to us
11 on what is and has been done.

12

13 One other thing regarding a little
14 closer to home, I have heard complaints from our local
15 fishermen here in Dillingham when they're trying to
16 fish halibut in May and June that they're getting run
17 over by the trawlers out there between Round Island and
18 Nushagak Peninsula. I haven't heard any in the last
19 year or so but the way things have to operate in these
20 meetings that I don't know if it's still a problem or
21 we just don't hear about it. So if you could ask your
22 fleet to be respectful of that that small boat longline
23 fishery I'd sure appreciate it. Okay.

24

25 MR. WOODLEY: Yeah, this is Chris.
26 Yeah, absolutely. I mean that area around Round Island
27 there, that's an authorized transit area for our boats
28 to deliver to a trampers in State waters before they --
29 to off load our product and, yeah, that's absolutely
30 something we can talk about. We have a captains
31 meeting every year in January where we, you know,
32 discuss things like that. And, you know, it's not been
33 -- this is the first time I've heard of that concern so
34 we would absolutely, you know, be happy to bring that
35 to the attention of our captains. When we start off
36 our fishery up there in the spring, you know, for that
37 30 or so days that we're up there we have a pretty
38 extensive series of meetings prior to the start of
39 that, you know, with our companies and captains are
40 involved in that as well. And, yes, passing along that
41 information is very, very easy and I'm really sorry to
42 hear that that's a concern. I mean, yeah, I wouldn't
43 want to -- I know I wouldn't want to be in a small boat
44 when you've got a big boat or a tramper going by, it
45 definitely throws a big wake.

46

47 So the other thing I just wanted to say
48 was kind of going back to the Facebook thing was that
49 -- I'm sorry I have to move locations here -- don't --

50

0120

1 please, please please don't believe what you read on
2 Facebook. I am familiar with that group, there is a lot
3 of anger in there, there's a lot of hostility and
4 there's a tremendous amount of misinformation. And so,
5 you know, I would welcome if any of you have any
6 questions at all that you want to ask us about our
7 trawl bycatch, I will give you my phone number and my
8 email, I'll send it to the folks who organized this
9 event and please feel free to call me and we could talk
10 about it. But, again, I wouldn't -- definitely
11 wouldn't take your information from that group. There
12 is an awful lot of information on what they're posting
13 and it just doesn't help the issue at all, it's just
14 inflaming people, it's not trying to solve a problem,
15 it's just trying to make people angry.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, for
18 that. I agree. And I've challenged them. What I've
19 been impressed is a couple leaders, or actually I
20 directed them to the data and the website of the North
21 Pacific Fisheries Council, they are beginning to learn
22 about the data and where it is. I think, still, a
23 person that catches three or four halibut a year hears
24 the numbers you guys talk about and it's mind-boggling,
25 you know, I still can't get my head.....

26

27 MR. WOODLEY: Right.

28

29 MR. DUNAWAY:around a million
30 pounds of pollock either. But they are becoming
31 educated. Hopefully they'll become more rationale.
32 But it is still a concern. I would be eager to get
33 your contact info. One of my very close neighbors is
34 one of the most active halibut fishermen here and he
35 would probably like to know about your captain's
36 meetings. Okay.

37

38 MR. WOODLEY: Sure, yeah, absolutely.
39 So I'll just pass it on to the folks that organized
40 this event and my cell phone and my email and, again,
41 please feel free to call. I'd rather talk with people,
42 you know, in person about these things than going into
43 the Facebook war because it's just not a productive way
44 to spend time.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, that's all I have
47 for now Nanci and thank you very much. And, thanks,
48 again, for providing the information and for Stephanie
49 to be on too. Thank you.

50

0121

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
2 Dan. Any other Council members with questions.

3
4 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Rich
5 Wilson here.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Please, go
8 ahead, Rich.

9
10 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Yeah, hey, thanks
11 guys, Chris, Mark, Stephanie. Very good info. You
12 know as I sit and listen to what you folks have to say
13 about the fisheries out there, you know, science has
14 really been our side, you know we have a lot of science
15 out there to improve, you know, our fisheries all
16 around the world and in our State waters here. As I
17 listen to you guys, you know, I had a couple of
18 thoughts here, I wonder the bycatch on the halibut, if
19 there was any DNA, knowing where those halibut went
20 into this. I live in Naknek here, and typically when
21 we're out here for halibut it's kind of a hit and miss.
22 Some years you get a few and other years you really got
23 to scrape to try to get anything and it just -- you
24 know it doesn't take much to interrupt the system, you
25 know, we're so in shore fishery here, it doesn't take
26 much to disrupt that. I'm just amazed at the science
27 out there that allows all these different fisheries
28 and, you know, we're all in this together and we're
29 realizing it and we're trying to partner up and trying
30 to figure out, you know, what's the best methods, you
31 know, so that we have a resource that's going to last
32 us for a long time. You know we've all gone overboard,
33 even the Bay here, with all the new technology and jet
34 boats and everybody, you just got to -- you know,
35 science is so amazing that, you know, there's just no
36 end to it. So, yes, we have to be very cautious and
37 mindful of your neighbors or other fisheries that, you
38 know, because we're all in this together.

39
40 I guess I don't have one particular
41 thing in mind here. But just as I look into this and
42 you get a feel for what all the fisheries are in Alaska
43 and what they represent. Everybody wants to make a
44 buck. But, you know, maybe two bucks is good and not
45 10 bucks, you know, where do we stop. So, you know,
46 management is very important. I'm very thankful for
47 you guys coming forward and giving us this presentation
48 because it really gives us the friendly neighbor kind
49 of thing, it's a good start.
50

0122

1 So that's all I have for now and I
2 really thank you guys for the input.

3
4 MR. FINA: I guess I want to respond to
5 the first part of your question about, you know, where
6 the halibut we catch are going, where are they going to
7 end up. And that's a question that the IPHC, I think,
8 has really struggled with. We -- I don't know if you
9 -- you probably know that the halibut are managed
10 coast-wide, all the way from California up to Alaska so
11 when they do a stock assessment it covers the entire
12 Coast. And one of the issues that we've discussed
13 several times is, you know, where are the -- what are
14 the impacts of the bycatch that we have. Most is
15 realized in the Bering Sea but there is some migration
16 south into the Gulf and some migration towards the
17 Aleutians but they really do not have a good handle on
18 that. And I think -- so I think the localized impacts
19 -- the only thing people can say I think about
20 localized impacts is that if you take fish out of an
21 area you are -- you're depleting what's there in the
22 immediate future, but long-term, I don't think they
23 have a great grasp on how that depletion might last.
24 And that's really a question for the halibut scientists
25 at the IPHC and they can give you a much better answer
26 on that than I can.

27
28 I agree with what you say, generally,
29 is that we recognize that we're part of this. We
30 operate, you know, a good size fleet that catches an
31 awful lot of fish, we employ a lot of people, we have
32 an impact on shore jobs in Alaska as well and shore
33 jobs outside the state, you know, those are significant
34 impacts too. But with that said, you know, we're all
35 part of the same system and we all need to do our part
36 to make sure that these are shared resources, not
37 monopolized resources so we're definitely sensitive to
38 that.

39
40 MR. WILSON: Yeah, well, thanks for
41 that too. And, you know, this really does help. You
42 know we're only humans here, you know, and the
43 communication what you just said there from yourself to
44 myself here, you know, it's a connection. I mean
45 you're fishing in certain waters and we have certain
46 waters here we're fishing in and to realize what's
47 happening, you know, with each others fishery and how
48 you could help each other out I think is -- you know,
49 instead of just depending on, you know, other people to
50

0123

1 help regulate what you do, is to self-regulate and to
2 realize what's happening and to know that your neighbor
3 needs that fish, probably more than you if it's
4 bycatch, and you're throwing it overboard, you know, so
5 there's things that we can do, you and I, in this world
6 that we live in today to help make sure that our
7 resources are taken care of for the origin that they're
8 directed to.

9

10 So, thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, well
13 said. Well said, thank you, both of you. Lary, Billy,
14 any questions.

15

16 MR. TREFON: No. This is Billy, I'm
17 good here. I do appreciate the information, it was
18 really good. And I do hope that more people from the
19 Aleutians down there get involved with this bycatch to
20 get more information. Appreciate it, thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
23 Billy. Lary.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Nanci, this is Robbin.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
30 Robbin.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. I just
33 want to note as we are wrapping up this issue, we, at
34 OSM, have heard your interest in having the North
35 Pacific Fisheries Management Council present at the
36 winter meeting. If we can, you know, highlight that
37 for Staff now, I -- I would like to apologize, again,
38 because we are in transition in Staff there are -- our
39 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council Coordinator, long
40 time Coordinator, just retired this summer so in the
41 passing off of duties these things may have been missed
42 so I apologize. But on the record and for everyone
43 here, if you are all interested in hearing from the
44 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, if there is
45 anyone else on this issue you'd like to invite to the
46 winter meeting to present, please let us know, and do
47 you want our friends Mark Fina and Chris -- ahh, Chris,
48 hang on just a minute Chris, I'm going to find your
49 name.

50

0124

1 MR. WOODLEY: Woodley.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Chris Woodley.

4

5 MR. WOODLEY: W-O-O-D-L-E-Y. It's
6 okay, it happens.

7

8 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, do we want -- do we
9 need them to return. So anyway my questions is, what
10 is the wish of the Council for inviting reports to the
11 winter meeting, before we move on.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, I've
14 already.....

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:made a
19 note about it. And I think that we probably would like
20 to have -- but Dan, what I would like and you don't
21 have to do it this second, what I would like is to have
22 a more specific request for what you would like to hear
23 from the North Pacific Council and then yes, would love
24 to put that on the agenda and the invitation sent out
25 for the winter meeting. And do my Council members have
26 any other questions, go ahead, I do still have a couple
27 questions too that I would like to ask but since we got
28 sidetracked on this, let's go with this first.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan here.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. Robbin,
35 I hope I didn't sound too grumpy. I think I may have
36 made that request at about the very time Donald was
37 retiring so I'm not surprised it might have got lost in
38 the jumble. When this was a hot issue, bycatch was a
39 hot issue some years ago, and like I said we teamed up
40 with other Councils to really try to draw a hard line
41 on bycatch, we had actually because he was a local guy,
42 Eric Olsen was Chair of the North Pacific Council, grew
43 up here in Dillingham and sometimes personally he would
44 come to these Advisory Council meetings and present
45 kind of what their programs were, what their assessment
46 was and kind of some data that could probably be viewed
47 as the most scientific and least likely to be biased.
48 And, you know, so kind of like this size composition,
49 understanding some of this adult equivalency stuff, you
50

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1 know, so that we can kind of see as balanced as
2 possible what they know is going on. And also rather
3 than -- instead of an individual user group, kind of
4 combine them all together. So an overview and a person
5 who can discuss this from the North Pacific Council, I
6 would really welcome it.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Is that
11 clear enough for you Robbin.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 Yes, thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Then
17 I had a couple questions, too, that I'd appreciate it
18 if somebody has the answers to. I wanted to know what
19 the projected survival is of the discarded fish, has
20 anybody done a study on that or is it being conducted
21 or do we have an idea.

22

23 MR. FINA: Yes, we do know. Lately --
24 it depends. The way that our -- the way that our
25 observer protocols work, historically we were required
26 to put all fish into a tank on the vessel and then as
27 they were taken out of the tank and be brought to
28 process -- to be processed, we would discard the
29 halibut out of chute, and the mortality rate of those
30 fish was anywhere from 75 to 85, close to 90 percent.
31 And the mortality rates were derived by annually --
32 observers doing viability checks, looking at the fish
33 skin, the gills, the eyes, the condition of the fish as
34 it was discarded and using a protocol that had been
35 developed by the IPHC for determining mortality based
36 on observation. The -- we now, with deck sorting, have
37 shifted the discarding fish on the deck as much as we
38 can, so as we're emptying a trawl net, we have crew
39 picking up halibut bringing them to an observer and
40 that observer looks at the fish and does the same
41 viability check that has been done below deck
42 historically. It is now being done on deck as we go.
43 And each tow gets a specific discard mortality for its
44 discards on deck. And that has -- I've seen the
45 mortality as low as 20, 22 percent, 23 percent,
46 somewhere in that range, up to probably into the 50s. I
47 would say overall our fleet right now is looking at a
48 mortality of on deck and in the factory, when the fish
49 go down below deck, is probably close to 55 percent

50

0126

1 across the board for the entire fleet. Some boats do a
2 little bit better, some of the smaller boats I think
3 have had better success than some of the bigger boats
4 and fishing conditions make a difference. But right
5 now the mortality overall I think is around 50 to 55
6 percent. And that's down historically, it was all
7 going into the tanks and it was closer to 75 to 90
8 percent range.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, that
11 is.....

12
13 MS. MADSEN: Madame Chair, this is
14 Stephanie, on salmon.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, please.

17
18 MS. MADSEN: Well, as you can imagine
19 salmon is 100 percent mortality when they come up in
20 our trawls but also the regulations require all salmon
21 to be retained until counted by an observer. So we
22 have lots of cameras, we have two observers on board
23 and we are not allowed to discard any salmon unless
24 it's -- until it's counted by the observer. But we
25 also participate in the Seashare Food Bank Program,
26 which I know a lot of the folks up in the Bay area are
27 very familiar with. So the salmon that meets the
28 qualifications of the Food Bank criteria are frozen and
29 transported and get into the Food Bank Program. So,
30 again, we are regulatory required to retain all salmon
31 until counted by an observer and those salmon that meet
32 the criteria for the Food Bank Program go there.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
35 you, Stephanie. Very familiar with that program and
36 I'm very grateful that exists and I think it's way more
37 sensible than wasting. And, good, I'm also glad to see
38 that our mortality rates have come down significantly
39 and hopefully can work on it to an even lower number.

40
41 I've also got another question for both
42 the halibut and the salmon fisheries. What, and I'm
43 not sure how to ask this question so I'm going to ask
44 it and then we can discuss what I'm looking for. What
45 age class are most of the salmon being caught at, is it
46 the same year they're returning to the rivers, is it
47 their second or third year out at sea, do we know about
48 when those salmon are being caught, if they have much
49 more time in the saltwater or if we expect them in the
50

0127

1 freshwater.

2

3 MS. MADSEN: Well, I don't have the
4 exact age, I'm sorry. But I think the Council and the
5 Alaska Fisheries Science Center, as I mentioned, they
6 do the adult equivalency work. I can tell you just by
7 the salmon that we're catching, they're not heading to
8 the terminal streams. Well, again, we're not just
9 catching Western Alaska salmon, I think the genetics
10 report. But regardless the size of the salmon indicate
11 that they are not headed to the terminal streams in
12 that year. But I'm sorry I don't have any additional
13 information but I can try to get some of the
14 information from the adult equivalency to provide a
15 little bit more specificity.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, that
18 would be appreciated, just to know, you know, for my
19 way of thinking, I'm thinking so what year are we
20 looking at, you know, say taking a hit if there's some
21 big bycatch that happens, so that's what I'm looking
22 at. I'm glad to hear they're building a lot more and
23 better detailed data on salmon bycatch, Stephanie, and
24 hopefully we'll have a lot more better info going
25 forward, I appreciate that.

26

27 Okay, any other Council, if not, we'll
28 thank you again for your presentation.

29

30 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard.

31

32 MR. FINA: You're welcome.....

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard go
35 ahead.

36

37 MR. FINA:for the opportunity.

38

39 MR. WILSON: Yeah, this is for
40 Stephanie. Stephanie, say, I guess I'd be interested
41 if we could get some info on the fleet that you
42 represent there on how far -- you're talking about
43 bycatch and they're not going to the terminal streams
44 at that time, that they're a younger class, I'd be
45 interested to know where these are being caught, you
46 know, if you had some information on where your fleet
47 is fishing and it kind of gives us a better idea where,
48 you know, where our fish are cycling through.

49

50

0128

1 MS. MADSEN: Sure. Sure. I can
2 provide -- that's genetics work. For chinook it's not
3 quite the temporal spatial information I referred to as
4 we do have on chum but I can get you some information,
5 at least the best available information. On chum we
6 have been doing -- or the agency's been doing a little
7 bit more temporal and spatial work on Western Alaska
8 chum because our obligation to avoid bycatch is to
9 avoid Western Alaska chum and there isn't as much
10 hatchery evidence in the chinook fishery, or the
11 chinook bycatch. So I will try to get that information
12 to you.

13
14 I also wanted to highlight for your
15 group that, you know, we are required annually to
16 provide reports to the Council in April every year
17 about one, what my fleet is catching. So you can find
18 a coop report that has a vessel name and exactly what
19 species and how much they caught, including bycatch,
20 herring, you know, all of the species. And then we're
21 also required to provide a report to the Council
22 annually about how our incentive plans are working and
23 we are required to demonstrate that they are providing
24 incentives. I know that that's a lot of reading and I
25 don't know how to summarize it but I have done some
26 PowerPoints before on that, it's -- and I'd be happy to
27 share those. Anyone on the line, if you want more --
28 you know if you have smaller groups that would like to
29 hear some of this information I'm more than happy to
30 present. I know it's a large complex issue and I
31 appreciate the time spent on it this morning.

32
33 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, thank
36 you very much. Anybody else. Anything else.

37
38 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan here.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I actually thanks
43 for more good information. And thanks for bringing up
44 the Seashare item. I think they might have changed a
45 little bit this year but in the past an awful lot of
46 that Seashare went to the Lower 48. I'm just wishing
47 and especially for the Yukon folks this year of a
48 better way to get more of that bycatch to Alaskans,
49 especially rural Alaskans. I know the logistics are
50

0129

1 real problematic but it would sure be cool to make some
2 progress on that.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. MADSEN: Well, thanks for raising
7 that. I think Seashare also has to -- so many reports
8 -- Seashare provides a report to the Council and I
9 think you'll be very pleased that they've kind of
10 rejiggered their operations and a lot more of the
11 salmon bycatch is coming to Alaska and I know there was
12 a special effort this last summer to try to get more of
13 the fish up in the Yukon area. Both by the State of
14 Alaska, actually some of your processors there in the
15 Bay, and then Seashare itself. So I think that concern
16 has been heard loud and clear by the Seashare Board and
17 they are amending to the extent that logistics provide.
18 They're getting more and more out there. Now, I will
19 quickly add that I recognize that's not a replacement,
20 that's maybe an enhancement, it certainly isn't a
21 replacement for catching your own fish. But you'd be
22 happy to know that Seashare has rejiggered their model.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: That's good to know. I
25 know years ago I called Robin Samuelson when he was on
26 the Council, I think before Seashare existed, so I'm
27 glad to hear progress. And, you know, one other thing
28 amongst the other Council members, you know, some of
29 the folks that are out there doing the bycatch are CDQ
30 groups that.....

31

32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY:have their base in
36 the coastal villages of Alaska.

37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted)

40

41 MS. LAVINE: Hold on, Madame Chair,
42 this is Robbin.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

45

46 MS. LAVINE: Hello, for those of you
47 online, we are hearing a discussion. I would like to
48 remind you to press star six to mute your phones, and
49 thank you very much. Once again star six to mute your
50

0130

1 phones. Sorry, Madame Chair, you may continue.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, I
4 appreciate it. Go ahead, Dan.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks. Thanks,
7 Robbin. Thanks, Nanci. I was just wanting to say
8 since a lot of live where we have CDQ -- coastal CDQ
9 groups, we should maybe be talking to our own CDQ
10 groups either about getting bycatch where it should go,
11 or what that company can do to further limit it.

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: So I kind of -- I
17 remember we got into this circle discussion a little
18 bit when we were pushing for a bycatch before because
19 it's kind of the same people with trawlers, or lease
20 trawlers or -- not lease, but contract agreements
21 representing people that are getting impacted by the
22 bycatch. So anyway I've talked too much.

23

24 Thank you so much, again, everybody.

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
30 you, Dan. Anybody else.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, well,
35 we'll wrap this up. And, again, for the multiple time
36 I would just like to say thank you Mark, Chris, and
37 Stephanie for your presentations and answering our
38 questions and coming in front of us. It's very
39 meaningful information and we look forward to having
40 more discussions with you in the future. So thank you
41 again.

42

43 MS. MADSEN: Well, thank you very much
44 for the invite and look forward to future discussions.

45

46 MR. WOODLEY: Yes, thank you for the
47 opportunity, really appreciate it.

48

49 MR. FINA: Thank you.

50

0131

1 MS. MADSEN: Bye.

2

3 MR. WOODLEY: Bye.

4

5 MR. FINA: Bye.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We'll
8 move on here to Item No. B, small mammal report, and
9 Robbin we don't have anybody for that or are we
10 skipping it or do we have somebody.

11

12 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, thank you.
13 Yes, we do have ADF&G Biologist Rick Merizon online.
14 Rick, are you here.

15

16 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, hi, this is Rick.
17 I actually was planning on just providing an update for
18 the Alaska hare proposal.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That will be
21 fine.

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 MR. MERIZON: Okay, thank you, Madame
27 Chair and members of the Council. Again, my name is
28 Rick Merizon. I'm a statewide Small Game Program
29 Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
30 I was prepared to discuss what the State -- what the
31 Small Game Program has been doing with regard to Alaska
32 hare in Western Alaska.

33

34 So beginning in 2017 the Statewide
35 Small Game Program began visiting numerous small
36 communities, rural communities throughout Western
37 Alaska to try to learn more about the Alaska hare and
38 specifically, the Alaska hare, just for clarity, are
39 the large hares. We have two native species of hare in
40 Alaska, the Alaska hare and snowshoe. The Alaska hare
41 are locally known by jackrabbit or tundra hare. So
42 this update is relative to Alaska hare, the larger of
43 the two species. So beginning in 2017 the Small Game
44 Program began visiting many rural Western villages to
45 try to learn more about Alaska hare from local
46 residents. Up until that point Fish and Game had done
47 very little relative to Alaska hare and knew very
48 little about their life history and current status. So
49 we embarked on a broad scale region-wide, species
50

1 region-wide visitation of local villages to try to
2 learn from rural residents about that species.

3
4 Throughout those visits from Kotzebue
5 down throughout the Seward Peninsula and Bristol Bay,
6 we learned almost unanimously from almost all of our
7 visits with folks that people were seeing far fewer
8 Alaska hares than they had historically seen in the
9 past. The last high abundance of hares was observed in
10 the late '70s, early '80s and since the mid-80s folks
11 reported seeing very few Alaska hare in throughout
12 Western Alaska. So beginning in 2018, the Small Game
13 Program along with other Department Staff initiated a
14 four year study trying to understand two primary
15 objectives. One was to develop a long-term monitoring
16 technique that would allow the Department to understand
17 population trends in localized areas and then the
18 second primary objective was to capture and radio
19 collar Alaska hare in various parts of their range and
20 learn about movement and mortality. We've been
21 successful in pursuing both of those objectives. In
22 fact, looking at preliminary data we feel very
23 confident that we've identified a method that will
24 allow the Department to begin assessing populations
25 long-term and that method is through the use of
26 pellets. Actually using a collection of pellets and
27 identifying individual hares through genetic analysis.
28 And with repeated visits, annual visits at these same
29 survey locations we can actually get a localized
30 abundance estimate; we're fairly confident of that. We
31 have one more year of research to evaluate that effort
32 but we are hopeful that that methodology will allow us
33 to begin assessing localized population trends. The
34 second objective, we have been successful in capturing
35 and radio collaring numerous individuals throughout the
36 range of Alaska hares and learning a great deal about
37 their movement and subsequent mortality.

38
39 Through these efforts, as well as our
40 rural Alaska villages and talking to many folks that
41 are very familiar with the species beginning in 2018,
42 on the State, the Alaska Board of Game addressed and
43 adopted a proposal for Unit 9 creating a season, bag
44 limit and salvage requirement for Alaska hares, and
45 Unit 9 was much more restrictive than the previous set
46 of regulations had been. Following that up, in January
47 2020 the State Board of Game adopted a proposal for
48 Unit 18, 22 and 23 that also created more restrictive
49 season dates, bag limits and salvage requirements. And
50

0133

1 so through that lens we submitted Proposal WP22-39 to
2 consider the same regulatory structure as is currently
3 on the State side for Unit 9 and 17 Alaska here.

4

5 And I'm happy to go into that proposal
6 but I know it's listed later on down the agenda so I
7 don't want to -- I guess I'll just maybe ask for some
8 advice on how best to proceed on that.

9

10 Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
13 you very much. Yeah, I think what we would prefer is
14 to go ahead and ask questions now and have you
15 available when we address the proposal. Would that
16 work for you?

17

18 MR. MERIZON: Absolutely. That works
19 for me.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
22 you. Then I'll open it up for questions.

23

24 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Rich Wilson.

25

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

28

29 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I got a question
30 there. So you speak of the mortality, do we have any
31 idea what the -- or why they're -- why such low
32 numbers, do we have any info?

33

34 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair, that's
35 a great question. And that's a big issue that we're
36 trying to understand. The short answer is we don't
37 have a good understanding as to why -- what caused the
38 decline that we've observed over the last several
39 decades and what is currently keeping the population at
40 relatively low densities. We have a number of theories
41 but, again, we don't have any definitive answers on
42 what exactly is causing that, or what has caused the
43 decline.

44

45 MR. WILSON: Okay. So you say you have
46 one more year left in your study, is that after this --
47 there must be something missing in your study and after
48 a year you're going to possibly have a better idea of
49 that, I suppose, uh?

50

0134

1 MR. MERIZON: So through the Chair.
2 We're still in the active data collection process.
3 Actually, haven't done a very exhaustive data analysis
4 portion of the research yet so I'm just reluctant to
5 relay any of the preliminary data to date right now.
6 But it's a fairly broad scale study that is attempting
7 to allow us to understand some very basic biological
8 and methodological issues relative to Alaska hare.
9 And, you know, there's certainly, as with any research,
10 there's lots of questions that come from current
11 research and so I suspect that we'll likely have many
12 more questions potentially after we wrap up this next
13 coming year of data collection and analysis. But
14 certainly mortality is a big issue and whether or not
15 we'll be able to answer the cause of the decline, or
16 the cause of current low density through this current
17 research we're not completely confident we'll be able
18 to do that. But we're just trying to understand from
19 the individuals that we have collared what is causing
20 those animals to die. So we'll definitely have some
21 information on that.

22
23 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Thank you,
24 Madame Chair. That's all I have for the moment.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
27 Richard. And Robbin, it would be great if you would
28 make note that we would like to have an updated report
29 about the findings for Alaska hare.

30
31 MS. LAVINE: Will do, Madame Chair,
32 thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
35 Council members, any other questions.

36
37 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, this is Lary.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary, please
40 go ahead.

41
42 MR. HILL: The research from the radio
43 collars, do they find the rabbit, do they find these
44 hares bodies, carcasses and if so can you tell if they
45 just died or were they killed by some other animal
46 first, specifically referring to the coyotes. We have
47 a lot more coyotes in the last 20 years than we ever
48 had before. So just a question.

49
50

0135

1 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair, again,
2 Rick Merizon. So we through our research, these are
3 GPS collars so they're transmitting specific locations
4 at high frequency and we have a very accurate idea of
5 when the animal dies based on the type of signal we
6 receive back from it. Because of the remote nature of
7 some of these specific animals it's difficult to get
8 out to the site immediately to try to determine whether
9 it was disease and then an animal came along and
10 consumed the carcass or whether the animal was actually
11 captured by a predator and then consumed. That can be
12 challenging to determine but that's something that
13 we're -- again, there's potential to maybe refine that,
14 our ability to understand that in the future.

15
16 MR. HILL: Okay, thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We're
19 still open for questions Council members.

20
21 MR. TREFON: Yeah, this is Billy. I
22 got one about the hare and the decline. I work in -- as
23 you guys all know I'm a wildland firefighter and I've
24 watched the climate changes in the environment and I'm
25 wondering would this also have an affect on the hare
26 because they're a high altitude little animal that
27 heart beats like a rabbit -- I mean like a bird, really
28 fast.

29
30 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair.
31 There's certainly potential for climate change effects
32 with this species, no doubt, that's definitely one of
33 the issues we're considering that may have caused the
34 decline and may be perpetuating the low density, but
35 there are a number of other factors that could also be
36 contributing to those issues.

37
38 MR. TREFON: Okay, thank you. Thank
39 you for your report.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
42 you, Billy. Anyone else.

43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, this is Dan.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
47 Dan.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Thanks. Yeah, Rick, I
50

0136

1 was just curious is that one collared bunny down near
2 Clark's Point, Ekok area, is he still hopping around or
3 do you know?

4
5 MR. MERIZON: Yes, through the Chair.
6 We do have some animals down -- several animals
7 collared in the Dillingham area that are still active.

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: So that's cool. I'm
10 really tickled that this study is being done just from
11 a sheer curiosity standpoint plus it has practicality.
12 So thanks for the update.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I was just
15 going to warn you not to make it your pet, Dan. Just
16 because they have collars doesn't mean you can make
17 them a pet.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: No, it's science. I can't
22 get that far.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, anyone
27 else.

28
29 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Rich Wilson
30 again, one more.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
33 Richard.

34
35 MR. WILSON: Yeah, once again I see the
36 numbers on some of your history on where these hares
37 are, I see east side of Iliamna Lake has a very high
38 number and I wonder if you had any collared ones over
39 on that side of the lake. Okay.

40
41 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair. We
42 don't have any animals collared specifically on the
43 Alaska Peninsula. We've attempted to locate -- so just
44 to give you a little bit of understanding, we've -- my
45 colleagues and I have spent more nights than I can
46 remember trying to run around trying to locate Alaska
47 hares and find a high enough density that would warrant
48 constructing sort of a concerted capture effort and the
49 Alaska Peninsula is one of those locations that
50

0137

1 densities appear to be quite low and we could employ
2 weeks of efforts to try to capture an individual and
3 potentially never even see one. So we focused most of
4 our capture effort in areas that have higher densities
5 of animals, which is north of Bristol Bay along the
6 Seward Peninsula and portions of northern YKDelta. So,
7 no, to answer your question we do not have any animals
8 collared on the Alaska Peninsula itself.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Okay. I understand that
11 you had one over towards Dillingham way but the numbers
12 show that you had -- that there was a lot more reported
13 over in the village of Kokhanok over on the east side
14 of Iliamna Lake, like three times more than most so I'm
15 surprised that, you know, there's not more effort being
16 on the Lake Iliamna side. So just a comment there.
17 Maybe something to look into.

18

19 Thanks.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
22 you. Any other questions, and we will have opportunity
23 for additional questions when we go over our proposal.

24

25 MR. TREFON: Billy here. One more
26 here. Reflecting on Lary's comment. The only place
27 that we see these hares in this part of Alaska, over
28 here in Nondalton is all very exclusive Groundhog, and
29 over toward open country, not so much toward Lake
30 Clark, they really are a tundra hare.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
35 Billy. Any other questions.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Hey, Nanci, I have a non-
38 hare rabbit question if we're done with that. Okay.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, go
41 ahead, Dan.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. While we have you,
44 Rick, another small mammal, there's been a lot of
45 concern for ptarmigan all over Western Alaska and I
46 think we've even acted to be a little more conservative
47 in our area. Do you have a general sense of what
48 ptarmigan are doing? Like Richard said, he's seen a
49 few more around here. Go ahead if you have kind of an
50

0138

1 overview, thanks.

2

3

4 MR. MERIZON: Sure. Again, through the
5 Chair, Rick Merizon here with the Small Game Program.
6 So we -- yes, it does appear that both rock and willow
7 ptarmigan are increasing, both across the Alaska
8 Peninsula and throughout Bristol Bay and the YKDelta
9 coming off the recent low that I'm sure many of you
10 have observed and felt. This spring we are preparing
11 to exert more effort in trying to get a large scale
12 project going out on the YKDelta for willow ptarmigan
13 to understand, again, their movement and potential
14 mortality. It's a very difficult, logistical challenge
15 to do this project for a variety of reasons but that
16 will certainly help us understand movement patterns.
17 And when I say that, I mean that ptarmigan tend to move
18 elevationally throughout the year throughout Alaska and
19 we have mild winters they tend to stay in locations
20 where they -- well, often times, in some situations and
21 that's why we're doing the study -- they oftentimes
22 tend to stay in locations where they summer and brood
23 rear at higher elevations up in the mountains and so
24 with recent years of relatively mild winters, with the
25 exception of maybe last winter, ptarmigan movements may
26 have been altered to some degree as well. So I
27 certainly suspect that there was very significant
28 decline in population abundance out in Bristol Bay and
29 the YKDelta over the recent past but sort of the
30 amplitude of the decline is unknown at this point
31 simply because of those mild winters that may have
32 affected their movement. So we're trying to understand
33 their movement patterns in the upcoming study and so we
34 should have some results of that -- preliminary results
35 within about a year.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, that's really
38 good to know. Because we were really concerned about
39 three or four years ago, so thank you. That's all I
40 have.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
43 thanks, Dan. Any other questions related to hare or
44 other small mammals for Rick.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Rick,
49 thank you. And I hope you'll stick with us here when
50 we get into our proposals and you can help us out

51

0139

1 there. Let's move on to Item 13C, Nushagak Peninsula,
2 Andy, are you prepared.

3

4 MR. ADERMAN: Madame Chair, this is
5 Andy Aderman, can you hear me?

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I can, thank
8 you, please, go ahead.

9

10 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, I gave a brief
11 report yesterday and I'll just give that again. If you
12 have your Council books in front of you, it's the
13 bottom portion of Page 198, Nushagak Peninsula caribou.

14

15 We were able to do a couple photo
16 censuses this past summer in early July. We found a
17 minimum of 258 caribou and that's about 50 caribou
18 increase from the previous year. The caribou planning
19 committee that oversees this herd, we met with them and
20 provided all the information that we have on the herd
21 and the basic outcome out of that meeting was that the
22 committee favored having a hunt with a total of eight
23 permits, four going to Manokotak, two each to
24 Dillingham and Aleknagik. There hasn't been any
25 harvest so far this year. The season will be open
26 until March 15th.

27

28 So the last thing that I have for the
29 herd is not on there, because it just happened, the
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducted a sex and
31 age composition survey on the Nushagak herd and the
32 results of that were estimates of 48 calves per 100
33 cows and 39 bulls per 100 cows, which are both really
34 good, strong estimates that the herd is going in the
35 increasing direction.

36

37 That's all I have for Nushagak
38 Peninsula caribou, if you have any questions I'll try
39 to answer them.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'll
42 go ahead and open the floor for those questions then.
43 Council members.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. You
48 probably all asked your questions yesterday. The only
49 question I've got for you Andy is not knowing what the
50

0140

1 Nushagak herd uses, is there any fear of the
2 brucellosis that we're looking at with Mulchatna
3 crossing over into that.

4

5 MR. ADERMAN: That's certainly a
6 concern. We did catch and collar 10 caribou back in
7 April but we did not draw blood. I did not see any
8 signs of swollen joints, you know, that might indicate
9 that there was. And even if we had drawn blood from 10
10 animals, that probably isn't a sufficient sample size,
11 but it would, you know, if half of those or, you know,
12 even one tested positive then that would be good
13 information to know.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
16 didn't know if we were in fear of it or if hopefully
17 they were far enough apart we wouldn't have that
18 problem. I guess we don't want to look for trouble
19 either. So that will bring us to 14, new business,
20 where we will get started here on the discussion on
21 Mulchatna Caribou Herd status updates and management
22 strategies. And I think, maybe, Robbin and/or Dan,
23 fill me in on where we got on this discussion and where
24 we want to start off with, or do we want to just jump
25 into our proposals.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Yes, thank you, Madame
28 Chair, this is Robbin. I believe we postponed any
29 substantive reporting and discussion on the Mulchatna
30 Caribou Herd until today. And I do believe that the
31 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is prepared to share
32 a report on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and respond to
33 questions. Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great, thank
36 you for that Robbin. Truly appreciate it. And I would
37 invite.....

38

39 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

40

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

43

44 MR. WILSON: Rich here. Is there any
45 chance on taking like a five minute break here.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, yes,
48 sorry. I kind of get that way, it's easier when you're
49 in person and you can kind of nod at me. Yeah, let's,
50

0141

1 in fact, make it a 10 minute break. We'll start again
2 at 10:42, please, and we'll be prepared for that
3 update.

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (On record)

8

9 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
10 this is Robbin LaVine. Is Billy Trefon on.

11

12 MR. TREFON: He's here.

13

14 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Billy.

15

16 Is Lary Hill on.

17

18 MR. HILL: here.

19

20 MS. LAVINE: Is Richard Nelson on.

21

22 MR. WILSON: Richard Wilson, here.

23

24 MS. LAVINE: I'm sorry, Wilson. I'm
25 sorry Richard. And is Dan Dunaway on.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, I'm here, thank you.

28

29 MS. LAVINE: And Nanci, with you being
30 on we have a quorum and all seated members attending,
31 thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
34 you, Robbin. I appreciate that. Let's go ahead and
35 move forward with our discussion on the Mulchatna
36 Caribou Herd, the status updates and management
37 strategies.

38

39 MR. RINALDI: Okay, can you hear me?

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I can.

42

43 MR. RINALDI: Good, okay, that's at
44 least one. Good morning. This is Todd Rinaldi. I'm
45 the Regional Management Coordinator for the Central
46 Southwest region, Division of Wildlife Conservation,
47 and I'm based out of Palmer. We were asked today to
48 provide a Mulchatna Caribou Herd update and speak a
49 little bit about our efforts to conserve the herd. But
50

0142

1 I'd like to add a couple of additional topics, if that
2 pleases the Board, these are topics that were brought
3 up previously, including Staffing issues and also
4 speaking to moose populations in Unit 17. So if that's
5 okay I'm going to go ahead with those three items.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's fine,
8 go ahead.

9
10 MR. RINALDI: Okay. So Madame Chair.
11 Members of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity
12 to provide an update on all this information.

13
14 I will speak to recruitment. So we've
15 had issues recruiting for positions, I guess,
16 statewide, for remote positions. The challenge that
17 we're faced with is getting -- attracting and retaining
18 qualified candidates that have that experience and also
19 the desire to live in remote communities. And the
20 applicant pool that we've been getting have been
21 getting smaller and smaller and we've been forced to go
22 nationwide on most of our vacancies, at least our upper
23 level professional vacancies. This will be the second
24 time, third time in three years that we've had to go
25 out to recruit this position. Historically these
26 positions have been filled by tenured biologists in the
27 agency, often times they've been career positions where
28 folks stay in these positions 10-plus years, and we're
29 not seeing those applicants in our applicant pools.
30 And so it's been challenging. When we do find
31 candidates that are mostly qualified, they also find
32 other challenges in the community such as housing, cost
33 of living, and other factors. So I guess I want to
34 reassure the Council here that even though we've had
35 very limited pools of candidates nationwide, we've
36 always hired the best qualified candidate and the
37 candidate that we thought would fit into the
38 communities and have the zeal to stick with the
39 position and we haven't hired people solely on their
40 academic credentials or that they've been research
41 focused, they're just the qualified candidates that we
42 get in the pool, and unfortunately they haven't
43 remained. We also have a WB3 position, Dave Crowley in
44 Unit 9, King Salmon, is going to be retiring next year
45 and I've got the okay from up above to recruit for that
46 position and have overlap in that position with the
47 incumbent candidate there. That position is currently
48 being flown as is the WB3 in Dillingham, they're both
49 being flown. Reach out to a lot of biologists in
50

0143

1 state, biologists that might be looking to move up into
2 a senior level biologist position but I expect the
3 candidate, the application process to go a couple of
4 months. But I want to reassure you, in that absence,
5 that I'll be engaged as much as I can be in Unit 17. I
6 think the Department, and specifically the Division of
7 Wildlife Conservation's participation in the RAC
8 process and the FSB process has only been continuing
9 with increasing activity and effort from my Staff and I
10 put in a considerable amount of time in presenting
11 valuable information to the Council and be assured that
12 that's going to continue in the absence of someone on
13 the ground in Dillingham.

14
15 If you recall at the last meeting I
16 mentioned -- I discussed moving the assistant area
17 biologist out of King Salmon and into Dillingham.
18 Chris Petersen retired this past winter, in January,
19 and made that position available and we advertised for
20 it and moved it to Dillingham, but we've gone through a
21 couple of nationwide candidate pools and we're about to
22 review another application -- another set of
23 applications to see if we can move forward with hiring
24 that position. But we are still intent on putting the
25 assistant area biologist in Dillingham to help with
26 management needs and the continuing needs of the
27 Dillingham area. So ultimately our goal is to have two
28 Staff members, indeed three Staff members, including
29 our program tech on the ground and working in
30 Dillingham. That WB2 position would be shared with
31 King Salmon so that position would also have some
32 duties down out of there.

33
34 So if it's okay with you, do you have
35 -- we could break this up into three segments. Does
36 anyone have any questions about recruitment and hiring
37 and what our goal is in the Dillingham office?

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, we can
40 go ahead and open it up for those questions. Does the
41 Council members have any questions about that.

42
43 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard
44 here.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
47 Richard.

48
49 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I'm just curious
50

0144

1 why, you know, the King Salmon office is being less and
2 less Staffed and things are being moved out of King
3 Salmon into other areas.

4

5 MR. RINALDI: Thank you for the
6 question. Through the Chair. It's basically a result
7 of needs in the area. There isn't a full-time need for
8 an assistant area biologist in King Salmon and so we
9 have to allocate that resource to meet the best needs
10 of the residents of Alaska and to our management needs
11 and, which case, currently there's a lot of stuff going
12 on in Dillingham between moose, caribou and local
13 nuisance type issues and obviously we're not Staffed
14 there too, so that's an issue. So it's really a result
15 of allocating resource where they're needed most.

16

17 MR. WILSON: I don't agree, but, thank
18 you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I tend
21 to also question how that need is actually deemed
22 necessary, one community over the other but that's for
23 another conversation. Any other questions.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

28

29 MR. RINALDI: Thank you for the -- a
30 little bit of the context, I guess. For one thing Unit
31 17 and the Dillingham office is dealing with the
32 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, also dealing with an intensive
33 management program, which also involves administration
34 of a predation control program. And the community that
35 are more populous too. A lot of the wildlife
36 populations on the Peninsula currently have very little
37 harvest pressure on them and so they don't require as
38 detailed and intensive management. It doesn't change
39 how we go about managing them and monitoring, but it
40 speaks to how much effort we need to put into
41 monitoring herds and populations and so that feeds into
42 the decision to move that position to King Salmon.
43 Ideally, I'd like a position in both but that's not an
44 option right now.

45

46 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, one more
47 comment here.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep.

50

0145

1 MR. WILSON: Yeah, you know, I think
2 it's as valuable with the need. I understand Staffing
3 and, you know, the need for Dillingham to have a full-
4 time position there but also, you know, I think our
5 area and the Aleutians here is just as important. I
6 don't like the idea of -- it's just hard to -- I mean
7 over the years we've had less and less representation.
8 You know it's hard for Staff in Dillingham really to, I
9 feel, to do a very thorough job throughout the whole
10 region and for them to just pile it up in one area to
11 me just doesn't seem right.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and
16 I'm going to add to that, too, Richard. That to me
17 it's kind of a disappointment because we've been
18 waiting a mighty long time for our Alaska Peninsula
19 Caribou Herd to come back again, I think all of us
20 would really like a taste of them again. And they are
21 making a slow recovery and I recognize that. But I
22 would also like to see it monitored much closer than it
23 sounds like it's going to be now. So, yeah, I'm not
24 trying to.....

25

26 MR. RINALDI: Can.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:or
29 throw stones in anybody's direction, but just a
30 comment.

31

32 MR. RINALDI: Can I clarify a couple of
33 comments that were made?

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Sure.

36

37 MR. RINALDI: So the Department and,
38 me, speaking, never said that the Aleutians or the
39 Alaska Peninsula was less important. I said that the
40 work load was increasing in Dillingham and it justified
41 moving the position there. It doesn't mean that the
42 King Salmon office is going to be left without a
43 valuable program tech and an area biologist, also that
44 the assistant area biologist will be shared by King
45 Salmon. So in accomplishing the King Salmon goals of
46 dealing with nuisance brown bears and addressing the
47 various caribou populations on the Alaska Peninsula,
48 Unimak, nothing's going to change except for how the
49 programs are administered. So there isn't a disregard
50

0146

1 for these communities, for these areas, or for these
2 herds, but it has to do with work load management and
3 it was my decision as well as my supervisor's decision
4 to move this position where it was most needed
5 currently. Previously when that position was put into
6 King Salmon 10 years ago, there was no assistant area
7 biologist in King Salmon, and that position was put in
8 King Salmon to help address Alaska Peninsula Caribou
9 Herd, which were under intensive management programs,
10 active intensive management programs at the time, and
11 issues around Unimak Island. While the picture, the
12 biological picture and the managerial picture of those
13 herds is changing, considerably, and has changed, the
14 picture of the Mulchatna has also changed and the
15 Department feels that it's best served by its limited
16 resources to put that assistant primarily in Dillingham
17 where there's also a likelihood of finding housing.
18 Housing is also a considerable challenge in King Salmon
19 and will be a challenge for the incoming area
20 biologist.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
25 other questions.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Todd,
30 why don't you go ahead.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Can I.....

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, go
35 ahead, Dan.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY:Nanci, could I just
38 have one.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Sure, Dan.

41

42 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, you know, Todd
43 mentioned housing. And housing's tough everywhere
44 including Dillingham. The city of Dillingham recently
45 did a massive assessment of their entire operation and
46 program and they came back over and over that housing
47 is an issue especially for some of the leadership
48 positions in like public works. Also our schools here,
49 possibly there, have trouble finding affordable decent
50

0147

1 housing, you know, something that the wind doesn't blow
2 through and the rain doesn't drip through. I've
3 brought up, from first talking with our city manager
4 and then I think I passed the idea on to Todd and his
5 supervisor DelFrates, you know, maybe some of these
6 government agencies need to somehow band together to
7 find a developer who's willing to do a build and lease
8 operation or something like that. Because this housing
9 problem is wide spread and just a real hard thing to
10 fix. But if any of the Council members know of ways to
11 help that we can share with various agencies I
12 encourage you to do so.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
17 thanks, Dan. Anybody else, comments or questions on
18 this specific topic.

19

20 MR. WILSON: Still have empty housing
21 in so many of the FAA housing here in King Salmon, you
22 can get together with them.

23

24 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, this is Todd.
25 Yeah, that's something that we've used in the past and
26 it was unclear if Federal agencies were using that
27 housing or not, but that has been a luxury around the
28 state for State employees, the FAA housing, more so 10
29 or 15, 20 years ago but that's still an option that
30 we're going to be looking into.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

33

34 MR. RINALDI: I'll continue on with
35 caribou if that's okay with everyone.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, please
38 go ahead.

39

40 MR. RINALDI: Okay. So the Mulchatna
41 Caribou Herd. Let me back up here a bit. I'm going to
42 delve on a few different things. I'm going to talk a
43 little bit about range and history but you guys are
44 pretty familiar with that so I'm going to gloss over
45 that but I'm going to provide some of the latest
46 population information that we have and composition
47 information. I'll give you a brief overview on our
48 monitoring and management program and then talk about
49 some of the research that's going on, and then finally
50

0148

1 I want to get your input and everyone's input in all
2 the communities on just the process and where they feel
3 we need to go and how things are going.

4
5 So just for a brief history, the herd
6 previously ranged widely. And there's been two peaks in
7 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, one in 1860 when the
8 historic range was maximized in the neighborhood of
9 40,000 square miles and then there was another peak in
10 the '90s and, of course it's declined since. Right now
11 the herd has a considerably more retracted range,
12 pretty much relegated to Unit 17 and 18 and movements
13 are minimal outside of calving season. As I mentioned
14 two primary groups. There's one in the east and one in
15 the west. The west being Unit 18. And then the
16 satellite groups, which I believe Katmai and the
17 National Park Service brought up earlier in discussion
18 near Iliamna and a smaller group down near Quinhagak
19 and the southern portion of 18.

20
21 The population objective for the
22 Mulchatna Caribou Herd was defined many moons ago by
23 the Board of Game through historical information and it
24 was determined that the objective for the herd should
25 be between 30,000 and 80,000 caribou. Our July 2021
26 estimate put the herd at 12,850. We are currently
27 conducting composition flights from this year, but last
28 years -- or attempting to -- this may be the first year
29 that we're going to be unable to get a composition
30 flight of the Mulchatna which isn't make or break data,
31 it just adds an additional data point in our
32 understanding of what the herd's doing but the weather
33 hasn't allowed for that to happen. As you heard Andy
34 mention, we were able to get the Nushagak in, that's a
35 luxury because that only takes a couple hours to do and
36 we were pleased that we were able to get that. So
37 we're relying on numbers, some very encouraging numbers
38 from 2020 so it would have been a composition flight a
39 year ago here. And the calf to cow ratio is greater
40 than 36 to 100 with a bull to cow ratio greater than
41 42. I mentioned at previous Council meetings, there is
42 this cohort of medium and smaller size bulls that are
43 disproportionate and seem to be moving up the age
44 structure and probably provide considerable
45 reproductive potential and we're pretty excited about
46 that.

47
48 So where are we with monitoring
49 management. So the Department, currently, as they do
50

0149

1 for almost every S&I species, especially intensive
2 management species, such as the Mulchatna caribou, we
3 not only monitor the population as I just spoke to and
4 composition but we also look at productivity and try to
5 get parturition rates, birthing rates and we also try
6 to look at survival where there's an overlap with
7 research Staff on the approach. We also have, as I
8 mentioned, the Mulchatna caribou is an intensive
9 management species so we do have intensive management
10 activities. And I just want to remind the Council that
11 intensive management doesn't necessarily always invoke
12 predation control or high rates of predator removal or
13 harvest. There are a number of facets to intensive
14 management including habitat manipulation and a few
15 other things. Unfortunately for caribou we're pretty
16 limited. We don't have a treatment for habitat. But
17 in this case we have a treatment of same-day airborne
18 public predation control focused on two areas or
19 basically one large area with two sub areas in Unit 17B
20 and 17C of the calving grounds on the eastern side.

21

22 And I guess at this point I'd also like
23 to mention, as I've spoke to in previous Council
24 meetings the Mulchatna Caribou InterAgency Management
25 Group is comprised of Togiak and Yukon Delta Staff as
26 well as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Staff, Department Staff,
27 Division of Wildlife Conservation, Division of
28 Subsistence section Staff, as well as Staff from the
29 BLM and I think we've had some involvement from the
30 Park Service. If we haven't had involvement from the
31 Park Service, please reach out to me and we'll get you
32 more engaged, I guess specifically we're looking at
33 Katmai and Lake Clark. I think I've talked about this
34 in the past. But at this stage we're doing a lot of
35 information sharing. We've been developing a lot of
36 outreach materials which were, I believe, handed out in
37 the meeting packets. But those materials, I believe,
38 were sent to all box holders in not only Unit 18 but
39 Unit 17 and even some areas of Unit 9. So I'm hoping
40 that we did a pretty good job of not only getting those
41 fliers, post cards, but also the newest issue of a
42 caribou newsletter which speaks in a little bit more
43 detail on some of the things that we've been doing and
44 the way the population actually is.

45

46 So the research Staff, we have some
47 research Staff that have been working out in the area,
48 they've been focused on body condition, diet, analyzing
49 diets and browse and forage. They're looking at the

50

0150

1 disease component, basically the prevalence of
2 brucellosis as what was mentioned previously and then
3 also doing some genetics work to look at relatedness.
4 And as we've discussed and as you guys brought up
5 earlier, you know, these research monitoring efforts of
6 the Mulchatna, they've identified a higher than
7 expected of prevalence of antibodies to a bacteria
8 called brucellosis when compared with other herds. So
9 what this indicates is that exposure and likely
10 incidence of the disease known as brucellosis is
11 present but it's unknown to what degree it's prevalence
12 is or how it's affecting reproductive or survival.
13 Those calf to cow ratios are pretty good. We're not
14 seeing a lot of signs of brucellosis in the herd, we're
15 not seeing and finding dead caribou laying on the
16 tundra. There were some caribou calves that were
17 submitted for analysis this past summer and there were
18 some observations by field Staff but nothing increasing
19 to what's been seen in the past. And so we're looking
20 and waiting for additional information on the
21 prevalence of brucellosis there in relation to the
22 Mulchatna, but we also have some samples of Unit 17C
23 moose that have been captured, and those samples will
24 also be analyzed for the presence of brucellosis and I
25 will report back to you when we have more information
26 on that.

27
28 And then, finally, as it relates to
29 caribou, we want to hear your thoughts. What do you
30 think of the current management of the Mulchatna
31 Caribou Herd, considering that it's been below
32 objective for a little while and I'm guessing we're
33 going to get our licks, but how can we get the word out
34 about the importance of conserving the Mulchatna
35 caribou at this time. And obviously this forum is one
36 of the best venues for disseminating that information,
37 the Regional Advisory Councils. This is the last of
38 three RAC meetings that took place this October where
39 Mulchatna was discussed in some detail and obviously
40 this is the perfect opportunity for local rural
41 residents to chime in and for Regional Advisory Council
42 members to spread the word and to seek opinions from
43 their constituents. Obviously the FSB is coming up and
44 this information can feed into that meeting. And then
45 also, as we'll discuss in a little while, the Alaska
46 Board of Game meeting, 2022 edition, I feel like I've
47 been in the Board of Game cycle my whole life, but this
48 is year two, the meeting will happen in January. It
49 might be limited in the type of attendance so it might
50

0151

1 be a hybrid style but I have been told that it will
2 happen this January regardless. And the Board of Game
3 will take written comments, oral testimony. The
4 deadline for the Board of Game written comments is
5 January 7th and the dates of the Central and Southwest
6 Region Board of Game meeting is the 21st through the
7 28th in Wasilla. Normally I would say you could also
8 reach out to your local area biologist and chat with
9 them about your perspective and thoughts on things, I
10 guess I would ask if you're in the Dillingham
11 management area that you can call me or email me, and
12 if you're in the Unit 9, Alaska Peninsula area, you can
13 call Dave and Dave will be happy to have a conversation
14 with you.

15

16 So with that, that concludes my caribou
17 portion of the talk today. I am available for
18 questions.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
21 you very much, Todd, appreciate it. Appreciate the
22 update. Council members, questions, comments.

23

24 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Rich Wilson.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Please, go
27 ahead, Richard.

28

29 MR. WILSON: Yes. Yeah, thanks, Todd,
30 appreciate that update and the info there. I had a
31 question on your brucellosis in the caribou. You know
32 it's known that it's dangerous to humans, I wonder is
33 there any studies on the predation, like wolves and
34 bears, can they consume that also when they eat a
35 contaminated caribou?

36

37 MR. RINALDI: Yes, excellent question.
38 Through the Chair. They serve as a vector and part of
39 the life stage of the brucellosis virus, so, yeah, it
40 can pass through and then be up take (ph) by caribou
41 and then put back on the tundra, but it's part of the
42 cycle of the parasite -- or virus, I'm sorry.

43

44 MR. WILSON: Okay, thank you. And I
45 do.....

46

47 MR. RINALDI: But I don't know.....

48

49 MR. WILSON: Go ahead.

50

0152

1 MR. RINALDI: Oh, no, I was just going
2 to say I'm not an expert on it and, you know, I'm an
3 ecologist by profession but I can provide additional
4 information and I would add that detailed information
5 are available on our website. I think I provided it to
6 the Council last time, some of those handouts. And
7 those do get to some of those questions like the one
8 you just asked, in detail, and I can provide that if
9 need be.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Through the
12 Chair. And I do like the comment about the younger
13 bulls getting older. I know when we had that big
14 decline in the caribou herd when they were still over
15 on the west side of Iliamna Lake and in the Nushagak
16 Hills there by the thousands, you know, all the hunters
17 were targeting and everybody targets the big bulls and
18 we felt at that time a lot of the crash of it was
19 because of the weakness of the herd, they didn't have
20 any more big bulls. So it's nice to hear that we're
21 getting some age behind the males now.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good point,
26 Richard. Good point.

27

28 MR. HILL: Nanci, this is Lary.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Please, go
31 ahead, Lary.

32

33 MR. HILL: Yeah. I'm curious about the
34 Mulchatna herd. You may not have the information but
35 have there been any illegal harvest of this caribou
36 herd recorded?

37

38 MR. RINALDI: Through the Chair. We
39 have. There have been observations of carcasses. I
40 don't have any information this fall but we do have
41 information from previous years where carcasses have
42 been found and seemingly those locations are unreported
43 harvest locations. That's really in the realm of U.S.
44 Fish and Wildlife enforcement and Alaska Wildlife
45 Troopers but I don't have any information currently on
46 that.

47

48 MR. HILL: Okay, thank you.

49

50

0153

1 MR. RINALDI: I do know that they're
2 out there -- I do know that they're out there
3 patrolling and are planning on having an effort this
4 winter as well.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
7 you. Anybody else.

8
9 MR. TREFON: Yes, Billy here. I
10 actually got a couple of questions.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Billy
13 go ahead.

14
15 MR. TREFON: Hey, Todd, thanks for the
16 information about the State and the Park working
17 together because that's always been a concern of mine.
18 I got a comment about the traditional Mulchatna calving
19 ground, what I grew up with, actually following the
20 Iliamna Coast from NewStu area up into Twin Hills where
21 they used to calve. My question is, are they even
22 coming up this way anymore or are they even calving in
23 Twin Lake Hills anymore? The other question is, is the
24 population up or down in 9B?

25
26 MR. RINALDI: Sure. Okay so.....

27
28 MR. TREFON: And one more.

29
30 MR. RINALDI: Go ahead. Okay.

31
32 MR. TREFON: Is the hunt that's going
33 for caribou herd in Unit 17 and 18 Mulchatna caribou or
34 is that another herd?

35
36 MR. RINALDI: You said in Unit 18, was
37 that it?

38
39 MR. TREFON: 17/18.

40
41 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, well, I'll start
42 with that one real quick. So the hunt management of
43 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd is Unit 18, portions of 9,
44 17 and portions of 19A and 19B have been administered
45 by that registration caribou permit that you all got if
46 you were hunting Mulchatna caribou in the past few
47 years. That was the same permit that the Feds used and
48 it was a collaborative approach to initiating State
49 harvest and Federal harvest as well. So that 503, that
50

0154

1 was not offered -- I guess that was the other piece of
2 my conversation here, is, this was the first year that
3 there was no harvest opportunity allowed on the
4 Mulchatna Caribou Herd under 503. I've been told by
5 the biologist in Region 5 out of Bethel, that there's
6 no other caribou in Unit -- well, there was a question
7 about whether or not there were some reindeer running
8 around north of the river and I don't think they
9 believe that there are caribou up there, so potentially
10 any caribou that are that far north may be part of the
11 Mulchatna Caribou Herd but it's hard to tell when the
12 range is this contracted. We don't see really any
13 caribou from the Mulchatna herd in Units 19A and 19B.
14 The harvest has been nominal if there has been any
15 harvest. Obviously there's caribou adjacent to the
16 east and up north, but I don't think we're seeing much
17 calving activity in the Twin Hills area either.

18

19 Did I get all the questions answered, I
20 think I might have.

21

22 MR. TREFON: Yeah. You're basically
23 pretty much saying that the Mulchatna does not migrate
24 any more other than a few sparse groups here and there
25 other than the.....

26

27 MR. RINALDI: Yeah. Yeah, so
28 there's.....

29

30 MR. TREFON:Mulchatna -- yeah,
31 so.....

32

33 MR. RINALDI:there is consider --
34 yeah, thanks, there's considerable movement during the
35 calving season as they move from winter to calving
36 grounds then they eventually move off of their calving
37 grounds into these aggregates that we've seen. There
38 is some movement between 17 and 18, but for the most
39 part it's these two bulk areas, it's retracted. And,
40 you know, caribou, as the population waxes and wanes,
41 you know, they're going to utilize the landscape
42 differently. So landscapes that were more available 20
43 years ago in the hills of Lake Clark when I worked
44 there, there were lots of caribou running around there
45 but now the bulk of the herd does is not migrating and
46 they're focused on the habitat that's available in
47 these key areas. There is that group of caribou in the
48 Iliamna Hills there that have been discussed and we're
49 starting to, you know, I think the Park Service said
50

0155

1 they wanted to put some collars on them there, we are
2 also going to be putting some collars out on that herd
3 and looking what the movement and interchange is
4 between that group and these larger groups and we don't
5 really expect much at this phase of the population.

6
7 MR. TREFON: Okay, thank you,
8 appreciate that. The only thing that, I don't know if
9 you'd have an answer for, I mean you collar a few
10 animals and follow them around, have there been any
11 increase or decrease in population in 9B for caribou,
12 it's just a question. I mean I know the hunt range it's
13 declining but it would be nice to know.

14
15 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, you know, I know
16 there's animals in 9B, I can't speak to -- Dave's not
17 on the line but I can't speak to what the population is
18 solely in 9B. I do know that the NAP is doing well and
19 is growing as the SAP is, of course that's a lot
20 further away from 9B. But I can't -- we don't think
21 there's a lot of Mulchatna animals that are using Unit
22 9 except for that area that we discussed earlier.

23
24 MR. TREFON: Okay, thank you.
25 Appreciate it. I'm actually looking at your mailout.
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, you're
29 welcome. If you think of any others Billy just speak
30 up. Dan, did you also have questions, I think.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, some questions and
33 comments. I was glad to hear, it sounds like you're
34 saying that your researchers are looking at diet. Do
35 they have any preliminary results, you know we hear so
36 much about climate change and so on, is there any sense
37 of the range is changing or quality of food is
38 different? Okay.

39
40 MR. RINALDI: Thanks for the question.
41 Through the Chair. No, that stuff, that information --
42 our -- we have a physiology lab at the University of
43 Alaska-Fairbanks in Palmer, it's an old USDA lab that
44 this region has taken over that area and we have
45 captive animals in an analytical lab to look at diet
46 and nutrition. It's a very unique lab and we're really
47 fortunate to have it. However, the samples have only
48 been submitted and I don't have any preliminary
49 results. This does feed into the traditional work and
50

0156

1 the landscape work that Bill Collins and Don Spalinger
2 and I believe Staff in Togiak were doing in past years,
3 and this will feed into an ultimate goal of doing a
4 landscape-wide assessment of habitat for the Mulchatna.
5 It's just not in the financial cards for the Department
6 to pick that effort up at this time even though it's
7 one of our most important objectives.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, that's interesting.
10 I know when the herd was at or near peak, if I were to
11 fly down to Aniak or something, you could tell where
12 the herd might have been, it looked like there had been
13 a dirt bike rally out there, the tundra would be really
14 torn up in places. And some other places I think I
15 found when I was hunting that stuff was just barren, it
16 made me wonder in a low snow year if the herd didn't
17 just kind of damage their own range. So just curious.

18

19 MR. RINALDI: Yeah.

20

21 MR. DUNAWAY: The other thing you
22 were.....

23

24 MR. RINALDI: I can.....

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, go ahead, and then I
27 have another item -- go ahead.

28

29 MR. RINALDI: Oh, I was just going to
30 agree with you Dan. My first exposure to the Mulchatna
31 Caribou Herd was 20 years ago when I worked for Lake
32 Clark National Park and I remember flying around with
33 Leon Alsworth and just looking -- I thought they were
34 ATV trails and they were not ATV trails, they were
35 caribou trails and I had worked, you know, in the
36 Arctic and a variety of other places by that point and
37 seen a lot of caribou activity but I had not seen
38 anything like what I saw in the hills of Lake Clark in
39 the early 2000s, it was impressive.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Yeah. So it was
42 -- because I was flying back and forth to Aniak quite a
43 bit and the upper lakes area here. So as far as
44 management, and I don't want to beat you up on it but I
45 think this is where having a person on the ground, in
46 the villages building personal relationships can make a
47 real difference on moderating any potential illegal
48 harvest and greatly improving understanding of what's
49 going on. I heard many times how Ken Taylor commanded
50

0157

1 so much respect going up to the villages and then after
2 him, Larry VanDaele. And I've also heard of finger
3 pointing at potential illegal harvest upon the
4 Kuskokwim and I think, if at all possible, getting a
5 biologist, and hopefully enforcement guys, instead of
6 going around just looking for tickets, it might be
7 great if they could work -- go into these villages,
8 develop relationships and explain why it's so important
9 to protect this herd right now. But you probably know
10 an awful lot of that, I just thought I'd throw it out
11 there. Okay.

12

13 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, thanks Dan.
14 Through the Chair. Much of what I presented to --
15 well, let me back up. I, as the Regional Management
16 Coordinator, wholeheartedly agree with your statement
17 and your concern about making sure that we have Staff
18 members on the ground. I think that's critical. It's
19 critical at so many levels, but it's obviously critical
20 to have that person to be a part of the community and
21 to gain that trust. So, of course, the Department is
22 also on board with that and that's the model that we
23 want to continue to operate. If I had additional
24 fundings and PCNs I'd put two people in King Salmon and
25 two people in Dillingham, but that's absolutely where
26 we want to go and that's where I want to continue. So,
27 yep, I'll just leave it at that.

28

29 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I might try to
30 contact our wildlife enforcement guy here or -- I used
31 to be around Jim Cockeral, I think public outreach in
32 the villages by the enforcement could go a ways. I
33 know that Refuges sometimes have enough Staff that they
34 could be in the villages a little bit more and I think
35 it works a lot. If you had opportunity to talk to some
36 of the higher level wildlife enforcement folks, I'd
37 encourage you to bring it up to them as well.

38

39 Thanks for the report, this is all good
40 info.

41

42 Is this going to get summarized in like
43 a pamphlet or a sheet that could be emailed around,
44 another way to reach the community?

45

46 MR. RINALDI: Well, yeah, and that was
47 the other point, thanks for reminding me inadvertently.
48 So the other -- you know I mentioned that the Mulchatna
49 InterAgency Management Group there, we've been working
50

0158

1 on outreach and developing products and disseminating
2 information, and that was our plan, to not only provide
3 presentations but standalone presentations for places
4 that we could not actually get to on the ground and
5 engage the community, a village council, or city
6 council meetings, or maybe some corporation meetings,
7 things like that, and do some on the ground outreach
8 one on one with people. But obviously the pandemic has
9 put a kink into that. So we've refocused our efforts
10 on providing these same types of services that can meet
11 both approaches, in person approaches and virtual
12 approaches and obviously, unfortunately the departure
13 of Brian in that position has put a hamper to that
14 process, but much of what I've discussed related to
15 caribou is part of this presentation, which we want to
16 make available to the public and make real easy to
17 administer. So that's one of our immediate objectives,
18 we've just had a little setback on that.

19

20 So, yes, that on the ground, and
21 getting to communities that we normally don't engage
22 with I think is really important. I think some of the
23 products that we've produced, the mailings, the radio
24 discussions and radio ads and things like that have
25 gotten to some of these communities but we can always
26 engage further.

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, KDLG was on
29 yesterday, I hope they dialed in today, this is the
30 kind of stuff that they could help disseminate. So
31 thanks Todd.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, thank
34 you much. Any more questions.

35

36 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
39 Richard.

40

41 MR. WILSON: Yes, thanks. Yeah, Todd,
42 one more thought there. Were you going to give us an
43 update on the predator -- the predation on this herd
44 too?

45

46 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, I can give you a
47 brief one. I don't have specific numbers but I can
48 talk about trends and ethicacy, kind of broadly. So
49 we've had the predation control in portions of 17C and
50

0159

1 B and portions of 19B and portions of 9(indiscernible)
2 if I'm remembering correctly. Sorry if I got my
3 numbers mixed up. There is the greater Mulchatna
4 predation control area and there's a small area called
5 the Kemuk area. That smaller area is closed to same-
6 day airborne until February 1st. That's an agreement
7 that the Department has with local communities to allow
8 them to get out and have at wolves prior to same-day
9 airborne being implemented. But the larger area which
10 amounts to 10,000 square miles does -- has been in
11 effect, or has been active for the last five or six
12 years. Effort comes and goes. Some years we have
13 considerable effort, some years we have no effort and
14 obviously effort and ethicacy of the program is really
15 defined by weather. You know flying days and the
16 ability to track animals. So unfortunately some years
17 if we get a couple of years where there's just not good
18 weather we lose engagement and interest from same-day
19 airborne pilots and gunners. We do pick up new people
20 every year and -- but we try to maintain the same
21 number of pilots in an area. If we have a number of
22 pilots that aren't engaging or unable to take advantage
23 of their permit, we will increase the number of pilots
24 if they're available and qualified.

25
26 So early on in the program success was
27 limited. And then we had a couple years where we had
28 high harvest of wolves on -- so that's the other piece,
29 is that, this predation control area is really focused
30 on the Unit 17 calving grounds. And so it seemingly
31 did have an effect or we saw a numerical response early
32 on with a high number of wolves being removed followed
33 by a year of high calf survival but we haven't --
34 that's not to say that -- it's -- that's only one data
35 point basically. So we have additional years of data,
36 harvest has been pretty low. However, the saving grace
37 is that the calf to cow ratio in the 17 portion of the
38 herd is pretty high and as you herd calf survival is
39 pretty high. So it's probably not a linear
40 relationship there but in some years there seems to be
41 some kind of an effect, but it's unclear if that is a
42 direct effect of removing predators.

43
44 MR. WILSON: So the wolf population
45 in.....

46
47 MR. RINALDI: It will happen again this
48 year, we will have the program -- say again.

49
50

0160

1 MR. WILSON: I guess I was more curious
2 about, you know, the wolf and the bear, you know, the
3 numbers, you know, in relation to the last few years
4 even though they've been hunting on them. How's that
5 working out?

6
7 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, so we don't have a
8 current brown bear estimate for brown bear populations
9 in 17. It's a difficult number to attain. I'll speak
10 a little bit more about bears in a few minutes when we
11 talk about moose. We had a collar study going on
12 wolves in Unit 17 and as you can imagine there was
13 considerable turnover in those collars in that study
14 sample size. So we're trying to tease some
15 information, some population information out of the
16 information that we've collected, the demographic, the
17 movement information and the pack size information that
18 we had previously. I don't currently have a number,
19 unfortunately. That's being assessed now and being
20 compared with population assessments or surveys that
21 were done in 2012 and that produced wolf numbers of --
22 I don't remember offhand, it was about average, it was
23 about five per thousand. So I can't really speak to a
24 number today. I was hoping to have this information
25 from our research folks, we should have it for the
26 Board of Game.

27
28 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thanks,
29 Todd. Yeah, no, I was just -- I was very curious
30 because, you know, trying to figure out why the crash
31 of the herd, you know, part of that conversation that
32 we're all having is how does predation, you know, have
33 a play in this and just seeing if there was any more
34 info on how that was going so that's why I asked the
35 question, but thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
38 Richard. Thank you, Todd. Any other questions.

39
40 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan here.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Todd, you know, I
45 think you heard me yesterday say that bear abundance
46 seems to be pretty high, brown bear. Is there much
47 information on bear predation on caribou, or caribou
48 calves? Over.

49
50

0161

1 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, thanks, Dan.
2 Through the Chair. There is information. I think it's
3 been presented before. I don't currently have it right
4 in front of me. But there was a predation -- there was
5 a predation study, it was basically a calf survival
6 study that was done for a number of years up until
7 about 2018 and then it continued in 1920 [sic] and I
8 think we've got some information coming in from this
9 year, a limited effort. I think that that project is
10 completed. The breakdown of predation was, you know,
11 it was mostly wolves and bears and there was some other
12 types of predators, like Golden Eagles and -- I don't
13 think there's any Bald Eagles, but there's certainly a
14 considerable of unknowns including a number of poor
15 little calves that drown in those rivulets every year.
16 And so -- but I don't have the final numbers on that
17 and the percentages on that. Just to understand that
18 it's the level of predation that we would -- it's the
19 proportions of predations that you would expect of any
20 herd, whether it was disproportionate it's -- you know,
21 whether or not there was a disproportionate take by
22 predators it's unclear but the early information
23 suggested that wolves were taking a considerable number
24 of caribou and that's why the Board of Game initiated
25 that predation control area. And we had similar succe
26 -- well, we've had success on the SAP although it was a
27 different approach for predator removal. There were
28 wolves that were removed from the SAP and as you know
29 the SAP has been growing basically ever since. Not
30 necessarily the sole factor in that herd's recovery but
31 certainly a prominent factor in that herd's recovery.

32

33

So did I answer everything?

34

35

MR. DUNAWAY: Well, kind of. I was
36 talking with a friend from Koliganek about a week ago
37 and, you know, he was really pointed to these super
38 abundance of salmon seems to be producing a lot of
39 brown bears and I just wondered if there might be an
40 increase in brown bear predation on caribou. I know the
41 up river -- we call them the up river boys, have been
42 pretty hard on the wolves with Sno-Gos for some years
43 and a friend of mine who was trying to do some aerial
44 hunts last spring said he had a hard time finding
45 wolves but we start wondering if -- we are tamping the
46 wolves down pretty good but what can we do about brown
47 bears. Maybe we could talk about it in moose and talk
48 about it in that context. Okay.

49

50

0162

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
2 other questions or comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Todd,
7 why don't you go ahead with your final segment to this
8 presentation.

9
10 MR. RINALDI: Okay. Let me just close
11 -- I have too many things open on my screen, I
12 apologize for this.

13
14 (Pause)

15
16 MR. RINALDI: Okay. So let's talk a
17 little bit about moose. So this is a topic specific to
18 Unit 17, I'm not going to talk about moose in 9. I'm
19 not prepared to talk about moose in Unit 9 but I can
20 answer some potential questions.

21
22 A couple of things I wanted to point
23 out.

24
25 So there is a management objective for
26 moose in Unit 17A, B and C, they're all different. And
27 these management objectives were defined by the Board
28 of Game some time ago. Unit 17A, the objective is to
29 manage for a minimum population of 300 moose with a
30 target population of 1,100 to 1,750. And that
31 population objective is also identified in a document
32 that members of the community, the Department, and Fish
33 and Wildlife had drafted and that document was not
34 adopted by the Board of Game but it has been guiding
35 our management approach in Unit 17A. In 17B our
36 objective is to manage for a population of 4,900 to
37 6,000 moose with a human objective of 200 to 400 moose,
38 that's the harvest objective. And to achieve and
39 maintain a density of one moose per square mile on
40 habitat considered moose range, and we won't delve into
41 that, but we'll just focus on the numerical numbers --
42 the other numerical numbers here. And then in Unit
43 17C, which encompasses Dillingham, is to manage for a
44 population of 2,800 to 3,500 moose with a human use
45 objective of 165 to 350 moose and to also maintain a
46 minimum density of a half a moose per square mile in
47 what's considered good habitat.

48
49 So where are we at currently with
50

0163

1 population objectives.

2

3

4 In 2017 we conducted a survey in 17B
5 west which essentially put the population at 1,497.
6 And so the issue here is that the area is really big
7 and with weather patterns and stuff it's really hard to
8 survey the whole unit at one time so it's been divided
9 into 17B west and 17B east. And so we got an estimate
10 of 1,497 with pretty good accuracy, it was plus or
11 minus a few moose, and calves made up 16 percent of the
12 total population. So with the sightability correction
13 factor, which is a model that we do through field
14 trials to determine how many moose we missed based on
15 moose observed and collared animals, the population is
16 closer to 1,700. So if we combine that with the
17 previous estimate from previous years in, I don't know
18 if it was the west -- the east portion, we're probably
19 looking at a population that is just about that
20 approximates the lower end of that population objective
21 in 17B, which is 4,900 to 6,000. In 17C we conducted a
22 GSPE survey, that's a very precise or accurate
23 geospacial population estimator in 17C in 2020. Now
24 this survey was done in the spring so because it was
25 done in March -- or because it was done in February,
26 antler drop had occurred and we don't get that
27 composition information, or sex ratios that we like to
28 get and can obviously get in the fall when surveys are
29 done under those conditions. The survey basically
30 yielded an estimate of 2,126 so with the sightability
31 correction factor it's about 2,800 moose plus or minus
32 400, which is actually not bad. So that puts us a few
33 hundred animals under the population objective in 17C.
34 So -- and harvest in these units -- I guess I didn't
35 talk about -- I did talk about 17A -- as I mentioned
36 17A currently, through U.S. Fish and Wildlife surveys
37 and other historical information, we believe the
38 population to be at probably above objectives in 17A.

38

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(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted - line on hold)

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MR. RINALDI: And as a reminder that
objective as 1,100 to 1,750, we're probably just over
that by a hundred, but it does require some attention.

So let me get back to harvest
information here.

So over the last few years we've had a

1 number of hunts. The total number of permits in the
2 registration hunts has increased a little bit over the
3 past few years but they do remain pretty steady. The
4 non-resident participation in the hunts in the area has
5 actually waned over the last couple of years. And, you
6 know, in some areas the relationship between caribou
7 hunting opportunities and moose hunting opportunities
8 are attractive for non-residents, it doesn't seem to be
9 the case here because there is no caribou opportunity
10 in most of these areas -- in all of these areas in 17
11 here. But the pandemic also probably decreased the
12 participation by non-resident take.

13
14 The situation in 17C, as you may recall
15 we did not offer -- I got to remember my hunting
16 numbers here, RM -- is it RM585 -- here, I got my
17 numbers right. We didn't offer RM585 last year because
18 the number of animals harvested in the general season
19 in 17B and 17C has been increasing and has been
20 increasing with the draws to some degree, participation
21 has remained about the same locally. This year,
22 participation seems to have remained about the same as
23 its been for previous years, even accounting for the
24 fact that there wasn't caribou opportunity this fall.
25 And so the numbers in 17C, because the number of bulls
26 in the proximity of some of these moose aggregation
27 areas to Dillingham has put some pressure on the
28 population but also research efforts in 17C over the
29 last three or four years, four years has suggested that
30 we have high productivity of moose in 17C and we have
31 -- so high pregnancy, high birthing, but the calves are
32 not surviving on the ground, and we're losing a lot of
33 them in the first couple of weeks of life, which is
34 normally how it operates in the moose world, but we're
35 losing a lot on the ground and survival to November is
36 not that great either. So the information that we've
37 collected suggests that it's likely bears and that
38 survival is really low. I think one estimate of
39 survival last year for the calves was seven or eight
40 percent, which is the lowest I've heard -- back 20
41 years ago when the Nelchina was experiencing high
42 levels of predation there was a 12 percent survival
43 rate on those moose. So it's pretty low. We've had
44 information from a couple years. We've drafted a
45 feasibility assessment for intensive management that
46 will be presented to the Board of Game and as I
47 mentioned earlier, intensive management does not
48 necessarily imply predation control or removal of
49 predators, there are other things that can be done. I
50

0165

1 do caveat that by if the Board does decide to move into
2 the realm of bear removal, it's been the Department's
3 experience that participation and harvesting high
4 number of bears or removing high number of bears
5 through predation control has limited success. And if
6 the Department removes bears it's going to be
7 exorbitant in price and I don't know if -- so anyways
8 this is what.....

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12

13 MR. RINALDI:the -- this is what
14 the feasibility assessment takes into consideration.
15 It takes into consideration all the biological and
16 social information as it pertains to this moose herd
17 and it provides the information for the Board of Game
18 to evaluate what might be the best process to move
19 forward in managing the moose.

20

21 It looks like the harvest was up again
22 this year in the fall but it's unclear whether or not
23 RM585, which traditionally has served as a clean up
24 hunt to make sure that we get all of the harvestable
25 surplus available; it may not happen this year. But I
26 encourage everyone, I know this is a big ask, I know
27 this is -- if you have the opportunity to hunt 17A then
28 I would encourage you to hunt 17A, there's a lot of
29 moose over there. I know that's a haul for most people
30 on the phone here, but if that's an opportunity, we
31 encourage you do to that.

32

33 Any questions.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
36 Todd, appreciate it.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Dan here.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
41 Dan.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: I kept expecting to hear
44 at least some tentative numbers for recent harvest as
45 best you can, maybe from a general historical
46 comparison.

47

48 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, so thanks for the
49 question. Through the Chair. Obviously reporting is
50

0166

1 still ongoing. We still have a number of registration
2 moose permits that are out. I guess I should back up a
3 little bit, and mention -- I mentioned this yesterday,
4 but for those that weren't listening yesterday, we got
5 a couple of moose hunt request -- extension requests
6 this fall, one was for 17C and to extend the season
7 there and due to these conservation concerns we're
8 currently discussing we were unable to offer an
9 extension to the hunt. There was also a hunt extension
10 request for Unit 17A for the registration hunt out
11 there and we were able to extend that hunt for an
12 additional -- I think it was 10 days, but we made sure
13 that we had two weekends included in that period there,
14 and that was authorized by the Director and above
15 because there is that surplus of animals in 17A so we
16 were able to offer that opportunity.

17
18 I can speak to some of these numbers,
19 you know, RM583 and RM587, we had -- you know as of me
20 drafting this presentation and collecting this
21 information, we have 136 bulls killed out of 760
22 permits. We've got just about 100 people still left to
23 report on this. That number in comparison to previous
24 years, there were more permittees last year and more
25 people reported, but I think that's just a timing
26 thing, and more bulls were reported as being harvested
27 last year in 583. In 587 we had -- this is the non-
28 resident hunt, there was -- which has a non-resident
29 component, there were 35 permits issued this year
30 versus 32 and 34 in the most recent previous years.
31 Nine bulls were killed this year and it looks like
32 there is a few permits that are still out that we're
33 waiting to report on. RM587 last year we had 16
34 reported bulls taken with only 32 hunters. And then
35 the general harvest which effects most areas in Unit
36 17, that number's actually dwindled and, again, I think
37 this is because of the pandemic, but we -- the last
38 couple of years we've been holding pretty steady for
39 general season harvest tickets at about 140, this year
40 there were only 106 that were issued this year and I
41 don't have any reporting information -- I do, there
42 were 40 males killed out of that 106 and in past years
43 there were 48 and 31, so it seems like the success of
44 those general season hunters increased a little bit
45 this year. But a lot of that information is still out
46 there.

47
48 Did that help, Dan.

49
50

0167

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, it does. It does.
2 I think some of us are still adjusting to calling these
3 by these registration numbers so I'm trying to always
4 kind of floundering around to figure out what you're
5 talking about but I think I got it now. So, yeah, and
6 by information, I'm hearing a number of folks are
7 really hoping we get travel conditions that will allow
8 them to go over to 17A when snow and ice improves.
9 Okay. Thank you.

10

11 MR. RINALDI: Yep, thanks, Dan. And
12 through the Chair. And you guys will notice, I don't
13 know if it's on your packet for Board of Game
14 proposals, but there is Board of Game proposals to fix
15 that season more regularly in that winter period. We
16 originally tried to be flexible with the weather and
17 open that hunt when the weather was appropriate but it
18 doesn't seem like it's given hunters the flexibility
19 needed to be successful so we've got a Board of Game
20 proposal to fix that. And actually I think there --
21 yeah, there is a Board of Game proposal to fix that
22 season.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
25 you for that. Any questions.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Rich Wilson.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, go
30 ahead, Richard.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I guess I'm still
33 waiting on -- and I don't know if it's going to happen
34 with Todd here or if it's something further down the
35 line when we get into proposals about some of the
36 population in 9B and 9C. I have not heard anything
37 spoken of those areas yet so I am still waiting for
38 some reports on that.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Todd, do you
43 have that information available or are we going.....

44

45 MR. RINALDI: I don't.....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:to wait
48 until we get into the proposals?

49

50

0168

1 MR. RINALDI: I don't have that
2 information available. The request for State Staff was
3 to provide Mulchatna caribou stuff. I can find -- I can
4 find that information and provide it for this afternoon
5 but it will take a little bit.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, please
8 do that, we would appreciate it.

9
10 MR. RINALDI: Okay. Yep.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anything
13 else, Richard.

14
15 MR. WILSON: Not at the moment,
16 actually there.....

17
18 MR. RINALDI: Actually I can
19 provide.....

20
21 MR. WILSON:there is a proposal
22 out on, you know, 9B and C, so we need to hear some
23 information on that before -- I mean at some point
24 during the discussion so we know what's up with that.
25 Thanks.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely.

28
29 MR. RINALDI: Madame Chair, this is
30 Todd again. I can provide this update now.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, okay,
33 please do.

34
35 MR. RINALDI: So as you all know
36 portions of Unit 9 have a positive C&T, the amount
37 reasonable necessary for moose in Units 9A, B, C and E,
38 combined, is 100 to 140 bull moose per year. The
39 management goals in Unit 9 is to protect, maintain and
40 enhance the moose population in its habitat in concert
41 with other components of the ecosystem to provide the
42 greatest sustained opportunity to participate in moose
43 hunting and to provide an opportunity to (indiscernible
44 - distortion) moose.

45
46 (Teleconference interference -
47 participants not muted)

48
49 MR. RINALDI: In 1999, the Board of
50

0169

1 Game found that moose in Units 9B, C and E met the
2 criteria to be considered as important for providing
3 high levels of consumptive use. Under the State's IM
4 law, there were no IM programs initiated for moose but
5 there are IM programs on the Peninsula for caribou and
6 moose may have benefited from those programs
7 inadvertently. There is a population objective for 9B.
8 It is 2,000 to 2,500 moose. In Units 9C and 9E
9 combined there is a population objective of 3,000 to
10 3,700.....

11

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14

15 MR. RINALDI:to 3,700. So
16 additional management objectives which are identified
17 in our species management report and plan are to
18 maintain existing densities in areas with moderate or
19 high moose densities and this is really only applying
20 to Unit 9E currently. Increase low density populations
21 where habitat conditions are not limited and that only
22 currently applies to Unit 9 remainder. And maintain
23 sex ratios of at least 25 bulls to 100 cows in medium
24 to high density populations and at least -- such as 9E
25 -- and at least 40 bulls to 100 cows in low density
26 areas in 9 remainder.

27

28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30

31 MR. RINALDI: So let's see, population
32 status. Let's see so the Board member was mostly
33 interested in 9B information so we don't need to go
34 down the Peninsula on this, correct?

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

37

38 MR. RINALDI: Is that correct?

39

40 MR. WILSON: 9B would be very helpful
41 at this time, yes. Thanks.

42

43 MR. RINALDI: Okay. Okay. Yeah, so
44 we've got -- we did composition counts in Unit 9,
45 mostly in 9B, 9C and 9E, surveys are usually flown in
46 cooperation with Staff from Becharof National Wildlife
47 Refuge. The information that I currently have is only
48 going up to 2018 for composition information. This is
49 a 2020 table so it looks like we might have a few years
50

0170

1 with no information available. But the calf to cow
2 ratio, which there isn't an objective -- isn't an
3 objective for, is 20 to 100 cows, which is okay, you
4 know, it's not low but it's not high, I guess it's in
5 the average. Most higher density moose pop -- and
6 that's actually pretty good for a low density or
7 moderate density moose population -- or habitat. In
8 higher density areas we would expect of having
9 objectives of at least 25 bulls to 100 and -- I'm sorry
10 calves, or even 30 so -- I misread that, so let me take
11 a step back. That's calves to 100 cows and that's 20,
12 and that's a little bit low, we would like to see that
13 higher. In most areas we are looking at in the numbers
14 of 30 in very productive herds, now -- now that --
15 there's a lower to medium density population so it's
16 not going to be that high. However, the bull to cow
17 information from the 2018 survey indicated really high
18 bull to cow ratios. But these surveys as I mentioned
19 were conducted without snow so it becomes more
20 difficult to identify and detect animals, but also it
21 becomes -- it becomes biased towards bulls because
22 bulls with antlers become very visible more so than
23 cows so we need to take that information with that
24 caveat there. And so -- so that's kind of where we're
25 at right now.

26

27 And then for -- let me give you the
28 population estimate for Unit 9 -- 9B -- I don't have
29 that number right in front of me, maybe someone from
30 the Refuge has that population estimate in front of
31 them for 9B.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MR. RINALDI: I don't think there's
36 been a GSPE done so I think we're just relying on
37 composition information in 9B. And that's all I have
38 for now.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We
41 also have a.....

42

43 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:
46 proposal for 9C this afternoon and if you have
47 information for 9C that would be helpful as well.

48

49 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard,

50

0171

1 again.

2

3

MR. RINALDI: Sure.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes,
6 Richard.

7

8

MR. WILSON: Thanks, Todd. Yeah, you
9 know, from my perspective here, you know, we're trying
10 to deal with some proposals but through the years being
11 on this RAC Board, we've always had agencies coming
12 forward and supplying us with our needed numbers for
13 population estimates and not just composition surveys.

14

15

16

(Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

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MR. WILSON: I understand that, you
18 know, composition surveys are easier to do because you
19 got -- you know you've got them piled up in a couple of
20 brush piles here and there and they're easier to count
21 and easier to get your ratios. But it doesn't tell me
22 what the population is. It doesn't give me any idea at
23 all on how, overall, what our population looks like.
24 And you've done a lot of -- you guys got a lot of info
25 on Unit 17 and very up to date and you got some good
26 numbers. 9B, 9C, 9E, we are still struggling. And
27 that's another reason why people on the ground here in
28 King Salmon, or this area, I just feel like we're being
29 left out from these, you know, all agencies, nobody
30 seems to be able to give us real numbers, and how are
31 we supposed to deal with proposals, or help our people
32 out if we don't have real numbers. And it's just
33 frustrating sitting here hearing the lack of. So I
34 will stop right there for now.

36

37

38

MR. RINALDI: I'd like to address that
39 please.

39

40

41

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, please,
42 go ahead.

42

43

44

45

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49

50

MR. RINALDI: So I was asked to come in
44 and address specifically the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and
45 not to address things on the Alaska Peninsula,
46 recognizing that portions of Unit 9 is in the Bristol
47 Bay Advisory Council area. I don't have that
48 information readily available. I think it's -- I would
49 remind you that this is a Federal process here and that

0172

1 OSM has provided the information to inform the RAC in
2 this process and that the Board of Game has been asked
3 to come to provide input, an additional perspective on
4 these topics, but I think a lot of the information that
5 you're seeking for is prepared for in the OSM
6 documents. The lack of a population estimate for 9B --
7 that's in front of me -- I don't have this information
8 at my fingertips at the moment but I'm looking into
9 that. The difference between population estimates and
10 composition estimates is some populations -- so
11 basically we never get the snow conditions to do a
12 survey down in 9 so we're forced to do snowless
13 surveys, as I mentioned before in my presentation, so
14 there is an attempt to have some information. We're
15 not choosing to do a composition information because
16 it's easier to do, we're doing a composition survey
17 because that's the only information that we can get.
18 So instead of surveying a whole population under
19 snowless conditions and potentially having a completely
20 unreliable number we're relying on these objectives and
21 these herd indicators to indicate the health and the
22 growth of the herd.

23

24 And that's where we're at.

25

26 So I've put in a request to find out if
27 we do have a population estimate for that unit. I'm
28 guessing that we don't because we never have the
29 conditions to fly a snow-filled survey which would give
30 us that estimate. And so these things are decisions --
31 they're logistical decisions and we still try to attain
32 the best information available. But I will provide the
33 additional moose information when I get it.

34

35 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
36 Robbin.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah,
39 Robbin, go ahead.

40

41 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, thank you, Madame
42 Chair and through the Chair. And also, Mr. Rinaldi,
43 we're really grateful for your report and everybody
44 else who's provided reports this morning. We organized
45 the alternative agenda in order to provide information
46 that will support your discussion, Council members,
47 when you get to all of the wildlife proposals and
48 closure reviews that are still -- we have yet to
49 address. So we have, I believe, eight -- yep, we have
50

50

0173

1 eight proposals and wildlife closure reviews to take
2 action on before the end of this meeting. And I think
3 one of the things that we were looking at when
4 providing a -- requesting reports was not just on
5 resources for the whole region, which we understand is
6 of great interest to you, but specifically requesting
7 reports to inform discussion when you take action on
8 these wildlife proposals and closure reviews. And,
9 again, I would request -- or ask for your apologies --
10 or my -- or I would extend my apologies and ask for
11 your forgiveness as we transition Staff, but we will
12 take notes now and if you are interested in a specific
13 report across all region, we're going to compile a list
14 for the winter agenda and we can address those requests
15 at the end of this meeting.

16

17 Thank you, Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
20 Thank you, Robbin. Just seeing that 9C is on here, do
21 we have further information coming for that proposal
22 because it is on our agenda so it should have been
23 acknowledged by you guys and if it's coming later,
24 that's great.

25

26 MR. RINALDI: Is this the -- this is
27 Todd, is there still a request for moose information in
28 9B or 9.....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, our
31 proposal is for 9C.

32

33 MS. LAVINE: So Mr. Rinaldi, and
34 through the Chair, this is Robbin LaVine. And we do
35 have Wildlife Proposal 22-41, which is caribou in Units
36 9, 17, 18 and 19, that would be the Mulchatna Caribou
37 Herd range. We have Wildlife Closure 22-05 for moose
38 in Unit 9C. And so that is the one that we didn't
39 reach out to you about. So that's our failing, not
40 yours Mr. Rinaldi.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
45 if it's possible, Todd, can we have that information
46 available for us this afternoon. We'll be taking a
47 lunch break here shortly and if we can have that
48 information for our discussion that would be awesome.

49

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0174

1 MR. RINALDI: Yes, through the Chair.
2 This is Todd. There is no current population estimate
3 for moose populations on the Alaska Peninsula. The
4 most recent population estimate that was able to be
5 achieved for a unit-wide estimate in Unit 9B was 1,200
6 animals, but that was seven or eight years ago. So the
7 management of the moose on the Alaska Peninsula is
8 through composition surveys and through monitoring
9 those growth parameters and those health parameters
10 that I identified in those ratios previously.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. All
13 right, well, we'll move forward with that then. Any
14 questions from the Council on the rest of the moose
15 information.

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: This is Dan.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
20 Dan.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, not so much a
23 question as a comment. I think Robbin touched on it,
24 is I think between Staff turnover in several agencies
25 we're kind of caught in this kind of unfortunate blank
26 spot here a little bit, and we still don't have a
27 report from like the Becharof Refuge, which typically
28 might have addressed more of what moose survey stuff
29 they would do but I don't think they would be found up
30 in 9B. So -- but, yeah, I think Todd's trying probably
31 triage with all the demands, on his part, delivering
32 what was written down, when I think a lot of the
33 Council typically hopes to get an overview on generally
34 bears, moose, wolves, caribou, ptarmigan, other
35 species, generally and then drill down specifically to
36 say like 9C moose. But is Dave Crowley -- question, is
37 Dave Crowley kind of unavailable for discussion of what
38 he knows? Okay.

39
40 MR. RINALDI: Through the Chair, this
41 is Todd. Yeah, Dave Crowley's available. But as I
42 mentioned we manage moose on the Alaska Peninsula
43 through moose composition surveys and those parameters
44 so we're not going to have population information. All
45 these flights in 9B, 9C, and 9E are done in cooperation
46 with the National Wildlife Refuge so the information
47 they have is the same information that we have. What I
48 am unclear on is whether or not there was any survey
49 that was completed this year. And I can ask Dave to
50

0175

1 come on board for this afternoon if you'd like to have
2 more discussion on it, but we're not missing any
3 information. We're not -- there isn't a data gap here.
4 There's a data gap here because we can't obtain that
5 information in this type of habitat so we use these
6 surrogate variables that indicate population, health,
7 growth and individual nutritional. So that's where
8 we're at.

9

10 So relative to the moose density, you
11 know, the moose density is not quite what it's supposed
12 to be, an objective, but that also can be how a
13 composition survey is done. So I will ask Dave to
14 chime in this afternoon but I'll remind you that there
15 isn't -- there isn't population specific information
16 for 9 because of our inability to collect that
17 information, and that's why we're taking this approach
18 with the Wildlife Refuge, to do it this way.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
21 you, Todd.

22

23 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Todd. I
24 think they often explain that pretty commonly. It
25 seems like some years we hear about some trend surveys
26 from the Park Service as well. Okay, we'll go with
27 what we got and, thanks. I was trying to clarify, I
28 hope I didn't add confusion.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks, Dan.
33 Okay, let's.....

34

35 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
36 Robbin.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
39 Robbin.

40

41 MS. LAVINE: And one more thing I would
42 like to add and I believe Mr. Rinaldi did mention it,
43 is that when we receive these proposals or we come up
44 and review the closures we do have our Staff, OSM Staff
45 that summarizes all of the available information on the
46 populations that are impacted by the proposals. So
47 when we get to those proposals you will have OSM Staff
48 that has researched this issue and will be summarizing
49 the most avail -- you know, the most recent information
50

0176

1 they had at the time of writing.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank
6 you. We acknowledge and appreciate that as well. Any
7 other questions or comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

12 Hearing none, it appears to be a good time for us to
13 possibly take a lunch break. And I'm going to ask my
14 Council members if they all feel like they can achieve
15 that in an hour's time, about 1:10 come back so that we
16 can keep our time -- we've got a lot to get through
17 this afternoon, is that possible.

18

19 MR. TREFON: It works for me, this is
20 Billy.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'd like a lunch
25 break.

26

27 MR. WILSON: What was the time again,
28 you were kind of muffled and I didn't get the time that
29 we were coming back online.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We'll come
32 back online at 1:10, will that work.

33

34 MR. WILSON: 1:10, thank you, yes.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: Roger. Works for me.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
41 you, Dan. Lary, is that good for you.

42

43 MR. HILL: Yes.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We'll
46 see everybody at 1:10 again, thank you.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50

0177

1 (On record)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Can you
4 start us off by making sure the rest of our Council is
5 here and we'll get started.

6

7 MS. LAVINE: Absolutely, thank you,
8 Madame Chair.

9

10 Billy Wasillie Trefon, are you on.

11

12 MR. TREFON: Yes, I am.

13

14 MS. LAVINE: There you are. Hi.

15

16 Dan Dunaway, are you on.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, I am.

19

20 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Dan.

21

22 Lary Hill, are you on.

23

24 MR. HILL: I'm here.

25

26 MS. LAVINE: Hi, Larry.

27

28 Richard Wilson, are you on.

29

30 MR. WILSON: I am here.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: All right. Madame Chair,
33 with you, we have all current five members online,
34 thanks.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
37 you so much, I appreciate that. Thanks everybody for
38 showing back up on time and let's go ahead and jump
39 right in so we can get through the rest of these items
40 for today. Let's start here with our wildlife
41 proposals and closure reviews. Who's on that Robbin.

42

43 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. Through the
44 Chair. First up is Wildlife Proposal 22-39 and OSM
45 Biologist Kendra Holman will be presenting that
46 analysis. Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

49

50 Go.....

0178

1 MS. HOLMAN: Good afternoon. This
2 is.....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:ahead,
5 please Ms.....

6
7 MS. HOLMAN: Good afternoon, Madame
8 Chair. Members of the Board. My name is Kendra Holman
9 and I'm a Wildlife Biologist for the Office of
10 Subsistence Management. This presentation will be a
11 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 22-39
12 submitted by ADF&G starting on Page 34 of your meeting
13 books.

14
15 The proponent requests to create
16 specific harvest regulations for Alaska hare in Unit 9
17 and 17 stating that the once abundant Alaska hare in
18 Unit 9 and 17 are now at a very low density and has a
19 patchy distribution throughout the Bristol Bay and the
20 Alaska Peninsula. The Alaska hare is sometimes called
21 jackrabbits, tundra hare or Arctic hare. The Alaska
22 hare is called the tundra hare in Federal regulations
23 but the Alaska hare appears to be the dominant term and
24 contemporary usage including State regulations. The
25 Alaska hare is a different species than the snow hare
26 despite being lumped together in Federal regulations.

27
28 Board of Game adopted a proposal in
29 2019 establishing a specific State harvest regulation
30 for Alaska hare in Unit 9 from November 1st to January
31 31st and limiting the harvest to one hare per day with
32 a max of four hare per season. ADF&G has also
33 submitted a Proposal, 24, to the Board of Game January
34 2022 meeting to include Unit 17 with an identical
35 Alaska hare management structure as Unit 9. They have
36 also submitted Wildlife Proposal WP22-45 to create a
37 specific harvest regulation for the Alaska hare in
38 Units 18, 22 and 23.

39
40 The Alaska hares are moving -- are
41 among the most poorly understand [sic] game species in
42 Alaska. Anecdotally, abundance is well below historic
43 levels throughout the range of the species. The last
44 known eruptive population on the Peninsula occurred in
45 the winter of 10953/1954. The Alaska Peninsula and
46 Becharof National Wildlife Refuge ranks the Alaska hare
47 as the Refuge's number 3 prioritized resource of
48 concern as an ecological significant endemic species
49 vulnerable to the influences of climate change. In
50

0179

1 2018 ADF&G initially -- initiated a multi-year study to
2 evaluate movement and mortality as long-term capture
3 techniques. Little is known about the harvest of the
4 Alaska hare. Household harvest service -- surveys
5 indicate that it is harvested throughout the
6 communities of Western and Southwestern Alaska.

7

8 If this proposal is adopted the Alaskan
9 [sic] hare season will be reduced, although hunters
10 will still have the opportunity to harvest hares during
11 the winter when they are out engaging in other
12 subsistence or recreational activities. The change in
13 daily and overall harvest limits may be effective in
14 reducing the harvest which could translate into an
15 improvement in the conservation status of these
16 populations. Any positive effects these changes have
17 on the Alaska hare population will benefit subsistence
18 users in the long-term despite the immediate reduction
19 in subsistence opportunity.

20

21 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
22 support WP22-39 with modification to modify the
23 definition of hare in Federal regulation to include the
24 Alaska hare.

25

26 Thank you, Madame Chair and members of
27 the Board. I'll be happy to field any questions.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
30 you very much, Kendra, appreciate that. And we're just
31 going to go right down our presentation procedure on
32 these proposals. So report on (breaking up)
33 consultations, Orville, do you have anything for us.

34

35 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard
36 here. You're getting kind of hard to hear.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm sorry,
39 hum, I haven't changed anything. I'll try and speak
40 more directly. I said we'll go right on to report on
41 Board consultations for tribes and ANCSA Corporations
42 and I'll call on Orville, if he has anything.

43

44 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Madame
45 Chair. Council members. This is Orville Lind, Native
46 Liaison for Office of Subsistence Management. During
47 our consultation held on August 19th, we did not have
48 any questions or comments on that proposal. Thank you,
49 Madame Chair.

50

0180

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
2 you, Orville. Agency comments, ADF&G.

3
4 MR. RINALDI: Good afternoon. This is
5 Todd Rinaldi with the Department of Fish and Game. The
6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game supports this
7 proposal and was the author of this proposal for the
8 reasons stated in the proposal, and as presented by
9 Rick Merizon previously.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
14 Federal.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I take it to
19 mean that we have no Federal agency comments then.

20
21 MS. CHISOLM: Through the Chair this is
22 Linda Chisolm. The Aniakchak SRC is reviewing this
23 proposal, we do not have an official comment at this
24 time but I believe we will at our next meeting for the
25 RAC. I can say that members of the SRC have discussed
26 their experience with seeing a lack of Alaska hare down
27 in the central Peninsula area for quite some time now.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
30 you. Okay, then.....

31
32 MS. RUPP: And, Madame Chair, this is
33 -- oops, sorry.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

36
37 MS. RUPP: This is Liza Rupp, Lake
38 Clark National Park and Preserve. On behalf of the Lake
39 Clark SRC, I'm not sure if -- sorry, you cut out, so
40 I'm not sure if this is the correct time for this but
41 I'll follow Linda. Anyway, I'd like to report that the
42 Lake Clark SRC met on the 8th of October -- sorry, 6th
43 of October and they voted to support this proposal.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
46 you. It is the proper time, Liza, and sorry.

47
48 MS. RUPP: Okay, thanks.

49
50

0181

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other
2 Federal agency comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: State tribal
7 comments.

8
9 MS. CARTY: This is Courtenay. I guess
10 the only thing -- Curyung Tribe, Courtenay Carty for
11 the record. The only thing I would add from the tribal
12 perspective is that we did not receive notice of this
13 tribal consultation opportunity for August. I did just
14 send Orville an email asking to get back on the
15 distribution list so that we could be better active
16 participants.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
19 you for that. We do always appreciate getting your
20 participation and I know that Orville will see to it
21 that that happens. We will -- any other tribal
22 comments.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
27 Advisory Group comments, other Regional Advisory
28 Councils.

29
30 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, this is
31 Dan.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan, go
34 ahead.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I can say that the
37 Nushagak Advisory Committee, I think, is still trying
38 to decide when to meet and has not addressed these
39 proposals. Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
42 you. Any other Regional Advisory Councils, did we have
43 one on our side?

44
45 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Rich Wilson.
46 Yes, I think our AC here is also looking to schedule
47 and we have not addressed these proposals.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
50

0182

1 you. So that pretty much covers our Fish and Game
2 Advisory Committees. Is there any others that you can
3 possibly point us to, Robbin.

4
5 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
6 Not at this time.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
9 that pretty much covers our Subsistence Resource
10 Commissions, too, if I'm not mistaken, is that correct?

11
12 MS. LAVINE: I believe so, yes, thank
13 you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Summary of
16 written public comments.

17
18 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair, this is
19 Kendra. There were no written comments received on
20 this proposal.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
23 you, Kendra. Public testimony. Is there anyone online
24 that wishes to give us testimony on this proposal.

25
26 MS. CARTY: This is Courtenay Carty.
27 I'll testify as an individual and not as -- taking my
28 Tribal Administrator hat off for a minute. I am a
29 rabbit hunter myself. I feel like -- I appreciate
30 seeing some limitation put in, no limit, wide open
31 brings up conservation concerns, or I guess makes room
32 for conservation concerns but when you're out rabbit
33 hunting you usually get multiple rabbits at a time.
34 One rabbit is one meal, at least for my household. And
35 four per season is probably not enough to meet a
36 subsistence need for any family that relies on rabbits
37 for harvesting as a food source. And so although I am
38 appreciative of putting in some type of limitation, I
39 think as a hunter I see this as a pretty harsh
40 limitation, if I could say so myself.

41
42 That's all I have, thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
45 you. Anyone else who wishes to testify from the
46 public.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

0183

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
2 hearing no others would anybody care to put it on the
3 table and we can begin our discussion.

4
5 MR. DUNAWAY: This is Dan, move to
6 adopt.

7
8 MR. WILSON: Richard, second.

9
10 MR. HILL: Second.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
13 have a motion and a second to adopt WP22-39 (breaking
14 up), which will establish season harvest limits for
15 Alaska hare. Dan, since you're the maker of the motion
16 I'll give you the floor first.

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. I'm glad to
19 see the State is being attentive to some of these
20 populations that are not the charismatic megafawna.
21 I've seen a couple of these animals in my time, they
22 aren't real abundant. The concern Courtenay expressed,
23 I need to remind the public this is strictly for the
24 very large Alaska hare, that's not near as common as
25 the snowshoe hare that I believe has a more liberal bag
26 limit, and this would allow an occasional harvest. So
27 I'm going to be supporting this.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
32 you, Dan. Richard, you have the floor next.

33
34 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
35 Yes, I had a question for the proponent on this one
36 here. Why -- I mean I see one hare per day, four per
37 season. And I'm not so much concerned about that as I
38 am the dates. Why January 31st, that'd be my first
39 question?

40
41 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair. This
42 is Rick Merizon with the Alaska Department of Fish and
43 Game. I'm happy to answer that question.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, please
46 go ahead.

47
48 MR. MERIZON: In 2017, an advisory --
49 that proposal went before -- that proposal was created
50

0184

1 to go before (breaking up) and it was believed that
2 those dates would still allow folks that are out
3 trapping, traveling across the country on snowmachine
4 to have a harvest opportunity for Alaska hares and it
5 would allow hunters to cover more ground in pursuit of
6 Alaska hares as opposed to during either the spring,
7 summer or fall. It also created a window, obviously a
8 broad window for which the Alaska hare protected in the
9 breeding and rearing seasons in the spring and summer.
10 So those two reasons combined it was believed that
11 those dates would still afford a reasonable opportunity
12 for folks to get out and harvest Alaska hares. So we
13 figured -- I -- when Fish and Game submitted that
14 proposal, just to keep the same dates to reduce hunter
15 confusion, regulatory confusion.

16

17 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Richard
18 here. Thanks for that update. I, myself, you know,
19 the winters here have kind of switched a bit so we
20 don't have any winters until January, February and
21 March, and these hares, you know, typically don't do
22 mating -- their mating season is in May and June. And
23 it doesn't -- I don't believe it starts in February. I
24 haven't seen any information to show that it starts in
25 February, usually they are in May and June. So I would
26 be more in favor of this proposal if it went on through
27 March, some portion in March, perhaps the 31st at the
28 very latest but definitely up to March 15th because
29 this is a winter resource. And typically our people
30 are hunting these on snowmachines and you have that
31 little longer days and the spring is generally when I
32 notice people are here more apt to be hunting. Okay.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Sorry guys I
35 got dropped off the call. So I heard your response,
36 Richard, and is that a question then or just a comment
37 in general then for consideration.

38

39 MR. WILSON: Yeah, that's be, you know,
40 if they could -- for me if the date was changed to
41 March say 15th, just to be on the safe side, I would be
42 more apt to look at this proposal more seriously.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Just
45 looking at the dates there myself. Other comments.

46

47 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, this is Lary.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, Lary,

50

0185

1 please go ahead.

2

3 MR. HILL: Yeah, I kind of have the
4 same question as Richard in that during the mating
5 season like a lot of other animals, they -- these hares
6 congregate in certain areas and when there's a mating
7 season, like other animals, they're a lot easier to
8 catch and so I would almost be for having the season
9 cut off, you know, mid -- late April, or even as March
10 15th as Richard talked about.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Other
13 comments.

14

15 MR. WILSON: Nanci, Richard here.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, go
18 ahead, Richard.

19

20 MR. WILSON: So the ptarmigan season
21 closes -- is that April 15th or is it closed April 1st,
22 I'm trying to shoot from memory here, what's our date
23 on the closure of ptarmigan, do we know? Anybody?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, for some
26 reason I thought it was the first but I could be wrong.

27

28 MR. MERIZON: This is Rick Merizon
29 again with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm
30 happy to answer that question. In Unit 17 the
31 ptarmigan season closes April 30th.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: The 30th
34 okay.

35

36 MR. WILSON: What about Units 9B, 9C,
37 9E?

38

39 MR. MERIZON: Again, through the Chair,
40 this is Rick Merizon. For all of Unit 9 the season
41 back in 2018 was shortened to close on February 28th,
42 and that was through -- and I'm sorry, those are State
43 regulations currently. The Federal regulations, I'd
44 have to look up here momentarily.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Are you
47 thinking you'd want to offer something that's going to
48 have some uniformity Richard.

49

50

0186

1 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, yes. I
2 would like to hear what that date is on our Federal
3 lands here, please.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm
6 showing.....

7
8 MR. RINALDI: This is Todd.....

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:the
11 last day of February on the Federal side. Go ahead,
12 Rick, you may have something more.

13
14 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, again, this is Rick
15 Merizon with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
16 Also the Federal regulations mirror Federal
17 regulations, in Unit 9 the ptarmigan season closes the
18 last day of February. And in Unit 17 ptarmigan season
19 closes April 30.

20
21 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, that's
22 rather interesting how it's so different, you know,
23 being just across the border, one unit to the next, you
24 know, you have over a month lapse of time for cut off.
25 But that's not the point here. The point here is I
26 think I would still stick with my March 31, I was just
27 trying to get some clarity there. If we were to -- in
28 order for me to think about this proposal in a positive
29 way I think I would have to go with March 31st and
30 start off at November 1st is fine.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Would
33 the maker of the motion consider an amendment to the
34 motion?

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, if they want to --
37 I would just see that as a friendly amendment.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Do
40 you want to state that, Richard, as a friendly
41 amendment, please.

42
43 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, yes, I
44 would.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
47 other discussion, we're now discussing the amendment of
48 changing the date to the end of March, March 31st.

49
50

0187

1 MR. WILSON: I would like to.....

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is

4 Robbin.

5

6 MR. WILSON:hear from the

7 proponent on this one, if I could.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Go

10 ahead, who.....

11

12 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is

13 Robbin.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, go

16 ahead, Robbin.

17

18 MS. LAVINE: I -- I -- can you hear me?

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, I can.

21

22 MS. LAVINE: Okay, great. I just wanted

23 to clarify that -- are you proposing to accept the --

24 adopt the proposal as modified by OSM but then making a

25 friendly amendment to extend the season to March 31st?

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, at the

28 moment we're.....

29

30 MS. LAVINE: Or are we adopting.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:

33discussing.....

34

35 MS. LAVINE:as written.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We're

38 adopting as written with an amendment at the moment.

39 If the amendment passes then we will probably be

40 passing that amended and approving it as amended.

41

42 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

45

46 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other --

49 yes, Lary.

50

0188

1 MR. HILL: I would vote to accept the
2 amendment.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
5 Question's been called, let's vote on our amendment to
6 accept new dates of March 31st in place of the current
7 date. All in favor, please signify by saying aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
12 Amendment passes. Any more discussion on the main
13 motion.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MR. HILL: Question.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Question's
20 been called. All in favor of main motion as amended
21 please signify by saying aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. WP22-
26 39 hare, Units 9 and 17 establishing the harvest season
27 has passed, amended, with the closure date of March 31.
28 Does that suit your needs, Robbin?

29
30 MS. LAVINE: Yes, it does, Madame
31 Chair, thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
34 Let's move on to WP22-40 wolf/wolverine, Units 9B, 9C,
35 17B and 17C.

36
37 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 Members of the Council. For the record my name is
39 Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator for OSM
40 and acting DFO for this Council meeting and I will be
41 presenting the analysis for WP20-40 [sic]. That
42 analysis can be found on Page 44 of your Council books.

43
44 Proposal WP22-40 was submitted by the
45 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and
46 it requests that Federally-qualified subsistence users
47 be allowed to use a snowmachine to position wolves and
48 wolverines for harvest on Federal public lands in Units
49 9B, 9C, 17B and 17C provided the animals are not shot
50

0189

1 from a moving snowmachine.

2

3

4 The proponent states that the use of
5 snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines is a
6 traditional practice in rural areas. And the proposed
7 regulation will mirror Federal regulations in Unit 23.
8 The proponent continues, in April 2020, the Federal
9 Subsistence Board addressed Proposal 20-26 to position
10 wolves and wolverine on BLM lands in Units 17B and C.
11 The Board deferred the proposal to a working group of
12 the Council and Federal Staff and State Staff to
13 develop and recommend language to define positioning --
14 the position of animals for the Board to consider.
15 This proposal, now, 22-40, replaces deferred Proposal
16 20-26.

16

17

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In 2020 the Council submitted Proposals
20-26 and 20-27. Proposal 20-26 requested that
Federally-qualified subsistence users be allowed to use
a snowmachine to position wolves and wolverines for
harvest on BLM managed lands only in Units 9B, 9C, 17B
and 17C and Proposal 20-27, also submitted by the
Council, requested a unit-specific regulation for Unit
17 allowing use of a snowmachine to assist in the
taking of a caribou and allowing caribou to be shot
from a stationary snowmachine using the regulatory
language adopted by the Board of Game in February 2018.

So that regulatory language read:

In Unit 17 a snowmachine may be used to
assist in the taking of a caribou and caribou may be
shot from a stationary snowmachine. Assist in the
taking of a caribou means a snowmachine may be used to
approach within 300 yards of a caribou at speeds under
15 miles per hour in a manner that does not involve
repeated approaches or that causes a caribou to run. A
snowmachine may not be used to contact an animal or to
pursue a fleeing caribou.

During the April 2020 Board meeting,
the Board took up Proposal 20-27, discussed and adopted
it. The Board then considered Proposal 20-26, the
Board deferred 20-26 and suggested further
consideration of the proposal by the Council working
group to; 1, extend the analysis to include all Federal
lands in Units 9B, 9C, 17B and 17C, and, 2, to identify
specific language that may reduce complexity between
State and Federal regulations, and, 3, to anticipate

0190

1 and address regulatory conflicts between proposed
2 regulatory language and agency-specific regulations.

3

4

5 Current events. The local AC submitted
6 Proposal 23 to the Board of Game for consideration at
7 their January 2022 meeting. Proposal 23 requests
8 allowing the use of a snowmachine to position wolves or
9 wolverine for harvest in Unit 17 and that they may be
10 shot from a stationary snowmachine. The Nushagak AC
11 states Proposal 23 seeks to eliminate current conflicts
12 between regulatory prohibitions and common local
13 hunting practices and that this opportunity is already
14 available to users in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

14

15

16 Following direction from the Board, a
17 working group formed to develop recommendations for
18 deferred Proposal 20-26. The working group met several
19 times via teleconference between July 2020 and May
20 2021. At the February 2021 Council meeting, Bristol Bay
21 Regional Advisory Council meeting, the working group
22 reported to the Council that they were in agreement to
23 expand the analysis to include all Federal public lands
24 in Units 9B, 9C, 17B and 17C. Subsequently this
25 proposal was submitted for the 2022 regulatory cycle.
26 So here we now have 22-40.

26

27

28 However, after submitting this proposal
29 the working group met again in May and agreed to
30 further clarify the term, position, using the same
31 regulatory language as proposed in Proposal 20-27. And
32 that was the using the snowmachine to assist, and
33 assist of taking of caribou means snowmachine may be
34 used to approach within 300 yards at speeds under 15
35 miles an hour, et cetera.

35

36

So alternatives considered.

37

38

39 When Proposal 20-26 was proposed, it
40 requested changes to regulations on BLM lands only in
41 Units 9 and 17. BLM lands only occur in Units 9B, 9C,
42 17B and 17C. When the proponent submitted 22-40 the
43 request was expanded to include all Federal lands in
44 the same subunits before. Now, an alternative to
45 consider is that leaving out Unit 17A, which is also in
46 the area was an oversight and the proposed regulatory
47 changes should take place on all Federal public lands
48 in Units 9B, 9C and all of Unit 17. The Council may
49 want to further consider this alternative.

49

50

0191

1 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
2 support Proposal 22-40 with modification, to utilize
3 the same regulatory language as Proposal 20-27 and to
4 include all Federal public lands in Unit 17.

5

6 The modification should read: In both
7 Units 9 and Unit 17 unit-specific regulations, on
8 Federal managed lands a snowmachine may be used to
9 assist in the taking of a wolf or wolverine and a wolf
10 or wolverine may be shot from a stationary snowmachine.
11 Assist in the taking of a wolf or wolverine means a
12 snowmachine may be used to approach within 300 yards of
13 a wolf or wolverine at speeds under 15 miles per hour
14 in a manner that does not involve repeated approaches
15 or that causes the animal to run. A snowmachine may
16 not be used to contact an animal or to pursue a fleeing
17 animal.

18

19 Thank you, Madame Chair. I am ready to
20 respond to questions.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
23 you for that, Robbin. This is one that all of us are
24 fairly familiar with and we'll go through the process
25 here. Actually because it's an update, I'll first open
26 it up to Council questions should anybody have any
27 questions for Robbin on the current proposal. Go
28 ahead.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, good.
33 Then let's get a report on Board consultations, tribes
34 and ANCSA Corporations. Orville.

35

36 MR. LIND: Yes, Madame Chair, this is
37 Orville Lind, for the record, Native Liaison for OSM.
38 During the consultation session we did not have any
39 comments or questions on that proposal.

40

41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42

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

45

46 MR. RINALDI: Good afternoon, Madame
47 Chair. This is Todd Rinaldi with the Department of
48 Fish and Game. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
49 supports this proposal as it will reduce hunter

50

0192

1 confusion through aligning the Federal and State
2 regulations.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
7 you. Federal.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
12 hearing none, tribal.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Move
17 on to advisory groups. Other Regional Advisory
18 Councils, Fish and Game Advisory Councils, both of --
19 in fact, I'm just going to say that as I heard before
20 neither one has met yet and they'll be taking them into
21 consideration. Are there any comments that any of
22 those entities would like to make on this particular
23 proposal.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: This is Dan.

26

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

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: I just want to say I
31 think Robbin's summary accurately reflected some of the
32 State Advisory Committee's activities in the
33 development of State regulation proposals as well as
34 regarding this proposal. Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
37 you, Dan. Then our Subsistence Resource Commissions,
38 did we have any input from them yet.

39

40 MS. CHISOLM: Through the Chair, this
41 is Linda Chisolm speaking on behalf of the Aniakchak
42 SRC. The SRC has no official comment on this proposal.
43 Discussion, I think, has been limited because of their
44 focus on Subunit 9E and I believe there was also some
45 discussion points about the snow free winters of the
46 last decade precluding the use of snowmobiles for
47 positioning anything currently.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0193

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
2 you, Linda. Liza, did you have anything.

3

4 MS. RUPP: Yes, thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Liza Rupp, on behalf of the Lake Clark SRC. The SRC
6 did discuss this but unfortunately at the time we only
7 had the basic proposal, we didn't have the OSM analysis
8 so they didn't really have the full context in front of
9 them. So they had one comment, was that they wanted a
10 clear definition of what position meant. Again, which
11 was in the OSM but we didn't have that at the time, so
12 they have no official position on this proposal at this
13 point.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
16 you. Other Subsistence Resources that I missed.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
21 Summary of written public comments, is that Robbin.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: Good question, Madame
24 Chair. And that is something that I should have
25 remembered and need to review. Hold on, please. There
26 are none, thank you. Oh, wait, wait, wait, wait, that
27 was the wrong analysis. Hold on folks. Ah, okay, I
28 will confirm there are none.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
33 you for checking Robbin, we do appreciate that. Any
34 public testimony at this time.

35

36 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, this is
37 Gayla Hoseth with BBNA.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Gayla,
40 please, go ahead.

41

42 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, I wasn't sure if I
43 was to comment on the tribal section or wait until this
44 section to comment. I just wanted to bring up that
45 when we were going through the annual report during --
46 at the beginning of the meeting yesterday that we were
47 going to bring up the issue of still waiting for the
48 Solicitor and this proposal is what kind of started
49 that conversation that we had, how many years ago. And
50

0194

1 I'm just glad to finally see that this is moving
2 forward and thank the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
3 Council for putting in this proposal to extend it to
4 all Federal public lands in Units 9B, C, and 17B and
5 17C. So I just wanted to bring up the issue of us
6 still waiting to hear from the Solicitor when decisions
7 like this are being made, once it gets to the Federal
8 Subsistence Board level.

9

10 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Madame Chair, this
11 is Robbin.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes.

14

15 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. Gayla,
16 I did reach out to the Solicitor's office and the
17 leadership Team at OSM yesterday after our discussion
18 and I said that, you know, our gathering here wishes to
19 have a definitive answer on how Board members take
20 action on regulatory proposals and I paraphrased some
21 of the questions that rose up during the first day of
22 the meeting, which I think amount to our, the Board
23 members, taking action with their agency-specific
24 regulations in mind, or do they take action under
25 authority of Title VIII of ANILCA, or, again, does
26 ANILCA trump agency-specific regulations, so that's
27 what I sent out to our leadership and the Solicitor's
28 office.

29

30 And here's a prepared answer that I can
31 share with you.

32

33 And that is, in all cases Board members
34 strive to follow the law, however, sometimes the law
35 can be ambiguous or unclear. When needed, the
36 attorney's in the Solicitor's office try to assist
37 Board members by clarifying the law or resolving those
38 ambiguities in accordance with Congressional intent.
39 These discussions typically constitute confidential
40 attorney/client communications that are not open to the
41 public. Additionally, if the Board adopts a regulation
42 or adopts a motion and takes action, that someone
43 impacted by that regulation believes it's contrary to
44 applicable law, then the appropriate recourse is to
45 first exhaust all administrative options before seeking
46 of the Board's decision by the U.S. District Court.
47 And to exhaust all administrative options means a
48 person needs to submit a request for reconsideration in
49 accordance with 50 CFR 100.20, or commonly referred to
50

0195

1 as Section .20 of our Federal Subsistence Regulations.
2 So, if ever there is an action taken, one can submit a
3 request for reconsideration on an action taken on
4 proposals.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
9 you very much, Robbin. And hang on just a second,
10 Gayla, I'll give you an opportunity to comment as I'm
11 sure you will want to. And I am just -- I'm
12 disappointed in that answer. That still does not give
13 us clarity on where the Board is really (indiscernible
14 - cuts out) when they're taken by the Board and I don't
15 necessarily think that it's in the subsistence user's
16 interest. And, you know what, Gayla, go ahead.

17

18 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, I think we
19 lost you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, I'm
22 here. I think maybe we lost Gayla and we'll try and
23 give her another opportunity, I guess, in the future.

24

25 MS. HOSETH: Oh, no, Madame Chair, I'm
26 still here.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, okay,
29 good enough.

30

31 MS. HOSETH: Yeah.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Gayla, did
34 you want to comment.

35

36 MS. HOSETH: Yes, I guess I did. You
37 know it was a lot to absorb and I would like to see
38 that in writing, I guess, so that we can dissect the
39 information that Robbin just read to us. I mean that's
40 been an answer that we've been waiting for for awhile.
41 And I think an issue that would be -- that should be
42 brought up at the Federal Subsistence Board, is to make
43 sure that ANILCA is being followed and that when these
44 proposals are being voted on, you know, I -- I believe
45 it was U.S. Fish and Wildlife, 50 CFR 36 if I remember
46 correctly, I can't remember the CFR exactly, but that
47 was stated on the record as to why that was voted down,
48 no, when even some other units, in Unit 23, that this
49 was an allowable method of take. So I would think

50

0196

1 that, you know, as these are being voted on, that
2 ANILCA is being followed. And then when this was taken
3 up two years later, as the regulatory cycle changed,
4 then it was unanimous consent and it voted, you know,
5 everybody was in favor of this proposal after we
6 brought up this issue and we held it to the fire, of
7 our concerns. So I think that, you know, we should be
8 able to read what Robbin just said, we should have a
9 formal response back so that we could look at that and
10 learn through this process.

11

12 So, thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep. I'm
15 disappointed. But Robbin I'm very grateful for you
16 getting a response and it would be very helpful to see
17 it, if we can have it, you know, sent it out to those
18 who are participating, at least, that would be awesome
19 and appreciated. And I'll get us back on track here.
20 Any other public testimony for this proposal.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
25 will entertain a motion and I would remind whomever
26 might be considering a motion that we have two
27 different options before we make a motion. We have the
28 original motion as written and then the one that OSM
29 has offered which includes 17, all of Unit 17. The
30 floor is open for a motion.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: This is Dan here.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan, go
35 ahead.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: I'd like to move to adopt
38 WP22-40, using the recommended lang -- and somewhat
39 altered language provided by the subsistence folks that
40 analyzed it. I like the idea that it includes -- it's
41 more inclusive. Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
44 you.

45

46 MR. TREFON: This is Billy here, I'll
47 second it.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank

50

0197

1 you, Billy. Page 57, here it is, Dan, is that the one
2 you are proposing and Billy seconded.

3

4 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, I believe so.
5 Robbin was doing such a good job I didn't follow page
6 by page there.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I did
9 (breaking up) speaking to Robbin, can you confirm that,
10 Page 57, is the modification.

11

12 MS. LAVINE: Just one moment, Madame
13 Chair. I believe.....

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm on Page.....

16

17 MS. LAVINE: Yep, Page 57.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So we
20 have a motion, the modified motion is on the table and
21 open for discussion. Dan, I'll go ahead and give you
22 first crack at discussion.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. As I said in my
25 motion, I think the OSM preliminary conclusion and
26 suggested modifications are an improvement. I also
27 have been involved with this issue, both through the
28 Advisory Committee and Board of Game process, as well
29 as here at the RAC, and I think there's pretty strong
30 local support and demand for it. So I thank the OSM
31 for their thorough analysis and improvement. And since
32 also the RAC was the author of this, and it seems like
33 it meets muster now, I will be supporting it.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
38 you, Dan. Billy, would you like to speak to the
39 motion.

40

41 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I support this idea.
42 It's going to help with the hunting and the positioning
43 and improve on getting access to these animals. Yeah,
44 I support this.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
47 you. Any other comments.

48

49 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard.

50

0198

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

3
4 MR. WILSON: Yes, thank you. Yeah, you
5 know, I mean I kind of understand why we needed a
6 little extra language, which OSM preliminary conclusion
7 put in there, but I was hopeful that it would have just
8 stayed simple with the original motion, I mean the
9 original proposed language. It just -- it seems -- I
10 know at one point it kind of verifies -- or I mean
11 satisfied some people that you've got to be within 300
12 yards, you can't be any closer than 300 yards, but
13 every circumstance is different. Every area that we
14 work in is different. You could be behind a bush, or a
15 set of bushes and the caribou could be just on the
16 other side and they don't see you or hear you or the
17 same with the wolves, wolverine; I mean it's like
18 they're putting a limit on your distance. I mean I get
19 it, you know, in order for some people to be satisfied
20 with this proposal that it's got to be -- you know, you
21 got to have these limitations but it just complicates
22 it for me. And I wish it could have stayed simple with
23 the original proposed language.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I do hear
28 what you're saying Richard. Any other comments.

29
30 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, this is Lary.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, Lary,
33 go ahead.

34
35 MR. HILL: This having it 300 yards,
36 unless you're on a big lake that's longer than 300
37 yards and you stop, and there's some rolling hills,
38 you're -- your animal would be gone. You'd have to
39 start the snowmachine again and go again to a spot that
40 the animal, and wait for the 300 yards. So I know we
41 have to do something to satisfy all the Feds that --
42 but it does seem kind of not really understanding the
43 conditions or the needs of the hunters.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: One other
48 comment would also be, you know, just to those
49 concerns, which I agree with, is that I'm hopeful that
50

0199

1 by adopting this proposal we will have a place to start
2 with and once it's in place and shown to be effective
3 we could improve upon it in the future.

4

5 Any other discussion.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, Dan.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
10 Dan.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I know Richard and
13 Lary make some good points. I think for background, I
14 think the language that we're using was originally kind
15 of customized for the Nushagak Peninsula where a big
16 part of it, in the wintertime is almost featureless,
17 and it's like being out there in the middle of Lake
18 Iliamna, it's just flat and almost no cover. So I
19 think it's in anticipation of situations like that.
20 I'm hoping and maybe some of the Federal agencies can
21 speak up how they might enforce it, but -- in fact, the
22 last caribou I got, we'd been wandering around looking
23 for caribou and then I came up over a rise and there's
24 some caribou like right there coming my way, I stopped
25 immediately. So I'm hoping that in those kinds of
26 situations, Richard, you know, you're driving along and
27 all of a sudden, oh, my gosh, there's a caribou or a
28 moose or a wolf, wolverine on the other side of the
29 alders, you weren't pursuing it in my mind at that
30 point, you were cruising. But like the last hunt I was
31 on we had to break off several times because we'd come
32 over a very slight amount of cover and there'd be
33 caribou 300 yards away and they would immediately flee
34 and then we are supposed to stop pursuing those. I
35 think that's kind of the clarification.

36

37 I would invite any of the Federal
38 agencies that might be able to clarify how they might
39 enforce this. Okay.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
44 you, Dan.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other
49 comments.

50

0200

1 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard,

4 yes.

5

6 MR. WILSON: Dan, I see kind of your
7 point there, you probably weren't in pursuit of it at
8 that point but there's other circumstances, you know,
9 where the wolf, wolverine could be on a -- you know
10 opposite side of a timber patch, and the timber is only
11 100 yards through, and you could sneak up, you know,
12 within -- well, within 300 yards, which you hope to,
13 because 300 yard shots, you know, not everybody can do
14 a 300 yard shot.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

17

18 MR. WILSON: And what are the -- you
19 know the officer out there that is watching you pursue
20 this animal, you know, he's got his scope on him, he's
21 got his depth-fin -- I mean his meter's out and he's,
22 you know, 250 yards, okay, I'm going to cite this dude,
23 I mean where does this stop. I mean how does -- it
24 seems like simpler was better rather than including
25 this 300 yards -- you know I can see 15 miles an hour,
26 you know, you approach something very slow and not
27 fast, you know, which we generally do, but to put a
28 distance on a shot, to me is not -- it's not proper for
29 us people to be able to be limited for distance on how
30 to shoot an animal. Because a lot of times that far
31 away, somebody going to shoot it with a 22 mag or
32 something smaller, it's going to -- you're going to
33 wound it, you're going to wander off. There's a lot of
34 different circumstances there and to me it just puts a
35 barrier on what the actual need of the people were
36 asking.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, through the Chair.
39 Yeah, I hear you loud and clear, Richard. It's going
40 to require a lot of judgment. I was wondering if
41 Kenton from the Togiak Refuge was available to speak or
42 anybody. But, yeah, it's sticky, any way you go but I
43 guess that's the language -- it got hammered out over
44 quite a bit of hard work here in Dillingham for the
45 caribou. And there's some of our trappers over here
46 really want some means of being able to hunt wolverine
47 and wolf as has been done in the past. I haven't hunted
48 them so I'm a little uninformed on it. Okay.

49

50

0201

1 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
2 Robbin.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Robbin, go
5 ahead.

6
7 MS. LAVINE: I just want to review the
8 language. When I hear you talk about being limited to
9 a distance of 300 yards, I don't believe that's what
10 the language is saying. I think -- the language says a
11 snowmachine may be used to approach within 300 yards of
12 a wolf or wolverine, at speeds under 15 miles an hour.
13 So basically saying that once you get within 300 yards,
14 you know, keep -- keep your vehicle at speeds of 15
15 miles or less in a manner that does not involve
16 repeated approaches causing an animal to run or using a
17 snowmachine itself to contact the animal, basically,
18 you know, hitting the animal with a snowmachine. So I
19 think that's what the language is saying, is, that once
20 you get within 300 yards, you know, bring the machine
21 down to 15 miles an hour or less.

22
23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
26 for that clarification, Robbin, that's really helpful.

27
28 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Again, I
29 feel that's kind of up to the officer, it doesn't --
30 some may see it differently so, yeah, I still have
31 trouble with it.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Definitely
34 could be an argument but if the intent is there and if
35 we're passing it with that intent, as we all just heard
36 and I think that there would be a pretty strong case
37 there.

38
39 MR. TREFON: Yeah, this is Billy here.
40 Listening to your comments there, listening to Lary and
41 Richard and all them, I do have to agree with what you
42 guys are saying about this 300 yards because up in my
43 country 300 yards, I mean, we don't do too much 300
44 yard shots out here in the mountains in the timber, I
45 mean that's open country hunting there. Most of our
46 hunting up here is under 200 yards. 300 yards, 500
47 yards, that's a long shot even in open country. But I
48 do support the idea of what Robbin was saying that, if
49 you get within so many feet, slow the machine down, I
50

0202

1 mean that can get hashed out later and this is a
2 stepping stone, a beginning, I guess a foundation and
3 from there we could only improve on it, I hope.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm just trying to
14 reach Kenton and he may be trying to get on. He may
15 have to -- between he and I think he has his
16 enforcement officer, they might be able to help us out
17 a little bit. Let's see if he speaks up here. Over.

18

19 MR. MOOS: Yeah, I'm on.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
22 Kenton.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: There's a bit of
25 confusion on this whole rule -- proposed rule on this
26 positioning an animal and approaching within 300 yards,
27 and -- well, maybe we could just ask Richard to explain
28 his concern, he could do it better than I. Over.

29

30 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Rich
31 Wilson here. Yeah, you know, the way it's -- it says
32 assist in taking of a wolf or wolverine means a
33 snowmachine may be used to approach within 300 yards of
34 a wolf or wolverine at speeds under 15 miles an hour.
35 And like we've been discussing here with the Council
36 members that there's a lot of cases -- I mean, you
37 know, we have very diverse country here, you know, the
38 Nushagak area is very different than the Lake Iliamna
39 area of 9C or a lot of different opportunities come in
40 different distances and to be able -- to have to be
41 limited to 300 yards, that's a long shot and a lot of
42 us don't take long shots, we get closer than that. And
43 so it just seems like this -- having that 300 yards in
44 there, I understand to slow your vehicle if you're
45 approaching, which makes sense, but to limit a distance
46 it just seems counter intuitive to what we're actually
47 trying to do here.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

50

0203

1 MR. MOOS: Yes, through the Chair. I
2 think I can give a little bit of clarification on this.
3 The way my understanding is, is that what it is there's
4 no speed restriction up to 300 yards, once you get
5 within 300 yards that's when the speed restrictions go
6 into effect. So once you hit the 300 yard mark, and,
7 again, this is something -- the whole idea behind this
8 is to not unnecessary harass or push animals, so, you
9 know, if you come around a corner and you're going 50
10 miles an hour and all of a sudden you're within 100
11 yards of an animal, is that a citable there, again, our
12 officers are going to use good discretion and common
13 sense. However, if it's wide open country and you're a
14 half mile away and you continue to pursue, you know, up
15 to 50 yards at 50 miles an hour, that would be a
16 violation. So at 300 yards is when the speed
17 restrictions start kicking in.

18
19 Does that make sense?

20
21 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, yes, it
22 does. Thanks for that clarification there. You might
23 want to look at the language there just a little bit
24 and change a word or two, Dan, maybe you can help me
25 here, or somebody, to help to -- when an individual
26 reads that, they don't see it as I see it, like 300
27 yards is the closest you can get. It needs some little
28 bit of language change there to help this language
29 barrier.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, you
34 guys, you keep me around for a reason, that's what I've
35 been working on. How does this sound. A snowmachine
36 may be used to approach a wolf or a wolverine but when
37 you are within 300 yards your speed must be at or under
38 15 miles an hour.

39
40 MR. DUNAWAY: That's a lot clearer.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Very good. Very good,
43 Nanci.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
46 maybe we should put this on the table then, if somebody
47 wants it I'll hand it off to them.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: I would view that as a
50

0204

1 friendly amendment, or included as a friendly amendment
2 as clarifying language or replace that portion with
3 your clarifying language. Is that adequate Robbin, or
4 do I have to try to get legal language. Over.

5

6 MS. LAVINE: I think that you are clear
7 in your intent. And the only thing I would request is
8 it sounds like Nanci had that written down, Nanci,
9 could you read it one more time and I'll be prepared.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, I'll
12 read it slowly. A snowmachine may be used to approach
13 a wolf or a wolverine, but when you are within 300
14 yards your speed must be at or under 15 miles an hour.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Beautiful. But when you
17 are within 300 yards -- hang on -- your speed -- sorry
18 guys, I'm slow -- must be at -- what was that 15?

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: At or under
21 15 miles an hour.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: At or under, got it, 15
24 miles an hour.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And then I
27 would just add to Richard, this will keep us a bit
28 safer because it says directly, use to approach, so
29 that means if you're coming around a corner at 50 miles
30 and end up within 50 yards you weren't using it to
31 approach, you were just moving along on your own and
32 that was not the intent. So I think the word,
33 approach, there -- or excuse me the three words, use to
34 approach, also clarifies for those circumstances when
35 you end up much closer than that and going much faster
36 than that.

37

38 MR. WILSON: I agree, Nanci, thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So we
41 will add that as a friendly amendment if the second,
42 Billy, will agree.

43

44 MR. TREFON: Yep, I agree. I'm good.

45

46 MR. HILL: This is Lary, I agree.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anything
49 else.

50

0205

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Nanci.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You're
4 welcome. Somebody care to call for the question.

5

6 MR. TREFON: Question.

7

8 MR. HILL: Lary, question.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
11 question's been called. Let me restate it here. Okay.
12 All in favor of accepting WP22-40 as amended with the
13 new accepted language, please signify by saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, that's
18 passed. We can move on to WP22-41, caribou, Units 9,
19 17, 18 and 19.

20

21 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair. Members of
22 the Board -- or the Council. My name is Kendra Holman
23 and I will be providing the analysis for WP22-41. The
24 issue being addressed was submitted by the Togiak
25 National Wildlife Refuge and the Yukon National
26 Wildlife Refuge and can be found on Page 64 of your
27 meeting books.

28

29 This proposal requests that the Federal
30 in-season manager be delegated authority to open and
31 close seasons, announce harvest limit, and sex -- set
32 sex ratios for caribou in all portions of Unit 9A, 9B,
33 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A and 19B via delegation of
34 authority letter, appendix 1, which can be found on
35 Page 86 of your meeting book.

36

37 The proponent states that the summer of
38 2019 and 2020 population estimates for the Mulchatna
39 Caribou Herd was 13,500 caribou, which represented a 50
40 percent decline from the previous five years and is
41 well below the State's minimum population objective of
42 30,000 caribou. The proponent notes that the 2019/2020
43 Federal and State seasons were shortened due to
44 conservation concerns. The 2020/2021 season was also
45 shortened providing for a bulls only harvest in August
46 and September, while the rest of the season remained
47 closed. This request will help conserve and recover
48 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and provide the flexibility
49 needed to make harvest management decisions in a timely
50

1 manner. The proponents recognize that this request
2 will reduce the harvest opportunity in the short-run
3 but that conserving the Mulchatna Caribou Herd will not
4 increase -- will increase harvest opportunity in the
5 future. The proponent also states that harvest of
6 other resources, such as moose, may increase in
7 response to this proposal.

8

9

10 As the result of the dramatic
11 population increase the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
12 experienced during the 1990s, harvest regulations were
13 liberalized throughout the range of the herd. By 1997
14 both State and Federal seasons in portions of Units 9,
15 17 and 19 extended from fall through spring with
16 liberal harvest limits and few restrictions. The
17 population declined from 2004 to 2014 during which time
18 the State and Federal regulations for the Mulchatna
19 Caribou Herd became increasingly restrictive including
20 shortening seasons, reducing harvest limits,
21 eliminating non-resident seasons, and requiring the
22 RC503 registration permit. From 2015 to 2018 the
23 Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board
24 began liberalizing the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
25 regulations. In 2019 the ADF&G decreased the harvest
26 limit of the RC503 caribou registration hunt, this was
27 followed by the Federal Subsistence Board approving a
28 special action request to decrease the harvest limit
29 for the 2019/2020 season. This included closing Units
30 18, 19A and 19B caribou hunting except by Federally-
31 qualified subsistence users with a harvest limit of one
32 bull and delegating authority to the Togiak National
33 Wildlife Refuge manager to open and close seasons
34 throughout the herd range. This request was approved
35 due to serious conservation concerns for the Mulchatna
36 Caribou Herd and support from the affected Regional
37 Advisory Councils and local users. In 2020 ADF&G began
38 liberalizing by announcing a bulls only hunt across the
39 range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd RC503, the Togiak
40 National Wildlife Refuge manager announced an identical
41 Federal hunt for the 2020/2021 season. The Board of
42 Game received several proposals concerning the
43 Mulchatna Caribou Herd during the Central and Southeast
44 region call for proposals. They will consider proposed
45 changes in Units 9 and 17 in January of 2022, which is
46 a rescheduled meeting from January of 2021 due to
47 Covid. Proposals -- proposed changes for Units 18 and
48 19 will be addressed at the Western Arctic and Western
49 region and Interior -- and Eastern Arctic region
50 meetings respectively.

1 The population size and distribution of
2 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd has changed dramatically
3 over the past 40 years. The current range of the
4 Mulchatna herd is depicted on Figure 1 on Page 69 of
5 your meeting book. The herd primarily occurs in two
6 distinct populations, the eastern segment and the
7 western segment, with the calving and -- with separate
8 calving and seasonal areas. Based on radio collared
9 animals, mixing between these two subpopulations is
10 low. The herd peaked at 200,000 caribou in 1996
11 declining steadily to 18,000 caribou in 2013. Between
12 2014 and 2016 the herd stabilized at around 28,000
13 caribou and then most recently in 2009 [sic] population
14 estimates have declined to 13,500, which well below the
15 State's minimum population objective. The western
16 segment's population has declined since 2012, with the
17 eastern segment's population increasing between 2014
18 and 2016 and then declining back to 2012 levels in
19 2019. Population numbers can be seen on Figure 4 -- in
20 Figure 4 on Page 79 of your meeting book. Bull/cow
21 ratios of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd have been
22 depressed since 2001. Cow/calf ratios have also been
23 low and below State objective. While ratios have
24 improved in recent years, they are still below the
25 State management objective of 35 bulls per 100 cows,
26 and continue to be a conservation concern. While the
27 cause of this decline is unknown decreased range
28 quality, predation, particularly by brown bears on the
29 calving grounds, icing events, deep snow and harvest
30 pressure may all be contributed to the decline. Given
31 the recent substantial declines in the Mulchatna
32 Caribou Herd population conservation measures are
33 warranted.

34
35 Reported caribou harvest has declined
36 in correlation with the caribou population from almost
37 4,000 caribou in 2000 to 28 caribou in 2020/2021
38 season. Reported harvest numbers can be found on
39 Figure 5 and Table 2, which can both be found on Page
40 81 of your meeting book. Household harvest surveys as
41 well as law enforcement information and observations
42 indicate actual harvest may be higher than reported
43 harvest, although the magnitude of this unreported
44 harvest is unknown.

45
46 The effects. While this may changed --
47 made -- this change may decrease harvest opportunity
48 for Federally-qualified subsistence users in the short-
49 term, it may help conserve the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
50

0208

1 to ensure future harvest opportunities.

2

3

4 If this request is approved the Federal
5 in-season manager would be delegated authority to open
6 and close the season, announce harvest limits, and set
7 sex ratios across the range of the Mulchatna Caribou
8 Herd. The conservation benefits of adopting WP22-44 --
9 WP22-41 are uncertain. Delegating authority to an in-
10 season manager provide management flexibility which is
11 critical in response to the changing herd conditions in
12 a timely manner.

13

14 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
15 support WP -- Wildlife Proposal 22-41.

16

17 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of
18 the Council. I'll be happy to field any questions.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, we'll
21 open it up to questions first.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
26 hearing none. Orville, do you have anything from tribes
27 or ANCSA Corporations.

28

29 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. Council
30 members. During the consultation there were no
31 comments or questions on that proposal. Thank you,
32 Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
35 you, Orville. Agency comments, ADF&G.

36

37 MR. RINALDI: Good afternoon, Madame
38 Chairwoman. The Alaska Department -- this is Todd
39 Rinaldi. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
40 supports giving the Federal in-season management to the
41 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Togiak National
42 Wildlife Refuge has been an excellent partner in
43 research, monitoring and outreach when it comes to the
44 Mulchatna and other collaborative efforts. And they
45 have been a longstanding partner for the common goal of
46 conserving the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and its range.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank

0209

1 you. Federal comments.

2

3 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yes, through the
4 Chair. This is Susanne Fleek-Green, Lake Clark
5 National Park and Preserve. We support this proposal
6 as well. But I also just want to note that Kenton has
7 been extremely transparent and communicative over the
8 last year and a half as he's gone through different
9 closures and so I applaud that and gives us a lot more
10 confidence in how this will move forward. So I just
11 wanted to state that for the record, that he has shown
12 exemplary communication with other Federal agencies.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
15 you. Any other Federal agency comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
20 tribal.

21

22 MS. CARTY: This is Courtenay with
23 Curyung. I think, you know, our Council hasn't weighed
24 in on these, but myself, as Staff, would support this
25 proposal and I think it would definitely improve, I
26 guess, the seasonality of the hunt to respond to
27 weather conditions and then also free up some time in
28 the management system, not having to deal with special
29 action requests coming in a day or two before the hunt
30 ends to try to extend the season.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
35 you, Courtenay.

36

37 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
38 Robbin.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
41 Robbin.

42

43 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, I apologize
44 for not being as thorough as I can in my duties. I
45 realize that when we have a section for advisory group
46 comments I can report on some of the other Regional
47 Advisory Councils that have already met and taken
48 action on some of these multi-region proposals. And so
49 the YKDelta has met and did take action on this

50

0210

1 proposal, WP22-41. The Council supported the proposal,
2 however asked the Refuges to consult with local
3 residents to incorporate local knowledge and on the
4 ground observations in their decisionmaking process.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, we'll
12 move on to advisory group comments. Other Regional
13 Advisory -- I think Robbin announced where those came
14 from, knowing that you have given us those, we'll move
15 on to Fish and Game Advisory Committees which we know
16 have not met yet. Subsistence Resource Commissions.

17

18 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
19 Robbin.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: And I'm sorry, I realize I
24 also got out of sequence when I -- when I jumped in.
25 But I also have been informed that the Western Interior
26 has met and they also supported WP21 -- 2022 -- or 22-0
27 -- or 22-41 -- thanks, bye.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
30 you. So written public comments then, Robbin, do you
31 have any of those for us.

32

33 MS. LAVINE: I -- wait, please ask that
34 question again.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We're
37 looking for summary of written public comments.

38

39 MS. LAVINE: Ah.

40

41 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair, this is
42 Kendra. There were no written comments received on
43 this proposal.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
46 you. And public testimony. Anybody on line care to
47 give their personal public testimony.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0211

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. At
2 this point I would consider a motion to adopt.

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, Dan, here. I'll
5 move to adopt as recommended. I also kind of like the
6 language that the YKRAC included, encourage local
7 consultation. Thank you.

8
9 MR. WILSON: Second. Richard, here.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.
12 Thank you, Richard. We have a motion and a second.
13 Dan, would you like to discuss it any further.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I think Courtenay
16 said it really well, is getting some of this taken care
17 of now really beats kind of the in-season scramble when
18 people are hard to contact and it also puts it out to
19 the public ahead of time, full notice. And my
20 impression that where we've done this before has worked
21 pretty well. And as Susanne said, Kenton seems to be
22 easy to work with and communicates with many folks.
23 I'm favoring this.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
28 Richard, would you like to speak to it next.

29
30 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you,
31 yes. I'm looking on Page 63 of this proposal, the
32 proposed regulation, and it's going down in units and
33 it's got us down as Unit 9C, Alagnak River drainage and
34 it's got dates that -- it says August 1st through March
35 15th and 9C, the last portion of that is also March
36 15th, and I'm curious that the proponent made this, why
37 those dates would be different than 9B, March 31st as
38 opposed to March 15th, 9C. That'd be my first
39 question.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Does
42 somebody have an answer?

43
44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this
45 is.....

46
47 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We can toss
50

0212

1 a coin or you two can decide.

2

3 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra Holman. I
4 just wanted to verify, you're looking at the existing
5 Federal regulations on which -- can you say the page
6 again that you were looking at?

7

8 MR. WILSON: Page 63.

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted - on hold)

12

13 MR. WILSON: And that's the proposed
14 regulation.

15

16 MS. HOLMAN: So those dates are the
17 dates currently in regulation and then they state may
18 be announced because we didn't have a -- at the time
19 when this was written, not received what was going to
20 be determined for this season at that time as we were
21 still waiting on it so that's why it still says season
22 may be announced, but those dates are the dates that
23 are currently in regulations so they still would remain
24 there. Those aren't being proposed to be changed, just
25 when the season may be announced.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, thank
28 you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Yes, that'd be, I guess,
33 I've often wondered why we are so different and we're
34 picking on the same herd and once again we're just
35 across the border on 9B, 9C, you know, it's just a
36 separation of the Alagnak River there. And so I guess,
37 you know, not to put a monkey in the wrench, but this
38 -- maybe it's just me -- you know, to see things equal
39 across the board it seems like those dates would need
40 to mirror others like 9B, March 31st. That'd be my
41 first observation, Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank
44 you, Richard. It is curious because as you go down the
45 whole list there you see a couple others for 18 also at
46 March 15th and I do not -- I'm with you in
47 consternation about why -- then 19 is also March 15th
48 -- why -- however, I would point out that this -- the
49 proposal we have on the table actually has nothing to
50

0213

1 do with that but it's something we should take note of
2 and perhaps look into putting a proposal in for the
3 next go around to make sure all those dates match up.

4
5 MR. WILSON: Thank you. That'd take
6 care of my first question there, or I guess wish. The
7 second thought I had, in-season management -- I mean
8 the manager, I'm assuming this is all coming out of
9 Togiak; is that correct, or is that what's proposed?

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That is my
12 understanding, he will be in charge of this.

13
14 MR. WILSON: So I guess my question is
15 out there to Andy, Andy if you're there, you know, how
16 does this look? I'm just trying to see how this looks,
17 you know, throughout all of -- you know what you're
18 proposing here, all of 9A, B, C, 17A, 17, 18, 19, I
19 guess I'm trying to see how that would look here in
20 Units 9B and C with, you know, delegation being -- I
21 mean the authority given to Andy or whoever over there
22 at Togiak National Refuge, how that would look for us
23 here as far as contacting or being in contact with our
24 local entities here in King Salmon. How has that been
25 working in the past and how would it look if this went
26 through?

27
28 MR. ADERMAN: Through the Chair, this
29 is Andy Aderman. Can you hear me all right.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Sure can.

32
33 MR. WILSON: Yes, I can, thanks, Andy.

34
35 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, and Kenton could
36 probably address this but just one thing -- or a couple
37 things to point out. The proposal before you is a
38 joint effort between us and the Yukon Delta Refuge and
39 it doesn't specifically ask that the Togiak Refuge
40 manager be appointed, that's -- it's just asking that a
41 Federal manager be appointed so we can avoid getting
42 into these, you know, last minute do this and have to
43 approach the Board. But, yeah, whomever the -- and
44 Kenton's been the in-season manager in the recent past
45 and that and it's -- there's a lot of language written
46 into what he needs to do or that person needs to do,
47 you know, and that involves contacting Fish and Game,
48 the other Federal agencies that have land within the
49 range of the Mulchatna. So contacting the Chairs of
50

0214

1 the three RACs that are involved, so Bristol Bay, Yukon
2 Kuskokwim Delta, and Western Interior. It's a -- you
3 know it's a pretty extensive follow-up and coordination
4 with all the folks involved really.

5

6 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Andy, through the
7 Chair. Appreciate that come back there, it kind of
8 gives me a little more light on how we're approaching
9 this. And then I guess my last thought was, you know,
10 we have -- we're calling it a satellite herd that's in
11 9C and just a bit portion of 9B perhaps from time to
12 time and is this -- it's not considered the Mulchatna
13 herd, it's called a satellite herd, from what I
14 understand, so I'm assuming that's going to go down
15 separately or is it part of this proposal?

16

17 MR. ADERMAN: Through the Chair. Mr.
18 Wilson. I believe that in the past it's been
19 considered as part of the Mulchatna herd and has been,
20 you know, in those units it occurs it follows what the
21 regulations were, or are. By the way we've got a
22 couple of herds over on our west coast that seem to be
23 resident herds but they are also managed as Mulchatna,
24 you know, they're in southern Unit 18 and, you know,
25 they're managed under the rules for Unit 18 for
26 caribou.

27

28 I might point out that the March 15th
29 closure for Unit 18 was, I think came about years ago
30 because that's where the majority of where the harvest
31 was occurring on the Mulchatna caribou and the other
32 places where there was less harvest were generally
33 March 31st closures.

34

35 MR. WILSON: All right, thanks, Andy.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

38

39 MR. WILSON: That helps me with this
40 here. I just, you know, that's a big duty for one
41 entity there but I'm really hoping that the
42 communication throughout the region is good on these,
43 and not just, you know, the majority of the Mulchatna
44 there but these satellite herds that we're calling them
45 here, that we can view things perhaps differently or
46 separately -- not differently but separately, you know,
47 in looking at -- you know, I know there's more data to
48 be had. But I'll leave it at that. I just appreciate
49 your thoughts there, Andy.

50

0215

1 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm going to
4 jump in and ask Kenton if he would like to tell us how
5 he would see himself as managing this for us on this
6 side, is there anything else that you would like to add
7 from what Andy gave us?

8

9 MR. MOOS: This is Kenton Moos, through
10 the Chair. I'm guessing that you were directing that
11 question towards me, I didn't hear the name at the
12 beginning, is that -- this is Kenton again.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes.

15

16 MR. MOOS: Yeah, again, this is Kenton
17 Moos, Refuge Manager for Togiak National Wildlife
18 Refuge and in-season manager. There's a couple things
19 here real quick, too, the whole idea behind this is to
20 streamline and to be able to make decisions in a timely
21 manner. As far as, you know, if people have concerns I
22 definitely recommend either giving myself a call or if
23 you're near a Park call up the Park Superintendent and
24 then they can communicate those concerns to me, as well
25 as BLM land or other Refuge lands as well, like Yukon
26 Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The whole idea here is
27 for me to represent the Federal managers throughout the
28 range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. And the reason
29 for that is, if we don't have a single manager then we
30 have five people who have to contribute to a decision
31 and sometimes that can be very difficult to get done in
32 a timely manner.

33

34 So this -- I'll be honest with you,
35 this is not something I'm asking for, but as far as
36 management is concerned it makes a lot of sense. And
37 that's what it comes down to, is, we want to be
38 responsive, not only to the public, but also to the
39 needs of the wildlife populations that these decisions
40 are being made for. So this is just a way to be able
41 to make those decisions in a timely manner and working
42 with Alaska Department Fish and Game, so jointly, the
43 Federal side as well as through the State side, so we
44 can work together to make management decisions that are
45 timely and, you know, we've been working really closely
46 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and it's
47 working really well right now, as far as communication,
48 and having a joint voice, because -- and it's not just
49 between the Feds and the State, but it's also the

50

0216

1 tribal entities and organizations, or groups like the
2 RACs here, we're trying to get that input so that our
3 decisions that we make are good for the populations,
4 the wildlife populations that we're managing but also
5 taking into consideration the needs of the users,
6 especially the subsistence users.

7

8 So that's the rationale behind this is,
9 so that we can do this quickly, timely, and as
10 streamlined as possible. Because as you all know,
11 government and bureaucracy can get bogged down and we
12 want to try to avoid that. I hope that makes sense to
13 you all.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: It does,
16 thank you, Kenton. Okay, any other questions or
17 comments.

18

19 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, yes, thank
20 you. That helps out quite a bit here in my thinking
21 process here. Really appreciate it.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
24 Anybody else.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
29 hearing nothing then I would entertain a call for the
30 question.

31

32 MR. HILL: This is Lary, question.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
35 question's been called. All in favor of adopting
36 Proposal -- let me find it again -- it's always the
37 paperwork that gets you -- WP22-41, please signify by
38 saying aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, that
43 one passes as presented. Let's go ahead and take about
44 a 10 minute break if it's okay with you guys. I need to
45 get some motion going here and get my mind refreshed.
46 So let's come back at exactly 3:00 o'clock and we'll
47 try and finish up on these last ones.

48

49 MR. HILL: Yeah, Nanci, it's Lary. My

50

0217

1 phone batteries might go dead so if you don't hear from
2 me it's because my battery went dead.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, dang,
5 then let's -- you know what I'm going to call that off,
6 let's keep pushing forward because we need you on here
7 for voting. We have to have all of us here to make it
8 work. WCR22-05 moose, Unit 9C, Kendra, are you ready
9 to give us that proposal.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Nanci, can I break
12 in.....

13

14 MS. HOLMAN: I am, Madame Chair.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY:this is Dan. Can I
17 break in, this is Dan.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
20 Dan.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: I just looked, my phone
23 might have been muted for the vote but I voted in favor
24 just to make absolutely sure my vote got counted on
25 that last action. Okay.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
28 you. Okay, Kendra, go ahead, please.

29

30 MS. HOLMAN: All right. Hello, Madame
31 Chair. Members of the Council. Again, I'm Kendra
32 Holman, Wildlife Biologist for OSM, and this will be a
33 presentation, summary of analysis of Wildlife Closure
34 Review WCR22-05. It can be found starting on Page 90
35 of your meeting book.

36

37 This closure location is Unit 9C, that
38 portion draining into the Naknek River from the south,
39 public lands are closed during the December hunt --
40 December for the hunting of moose except by Federally-
41 qualified subsistence users hunting under these
42 regulations.

43

44 In the 1990s the Alaska Department of
45 Fish and Game issued emergency orders closing the
46 December antlerless moose harvest in all or parts of
47 the Naknek River drainage in Unit 9C. In 1992 ADF&G
48 proposed that the harvest limit be changed from one
49 moose to one bull in the entire drainage. As a result

50

1 of this action the Naknek drainage was divided into two
2 hunt areas and the December hunts were closed except by
3 Federally-qualified subsistence users -- the area
4 draining into the Naknek from the north and the areas
5 draining into the Naknek from the south. Additionally,
6 this action closed Federal public lands for moose
7 harvest during December except by Federally-qualified
8 subsistence users. In 1995 the fall season was
9 extended and the Federal registration permit required
10 during the August hunt. In 2006 the antlerless harvest
11 was eliminated but a Federal registration permit
12 required for both winter and fall seasons. In 2008 a
13 Unit 9 moose working group was established to better
14 understand the conflicts in the region and develop
15 management strategies and recommendations. The
16 recommended strategies were to submit proposals to the
17 Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board
18 to create a registration permit for moose in Unit 9,
19 conduct educational outreach directed at local moose
20 hunters, offer educational trapping seminars in the
21 Unit 9 villages and proposed creating a registration
22 hunt for moose throughout Unit 9 that would increase
23 the information available to wildlife managers about
24 the moose hunt, increasing the exchange of information
25 between the biologists and moose hunters during the
26 permit distribution, and allow managers to redistribute
27 hunting pressure to help eliminate user conflict. In
28 2011/2012 regulations were liberalized based on the
29 recommendations of the working group. In 2016 it was
30 determined that a State permit is required for both the
31 fall and winter seasons and a closure review -- the
32 closure was reviewed and determined to maintain status
33 quo.

34
35 Since the early 20th century moose on
36 the Alaska Peninsula gradually expanded the range
37 southward. This expansion was accompanied by dramatic
38 population increase until the 1960s when the population
39 peaked and began a decline. Assessments of the moose
40 population, status and trends in Unit 9 are difficult.
41 Current State population objectives for moose in Unit 9
42 are to maintain existing densities in areas with
43 moderate or high densities, the moderate units are
44 Units 9A through D and high densities of Unit 9E.
45 Increase low density populations to a half a moose per
46 square mile which would be Units 9A through 9D and
47 maintain sex ratios of at least 25 bulls per 100 cows
48 in medium to high density populations or Unit 9E, and
49 at least 40 bulls per 100 cows in the low density
50

0219

1 areas, which would be Units 9A through 9D.

2

3

4 Moose population status and trends in
5 Unit 9 are difficult for several reasons, including the
6 low moose densities, snow and weather conditions that
7 are frequently inadequate for surveys. In 1991 the
8 Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuge
9 began conducting aerial surveys of the moose. The
10 surveys provided the bull/cow and the calf/cow ratios
11 with the total densi -- total density estimates.
12 Figures 1, 2 and 3 of your meeting book show this
13 information [sic].

13

14

15 Alaska resident moose harvest in Units
16 9B and 9C occur by registration permit RM272, non-
17 resident moose harvest in Units 9B and 9C occurs by
18 registration permit RM282, which reports moose harvest
19 can be parsed out by subunit. It is not possible to
20 distribute by hunt area. Therefore, the number of
21 moose reported harvest -- harvested only within the
22 closure area is not available. Although reported moose
23 harvest within all of Unit 9C provides some insights.
24 2000 to 2019 the total population -- total reported
25 moose harvest in 9C averaged 29 moose, ranging from 16
26 to 43 moose per year. Between 2010 and 2015 80 to 90
27 percent of the moose in Unit 9 harvest occurred in
28 September. Figure 4, which is on Page 101 of your
29 meeting book shows the breakdown of reported moose
30 harvest in Unit 9C by local and non-local users from
31 2000 to 2019. Local users are defined as those with a
32 customary and traditional use determination.

32

33

34 If this closure is rescinded, non-
35 Federally-qualified users would be able to harvest
36 moose on Federal public lands within the portion of 9C
37 draining into the Naknek River from the south during
38 December. It may also result in an increased moose
39 harvest, the increase -- though the increase is
40 expected to be small -- would be -- increases are
41 expected to be small. Moose density within the closure
42 area is below State management objectives for moderate
43 density most population. Moose densities within the
44 closure area are very low and the population trend is
45 uncertain. A conservative approach is to maintain the
46 closure until moose densities increase and the
47 population exhibits an increasing trend.

47

48

49

50

The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
maintain the status quo.

0220

1 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of
2 the Council. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
5 you, Kendra. Council members, questions.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We'll
10 move on to Board consultations. Orville, anything from
11 the tribes or ANCSA Corporations.

12

13 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Native
14 Liaison, OSM. There were no comments or questions on
15 this proposal. Thank you, Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
18 Agency comments, ADF&G.

19

20 MR. RINALDI: Good afternoon. Thank
21 you, Madame Chair. This is Todd Rinaldi with the
22 Department of Fish and Game. The Department of Fish
23 and Game supports the removal of this closure. The
24 current moose population in this area is stable. And I
25 do have Dave Crowley, the area biologist for Unit 9 on
26 the phone and he's willing to share more information
27 including the rationale behind our position.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Dave,
30 go ahead.

31

32 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 Dave Crowley, Department of Fish and Game in King
34 Salmon. Currently the Unit 9C, I've got composition
35 information here. During recent surveys, 2019 and
36 2020, we found that there's quite a high bull to cow
37 ratio between, oh, 60/70 bulls per 100 cows and also
38 pretty good calf survival to November, December when we
39 do the surveys. In 2020 we had 28 calves per 100 cows
40 which is really quite good for Unit 9C. Our current
41 harvest is -- it's fairly low. Let me -- I've got that
42 file pulled up here, harvest in the last five years,
43 the harvest was between 24 and 34 moose annually taken,
44 almost all of which was during the, of course, the fall
45 season. During the winter season, which I believe this
46 proposal is addressing, the winter season in that area
47 of 9C flowing into the Naknek River from the south,
48 just looking over the harvest locations for the last
49 five years, 2016 to 2020, I've only got a dozen moose

50

0221

1 that were harvested during the winter season and most
2 of those were taken in the King Salmon Creek, or Paul's
3 Creek drainage, the Smelt Creek drainage, which does
4 flow from the south but that's State lands, if I recall
5 correctly. So it's really the Big Creek, the Upper Big
6 Creek that is in Federal lands and the reported harvest
7 in the last five years from that far up the creek, you
8 know, it's -- it looks like it's zero, it could be one,
9 depending on how far up one report was but I mean in
10 the last five years maybe one moose has been taken up
11 in Federal lands, up that Big Creek drainage during the
12 winter season.

13

14 So I think that rescinding the closure
15 would have virtually no impact on harvest up there, and
16 even if it did we actually have room for more bull
17 harvest. And the Department did put in a proposal to
18 the Board of Game to actually increase the season in
19 9C, including a winter season to allow more harvest by
20 resident hunters and we also propose to increase the
21 moose season in Unit 9B, at least the fall season.

22

23 So we do have additional bulls
24 available for harvest, harvest quota of bulls based on
25 our composition surveys and also our calf survival is
26 looking pretty good. We did a calf survival study in
27 9B and 9C from 2017 through '19 so three years looking
28 at calf mortality, in particular, and surprisingly calf
29 survival was pretty good during our little study and
30 that was discour -- sorry -- that was encouraging and I
31 think that's being reflected in our bull/cow ratio now.

32

33 Thank you, Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
36 you. And now I'm going to go ahead and open it up for
37 questions right now, too, just because I know that some
38 of our Council members have been hoping to hear from
39 you Dave. Questions.

40

41 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard
42 here.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
45 Richard.

46

47 MR. WILSON: Yeah, thanks, Dave. Yeah,
48 earlier on I was just looking for numbers instead of
49 just the -- I'm at a loss for words here now. I was
50

0222

1 looking for real numbers on population estimates and
2 wondering if you had any. Lately we've been having to
3 work off of your composition surveys, bull to cow
4 ratios, calf to cow ratios, knowing that your surveys
5 are done in areas where they're concentrated. But to
6 get an overall look at how the herd is actually doing
7 it'd be nice to know if we had some real numbers to
8 attach to that and that's what I was looking for
9 earlier. Do we have any of that.

10

11 MR. CROWLEY: Through the Chair. Good
12 afternoon, Richard. Sorry, I have not been available,
13 I was actually flying surveys up until this morning
14 when we had to bail on them because of weather here.
15 No, Richard, the last actual estimate we did for moose
16 was in 2012 for Unit 9B and we had an estimate of
17 around 1,200 moose, it was a pretty good survey. The
18 problem is it's really difficult to set up these
19 surveys and we were prepared to do it -- we, being
20 myself and Chris Petersen, for years in Unit 9C, trying
21 to get one completed. We had the survey set up. But
22 if we had the conditions we didn't have the airplanes,
23 and vice versa. It's really difficult to get all the
24 logistics lined up with our weather windows and that's
25 been the main problem. So we've really hit the
26 composition surveys a lot harder, especially in 9C and
27 9E. 9B is more difficult because up until recently I
28 haven't had an airplane in town to take advantage of
29 the weather windows up there.

30

31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted - on hold)

33

34 MR. CROWLEY: That's changed, I got Dan
35 Peppin on board now. I can fly with both, both as a
36 private contractor and with the Fish and Wildlife
37 Service. But, anyway, no, we don't have estimates.
38 We're working off of composition surveys. And the
39 larger the area we can cover, the (cuts out), you know,
40 how the herds are doing by subunits. And, yeah, I
41 admit that 9B is difficult. Some of the subunits are
42 way up on the north end of Lake Iliamna and I know that
43 in 2019 we tried several times to get out to some of
44 these outlying areas but it's hard. It would be great
45 if we had those population estimates but there's just
46 so many of our Alaska where we don't have that and we
47 have to manage using composition data and that's what
48 we're doing here.

49

50

0223

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
4 Dave. Anything else, Richard.

5

6 MR. WILSON: Well, thank you. Madame
7 Chair, yeah. Through the Chair. Dave, appreciate
8 that. So it's your impression that this area that's in
9 concern here, where the proposal is, is that our
10 population is good and can sustain extra harvest if
11 that was to occur; is that correct?

12

13 MR. CROWLEY: Yes, sir, that's correct.
14 Thank you, Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

17

18 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
19 Stand down for now.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
22 Richard. Any other questions for Dave.

23

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
28 hearing none, Federal agency comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Tribal
33 comments.

34

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
39 Robbin, other Regional Advisory Councils.

40

41 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, not on this
42 one, thanks.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
45 Subsistence Resource Commission comments.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,

50

0224

1 hearing none there. Then Kendra, do you have any
2 written public testimony for which.....

3

4 MS. HOLMAN: No, Madame Chair. There
5 wasn't.....

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:
8cover.....

9

10 MS. HOLMAN: There were no written
11 comments on this.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.
14 Any public testimony.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Board
19 members, would anybody care to put a motion on to adopt
20 this.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: It's your home country
23 Richard.

24

25 MR. HILL: This is Lary, motion to
26 adopt.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Lary
29 made a motion to adopt, do we have a second.

30

31 MR. TREFON: Billy, I'll second it.

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: This is Dan, second.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Bill,
36 you got your second in there. Lary, would you like to
37 speak to this motion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: I hope his battery didn't
42 die.

43

44 MR. HILL: Yeah, I think my phone was
45 on mute. But I'm for this motion.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
48 you. It was on mute. Billy, would you care to speak
49 to it.

50

0225

1 MR. TREFON: I don't really have much
2 to say to it, I mean it's down in Naknek area, but if
3 it's going to increase their take on moose and improve
4 their chances I'm supporting it.

5
6 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is
7 Lisa, if I could clarify.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, go
10 ahead.

11
12 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin for
13 the record. And so this is a closure review, and
14 closure reviews are different from proposals. So you
15 don't support or oppose a closure review, or motion to
16 adopt, you need to -- there's three choices. You can
17 either maintain status quo, so maintain the closure as
18 is. Eliminate the closure, completely. Or modify the
19 closure, like, you know, open to non-Federally-
20 qualified users or closed to Federally-qualified users.
21 So the motion needs to either be motion to maintain
22 status quo, motion to eliminate, or motion to modify
23 the closure.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, I see
26 that now. Sorry I missed that to begin with. Lary,
27 would you care to revise your motion.

28
29 MR. HILL: I keep losing my mute here.
30 Yes, I'd like to remove that closure under that section
31 that's listed on the executive summary.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
34 you are putting a motion on the table to eliminate the
35 closure; is that correct?

36
37 MR. HILL: Yes.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
40 Billy, is that also your wish?

41
42 MR. TREFON: Yes, if that's the
43 recommendation of the State, yes -- at their
44 recommendation, yes.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
47 Comments.

48
49 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard.
50

0226

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

3
4 MR. WILSON: Yes, I'd like to hear what
5 our Federal agency there in King Salmon has to say
6 about this here, I'd like to hear some comments from
7 them, please.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, that
10 sounds good. Who would like to.....

11
12 MR. SMITH: Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, go
15 ahead, is that Danny or Bill.

16
17 MR. SMITH: This is Bill.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

20
21 MR. SMITH: Bill Smith, Supervisory
22 Biologist for Peninsula Becharof Refuge. I tend to
23 agree with the State that the winter harvest, December
24 harvest probably has minimal effects on the population
25 of the portion draining from the south, the Big Creek
26 unit. We presented as much data as we had available to
27 us that showed some of the population data from the Big
28 Creek and the Park border units which represents the
29 moose in that part of the world, I'll asterisk that
30 with that data gets incredibly messy really quick when
31 you start looking at such a small scale. The
32 information data presented to you on the growth of the
33 9C area is probably the better way to be looking at
34 things. So there's a little bit of concern with the
35 Big Creek unit, if you look at it as a small scale,
36 there doesn't -- there seems to be a little bit of a
37 population decline there, whether that's harvest or
38 mortality or predation, vastly unknown. The
39 interchange between the Big Creek Corridor we monitor
40 now, which is a very narrow riparian corridor on the
41 Big Creek unit compared to the Park border unit which
42 is up on the Katmai country -- Katmai National Park.
43 It's hard to compare apples to apples anymore since
44 2018, since we switched those trend units around a
45 little bit in size and configuration. But we're trying
46 to provide the Committee with as much as possible. I do
47 tend to agree that -- there's a little bit of a concern
48 in my mind on what's going on with Big Creek, possibly,
49 based on one year of observations last year, and we
50

0227

1 tried to reflect that in the data. And admittedly when
2 you start looking at that scale things get a little
3 messy a little quick, but I would tend to agree that
4 moose harvest in December is probably not the
5 contributing factor, if harvest is a factor in general.

6
7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted - on hold)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
11 Richard.

12
13 MR. WILSON: Thanks for that. Yes, Rich
14 here. Yeah, just trying to wrap my mind around what it
15 looks like up in there and how it would be impacted if
16 we were to change this up a bit (indiscernible - cuts
17 out)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You kind of
20 cut out there, Richard, were you good, say again.

21
22 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard
23 here. Yes, thanks for the information there, Bill.
24 I'm thinking through it here, so, thank you.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, I
27 appreciate that also, that would be right in my
28 backyard. I was surprised to hear that there was only
29 possibly one and maybe that one wasn't even taken there
30 in the last five years, I believe, Dave, said, in our
31 winter hunt. So, yeah, that gives me actually a great
32 deal of comfort knowing that pretty much any move we
33 make on this isn't going to make a whole lot of
34 difference because there hasn't been an awful lot of
35 pressure there.

36
37 Any other questions.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I have one.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Dan here. I want
44 to clarify again what it means to remove this closure
45 if -- I think it was Kendra outlined, would this then
46 open it up to Anchorage guys flying in and hunting or
47 how on that? Okay.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Kendra.

50

0228

1 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair, this is
2 Kendra. Lisa can kind of help guide me through this. I
3 apologize, I've only been at this for four months here.
4 But my understanding would be, yes, that this would
5 open it available -- open it to be available to
6 residents of the state and potentially non-residents.
7 Somebody can correct me if I'm wrong on that one. But
8 that's my understanding.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lisa, can
11 you confirm.

12
13 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
14 is Lisa. And, yeah, Kendra's correct, this would open
15 it up to, you know, anyone hunting under State
16 regulations and the -- but, you know, they have to
17 follow the State regulations. So currently the State
18 just has a season for residents from December 1st to
19 31st. So I mean it would be up to the State whether or
20 not to change that to open it up to non-residents but
21 residents hunting under State regulations.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
24 you.

25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, and.....

27
28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That would
29 -- go ahead, Dan.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan here again. I seem
32 to remember a lot of consternation when caribou hunting
33 went to Tier II and all of a sudden there was these
34 Anchorage guys qualifying. I'm just wondering, do the
35 folks there want to add potential competition. I know
36 it sounds like there's not a lot of impact but I'm just
37 wondering -- I think we better be very careful about
38 the impact of removing that closure. Okay.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Dan,
41 but the State only allows subsistence qualified people,
42 in-state people to hunt that, that's not an out of
43 state hunt. At this point, certainly if they opened it
44 back up we could review that again, but it currently is
45 under State regulation if we lift this.

46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. I'd still -- I
48 think State views all Alaskans as subsistence hunters.
49 Maybe Dave could step in. I just -- I want you to be
50

0229

1 real aware in case, you know, you got 10, 15 Anchorage
2 guys showing up to go hunting. Okay.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep,
5 absolutely, valid point. Dave, have you seen much
6 pressure.....

7

8 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, this is
9 Dave Crowley.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, go
12 ahead.

13

14 MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, I was just going to
15 say that, yes, that December season is only open to
16 resident hunters but they could be residents from
17 anywhere in the state. We have not seen any non-local
18 hunting pressure in that December season in at least
19 the last five years, and I think it's been longer than
20 that so very, very little participation by non-local
21 resident hunters.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, go
30 ahead.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think when the
33 State changed some of the rules in the Togiak moose
34 hunt, I started getting emails and text from folks in
35 Juneau and other places, I don't know if they ever
36 followed through because I think the restrictions, I
37 don't know the places they were going to access was
38 going to be really challenging, but, you know, I just
39 want to make sure everybody's eyes are wide open on it
40 and the folks in the area there are comfortable.
41 Anyway, just trying to draw out some points there.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
46 thanks.

47

48 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard.

49

50

0230

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, go
2 ahead, Richard.

3

4 MR. WILSON: Yeah, you know, our
5 thinking process, it seems to be like we're, you know,
6 it's kind of okay for a little more harvest there but
7 we're being cautious so what about if we were to put an
8 amendment in there to say for -- you know, for
9 Federally-qualified people, and that would eliminate
10 anybody from out of the area on that, for that
11 particular time of year.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Lisa,
14 is that a question for you that you could let us know
15 the possibility or if we would need a whole new
16 proposal.

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN: No, that would be
19 maintaining status quo. So that's currently what the
20 closure is, is that public lands are closed during
21 December except by Federally-qualified subsistence
22 users. So if that's the route the Council would want
23 to go then you would just have a motion to maintain
24 status quo.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

27

28 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, this is Lary.
29 I'm going to withdraw my motion.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. The
32 motion just has been withdrawn, the second, Billy.

33

34 MR. TREFON: Yes, I do. I think we
35 should stay status quo.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So you do
38 want to withdraw the motion as well.

39

40 MR. TREFON: Yes.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: All right, I
43 think you were the second, but I think that's clear.
44 Okay, very well, let's start over again. Would anybody
45 care to put a motion on the table.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll move to accept the
48 status quo as recommended by OSM. This is Dan.

49

50

0231

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

2

3 MR. WILSON: I will second that.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

6 Richard is our second. Do we have any further
7 discussion.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. TREFON: Question.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Question's
14 been called in the matter of WCR22-05, moose Unit 9C
15 December closure to non-Federally-qualified users, to
16 maintain status quo. All in favor please signify by
17 saying aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, motion
22 passes. We will move on to another Wildlife Review
23 Closure, so this is another status quo, modify, or
24 shutdown and this is on caribou Unit 17 Nushagak
25 Peninsula. Kendra, please go ahead.

26

27 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair. Members of
28 the Council. Again, this is Kendra Holman and I'm a
29 Wildlife Biologist with OSM. I will be presenting a
30 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Closure Review
31 WCR22-07. It can be found on Page -- starting on Page
32 104 of your meeting books.

33

34 The closure location for this one is
35 Unit 17A and 17C and that portion of 17A and 17C
36 consisting of the Nushagak Peninsula south of the
37 Ugashik River, the Tuklung Hills, the Tuklung Hills and
38 west of the Tvativak Bay, excuse me if I -- I apologize
39 if I said that wrong -- public lands are closed --
40 these public lands are closed to the taking of caribou
41 except for Federally-qualified subsistence users unless
42 the population estimate exceeds 900 caribou.

43

44 The caribou were reintroduced to the
45 Nushagak Peninsula in 1988. In 1994 the Federal
46 Subsistence Board adopted a proposal which established
47 the harvest season for the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou
48 Herd in Unit 17A and 17C and instituted a closure for
49 all users except residents of Togiak, Dillingham,
50

1 Manokotak, Twin Hills, Aleknagik, Clark's Point and
2 Ekuk. The regulations liberalized until 2001 while
3 continuing to be closed to everyone except Federally-
4 qualified users. In 2002 regulations became stricter
5 as the herd started to decline. This was followed
6 again by liberalization until 2015. In 2016 temporary
7 special actions were approved for Federal public lands
8 to be open to caribou harvest by all Alaska residents.
9 The harvest limit was increased to three caribou,
10 subsistence harvest of Nushagak caribou were exempt
11 from the prohibition of same-day airborne harvest and
12 winter season was extended. ADF&G then announced the
13 State season that was later opened on Federal public
14 lands known as RC201. For the 2016 to 2018 regulatory
15 years multiple proposals were submitted. The Federal
16 Subsistence Board approved the proposals to increase
17 the harvest limit and combine the split season. In
18 April of 2016 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and ADF&G
19 requested that the closure be lifted as long as the
20 population remained above the upper population
21 objective of 900. In 2018 this Council voted to
22 rescind the Federal caribou closure due to concerns
23 about long-term sustainable -- long-term sustainability
24 of the herd. The closure was modified to only close
25 caribou hunting on the Nushagak Peninsula except by
26 Federally-qualified subsistence users unless the
27 population estimate exceeds 900 caribou. In 2020 the
28 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge manager announced the
29 daily harvest limit of one bull and an annual quota of
30 five bulls and five Federal permits were issued.

31
32 The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd was
33 established in 1988 when 146 caribou were reintroduced
34 where caribou had once been an important subsistence
35 resource for area residents. The herd is cooperatively
36 managed by the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd Planning
37 Committee which consists of Federal, State, tribal and
38 local residents. Management objectives for the herd
39 agreed upon by the committee include the population of
40 20-0 to 600 caribou with an optimum of 400 caribou, a
41 bull to cow ratio from 30 to 45 bulls per 100 cows and
42 a harvest objective of 10 to 30 caribou.

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46
47 MS. HOLMAN: Within the first 10 years
48 following reintroduction the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou
49 Herd grew from 146 animals in 1988 to over 1,200 in
50

1 1997. Subsequently calf recruitment and adult female
2 survival decreased and the population fell below 500
3 caribou by 2006. In 2015 the population had increased
4 to an estimated size of over 1,400 caribou and remained
5 above population objectives through 2019. However, the
6 population declined to a minimum count of 209 caribou
7 in 2020, which is the lowest count since 1989, the
8 first year following reintroduction. The cause of this
9 decline are not clearly understood and are most
10 certainly multi-factored. Table 1, which can be found
11 on Page 111 of your meeting book shows the sex and age
12 composition, minimum counts and population estimates.

13

14 A study of wolf predation from 2007 to
15 2011 found that wolf predation is not a primary driver
16 of herd population dynamics. Brown bears are common in
17 the Nushagak Peninsula and likely have learned to
18 exploit the caribou population but their impact on the
19 herd is not known. Halibut decline from over grazing
20 is a serious concern. Between 2002 and 2017 lichen
21 cover on the Nushagak Peninsula declined from 48
22 percent to 30 percent. Assuming the cover -- the
23 current rate of change continues, the lichen is
24 projected to be zero by 2026. If over grazing occurs
25 caribou will likely leave the Peninsula before
26 starving. It is not known whether the immigration of
27 -- would be temporary, seasonal or long-term.

28

29 In 2011 the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou
30 Management Plan harvest strategy was revised. The
31 strategy established an estim -- an annual harvest goal
32 based on population size and trend and allows harvest
33 when the population exceeds 200 caribou and is stable
34 and/or increasing. It calls for liberal harvest when
35 the population is 800 caribou or greater and recommends
36 harvesting all animals over a minimum count of 750
37 caribou. In 2020 the committee has set the harvest
38 objective of 10 to 20 caribou and agreed upon a harvest
39 quota of five bulls for the 2020/2021 season.

40

41 From 1994 to 2020 the harvest ranged
42 from zero to 378 caribou per year. This information is
43 broken down on Table 2, which can be found on Page 113
44 of your meeting book. In 2016/2017, and the 2019/2020
45 years had the highest harvest and likely contributed to
46 the recent population declines.

47

48 The existing closure strikes an
49 effective management compromise particularly due to the

50

0234

1 annual variability of the herd population and harvest.
2 If the closure were lifted Federally-qualified
3 subsistence users would lose their subsistence priority
4 and would be less able to meet their subsistence needs
5 because of competition with harvest by non-Federally-
6 qualified users. If the closure was made more
7 stringent, the herd would be more likely to exceed the
8 carrying capacity and over graze of habitat. The
9 current closure balances these concerns of over harvest
10 with those of over grazing.

11
12 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
13 maintain status quo.

14
15 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of
16 the Council. I'd be happy to address any questions.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
19 thanks, Kendra. Are there any questions.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
24 Hearing none, we will go ahead and move on to you,
25 Orville, for tribes, ANCSA Corporation Board
26 consultation.

27
28 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 There were no questions or comments on this proposal.
30 Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
33 Okay, agency comments, ADF&G, please.

34
35 MR. RINALDI: Hi, good afternoon,
36 Madame Chairwoman. This is Todd Rinaldi with the
37 Division of Wildlife Conservation. State hunting
38 opportunities on the Nushagak Peninsula are limited
39 because Federal lands compromises 85 percent of the
40 Peninsula. The Cooperative Management Plan that you
41 just heard about has guided management decisions for
42 several years and provides the framework for harvest
43 based on herd abundance. This management structure and
44 harvest regime really provides for State opportunity
45 because as the population approaches 900 caribou,
46 typically Federal permits and bag limits are increased
47 to reduce the population. The Alaska Department of
48 Fish and Game is in support of this proposal,
49 maintaining the closure at this time.
50

0235

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
4 you, very much. Federal agency comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, tribal
9 comments.

10

11 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 Courtenay Carty, Curyung Tribe. I have a lengthy
13 conversation with our Second Chief JJ Larson this
14 morning, who sits on the planning committee for
15 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd for the tribal council.
16 He's unable to participate today due to a work
17 conflict. After speaking with Chief Larson we
18 definitely want to continue supporting the closure
19 until more information is provided. It's imperative to
20 maintain the subsistence priority for this population.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, that's
25 good advice, thank you, Courtenay. Advisory Groups.
26 Other Regional Advisory Councils, Robbin.

27

28 MS. LAVINE: Nope, thank you, Madame
29 Chair, no other Regional Advisory Councils met and
30 deliberated on this closure. Thanks.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
33 you. Fish and Game Advisory Committees, never mind, we
34 know that they haven't met on these. And then
35 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't think there's any
38 SRCs that apply to this area. Okay.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, good
41 point, thank you, Dan. Okay, summary of written public
42 comments then, Kendra.

43

44 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair, there were
45 no written comments on this proposal -- closure review.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
48 you. And any public testimony from anyone.

49

50

0236

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We're
4 ready to have a motion made, and remember this is a
5 closure review so it'll be for either maintaining
6 status quo, dropping it or modifying it.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Dan here.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: So this is kind of in my
13 backyard and some of my hunting country sometimes.
14 I'll move to maintain the status quo. I have to say I
15 admire how the Refuge manager uses the management
16 committee. I believe that Chief Larson, as mentioned
17 earlier, has participated and had some good comments as
18 well as Courtenay and Gayla and others. IT seems to
19 work pretty well. Fish and Game's usually involved.
20 And so I move to keep the status quo.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Do we
25 have a second.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson, second.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
30 you, Richard. Dan, did you care to have any other
31 comments to add to those.

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: Sorry, I should have left
34 it later, but that's all I had, thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's fine.
37 Okay, and, Richard, would you care to speak to this.

38

39 MR. WILSON: I'm good, thanks.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, sounds
42 good. Any other comments from the Council on this one.
43 I think we're all pretty cut and dried on it.

44

45 MR. TREFON: Question.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
48 Question's been called. All in favor of maintaining
49 the status quo of WCR22-07, Unit 17. Nushagak

50

0237

1 Peninsula, please signify by saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

6 That's four ayes. That closure passes, status quo
7 maintained. And let's move on to our statewide
8 proposals and we'll start with WP22-01, so Pippa I
9 think you can clarify this one for us, please.

10

11 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, what would
12 you like me to clarify? Madame Chair, can you hear me?

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I can, I'm
15 sorry, I was on mute. I was just saying that I believe
16 you're the presenter for WP22-01, at least according to
17 my agenda.....

18

19 MS. KENNER: Yes.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:so if
22 it's somebody else, please, have them step forward.

23

24 MS. KENNER: I just wanted to make sure
25 you can hear me.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I can, thank
28 you.

29

30 MS. KENNER: Great. Great. So good
31 morning, Madame Chair and members of the Council. The
32 analysis for Proposal WP22-01 begins on Page 117 of
33 your Council books. And my name is Pippa Kenner and
34 I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
35 Management in Anchorage. A lot of you probably don't
36 know me. I am presenting this proposal because it's a
37 statewide proposal and all of the Councils are acting
38 on it. I wish I could be there in person and get to
39 know you a little bit better but maybe in the winter.

40

41 Anyway, this proposal was submitted by
42 the Office of Subsistence of Management and it requests
43 to clarify who is and who is not a participant in a
44 community harvest system. So first I'll describe
45 community harvest systems in Federal regulations. And
46 just to let you know there are no community harvest
47 systems in the Bristol Bay region at this time.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Pippa, could

50

0238

1 I.....

2

3

MS. KENNER: So community harvest.....

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Just
curious, who's the maker of this proposal, I guess I
could look it up too.

7

8

9

MS. KENNER: The Office of Subsistence
Management.

10

11

12

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
you.

13

14

15

16

17

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32

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted - on hold)

33

34

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49

50

MS. KENNER: And an animal taken as
part of the community harvest limit counts towards
every community member's harvest limit for that species
taken under Federal or State of Alaska regulations.

So what the regulation doesn't say is
that a person might not want to participate in a
community harvest system for moose, for example. This
proposed regulation clarifies that a person can request
a registration system where only people who register
may participate in the community harvest system.

So currently, as I said before, there
are no community harvest systems in regulation in the
Bristol Bay region. This proposed regulation will not
affect existing community harvest systems in Federal

0239

1 regulations.

2

3

4 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
5 support the proposal. We believe subsistence users and
6 others will find this revised regulation less
7 confusing, easier to use.

8

9 And, finally, this Council will be the
10 eighth to hear eighth to hear this proposal. The
11 proposal is a request to change a general regulation
12 that affects all regions of the state and so we're
13 asking all Regional Advisory Councils to act on the
14 proposal.

15

16 Thank you, Madame Chair. That's the
17 end of my presentation.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
20 Pippa. Questions. Council members.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Just
25 for my clarification, just because we don't have any
26 out here and I'm not as familiar with them, basically
27 this proposal is just having people state if they want
28 to be part of a community harvest system or not; is
29 that correct?

30

31 MS. KENNER: That's correct.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
34 you. Sometimes I just like simple terms, I guess.
35 Orville, can we get a report on Board consultation
36 tribes and ANCSA Corporations.

37

38 MR. LIND: Yes, Madame Chair. Good
39 afternoon again. Orville Lind, Native Liaison, OSM.
40 There were no questions or comments on this proposal.
41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
44 you, Orville. Agency comments, ADF&G please.

45

46 MR. SCOTT: Good afternoon, Madame
47 Chair. This is Ryan Scott with the Department of Fish
48 and Game out of Juneau and I'll be providing comments
49 for the statewide proposals.

50

51

0240

1 So for WP22-01, the State doesn't have
2 an official position on the proposal, however, we do
3 support any language in an attempt to clarify the
4 various roles of people operating in community hunts
5 and those opting out of those as well.

6
7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
10 you. Any Federal agency comments.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
15 Tribal.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Moving on to
20 advisory groups. Other Regional Advisory Councils.
21 Robbin, do you want to fill us in on those that have
22 already made.....

23
24 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
25 Pippa Kenner and I have the recommendations of the
26 other Councils. So seven Councils have heard the
27 proposal, five are in support. One took no action
28 until the winter meeting because they ran out of time.
29 And another deferred to regions with community harvest
30 system. Thank you, Madame Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
33 you. And we know that the other two have not had
34 anything so we'll move on to summary of written public
35 comments. Is that you Pippa.

36
37 MS. KENNER: Yes, there were no -- we
38 did not receive any written public comments before the
39 public comment deadline. Thank you, Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
42 Public testimony. Would anybody care to personally
43 testify on this one.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. What
48 are the wishes of the Council then.

49
50

0241

1 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson. Wish to
2 adopt WP22-01.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
5 you, Richard. Do I have a second.

6
7 MR. HILL: Lary Hill, second.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, we've
10 got a motion. Richard, would you care to speak to the
11 motion.

12
13 MR. WILSON: No, I'm ready. Thanks.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Lary.

16
17 MR. HILL: I'm good.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

20 Anybody else.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan here.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,

25 Dan.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, this is Dan.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, Dan,

30 please.
31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm just curious, what
33 was the other RAC that took no action due to having no
34 community harvest in their area?

35
36 MS. KENNER: That was the Seward
37 Peninsula Council earlier in the afternoon.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay. I was kind of
40 leaning towards no action but -- so I'm kind of curious
41 -- or I suppose if we were to support it, if we ever
42 had the eventuality of a community hunt, it might
43 operate under clearer guidelines. I'm kind of
44 undecided. Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Other
47 questions or comments.

48
49 (No comments)

50

0242

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, then a
2 call for the question.

3
4 MR. TREFON: Question.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Question's
7 been called. All in favor of supporting WP22-01 as
8 presented, please signify by saying aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard, I
13 think you're the only one I haven't heard from or if
14 you were speaking when somebody else was.

15
16 MR. WILSON: I said, aye, this is
17 Richard.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Nay, same
20 sign.

21
22 (No opposing votes)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Did
25 somebody else have a comment, I believe the motion
26 passes.

27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think everybody
29 voted.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, that's
32 what I understood as well.

33
34 MR. HILL: This is Lary. My phone is
35 going dead. It's going dead like right in the next two
36 seconds.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, we
39 have two left. Can we continue on, Robbin, Katya, can
40 you give me direction here.

41
42 MS. LAVINE: Hello, this is Robbin,
43 Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes.

46
47 MS. LAVINE: We do have a quorum with
48 four. And the only thing I would -- you know, I would
49 ask, if Lary, you can email us timeframes for your fall
50

0243

1 meeting and any items you might want to add to the
2 annual report, you can do so via email. Thanks.

3

4 MR. HILL: Okay, I'm gone. Goodbye,
5 thanks everybody.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Lary,
8 appreciate your time. Okay, then let us continue on.
9 Pippa you are our next presenter again for WP22-02.

10

11 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 Good afternoon, members of the Council. Can you hear
13 me.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We can hear
16 you.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Excellent. Okay. The
19 analysis for Wildlife Proposal 22-02 begins on Page 135
20 of your Council books. And, again, for the record I'm
21 Pippa Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office of
22 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

23

24 This proposal was submitted by the
25 Office of Subsistence Management. We wish to clarify
26 in designated hunting regulations that currently
27 prohibit the use of a designated hunter by a member of
28 a community operating under a community harvest system.
29 So earlier we were talking about community harvest
30 systems, now we're going to talk about the designated
31 hunter system. And the current regulation is on Page
32 137 and it says: If you are a Federally-qualified
33 subsistence user you may designate another Federally-
34 qualified subsistence user to take deer, moose and
35 caribou on your behalf unless you are member of a
36 community operating under a community harvest system.
37 Now, what we propose is to remove the language that
38 says, unless you are a member of a community operating
39 under a community harvest system. And we want to
40 remove this language because if you choose not to
41 register for your community's harvest system, you still
42 retain your individual harvest limit such as one moose
43 and you should be able to designate that harvest limit
44 to someone else to harvest for you through the
45 designated harvester system. So designated harvester,
46 already in regulation, this is just to clarify that if
47 you're not registered in a community harvest system,
48 you may designate another hunter to harvest on your
49 behalf.

50

0244

1 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
2 support the proposal. And, again, you will be the
3 eighth Council to take action because this involves a
4 statewide regulation.

5
6 Thank you, Madame Chair. That's the
7 end of my presentation.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
10 you, Pippa. Questions.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Orville, do
15 you have any tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments.

16
17 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, good
18 afternoon. Council members. No comments or questions
19 on this proposal. Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
22 much. We'll move on to agencies, ADF&G, please.

23
24 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
25 Ryan Scott with the Department of Fish and Game.
26 Again, the State doesn't have a position on this
27 proposal. We simply would encourage OSM to ensure that
28 reporting is timely and accurate as these community
29 harvests and designated hunter programs continue.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
32 you for that. Anybody from the Federal agencies.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Tribal.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Pippa,
41 could you give us a breakdown of the other Regional
42 Advisory Councils.

43
44 MS. KENNER: Yes, Madame Chair, this is
45 Pippa Kenner. Four Regional Advisory Councils have
46 supported the proposal. One took no action until the
47 winter meeting because they ran out of time. One
48 deferred to regions with community harvest systems.
49 And, finally, one supported with modification to
50

0245

1 clarify that participants in a community harvest system
2 cannot designate another Federally-qualified
3 subsistence user to harvest on their behalf, which is
4 already implied in the regulation.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
9 you, Pippa. And we have no -- okay, summary of written
10 public comments, any, Pippa.

11

12 MS. KENNER: Yes, there were no written
13 public comments submitted during the comment -- public
14 comment period. Thank you, Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Do we
17 have any public testimony.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
22 Hearing none, it's ready to be put on the table if
23 anybody would care to do so.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: I was wondering -- I'm
26 tempted to move to adopt. I was intrigued by that one
27 RAC that added additional clarity, Pippa.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Well,
30 if you want to put it.....

31

32 MS. KENNER: Yeah.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:on the
35 table and we can discuss it.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: I was hoping Pippa could
38 restate that language and if she -- I don't know if she
39 could have an opinion, or just repeat again what they
40 did. Over.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

43

44 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, may I
45 answer.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Please do.

48

49 MS. KENNER: Thank you. This is Pippa

50

1 Kenner. The Eastern Interior Alaska Council supported
2 with modification to clarify that participants in a
3 community harvest system cannot designate another
4 Federally-qualified subsistence user to harvest on
5 their behalf. So there was a little bit of confusion
6 about exactly what this regulation change would do.
7 And it does -- the purpose of the change in regulation
8 is to clarify that if you are not a participant in a
9 community harvest system you may designate another
10 hunter, which is the modification to this proposal that
11 was made by the Eastern Interior Alaska Council.

12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Madame Chair.
14 Thank you, Pippa. So my head's buzzing with the
15 language. I think I'm just going to move to adopt as
16 recommended by OSM.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
19 you. Then let me.....

20
21 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson, second.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:take a
24 liberty here as the Chair before we get a second --
25 Pippa, did you not say that that was actually already
26 covered in previous language after you told us about
27 that comment?

28
29 MS. KENNER: Yeah, thank you, Madame
30 Chair. I'm worried that I said that backwards, I don't
31 think I did. But, yeah, under the community harvest
32 limit regulations a person no longer has an individual
33 harvest limit and, therefore, they can't designate
34 somebody else to harvest on their behalf and so the
35 modification that was suggested by the Eastern Interior
36 Alaska Council is already implied in regulations, they
37 want this written into the designated hunter
38 regulation.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Dan,
41 are you still okay with that then.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Unless somebody
44 likes a better idea. I can see having all the words in
45 there is sometimes a lot better. So I could withdraw
46 my initial motion and say move to adopt the language
47 recommended by Eastern Interior.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, it's
50

0247

1 up to you, it's your motion.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: I think I'll move that,
4 my final thing there, move to adopt language as
5 recommended by Eastern Interior Council. Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Do we
8 have a second to that.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson, second.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We
13 have a motion and a second, we now have this officially
14 on the table. Dan, would you like to give us a
15 statement or any comments.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Some of these hunting
18 regulations allows us -- we used to be able to fit the
19 whole State regulations in a little square book that
20 fit in my back pocket when I was 10, and, now we have
21 almost an old fashioned Sears catalog, but if it's
22 clearer and, also it seems to protect the individual
23 who cares to hunt separately, it protects their rights
24 and opportunities so that's why I'm inclined to support
25 this.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
30 you. Richard do you care to comment.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Call for the question.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
35 Question's been called on Proposal WP22-02 adopting
36 the language as presented by the Eastern Interior
37 Council, all signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. The
42 motion carries, it will pass with the Eastern Interior
43 language approved by us as well. WP22-37 ptarmigan,
44 Unit 9D, establish C&T use determination, Brent, are
45 you available.

46

47 MR. VICKERS: Yes, I am, can you hear
48 me.

49

50

0248

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I can,
2 please, proceed.

3
4 MR. VICKERS: Okay, thank you. Hello
5 Madame Chair and members of the Council. My name is
6 Brent Vickers, and I'm the Cultural Anthropologist
7 Supervisor at the Office of Subsistence Management.
8 The analysis of this proposal begins on Page 153 of
9 your Council books.

10
11 Wildlife Proposal 22-37 submitted by
12 Della Trumble of King Cove requests a change to the
13 customary and traditional use determination for
14 ptarmigan in Unit 9D from all rural residents to the
15 residents of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point,
16 Belkofski, Sanak, Pauloff Harbor, Unga and Nelson
17 Lagoon.

18
19 Discussion. In the proposal, the
20 proponent states that ptarmigan is an important
21 resource for the residents of Unit 9D. Through
22 Proposal WP22-37, the proponent requests the evaluation
23 of the uses of ptarmigan by rural residents of the
24 communities listed. There have not been any Federal
25 determinations made for customary and traditional uses
26 of ptarmigan in Unit 9D.

27
28 Regulatory history. In 1990 the
29 Federal Subsistence Board assumed subsistence
30 management responsibilities on Federal public land and
31 adopted existing State customary and traditional use
32 determinations. The State did not recognize customary
33 and traditional uses of ptarmigan in Unit 9D and no
34 proposals to change customary and traditional use of
35 ptarmigan in Unit 9D have been submitted since
36 inception of the program.

37
38 Community characteristics. All
39 communities listed in the proposal are located within
40 Unit 9D. Belkofski, Sanak, and Pauloff Harbor are no
41 longer occupied. The communities of Cold Bay, King
42 Cove, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point are currently
43 occupied year-round.

44
45 Eight factors for determining customary
46 and traditional use. Customary and traditional use by
47 rural residents of a community or area is generally
48 exemplified through eight factors in regulation that
49 include a pattern of use excluding interruptions beyond
50

1 the control of rural residents of an area, near the
2 community or area. The Board has recognized customary
3 and traditional uses of brown bear, caribou, moose and
4 wolf in Unit 9D for residents of Cold Bay, King Cove,
5 Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point. There's no formal
6 harvest reporting for ptarmigan, however, ptarmigan
7 harvest is captured in subsistence surveys. Residents
8 of each of the Unit 9D communities reported using and
9 sharing ptarmigan in the most recent comprehensive
10 subsistence surveys conducted. Residents have harvested
11 ptarmigan locally typically within 30 miles of their
12 homes. The author of a 2021 comprehensive subsistence
13 report in King Cove noted that ptarmigan were hard to
14 find and many people believed them to be over hunted.
15 Many households said they did not go hunting because
16 the population is depressed.

17
18 Effects of the proposal. Currently all
19 rural residents may harvest ptarmigan in Unit 9D.
20 Recognizing customary and traditional use of ptarmigan
21 in the communities in Unit 9D will restrict Federal
22 harvest opportunities for other rural residents,
23 however, most hunters prefer to pursue opportunities
24 for the harvest of resources close to home so this is
25 not seen as a hardship.

26
27 OSM preliminary conclusions. Support
28 Proposal WP22-37 with modification to recognize a
29 customary and traditional use of ptarmigan by all
30 residents of Unit 9D.

31
32 Justification. The Board has already
33 recognized customary and traditional use of terrestrial
34 animals and fishes in Unit 9D by communities of King
35 Cove, Cold Bay, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point. Based on
36 these previous determinations communities of Unit 9D
37 have already established a recognized pattern of
38 harvest and use of wild resources in the area
39 consistent with the eight factors. In addition, each
40 community has demonstrated use of ptarmigan as well as
41 demonstrated patterns of harvesting resources close to
42 home. Finally, recognizing customary and traditional
43 use for all residents of Unit 9D, rather than just
44 those with permanent settlements in this analysis will
45 account for changes in settlement patterns within the
46 unit.

47
48 Thank you.

0250

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We'll
2 open it up for questions, any questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
7 hearing none, we'll move on to any reports on Board
8 consultations from Orville.

9
10 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. Board
11 members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison. There were no
12 questions or comments on this proposal. Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
15 you, Orville. Agency comments ADF&G.

16
17 MS. JONES: Through the Chair. Hello,
18 this is Bronwyn Jones with ADF&G. The Department has
19 discussed this proposal and ADF&G takes no position on
20 this proposal but we encourage additional subsistence
21 harvest and needs research for ptarmigan in Units 9D to
22 provide adequate data when assessing subsistence
23 harvest needs. Thank you. And I'd be happy to respond
24 to any questions.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
27 thanks, Bronwyn. Are there any questions for her.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: This is Dan here.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
32 Dan.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Bronwyn, when I
35 lived in Sand Point quite a few of the old timers would
36 tell me about how they hunted ptarmigan as kids, which
37 I understood some of them were kids or slightly before
38 during World War II, Sand Point wasn't evacuated like
39 other places. I'm highly convinced that this should be
40 -- this C&T should be granted. These old timers would
41 speak of going to other islands by boat and shooting a
42 lot of ptarmigan and canning them up in jars and such
43 and sometimes going to the mainland as well, Balboa
44 Bay, Stepovak Bay and so on. So I think they certainly
45 deserve it. I think it's no different in King Cove and
46 Nelson Lagoon as well. So anyway, I kind of wanted to
47 give you that information, it's a little piece of data,
48 I guess. But -- and I hunted them a lot while I was
49 there, too.

50

0251

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
2 you, Dan. Any other comments or questions for Bronwyn.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Hearing
7 none, any other Federal agency comments.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
12 hearing none, any tribal comments.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Other
17 Regional Advisory Councils, I'm not sure who to call on
18 for this. Were there any other comments on this from
19 other Regional Advisory Councils.

20
21 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
22 Robbin. The Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory Council
23 supported as modified by OSM. Thanks.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
26 you. And we can skip on to -- well, no, the
27 Subsistence Resource Commissions, did we have anything
28 Liza or -- who is our liaison for down there, Linda,
29 right?

30
31 MS. CHISOLM: Through the Chair. No
32 comment.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
35 you very much. Can we have a summary of the written
36 public comments, Brent.

37
38 MR. VICKERS: Yes, hello, this is Brent
39 Vickers. There are no written comments, thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
42 you. Then do we have any public testimony.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
47 Council, it's in your lap, what would you care to do
48 with this one.

49
50

0252

1 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Rich Wilson.
2 Wish to adopt 22-37 with OSM's conclusions. Thank you.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Do we
5 have a second.

6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: Second. Dan, here,
8 seconds.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Dan,
11 thank you for the second. Okay, Richard, would you
12 like to speak to your motion.

13
14 MR. WILSON: Yeah, call for question.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.
17 Question has been called, all in favor of adopting
18 WP22-37 C&T in Unit 9D as modified by OSM, please
19 signify by saying aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, that
24 motion also passes. Oh, man, we got through those,
25 guys, thank you, that was awesome. Now, to move on to
26 identify issues for fiscal year 2021 annual report.
27 Robbin, do we already have a partial list that you can
28 start us off with and/or does anybody have anything
29 right off the cuff they know for sure they'd like to
30 add.

31
32 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Madame Chair.
33 Members of the Council. Before we identify issues for
34 the 2021 annual report, I just want to read the exact
35 wording from ANILCA on what the annual report shall
36 contain. I'd like to remind you that Section
37 .805(a)(3)(d) of ANILCA, Title VIII outlines what the
38 Council's annual reports shall contain, and they are:

39
40 Identify -- identification of current
41 and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife
42 populations within the region; an evaluation of current
43 and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife
44 populations within the region; a recommended strategy
45 for management of fish and wildlife populations within
46 the region to accommodate such subsistence uses and
47 needs; and, recommendations concerning policies,
48 standards, guidelines and regulations to implement the
49 strategy.
50

0253

1 I have a number of issues I've noted
2 but primarily as recognizing, you know, for importance
3 of calling people in and having reports presented. So
4 perhaps you all could start me off on a list of
5 interests for you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
8 Council members, anybody have anything that they
9 definitely would like to see on this year's report.

10
11 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard.
12 I'd just like to, you know, identify the need for
13 agencies, you know, in our section of the woods here,
14 so that we have the proper -- so we have good
15 information, okay. I just would like the agencies in
16 King Salmon, I know it's a challenge with budgeting and
17 all, but just to have, you know, good representation
18 from our end. Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
21 you, Richard. Anybody else.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, Dan.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
26 Dan.

27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, it seems like
29 lately the situation with salmon in Chignik, king
30 salmon in general, are kind of perennial ones these
31 days. Around the Nushagak area bear predation on moose
32 and caribou is increasingly a concern among folks. I
33 know Fish and Game is -- doesn't -- isn't too able to
34 step in and resolve that but I'm hoping to discuss it
35 more with Advisory Committees, if there's something
36 that we can do with regulations to help reduce bears.

37
38 There's a couple other -- one other
39 thing, I don't know if this would fit in our annual
40 report, but this running on a phone and Teams at once,
41 it works for me because I have a computer with a plug
42 in, landline phone right next to it, but the jumble we
43 get into, it would be nice if we could somehow just use
44 Teams if we're still doing this system. If that could
45 be somehow blessed to be legally recorded would be
46 nice.

47
48 And those are things I could think of
49 at the moment. Thank you.

50

0254

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
2 you, Dan. Billy, do you have any.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: It's been a long meeting.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: It has.
9 Billy, you may be on mute, we're not hearing from you.
10 I'm hoping we still have you with us.

11
12 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'm still here, I'm
13 listening.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Do
16 you have anything you'd like in the annual report.

17
18 MR. TREFON: No, I have nothing.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
21 you. I was not letting this meeting go by without --
22 and I guess I'm just choosing to take this place
23 because I think it would be fine to end up in the
24 annual report as thank you for giving us such a
25 fantastic Regional Coordinator in Donald Mike for so
26 many years. I totally appreciated him. And, Robbin,
27 you've done a fantastic job, Katya, thank you for your
28 assistance, we certainly are hoping that you are able
29 to fill his shoes with somebody that is also familiar
30 with the region and able to help us out as we move
31 forward and we look forward to meeting that person. I
32 just can't say a good enough and warm enough for all
33 that Donald did for us. And I don't think there's
34 just, you know, anybody as perfect as he was out there,
35 but we do look forward to hopefully having somebody on
36 board with us soon.

37
38 The other thing I would have, too, is I
39 feel like our bear issues out there are becoming more
40 forward and in front of our face. The numbers, I
41 think, will proven in the next surveys that are done,
42 the numbers are definitely growing and quickly, like
43 really, really fast. I spend a lot of time in the
44 field during the summertime and this year was
45 definitely the highest numbers of bears that I've seen
46 in a number of different places, not a single place,
47 and there's just no doubt that we're going to have to
48 keep an eye on that and we'll probably be looking at
49 some proposals to keep that under -- and my biggest
50

0255

1 fear, I guess, with it, is that, what's going to happen
2 if and when our salmon runs start going in numbers, any
3 types of numbers whatsoever. With this kind of rising
4 growth in our bears, I definitely see that we'll have
5 even more extreme predation issues on our moose and
6 caribou, especially if they don't have all the salmon
7 that they need in the coming years.

8

9 And I am also still worried about our
10 shorebird die-offs, and I'd like that to be kept on the
11 table as an issue to be watched and considered.

12

13 And those are the only things that I
14 actually had on my list.

15

16 Can you fill us in, Robbin, on some of
17 the other things you took notes of and we can decide if
18 we think it's something we'd like on there.

19

20 MR. TREFON: This is Billy here.

21

22 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

23

24 MR. TREFON: I might have missed it.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, go
27 ahead, Billy.

28

29 MR. TREFON: Weren't we supposed to be
30 discussing State proposal with the emperor geese and
31 the extended moose hunt in 9B.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, we're
34 going to probably once Robbin finishes.

35

36 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. Members of
37 the Council. You're right we did have Board of Game
38 Proposal 204 and I think 32 through 50 of the -- the
39 emperor geese proposals to the Board of Game. We can
40 complete identification of issues for your next annual
41 report and then move to address those proposals.

42

43 And so I'm recognizing what you brought
44 up, Billy, and then I would also like to respond to the
45 Chair's request that I review my notes for any
46 particular issues. And most of the notes that I took
47 were what we needed in -- to ensure that we had the
48 Council informed, as you requested, at the next
49 meeting.

50

0256

1 One of the things that I have is that,
2 Billy, you wanted to specifically invite input from
3 local AC and SRC Chairs and potentially invite them to
4 the meetings. So that might be an action that we can
5 take between now and winter. I have Fish and Game
6 reports on Units 9B and 9C, in particular, for caribou
7 and moose in the east side of the Bay. We have a
8 request for the document response regarding ANILCA
9 versus agency-specific regulations, and I know that
10 that is an ongoing interest and that could also be part
11 of your annual report and potentially the response can
12 be included in a reply or in your report. That's
13 another note that I have.

14

15 And those are the notes that I have at
16 the moment -- oh, and, of course, inviting back
17 the.....

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: The bycatch, yeah.

20

21 MS. LAVINE:North Pacific -- yes,
22 the bycatch issue. And we had a number of people, not
23 all planned, attend to discuss some of -- so we had
24 Stephanie Madsen of the At Sea Processors Association
25 who wasn't scheduled, who I found -- and you may have
26 found her information to be interesting and
27 informative. Rick -- I mean, sorry, Mark Fina, and
28 Chris Woodley, may also be invited back in the winter,
29 as well as the North Pacific Fisheries Marine Council.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks for
32 remembering that.

33

34 MS. LAVINE: And those are -- yeah.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So those
37 sound like agenda items, which is very helpful, thank
38 you, Robbin. But on any of those items, that you would
39 like to see on our annual report for the Council.

40

41 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. The only
42 one that I -- I think about -- you know, we're looking
43 also for your thoughts and your guidance in regards to
44 what you would like from the annual reports, and, in
45 particular, the replies. We, at OSM, and the Federal
46 Subsistence Management Program, rely heavily on your
47 reports to inform our process, inform the Board, and to
48 track issues and so almost everything you put -- I
49 would say everything you put in your annual reports are
50

0257

1 incredibly useful. And, I, as a former analyst, I
2 review annually, you know, sometimes monthly old
3 reports so that I can track an issue, when was this
4 first raised, when did we start noticing changes in a
5 particular resource, when did it become critical, and
6 critical for you. So any information you can share, as
7 well, is incredibly important.

8

9 Thank you, Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
12 you. Okay, with that in mind, Council members, is
13 there anything else you would like to add from Robbin
14 or that came along in your brain.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
17 Robbin, and maybe I can be a little more helpful here.
18 Again, this is new for me, but I've got a list that you
19 all just shared with me recently and I will read
20 through them and they're going to be fine-tuned later
21 as I review the transcripts.

22

23 But the list -- I have seven issues
24 here -- or seven topics.

25

26 The first is the need for agencies and
27 Staff within region to represent each part of our
28 regions and -- in order to keep up to date information
29 and to have that expertise. So that's one.

30

31 King salmon, chinook salmon and their
32 declines, is just a general concern, and of note, the
33 Chigniks, in regards to what is happening there with
34 salmon is of general concern and of note.

35

36 Bear predation. In particular, you've
37 discussed and have noted the high number of bears, that
38 they are increasing and there is concern that we will
39 see increased predation on moose and caribou as salmon
40 populations decline.

41

42 No. 5 is shorebird die-off.

43

44 No. 6 is phone and Team venues. And
45 that may or may not be something you want to keep.

46

47 No. 7 is the Council expressing
48 gratitude for the expertise and service of retired OSM
49 Staff member and Council Coordinator, Donald Mike. And

50

0258

1 we all express gratitude for his service.

2

3 And then I would also just like to say
4 per Item 6. I really do hope we can all be in person
5 soon. And I hope -- I hope that we can develop a
6 protocol that will allow us to meet in person and not
7 have to worry quite so much about teleconferences and
8 Teams platforms.

9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
13 you. Okay, would anybody else like to add anything to
14 our list thus far.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: I want to add one more
17 item. Trying to refill and maintain a fully seated
18 Council. We need representation from the Togiak area
19 and from either Bristol -- Southern Bristol Bay and/or
20 Chignik area. Yeah, because it's juts better to have
21 more members. Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely.
24 Absolutely. Okay, anything else anyone.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Then
29 I'm going to -- let's see, I would like to back up to
30 address these proposals, I remembered it as we were
31 halfway through our annual report as well. And I
32 apologize for not having gone right into them since we
33 already had proposals on our mind but let's back up to
34 them. And I'm thinking the best thing that -- I think
35 what we would like to do, and correct me if I'm wrong,
36 Council, is probably just have a brief discussion about
37 these proposals, and if we can all agree that we like
38 and supported by the Council, then we would have you,
39 Robbin, or whomever you deem the person to do it, write
40 a letter for the public comments for the proposals and
41 submit them in time for the public comments to be
42 submitted to show our support or our unsupport,
43 whichever the case may be. Does that sound like it's
44 plausible, Robbin, and is that what the Council would
45 be happy with.

46

47 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
48 Robbin. And, yes, as the acting DFO, I would imagine
49 that that is the responsibility of your Council

50

0259

1 Coordinator to track your comments, to formulate them
2 in a letter and then submit them to the Board of Game.
3 I would just -- if -- if Katya is listening and on hand
4 I know she is tracking two Councils at the moment, but,
5 Katya, if you could confirm -- and if she's not here we
6 will continue until we hear otherwise.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
11 you.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And,
16 Council, is that agreeable with you, is that what you
17 had in mind.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Fine with me.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

22

23 MR. WILSON: Yeah, it would be nice if
24 we can get through that rather quickly.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: It's getting long.

29

30 MR. TREFON: Yes.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
33 Sounds good. Then not hearing back from Katya yet,
34 let's go ahead and start wit King Salmon area
35 proposals, Proposal 204, hunting seasons and bag limits
36 for moose. Billy, do you want to maybe -- or, actually
37 I guess if we've got Dave or somebody online, if they
38 could give us the lowdown on this and then Billy can
39 tell us if he wants to support it and then we can move
40 forward.

41

42 MR. RINALDI: Madame Chair, this is
43 Todd Rinaldi with Department of Fish and Game, and I
44 can lead the discussion on Proposal 204.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

47

48 MR. RINALDI: Okay, real quick.
49 Proposal 204 is a proposal that was developed from the
50

0260

1 Department, and, Dave, who was obviously instrumental
2 in this proposal. What it seeks to do is add five days
3 to the fall season in Units 9B and C, and add 15 days
4 to the winter season in 9C, only for resident hunters
5 under registration moose permit RM272, which currently
6 exists. The proposal would also remove the split of
7 Unit 9C into the Naknek River drainages and the
8 remainder portion. The only difference, currently, is
9 a two week later winter season for that remainder
10 portion. The proposed winter season dates would span
11 the entire range of the current winter seasons for both
12 portions of Unit 9C. The proposed season dates would
13 be Unit 9B September 1st through the 25th, and December
14 15th through January 15th, in Unit 9C, September 1st
15 through the 25th, the same as in the fall, and December
16 1st through January 15th, one month longer than 9B.

17
18 Dave discussed must of this. Currently
19 much of the background information, but as he mentioned
20 earlier, the moose populations in 9B and C are
21 currently above management objectives regarding bull to
22 cow ratios and they can sustain additional bull
23 harvest. As we discussed earlier there is no moose
24 population estimate for Unit 9, however, the
25 composition surveys that we complete in collaboration
26 with Becharof indicate that the bull to cow -- well, I
27 guess not necessarily in 9B, but the composition
28 surveys indicate in 9B were high in 2018 and was 67
29 bulls to 100 cows in Unit 9C in 2020 so that's very
30 high. The calf mortality study that Dave was
31 discussing earlier indicated a very productive popu --
32 well, a productive population, and also adequate calf
33 survival. And then, again, as he discussed very little
34 non-resident harvest in those areas that are open to
35 non-residents.

36
37 And this is a Department proposal so we
38 do support providing additional moose hunting
39 opportunity for residents in Units 9B and C and we hope
40 that by taking advantage of this higher bull to cow
41 ratio and the calf survival rate we can potentially
42 provide an additional source of meat for those who
43 would normally rely on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
48 you, Todd. Appreciate that. And then, Billy, do you
49 want to give us your two cents on it since you brought
50

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1 it forward first.

2

3

4 MR. TREFON: Yeah. The reason I
5 brought this up here is because, well, Nondalton, we
6 always had a concern about the hunt in our area,
7 especially for how hard it is for us to get meat up
8 here, and we support the idea of extending the moose
9 hunt. But when I'm looking at this proposal that was
10 submitted, that was sent to me by mail, it doesn't have
11 a whole lot of explaining other than the proposal, and
12 it has one short sentence saying, extend moose season
13 into Unit B -- 9B and 9C and hunt area in Unit 9C as
14 follows, and it shows the old date of September 1 to
15 September 20th. For resident opening hunt. And then
16 this winter hunt, it hasn't changed, December 15 to
17 January 15. But in bold letters it shows the change
18 and extension of the hunt, I guess this is the change,
19 it shows September 1 to September 25th. That where is
20 Nondalton have a little problem with this proposal. I
21 mean there's nothing wrong with extension, it's just --
22 it's supporting more toward moose in rut than it is --
23 if you're going to open, open a week earlier, instead
24 of a week later. That's the concern we have here.

24

25

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

26

27

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard.

28

29

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
30 Richard.

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MR. WILSON: Yeah, in the very
beginning of this, I did have a talk with Dave there in
some preliminary discussions. And I also showed my
interest in, you know, and appreciated the thought of
extending opportunity to our residents but also
indicated that I -- I mean, here, also that anything
after the 20th, the meat is questionable, so if we were
going to give more opportunity for residents, we're
talking meat people, not horn people, that opening it
up earlier would be our preference rather than staying
open later in the September month.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
would say -- I'm rolling this around in my brain and I
think the best way to approach this is to have our
Coordinator prepare a letter -- why don't we -- if one
of you would voice a recommendation to make to the
Board of Game on this proposal with the dates being,

0262

1 and basically we've already given our reasoning behind
2 it, then we can put it to a vote and if we have full
3 support we can have that letter prepared.

4

5 MR. TREFON: Okay, this is Billy. I'll
6 submit that proposal to the Board of Game to have the
7 date changed from the last week of August to the
8 September 20th, instead of the date that was submitted,
9 from September 1 to September 25th. To have the
10 addition in front of -- the beginning of the season and
11 not the end.

12

13 MR. WILSON: And this is Richard I
14 would support that.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And before
17 we do that, let's have a definite date, let's say
18 August 25th, does that make sense?

19

20 MR. TREFON: Yeah, because it's now
21 September 1 through September 25th, so that would be
22 five days before -- yeah, the 25th.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Do you want
25 it the 26th then.

26

27 MR. TREFON: Yeah, you can give it a
28 date.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think we
31 need to. So August 26th to September 20th, and that we
32 would agree to -- we've already given our reasoning, I
33 guess, is what I'm trying to say. It has been a long
34 day. Okay. So do you agree with that, Richard, as the
35 second.

36

37 MR. WILSON: Yes, I would.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Going
40 to go ahead and call for the question then, all in
41 favor of showing support of August 26th through
42 September 20th, Board of Game support on Proposal 204
43 please signify by saying aye.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: I was hoping to make a
46 comment.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, go
49 ahead.

50

0263

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks. Well, I
2 think the dates you're offering up. Here in
3 Dillingham, I think former Biologist Woolington
4 typically resisted extending the dates into the later
5 fall like that even though some people asked for it, he
6 felt that it would make -- the bulls would be more
7 vulnerable and possibly could be excessive harvest.
8 Over your area, Billy, you might get a whole lot more
9 visitors from Kenai, they've been coming in and calling
10 and it almost seems a little more geared to trophy
11 hunting than meat hunting.

12
13 So I'll be in support of this,
14 extending on the early side, rather than the late side.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks.
19 Call for the question. All in favor please signify by
20 saying aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, that's
25 three ayes. Robbin, if you would please help us out
26 and make sure we get that in in time for comments we'd
27 appreciate it. And then proposals on the emperor geese
28 here, I'm wondering if we can bundle them up. Gayla,
29 maybe I'll call on you, it's something that you work
30 very closely with, maybe I'll call you and see if
31 you're available on the floor to give us kind of a
32 lowdown on a way that we could potentially blanket this
33 without having to go through them one by one and show
34 support, if indeed you have it for us.

35
36 So, first off.....

37
38 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair,
39 this is.....

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:we will
42 -- there's a bunch of.....

43
44 MR. LARSON: This is Cody Larson with
45 BBNA. And Gayla's not able to join the call right now
46 but I would like to make a couple of comments that she
47 suggested, on her behalf.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Cody,
50

0264

1 I would accept those comments, and this is like
2 Proposal 32 through -- I'm not even sure here, I'm just
3 scrolling through them -- they sent them to us
4 yesterday, which I took a look at them and that's what
5 made my cringe was there's so many of them, and I'm
6 hoping you can kind of give a blanket -- through 50, I
7 guess, so, yeah, there's a lot of them. And so then
8 I'm going to -- if you guys will entertain, I'll ask
9 Cody to give us his comments and hopefully that's going
10 to help summarize these for us so that we can offer up
11 something that would be supportive that would be good
12 for our region.

13

14 Is that okay with everybody.

15

16 MR. SCOTT: Madame Chair, this is Ryan
17 from Fish and Game.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, go
20 ahead, Ryan.

21

22 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, just real quick.
23 I've been involved with these for a long time and I'm
24 here to help answer questions and I can also deliver a
25 quick overview after Cody if you'd like.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, that's
28 awesome. I'm going to go ahead, if my Council still
29 agrees, and in the interest of brevity, is that okay
30 guys to give Cody the floor first, is that good.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Yep.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Yes, give me a number
35 please.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
38 the proposal numbers that I have start with Proposal
39 No. 32 and, Cody, with that I'm going to give you the
40 floor.

41

42 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 And I'll attempt to accommodate the brevity. I'm going
44 to speak just to Proposal 32. It's the proposal that
45 the Co-Management Council put together and, Gayla,
46 Chair -- or Co-Chair, Chair of the Native Caucuses of
47 the Co-Management Council is just requesting support
48 on that proposal and presumably that can be in the form
49 of an RC, or a letter to the Board of Game supporting
50

0265

1 Proposal 32 and made no mention of support of any of
2 the other proposals. But that's the brief comments
3 I've got on all of those proposals that you've got in
4 front of you, is requesting support for Proposal 32.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
9 you're telling us that Proposal 32 is the one that you
10 would like us to concentrate on. With that, can we
11 have -- oh, I forgot who it was from Fish and Game that
12 was online.....

13

14 MR. DUNAWAY: Ryan Scott.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:can you
17 give us a.....

18

19 MR. SCOTT: Yes, Madame Chair, this is
20 Ryan Scott with the Department of Fish and Game.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
23 Ryan, sorry, I forgot your name.

24

25 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, no worries. So, and
26 I'll be brief as well. There are a total of 87
27 proposals addressing emperor geese spread between the
28 Region 4 in statewide meeting this coming winter.
29 Proposal 32 was put together by the Migratory Bird Co-
30 Management Council, of which I am a member as well, and
31 was submitted to the Board of Game. That particular
32 proposal asks for the elimination of all non-resident
33 hunting of emperor geese.

34

35 It's important to recognize that we
36 offer 25 drawing permits for emperor geese and there's
37 about a total of 150 emperor geese taken during the
38 fall/winter season and only 25 of those are issued to
39 non-residents. There's two things -- two seasons that
40 happen with emperor geese. There's the fall/winter,
41 sport season, if you will, and then there's the
42 spring/summer subsistence season. And right now these
43 proposals are only addressing the fall/winter season.
44 So for all 87 of these proposals, the Department is
45 going to be neutral on them because they're allocative
46 in nature and that's the Board of Game's job to sort
47 that out, whether or not we reduce or eliminate non-
48 resident hunters, the remaining 86 proposals, in one
49 variation or another ask for an increase in non-
50

0266

1 resident permit availability. And, again, all 87
2 proposals we will be neutral because the Board has to
3 allocate the resource.

4
5 A little background on geese. The
6 first time in over 30 years, was held in 2017 and it's
7 open right now in 2021. We have seen a slight decline
8 in goose numbers. Every year the Fish and Wildlife
9 Service does a survey on the YKDelta and we use that as
10 our index and it has been declining over the last few
11 years and so we're operating in an area of conservation
12 measures, being careful with the number of birds
13 harvested and working with the AMBCC to implement
14 spring/summer conservation measures as well.

15
16 That was very quick, there's a whole
17 lot in the background there but that's where we're at
18 with that and I'm happy to take questions.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That is
21 awesome, thank you, Ryan, we really appreciate that.
22 Go ahead, Council members, questions.

23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan here, I have a
25 question. About what do you think the allowable
26 harvest should be or could be total for the goose
27 population currently. Okay.

28
29 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. That's
30 a great question. So we are limited by Federal
31 regulations to 500 birds in the fall/winter season at
32 the present time because we have those conservation
33 concerns. If everything was hunky dory and we were
34 above our 28,000 birds observed on surveys, we could
35 provide for 1,000 birds. With that said, we just don't
36 see the harvest. At least the reported harvest. We
37 only see about 150 birds being taken annually. We know
38 additional birds are taken but we can't gage the extent
39 of that. During the spring/summer season, we estimate
40 somewhere in the neighborhood of 7,500 emperor geese
41 being taken, and that's the midpoint of the estimate,
42 there's a lot of variation around it. But that's, you
43 know, quite a bit.

44
45 So back to your question, what do we
46 think we could actually take. I don't think we know
47 that yet. There is some work being done right now
48 that's kind of zeroing in on answering that very
49 question. If we assume we're taking in the
50

0267

1 neighborhood of, you know, 76, 50, or 7,700 birds and
2 we've got a downward trend, it's probably going to be
3 below that. Yeah, I guess that's how I would respond.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you. Because
6 I thought I had read a long time ago somewhere, you're
7 kind of allowing up to 500 -- oh, one other question
8 then is how many -- I think you do it by permit, even
9 for residents, how many permits are issued and maybe
10 Cody knows, to local Alaskan residents so far, or per
11 season. Okay.

12

13 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, we do, the fall/winter
14 season is managed under a registration permit, there's
15 not a limit and they're available, you know, throughout
16 the state as well as online. Again, the non-residents
17 are the ones that go through the drawing process. So
18 for the number of permits issued, it looks like -- I
19 just wanted to -- in 2020, we don't have all the data
20 for 2021 because it's not over quite yet, there were
21 393 permits issued. And that includes the 25 drawing
22 permits. And in that year we had 132 birds harvested
23 by residents and 18 reported harvested by non-
24 residents.

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: That's really helpful.
27 That gives me a picture of what's going on. I
28 appreciate that, I'll defer to others, thank you.

29

30 MR. SCOTT: yes, Sir.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
33 Dan. Those are interesting numbers. Other questions,
34 Council members.

35

36 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
37 Robbin.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Robbin, go
40 ahead.

41

42 MS. LAVINE: I just wanted to share
43 that these proposals were reviewed by the
44 Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory Council. The Council
45 supported Proposal 32, and opposed Proposals 33 through
46 50. Thanks.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
49 thanks, I really appreciate that Robbin, since we're
50

0268

1 not doing this formally, that's good information for
2 us. And you don't know that any other Regional
3 Advisory Councils have reviewed this.

4

5 MS. LAVINE: No, not that I'm aware of.
6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
9 Okay, Council members, any other questions or comments.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Richard
12 here.

13

14 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, this is Dan -- go
15 ahead, Richard.

16

17 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I just -- you know,
18 I haven't had a chance to review a lot of this stuff
19 and it's coming before us in the short-term here. We
20 just got this information yesterday and it seems like
21 to do it justice we would need more time, it seems like
22 we're kind of crunching through this stuff and
23 realizing that Council members wanted to address these
24 two issues but, yeah, I'm struggling through it.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I agree.
27 And I think, you know, what I'm blaming it on Covid.
28 Because part of the problem is that all the meetings
29 and proposal and comment periods have gotten all
30 screwed up with all the schedule changes and all the
31 restrictions all of us have had and so we are having to
32 work a bit harder and faster and in a more confined
33 space than we're used to. But I think that if we are
34 interested in supporting these we do need to take them
35 into consideration and, to me, in a nutshell, basically
36 what they're asking for is to support Federally-
37 qualified user -- or, excuse me -- Alaska users hunt
38 only versus opening it up to non-residents, and I think
39 that that's what we're really considering when we're
40 consider accepting Proposal 32. If I'm wrong, somebody
41 please correct me.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, not a correction
44 but I have a comment.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, go
47 ahead, Dan.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I had studied this

50

1 up I think a year ago now as I look at them, it's
2 coming back to me. I'm surprised at the incredible
3 interest from non-resident hunters, non-local hunters,
4 at the same time I think it's awfully selfish to close
5 off non-residents for only 25 birds. This is a
6 national resource that we have to share with people
7 from the Lower 48 or -- not so much, I think they
8 mostly winter in Alaska, but some may reach -- but,
9 still it's a national resource on national lands in a
10 lot of cases and I don't see that the Alaskan
11 residents are making full use of the permits available
12 to them, and to begrudge them 25 birds seems excessive.
13 Further I looked through some of those proposals and a
14 few people I know, who are local residents around the
15 Bay and other places, are actually supportive of
16 allowing a little bit more non-resident hunting.

17
18 So I would support the status quo for
19 the moment of the 500 or the 525, I guess, with the 25
20 non-residents, it just doesn't seem fair to me, such a
21 small take. I used to shoot these birds when I lived in
22 Dutch Harbor and I know they were extremely cherished
23 by the King Cove, Sand Point area folks, they call them
24 beach geese, so I want to respect the subsistence needs
25 and harvest. But I think if we're going to get a
26 little support and buy in from other aspects of the
27 hunting world you need to accommodate them a little
28 bit. So I don't support 50/50 like a lot of the other
29 proposals ask, but I do not support total closure.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Well,
34 I'll actually jump into the middle of this debate, even
35 being Chair, and step out of my role for a second and
36 just comment. I remember, with great glee, the opening
37 of emperor geese again and the celebration we had with
38 it, and how happy we were to have them back. And I
39 think the reason that I would consider supporting this
40 Proposal 32 is just the fact that the numbers have
41 started going down. We were the ones who worked hard,
42 we, being Alaska residents, to bring back this
43 population, and to see to it that it got to a level
44 that it could be hunted again and right now I feel like
45 from the information -- that is very limited -- but the
46 information that we do have it does not support
47 anything really opening up and that in -- mostly in the
48 interest of being able to conserve as much as possible
49 and keep things under wraps until we know we have a
50

0270

1 stronger population, I would actually entertain the
2 restriction and consider it possibly in the favor of
3 these.

4

5 Anybody else.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: With that
10 being said, does anybody want to put a proposal on the
11 table in support of or not, do we just let this one
12 fly.

13

14 MR. WILSON: I'm debating. I just
15 really can't go either way here, I'd just kind of let
16 this one fly myself.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: I was just wondering
21 about if we could transmit a little bit of this
22 discussion to the Board of Game showing the thoughts
23 that we've expressed. Is that possible? Over.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I believe
26 written public comments to not have to be necessarily
27 in support or in opposition to, but can merely offer
28 exactly that, a comment. So absolutely. Are you
29 willing to do that for us, Robbin, just capture off of
30 the tapes here what our comments have been.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 I've been taking notes and I will certainly review the
34 transcripts to ensure their accuracy and we can send a
35 letter to the Board of Game on Proposal 32, and
36 potentially Proposal 32 through 50, or just Proposal
37 32, and then comments on emperor geese in general.

38

39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I
42 think so. Thank you very much, I appreciate that. Any
43 other comments from other Council members on this.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
48 Dan.

49

50

0271

1 MR. DUNAWAY: One last thing I should
2 note, that hunting the birds in -- I didn't shoot very
3 many in Unalaska, but people ended up giving me their
4 birds because mostly outsiders didn't like eating them.
5 They taste a little kelpy but I was happy with them.
6 That's why I'm kind of wondering if more of this -- the
7 outside interest is just kind of the uniqueness of the
8 bird, but -- so to allow a few to be taken, but, yeah,
9 I would like to see the majority taken by local folks
10 who eat them.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, that's
15 a good comment to include in there. Thank you, Dan.
16 Anyone else.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, let's
21 keep moving on then, we're getting close guys. So the
22 next thing up is Item F, Fall 2021 Council application
23 nomination open season. And I would just encourage
24 everybody and anyone who has friends that they know
25 are, you know, long-time and knowledgeable subsistence
26 users to start talking to them and seeing if we can't
27 convince them to two meetings a year and just sharing
28 their knowledge, and making sure their voices for their
29 local communities are heard. This is on the agenda
30 here for Robbin, and, Robbin, I'll hand it over to you.

31
32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
33 have -- I have text prepared, which I will read, but
34 before I do I -- I want to speak from my knowledge of
35 the region, my knowledge of so many people that I have
36 worked with, that I have engaged with over the years as
37 a Dillingham resident, as a person who has conducted
38 research in Southwest Alaska and someone who continues
39 to love to work in Southwest Alaska, there is so many
40 highly qualified people with knowledge and information
41 and of all ages, right, so we -- we would.....

42
43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely.

44
45 MS. LAVINE:love to have
46 applicants of all ages and experience levels because
47 that diversity will help grow this Council. So I also
48 would like to say that I have been talking with many of
49 you before the meeting and I am grateful for the
50

0272

1 discussions I've had also with BBNA and Curyung and
2 everybody else who's committed to beating the bushes
3 and encouraging people to apply. So with that said
4 I'll read the text and that is:

5

6 So I would like to thank all Council
7 members for your service on the Council and on behalf
8 of the user groups that you represent, your knowledge
9 and experience is of great value to the Federal
10 Subsistence Program.

11

12

13 We're currently going through some
14 difficult times during the pandemic but at the same
15 time we are constantly working to have robust Councils
16 with full memberships. And we are looking to you,
17 Council members, for help because you are our
18 connection to the communities that you represent. And,
19 Robbin adds, and all of you who are listening from the
20 region.

20

21

22 So the 2022 Council application period
23 was opened on September 17th, 2021 and it will close
24 February 28th, 2022. We are encouraging you to help us
25 to spread the word about it in the region, in the
26 communities and help us recruit new applicants. You
27 know the people in your region and you can also share
28 firsthand experience of what it means to serve on the
29 Council and what is involved and how much time it
30 takes. You can also nominate the candidates if someone
31 is interested in applying but is having a hard time
32 filling out an application. So the application packets
33 are available on the website; www.doi.gov/subsistence
34 and under regions, and it's a fillable copy and it will
35 be posted soon as well. We also plan on mailing a
36 number of application packets to the current Council
37 members when we receive them from the printer so you
38 can hand them out to interested persons or
39 organizations and tribes.

39

40

41 Additionally, we are mailing around
42 2,000 copies of the application packet to various
43 addresses across the state. So if someone needs a copy
44 to be faxed to them we can do it as well. We are
45 hoping to have a good number of qualified applicants
46 applying this year so we are able to fill out all the
47 vacant seats and have alternates available for the
48 situations when Council members resign, or move out of
49 reason -- or region, as has happened this year.

49

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0273

1 So we will make a special appeal to the
2 members of the Bristol Bay Council, your Council
3 currently has four vacant seats and there was not
4 enough applications from your region to fill all these
5 vacant seats for next year, and I don't know where
6 we're at in regards to how many we do have, but you can
7 have -- you're meant to have a 10 person Council and as
8 of now we don't have enough applicants starting in 2022
9 to have all those 10 seats filled.

10

11 I want to let the Council members know
12 that if you are aware or know good perspective
13 applicants, you could nominate them by filling out an
14 application form, and if you need help, please let us
15 know.

16

17 So that is all. I can't say enough, how
18 important these Council member positions are to our
19 Program, to all our Staff, and I can't tell you enough
20 how delightful it is to work with you all. I think it's
21 what makes our work meaningful at OSM, so thank you
22 very much.

23

24 And I am done, Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
27 you. Thank you, Robbin, I appreciate that. And
28 everybody keep it in mind, you know, especially when
29 you got somebody coming to you with concerns and, you
30 know, I think of people that come to me that have
31 questions about any portion of our resources, they're
32 the excellent candidate for this right away, and
33 suggest it to them or follow-up by actually getting
34 them nominated.

35

36 Okay, that being said, let's move on to
37 confirming meeting dates. Is everybody still good with
38 our winter 2022 dates of February 8th and 9th,
39 hopefully in person, hopefully in Naknek, will that
40 still work.

41

42 MR. TREFON: Hello, this is Billy here.
43 I got one more question before we go there about this
44 applications from Robbin.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

47

48 MR. TREFON: What if there's more than
49 one applicant from one community.

50

0274

1 MS. LAVINE: We'll take them.

2

3 MR. TREFON: That's all I needed to
4 know, thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: There's no
7 rule on that, yeah, we're good on that, we just want to
8 have regional representation. We've really been
9 missing somebody from down south for a long time now,
10 just since, oh, shoot, I can see his face and I can't
11 even think of his name, we had him out of Chignik Lake
12 -- I was just thinking about him last night after I
13 dropped off the meeting, but, anyway, yeah, that's our
14 preference, but certainly we need them filled by
15 knowledge people.

16

17 MR. TREFON: Okay.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep.
20 February 8th and 9th, does that still work in
21 everybody's calendar.

22

23 MR. TREFON: 8th and 9th of January.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: February.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: February.

28

29 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I believe that will
30 work for me because right now I have actually three
31 different meetings scheduled plus I got the training
32 with (indiscernible), which I don't know the schedule
33 yet. So that'll work.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
36 Richard, good for you.

37

38 MR. WILSON: I'm looking at my calendar
39 as we speak. Let's see here, I guess tentatively that
40 would work. I guess if something changes I'd have to
41 let you know.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, that
44 sounds good. Dna, how does it look for you.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm not as booked up as
47 these other guys, so as far as I know it's good, and I
48 like that time of year to get it done so it frees up
49 the rest of the spring in case hunting conditions are

50

0275

1 good. Thank you.

2

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, sounds
5 good, yep. And I've already got it on my schedule too,
6 so I'm planning on it. So let's stick with those dates
7 then and let's take a look at the fall dates, we need
8 to pick those. I know I'm always the problem on this
9 one, and basically I will not be available until after
10 October 23rd, those two weeks, because typically I
11 close down around the 20th so that'll be my last one,
12 so anytime after the 23rd will work for me, if anybody
13 has a preference.

13

14

MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair.

15

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MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
Robbin.

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MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: What are the
wishes of the Council, what works for you?

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MR. WILSON: That works for me because
the last Tuesday of the month I have other commitments
for another meeting so if we can avoid the last Tuesday
of the month is my preference.

35

36

37

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39

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And I would
prefer we miss the last Monday of the month for the
same reasons so let's try for the 1st or 2nd, or 2nd
and 3rd, does anybody else have a preference.

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MR. DUNAWAY: The 1st and 2nd.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: 1st and 2nd.

MR. WILSON: Sounds good.

MR. TREFON: That'll work.....

MS. LAVINE: Thanks.

0276

1 MR. TREFON:for me.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.

4 Let's put it on the calendar.....

5

6 MS. LAVINE: Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:then

9 please.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: 1st and 2nd, that's

12 November 1st, that's a Tuesday and Wednesday November

13 2nd, and it would be in Dillingham.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, okay,

16 that sounds good. Then -- and you'll let Lary know as

17 well, correct, Robbin.

18

19 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, I've been in email

20 contact with him and he said he was wide open and no

21 comments or issues to add to the annual report.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank

24 you. I'll ask for closing comments, Dan, do you want

25 to start us off.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you. Well, a

28 long meeting but a good one. And it's fun to have been

29 able to know Robbin and Pippa and all the rest of you

30 previously. I appreciate all the work, Todd, Fish and

31 Game, thank you for everything you contributing, you're

32 sure trying to carry quite a load. Thanks to everybody

33 and hopefully we're face to face next time.

34

35 Doi.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, please

38 face to face next time. Richard.

39

40 MR. WILSON: Yes, thank you all.

41 Really appreciate it. I really liked, you know,

42 inviting people for the bycatch. Those kind of things

43 really go a long ways for us because we kind of know

44 what's happening in our outer waters. I do have an

45 interested person for one of these seats and so I'll be

46 anxious to get that application when you send it to me.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Wonderful

49 news, thank you, Richard. Billy, go ahead.

50

0277

1 MR. TREFON: Yeah, this was actually a
2 very good meeting, very helpful information. We
3 covered a lot of information in a short while. And I
4 really appreciate the hard work that Robbin did, it
5 sounds like she had an awful lot of workload going
6 there. And like Lary and everybody else said, I hope
7 the next time we see each other again it'll all be in
8 person.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
11 you.

12
13 MR. WILSON: I got one comment for
14 Orville, if he's still on there.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm sorry?

17
18 MR. WILSON: I said I got a comment
19 Orville if he's still on there, to pass on that smirky
20 smile over to Donald.

21
22 MR. LIND: Yes, Brother Richard, I am
23 still on.

24
25 MR. WILSON: Okay, thank you. And,
26 thank you, Robbin, excellent job.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely,
29 guys, everybody.....

30
31 MR. LIND: Thank you, everyone, Qu yana.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:that
34 participated in the meeting. This is an absolute
35 miserable way to be attending meetings and holding
36 meetings and I appreciate everybody's attention and all
37 their input and all their participation, it's the only
38 way it could move forward and I'm looking forward to
39 seeing everybody in person in February. I'm going to
40 adjourn.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Okay, God Bless all.

43
44 MR. TREFON: Thank you, bye-bye.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Adjourned.

49
50

0278

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Robbin.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Thank you so much Dan, so
4 good hearing your voice, everybody. I hope I can see
5 you all at Naknek this winter, bye.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Bye-bye. Doi.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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