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YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE
March 1, 2022
9:12 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Raymond Oney, Chair
- Wasilly Alexie
- Thomas Alstrom
- John Andrew
- Jackie Cleveland
- Norma Evan
- Robert Hoffman
- James Landlord
- Henry Parks
- Phillip Peter
- Alissa Rogers

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 3/1/2022)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, everyone for tuning into our YKRAC winter meeting. I'll go ahead and open the meeting. The time now is 9:12 a.m. Today is March 1, 2022. No. 1, I believe if you want to talk about the housekeeping before we get started or do you want to go right in and go into the agenda.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We can call the meeting to order and establish quorum and do welcome and introductions. We do have, as we discussed in our pre-meeting, a few additions to the agenda and also some timing, you know, time specific requests that we can cover when we review and adopt the agenda.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. At this time I'll go ahead and ask for an invocation to start off our meeting. We could have -- let's see, who's on here -- James, James Landlord, would you might leading us off in prayer to start off our meeting this morning.

MR. LANDLORD: Okay.

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Quyana, James. Thank you for that morning prayer. At this time I could ask for Eva to do a roll call.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. We'll walk through our roster. You did receive an updated roster in your supplemental materials. When the meeting book first went out we had not yet received our new Secretarial appointments to the Council. So I'll note that as we get through the roster here.

So first we have Henry Parks,
Nunapitchuk.

MR. PARKS: I'm here, Eva.

MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you,

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1 Henry.

2

3

Norma Evan, Marshall.

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MS. EVAN: Good morning, Eva, I'm here.

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MS. PATTON: Good morning, Norma.

8

9

John Andrew, Kwethluk.

10

11

(No comments)

12

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14

MS. PATTON: And, again, John, thought he might be a little bit late this morning since he was going to call in from the tribal council office so we'll welcome John when he's able to connect.

15

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Thomas Alstrom, Alakanuk.

19

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21

MR. ALSTROM: Good morning, Eva, I'm present.

22

23

MS. PATTON: Good morning, Thomas.

24

25

Jacqueline Cleveland, Quinhagak.

26

27

MS. CLEVELAND: I'm here.

28

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MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you, Jackie.

31

32

James Landlord, Mountain Village.

33

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MR. LANDLORD: Yes, I'm here, good morning.

36

37

MS. PATTON: Good morning, James.

38

39

Alissa Nadine Rogers, Bethel.

40

41

42

MS. ROGERS: Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Eva. I am present.

43

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MS. PATTON: Good morning, Alissa, thank you.

46

47

Phillip Peter, Sr., Akiachak.

48

49

MR. PETER: I am here, good morning.

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1 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Phillip,
2 thank you.

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good morning.
5 Good morning everyone online and in the room.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Hi, good morning.

8
9 And do we have Wasilly Alexie.

10
11 MR. ALEXIE: I'm here, good morning.

12
13 MS. PATTON: Wasilly Alexie, Russian
14 Mission. Thank you for joining us Wasilly.

15
16 Raymond Oney, Alakanuk.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I'm here, thank
19 you.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Myron Naneng, Sr.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MS. PATTON: And, again, Myron, excused
26 absence for this meeting.

27
28 Our new Council member, Robert Hoffman,
29 Bethel.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MS. PATTON: You might be on mute
34 Robert, I know we had you on earlier this morning.

35
36 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm here, can you hear
37 me.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Yep. Loud and.....

40
41 MR. HOFFMAN: Hello.

42
43 MS. PATTON:clear, thank you,
44 Robert.

45
46 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Yes, tank you, Robert.
49 Great, thank you. Yes, sometimes it's hard to get off
50

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1 mute.

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3

Richard Slats, Chevak.

4

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(No comments)

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7

MS. PATTON: And, again, Richard was not able to join us today, excused absence for Richard and hope all is well.

8

9

10

11

Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. We have 10 of 13 Council members present. We have a quorum. And, again, we are expecting John Andrew to connect later this morning, too, so hopefully he'll be able to join us shortly. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Thank you for taking the roll. Our Secretary is not present. I'd like to welcome all the members here and especially for our new member, Robert Hoffman, to the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council.

23

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27

28

I guess at this time we'll go ahead and do introductions. I'm thinking these are introductions from people that are going to be presenters during our meeting.

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MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And We have a recommendation, since we often have a lot of people calling in online, to introduce the public that are calling in, and that is to welcome our public first and then we go to the second page of your meeting agenda, under agency reports, it might be helpful to walk through, you know, each of the groups that will be participating in the meeting today. That just helps since we have so many folks online and so not everybody's waiting or talking over others.

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And before we get into those public and agency participants and our tribes and Native organizations, I did want to introduce our Yup'ik interpreters for this meeting. We will have Pat Samson on today to translate whenever requested by the Council or the public. Normally, as you know, we would be meeting in person and be able to have simultaneous translation throughout the whole meeting. But we do want to make sure that Council members are able to speak freely in Yup'ik, and our public participants

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1 also able to speak in Yup'ik or request translation
2 from English to Yup'ik as well for anything. So want
3 to welcome our wonderful interpreters, again, Pat
4 Samson will be on today, are you online, Pat?

5

6 MR. SAMSON: Good morning, Eva. Good
7 morning, Council members. This is Pat.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Pat, thank
10 you so much. And then tomorrow and Thursday we will
11 have Sophie Evan translating, and I think Sophie was
12 also listening in today. Are you online, Sophie.

13

14 MS. EVAN: Good morning, Eva, I am
15 listening.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you so
18 much Sophie. So just please do, and we'll -- you know,
19 let folks know, a little reminders throughout the
20 meeting as new folks call in, to request at any time if
21 Council or public wishes to speak in Yup'ik then we
22 have our translators available to translate and of
23 there's anything that you would like translated from
24 English into Yup'ik, just jump in and say, you know,
25 can we please get a translation for that. Since we
26 can't see each other, please just do jump in and
27 request translation at any time.

28

29 So thank you to our translators.

30

31 With that, Mr. Chair, if you would like
32 to resume with the rest of the invitation, welcome to
33 our public participating and then walk through under
34 agency reports, for folks to introduce themselves that
35 way.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you, Eva.
40 We could go ahead and open it up for people to
41 introduce themselves, or if we can introduce the
42 agencies that are online at this time.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have
47 Orutsararmiut Native Council.

48

49 (Teleconference interference -

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1 participants not muted)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have anyone from
4 any of the agencies that are online at this time.

5

6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8

9 MR. BLIHOVDE: Hello, Mr. Chair. Well,
10 just because no one else is speaking up, this is Fish
11 and Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta National Wildlife
12 Refuge. I'm Boyd Blihovde, the Refuge Manager. Thank
13 you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Boyd. Fish
16 and Wildlife then.....

17

18 MS. PETRIVELLI: This is Pat Petrivelli
19 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Subsistence
20 Anthropologist out of Anchorage. Good morning.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Pat,
23 thank you.

24

25 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman with the
26 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in Dillingham.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Andy.

29

30 MR. MOSES: Aaron Moses, Yukon Delta
31 National Wildlife Refuge.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning Aaron.

34

35 MR. WEBBER: Aaron Webber, Fish and
36 Wildlife Service, I'm the.....

37

38 MR. TULIK: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
39 This is Christopher Tulik with Yukon Delta National
40 Wildlife Refuge. Qu yana.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Chris, I heard you.
43 And there was someone else in the background that was
44 talking, I didn't get your name.

45

46 MR. WEBBER: Aaron Webber.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Webber.

49

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0008

1 MR. WEBBER: Fish and Wildlife Service,
2 Yukon Delta.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning.

5
6 MR. NICORI: Emmitt Nicori, Yukon Delta.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Could you say your name
9 again.

10
11 MR. NICORI: Emmitt Nicori, Yukon
12 Delta.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Emmitt, okay, welcome.

15
16 MR. HARRIS: Frank Harris, U.S. Fish
17 and Wildlife Service, Kenai Fisheries Office.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Welcome.

20
21 MR. ROBERTS: Hi. This is Jason
22 Roberts, Anthropologist with OSM here in Anchorage.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Welcome.

25
26 MR. LIND: Good morning, Mr. Chair, can
27 you hear me.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I can.

30
31 MR. LIND: I've got a real bad signal.
32 This is Orville Lind. Good morning, Mr. Chair and
33 Board members. Native Liaison for the Office of
34 Subsistence Management. Good to hear you on this
35 morning.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, good to hear you
38 too, welcome aboard Orville.

39
40 MS. CARROLL: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
41 This is Holly Carroll, Yukon River Subsistence Fishery
42 Manager based in Anchorage.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Holly.

45
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good morning, Mr.
47 Chairman. This is (Indiscernible) with ONC in Bethel.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, ONC.

50

0009

1 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

2

3 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

4

5 MR. RISDAHL: This is Greg Risdahl with
6 the U.S. Forest Service, InterAgency Staff Committee
7 member and Subsistence Program Leader.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Welcome.

10

11 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
12 This is Cory Graham, I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the
13 Office of Subsistence Management.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning.

16

17 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
18 This is Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator
19 with the Office of Subsistence Management. Glad to be
20 here and it's wonderful to hear all your voices.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good to hear you, too,
23 good morning, Robbin.

24

25 MR. FOLEY: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
26 Members of the Council. This is Kevin Foley, Fisheries
27 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management in
28 Anchorage.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Welcome.

31

32 REPORTER: Could I have you repeat your
33 name, you were really muffled.

34

35 MR. FOLEY: Kevin Foley.

36

37 REPORTER: Thank you.

38

39 MR. FOLEY: Thank you.

40

41 MR. PLANK: Good morning. This is Tom
42 Plank.

43

44 MS. KLEIN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
45 This is.....

46

47 MR. PLANK: I'm a Wildlife Biologist.

48

49 MS. KLEIN: Hi. I was just going to

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1 introduce myself, too. This is Jill Klein, the
2 Regional Subsistence Coordinator with U.S. Fish and
3 Wildlife Service. Good morning.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Jill.

6

7 MR. MCDEVITT: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
8 Council members. This is Chris McDevitt, Subsistence
9 Division, Fish and Game, Fairbanks.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning.

12

13 MR. MASCHMANN: Good morning, Council.
14 This is Gerald Maschmann with the U.S. Fish and
15 Wildlife Service in Fairbanks. Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Gerald.

18

19 MS. LOWERY: Good morning. This is
20 Danielle Lowery, the Fisheries Biologist with ONC.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning. Good
23 morning, Danielle.

24

25 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, good morning. This
26 is Chatherine Moncrieff with the Yukon River Drainage
27 Fisheries Association.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning,
30 Catherine.

31

32 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, good morning. This
33 is Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department of Fish and
34 Game based up here in Fairbanks. I'm the Summer Season
35 Manager.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Deena.

38

39 MS. GLEASON: Good morning. This is
40 Christie Gleason, the Yukon River Fall Season Manager
41 in Fairbanks with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Christie.

44

45 MR. RANSBURY: Good morning. This is
46 Shane Ransbury with the Alaska Department of Fish and
47 Game. I'm the Assistant Area Manager for fall season
48 on the Yukon.

49

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0011

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning.

2

3 MS. DECKER: This is Sam Decker with
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I work with Deena.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning.

7

8 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
9 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Mark.

12

13 MS. JONES: Good morning. This is
14 Paige Jones with Association of Village Council
15 Presidents based in Bethel.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning. Do we
18 have anyone else.

19

20 MR. SHEPARD: Sorry, I didn't introduce
21 myself. When you said the public, I thought other
22 people were going to be on there. This is Stan Shepard
23 calling in from the Mountain Village Tribe, the
24 Asa'carsarmiut Tribe office, and I'm under Natural
25 Resources. Good to be meeting. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Stan. Do
28 we have anyone out there that haven't introduced
29 themselves yet.

30

31 MR. WASKA: Good morning, you're
32 referring to the public?

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'm going through the
35 agency reports. I think when we're ready for our public
36 comments we'll let you know, right now we're just
37 seeing who is all going to be on our meeting this
38 morning, any agencies that still need to introduce
39 themselves.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, then.....

44

45 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
46 members of the Council. I was just going to check, was
47 that a member of the public wanting to introduce
48 themselves this morning.

49

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1 MR. WASKA: Evon Waska, senior, Bethel.
2 Subsistence Hunter and Fisherman. Good morning to all.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Evon.

5
6 MR. OLEK: Yes, good morning. Anthony
7 Olek, Kwethluk Corporation, Quyana.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Can you reintroduce
10 yourself, you were muffled, I didn't hear your name.

11
12 MR. OLEK: Anthony Olek, Kwethluk,
13 Incorporated. Quyana.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Quyana, thank you.

18
19 MR. OLEK: Could you hear me.

20
21 MS. PELTOLA: Good morning, Mr.
22 Chairman. This is Mary Peltola from the Kusko Fish
23 Commission.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Mary.

26
27 MS. PELTOLA: I didn't mean to cut off
28 Anthony Olek.

29
30 MR. OLEK: Okay.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Anyone else out
33 there that needs to introduce themselves.

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think I missed
36 introductions. This is (Indiscernible) for Chevak
37 Native Village, Tribal Administrator.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, welcome. Good
40 morning.

41
42 NICK: Good morning, Nick
43 (Indiscernible) Kwethluk.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning. Anyone
46 else need to introduce themselves at this time. Any
47 agencies or from the public.

48
49 MS. KENNER: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is
50

0013

1 Pippa Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist at OSM.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Pippa.

4

5 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. This is
6 John Andrew at Kwethluk IRA. I was a little late
7 coming to the office.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Welcome aboard, John,
10 good to hear you.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Since we're not hearing
15 any more introductions, at this time I want to welcome
16 each and every one of you to our winter meeting for the
17 YKRAC, Kuskokwim, Regional Advisory Council, today,
18 March 1, 2022. We will go -- I am sure we will hear
19 others that may want to introduce themselves as we move
20 along. At this time I could go ahead and go into Item
21 No. 5, review and adopt the agenda.

22

23 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
24 members of the Council, this is Eva.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
29 the record, Eva Patton, Council Coordinator for the
30 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
31 Council. And we do have quite a few additions to the
32 agenda that were added after the meeting book was
33 mailed out a month or so ago. So I'll walk through
34 those one at a time and also we had some requests or
35 recommendations for supplying presentations to the
36 Council, to fit everybody in at a time that would work
37 best.

38

39 The first note is, as the Council sees,
40 this time of year, for all the Councils, we usually
41 hold election of officers. However, due to the lack of
42 the Secretarial appointments in the past couple years
43 and the delay last year that reduced the sitting
44 Council members down to four, we only recently got all
45 the Secretarial appointments in time for the fall
46 meeting last year and so the Council held election of
47 officers at that time. Since we had very few voting
48 members at the previous winter meeting. So normally
49 the election of officers comes once a year in the
50

0014

1 winter meeting cycle but due to the circumstances with
2 the Secretarial appointments this Council made election
3 of officers at your previous meeting. And Raymond Oney
4 was elected Chair, Myron Naneng was elected Vice Chair
5 and Richard Slats was elected Secretary.

6
7 Then we have a couple additions under
8 old business. The Council had requested to have the
9 Mulchatna Caribou Herd and discussion up front rather
10 than kind of buried down in the agency reports later in
11 the meeting and so we do have our Federal biologist on
12 and ready to present that and my understanding there is
13 a new area biologist on the Bristol Bay side as well
14 from ADF&G that may be able to join us and introduce
15 himself for that discussion. So we'll see about the
16 timing when we get to that. I understand there's some
17 other meetings occurring at ADF&G. But that is under
18 old business.

19
20 And then we have two additional topics
21 added to old business. One is the draft letter that
22 the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
23 Council initiated at your fall meeting to the North
24 Pacific Fisheries Management Council and requesting the
25 other Western Alaska RACs to join in a joint letter, if
26 they were interested to sign on to that. And that
27 draft letter is in your supplemental materials. And
28 the Western Interior Council was the first of the other
29 three RACs to review and vote on that so we wanted to
30 bring that back before the Council for your final vote
31 on that joint letter, too, and update -- there were
32 some edits that the Western Interior RAC had suggested.
33 So we wanted to review that draft letter and have the
34 Council make a vote -- a motion on that to continue to
35 move that forward to the other Regional Advisory
36 Councils.

37
38 And the Council also has your own draft
39 letter which is very similar to that North Pacific
40 Fisheries Management Council letter, but with the
41 addition of halibut. And that would go in as an
42 enclosure to the joint letter.

43
44 And the Council also has a letter
45 initiated at your fall meeting to the Board of Fish,
46 the proposals to Board of Fish are due April 11th and
47 so we had this meeting opportunity to add anything to
48 that. And that was the Council's request, to have
49 management consider the effects of subsistence on the
50

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1 Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers for the Area M fishery and a
2 request for genetic testing.

3

4

5 So those are three draft letters that
6 the Council can finalize at this meeting and there will
7 be numerous fisheries reports coming up at the tail end
8 too so if there's additional details that the Council
9 wanted to add, they'll have that opportunity.

9

10 So we'll take up the first review of
11 those letters under old business.

12

13

14 And then the third item under old
15 business is to address updating and appointing a RAC
16 representative, a YKDelta RAC representative to the
17 Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group. So as you
18 know Robert Aloysius had served in that capacity for
19 many, many years and just retired from the Council. We
20 do have John Andrew who is still one of the long time
21 serving YKDelta RAC members appointed to represent the
22 RAC at the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group
23 meetings but we only have him officially in that
24 position right now so we would want to add an alternate
25 if John weren't able to attend the meeting, and fill
26 that role. So did want to take up that old business to
27 update those RAC representatives to the North Pacific
28 -- or the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group
29 since we've had some recent retirements.

29

30 So we have those two additions to old
31 business, the review of the draft letters and the
32 appointment of a Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working
33 Group alternate.

34

35

36 And then under new business and we
37 added it at J, at the bottom of new business, there was
38 recently a fisheries special action request for the
39 Yukon River submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board
40 and this is an opportunity for all the Regional
41 Advisory Councils, this is coming before all the
42 affected RACs to make a recommendation on that
43 fisheries special action request, requesting Federal
44 management on the Yukon River. And we had a
45 recommendation, if the Council wishes to have that as a
46 time certain, tomorrow morning, and receive the 2022
47 Yukon River preseason management discussion and report
48 prior to taking action on that special action request,
49 just to have the latest information about anticipated
50 chinook and chum runs and management strategies. But

50

0016

1 that was a recommendation. We've added the special
2 action request and time certain tomorrow morning if
3 that works for the Council to present the preseason
4 management discussion and then -- with the in-season
5 managers and then Pippa Kenner would be presenting the
6 fisheries special action request.

7

8 We have a time certain request, the
9 Council had requested a seabird report. Two years ago
10 you received a report on the status of the seabird die-
11 offs in the region and Rob Kaler is available from the
12 Migratory Bird Management Program to provide a report.
13 He's only available at the end of the day on Wednesday,
14 tomorrow. So that was a time certain request, if the
15 Council wanted to get that report. And he said he
16 could be available until 9:00 p.m., so if it works for
17 the Council to add his report at the end of the day
18 before recess then he would be happy to provide that
19 report for the Council.

20

21 And then the Council had also requested
22 numerous Bering Sea ecosystem juvenile salmon and
23 Bering Sea salmon bycatch reports and so we do have
24 four NOAA reports. And the first of which -- so if
25 you'll look down at the bottom of agency reports, there
26 is G, North Pacific Management Council, and we will
27 have Dr. Diana Stram online to provide an overview of
28 the Bering Sea bycatch. We also have a Bering Sea
29 ecosystem report from Dr. Elizabeth Sidon and a
30 juvenile salmon research report from Dr. Jim Murphy.
31 And there is also a -- the North Pacific Fisheries
32 Management Council has a local and traditional
33 knowledge task force and Kate Haapala will be providing
34 an overview of that task force.

35

36 So, Mr. Chair, and members of the
37 Council, apologies, there's a lot of additions and some
38 time certain requests. Those NOAA requests, too, we
39 were anticipating that we would get to those on the
40 third day of the meeting, on Thursday, March 3rd and so
41 we did have a time certain for those reports as well to
42 begin in the morning after public and tribal comments
43 so that they would all be able to provide their reports
44 back to back since the information flow kind of leads
45 into each of their reports.

46

47 And, thank you, Mr. Chair, and members
48 of the Council. If there's any questions on the agenda
49 or any further additions.

50

0017

1 MR. ALEXIE: This is Wasilly. Mr.
2 Chairman, can I be excused, I got a plane coming in and
3 I'll call back when I get all done.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Is this Wasilly?
6

7 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, you could be
10 excused, come right back, thank you.

11
12 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. I'll call back in
13 when I'm done.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.
16 Council, you've heard all the agenda and also the
17 additions to the agenda, is there any questions or
18 comments to the agenda.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing, none, is there
23 a motion on the floor to adopt the agenda with the
24 additions.

25
26 MS. ROGERS: I so move, Mr. Chair.
27 Alissa Rogers.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. For the record,
30 Alissa Rogers moves to accept the agenda with
31 additions, do I hear a second.

32
33 MR. ANDREW: Second by John Andrew.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John Andrew seconds the
36 motion to -- all of those in favor of adopting the
37 agenda with the additions say aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, say no.

42
43 (No opposing votes)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
46 carries. So we do have an agenda in front of us with
47 additions. I'm sure Alissa will -- I mean I'm sorry,
48 Eva will guide us as we move along on our agenda. So
49 I'm writing down where I need to add those additions.
50

0018

1 So at this time we'll go down to No. 6, election of
2 officers. So I'll turn this over to Eva.

3

4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
5 members of the Council. And, again, normally all of
6 the -- each of the 10 Councils holds election of
7 officers once a year in the winter meeting and due to
8 the delay in Secretarial appointments this Council held
9 election of officers at your fall meeting once we had a
10 fully appointed Council. Raymond Oney was elected
11 Chair. Myron Naneng, Sr., was elected Vice Chair. And
12 Richard Slats was elected Secretary. And so we would
13 then resume normal cycle of election of officers moving
14 forward now that we have a full membership Council
15 again.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. For
20 the elections of the officers I believe I'll go ahead
21 and turn that over to you, if there's any nominations
22 for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Actually, the Council held election of officers at your
26 fall meeting since we just had the Council memberships
27 appointed at that time. So normally it would happen
28 this time of year but the Council already held election
29 of officers at your fall meeting for this cycle.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. So we don't have
32 to go through Item No. 6. If not then we'll go ahead
33 and move on to No. 7, review and approve previous
34 meeting minutes.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
37 members of the Council. And you'll find your previous
38 meeting minutes under Tab 3 of your meeting book
39 binder. You can take a look if there's any edits or
40 spelling corrections, additions need.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Is there any comments
45 or corrections to the meeting minutes of October 6 to
46 8, 2021.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0019

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, is there
2 a motion on the.....

3
4 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman, this is
5 Phillip.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Mr. Phillip, go ahead.

8
9 MR. PETER: I'd like to move to accept
10 the meeting minutes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
13 on the floor by Mr. Phillip, Akiachak to accept the
14 meeting minutes of October 6 through 8, 2021, do I hear
15 a second.

16
17 MR. ANDREW: Second by John Andrew.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by John Andrew.
20 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: All opposed, say no.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
29 carries to accept the meeting minutes of October 6
30 through 8, 2021.

31
32 Okay, No. 8, reports. We have -- we
33 could go ahead and maybe start from the top of our
34 Council member list and do Council member reports. At
35 this time I'll call on John Henry Parks from
36 Nunapitchuk.

37
38 MR. PARKS: Quyana, Mr. Chair. Members
39 of the Council. Good morning to everybody out there.
40 My name is Henry Parks. I'll quickly introduce myself.
41 Henry Parks. I'm from the Native Village of
42 Nunapitchuk and I'm a life long subsistence hunter,
43 fisher, trapper and gatherer and I've been here all my
44 life in the village of Nunapitchuk and currently I am
45 unemployed at this time. I'm currently on the Board of
46 Directors for our village corporation and I've been
47 there for over 20-plus years and I'm serving as Lower
48 Kuskokwim Advisory Committee representing Nunapitchuk.

49
50

0020

1 And from our last previous meeting
2 through teleconference we had somewhat of a wet fall
3 season this year and the water level was really high in
4 my area so we did not catch much whitefish this year
5 due to the weather. The weather was a factor here and
6 it was wet, windy all the time. So our fish racks were
7 empty. We had no whitefish. But later on when it
8 freezed up we -- I set my ice under ice, net, down just
9 below my house and some of the residents around here
10 did the same thing, set their under ice nets. We were
11 catching a lot of pikes which were good, lush, and a
12 little bit of whitefish. And then when the trail got
13 safe, thick enough for me to travel out to set my
14 traps, I went out to set my blackfish traps including
15 my beaver traps and otter traps, which was good.
16 Caught a few beavers but a lot of blackfish and still
17 right now I'm catching blackfish.

18
19 So other than that our hunting --
20 subsistence hunting issues right now, to my knowledge,
21 we are doing okay and right now some of the hunters go
22 out to get moose, which is good. And we all know that
23 we are, you know, kind of affected by this pandemic,
24 Covid-19, Covid-18, or 19, whatever this is -- Covid-
25 19.

26
27 But anyways I like to add to my report
28 to make it as a comment, we all know that last year we
29 suffered especially Yukon area, Yukon River fishermen
30 that were not fishing at all due to this closure that
31 we had even -- even down at Kuskokwim. We were given
32 an opportunity to fish but the chum run was so low lat
33 year so we all know that we are all affected, compacted
34 by those comm -- bycatch trawlers, fishermens down in
35 Bering Sea. Those are -- we have to do something about
36 those bycatchers down there. And also I want to add,
37 is, that Area M, down in False Pass area, that's the
38 migrate -- that's the main route for our fish to Okay.
39 -- that are coming up to our river systems up here,
40 including up north. So these are the issues that we
41 have to somewhat try and figure out how to, you know,
42 give them restrictions down there because they're
43 making big money out of those fish while we're
44 suffering for our subsistence food because salmon's our
45 No. 1 -- they're our No. 1 food source up here for all
46 the Natives. So if we don't, you know, act on these
47 issues then we're going to be facing some declining of
48 more fish later on down the line.

49
50

0021

1 I'm going to make an example of the
2 moose population. Back then it was so low. So what
3 happened was we had that five year moratorium and after
4 that five years the moose population did increase. So
5 some way, some how, I really don't know how they fish
6 down there, those pollock fishermen, do they fish --
7 when do they start fishing -- these are all the
8 questions, you know, that comes to my mind. When do
9 they fish. How long do they fish. Even those False
10 Pass fishermen down there in Area M.

11
12 So those are my really big concerns.

13
14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted)

16
17 MR. PARKS: But I know that we will be
18 talking about those because they will be on our agenda.

19
20 Okay, that's all, Mr. Chair.

21
22 Quyana.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,
25 Henry, for those -- we'll make note of all your
26 comments. Thank you.

27
28 Next on line is Norma Evan, Marshall.

29
30 MS. EVAN: Thank you, Ray, Council and
31 everyone else. My name is Norma Evan. I'm in the
32 Native Village of Marshall Tribe. I'm very excited to
33 work with you all as members here.

34
35 This fall under the ice setnet fishing
36 was very slow in starting. Pike were plentiful. One
37 household reported a growth on a whitefish. And
38 usually we start catching whitefish from now until the
39 ice breaks up.

40
41 Our stores have been empty almost over
42 a month but I do not see anyone mass moose hunting. I
43 think families were well prepared with moose this fall
44 again.

45
46 We had no salmon. We had to sacrifice
47 fishing for escapement for the future of our salmon.

48
49 That's all, I guess, and thank you for

50

0022

1 having me.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Norma, for
4 your report.

5

6 Next online we have John Andrew from
7 Kwethluk.

8

9 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Yeah, I could echo what Henry Parks reported. First of
11 all my name is John Andrew. I'm a lifetime hunter and
12 fisherman and I still do go out.

13

14 Last fall, actually last summer, salmon
15 fishing was both good and bad. I mean the good part
16 was that we had a lot of red salmon and a pretty good
17 run of small jacks, and the chinook -- last few years
18 the chums have been practically non-existent. I think
19 my total catch for the summer was for seven, and maybe
20 three or four more later on, as incidental whitefish
21 catches. Last summer we had a couple -- during the
22 rainy season, dry our fish and people have already
23 started to run out of dried fish and I'm sharing mine
24 with a majority of my relatives and sending some out to
25 Anchorage, Chevak and Scammon Bay. And my other
26 friends are doing the same thing, sharing with their
27 relatives that are living elsewhere.

28

29 And now during the first part of moose
30 hunting season was really slow, people were hardly
31 catching any because the weather was too warm.

32

33 And right now I hear from people that
34 pike fishing is good right now.

35

36 Ptarmigan are starting to show up.

37

38 And the one thing that we noticed here
39 was there's hardly any rabbits around our area. We
40 don't hear of Arctic hare anywhere now. Wolves are
41 pretty common every now and then people talk and say,
42 or talk about wolves and the tundra or towards the
43 hills.

44

45 (In Yup'ik)

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, John,

50

0023

1 for your report. Next online we have Thomas Alstrom
2 from Alakanuk.

3

4 MR. ALSTROM: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
5 This is Thomas Alstrom from Alakanuk. I'm a
6 subsistence user, fisherman. Good morning everyone.

7

8 This winter it was a rather cold
9 winter, cold, late fall. The whole month of November
10 was cold with no snow. The majority of December was
11 cold, in the negatives. And then January, we did have
12 like a couple weeks of good snow out here because I go
13 out and I pack snow and melt snow for drinking water
14 because it's a lot more -- the taste of water is much
15 more cleaner and tastes way more better, to melt the
16 snow rather than drinking the faucet water. So we did
17 have a couple -- a couple weeks in January of good snow
18 but just this past, in February, we had a warm spell.
19 So a cold fall, not much snow, but I think spring came
20 rather early this year. A lot of snow melt, rivers
21 back to ice again. This last couple of days it kind of
22 cooled off and all the melted water around here froze
23 and now it got a lot of ice, the roads are being back
24 to being slippery. Most of the late fall the roads
25 were slippery. Then January it kind of warmed up a
26 little and we got some snow and then just this past
27 February it -- everything melted and it looked like
28 spring was here but then just these past couple days it
29 cooled off again so everything's back to ice.

30

31 There's still a lot of moose over here
32 in Alakanuk. All winter long I've been having a cow
33 and a calf, you know, bed right behind my house. There
34 was one aggressive bull came over and was attacking the
35 dog and so I kind of had to shoo it away and the -- the
36 moose ended up looking -- the young bull, it ended up
37 looking at me and running after me and so I had to run
38 into the house. It ran behind the house here and it
39 charged the cow and the cow kind of chased after it and
40 then it also had a calf behind so it's always -- before
41 we go out in the morning we usually have to peak -- you
42 know, peak around the corner of the house and make sure
43 there's no moose bedded around close by that would, you
44 know, maybe get startled and get up and attack us. So
45 still a lot of moose up here in Alakanuk.

46

47 I did do a -- I did check -- we do have
48 a little 3.5 inch mesh ice under -- under ice fish net
49 below the house here on the river in Alakanuk, and I

50

0024

1 checked it yesterday and I usually check at least --
2 try to check at least once a week and yesterday I just
3 checked it and I caught four (In Yup'ik), and small (In
4 Yup'ik), some people call them (In Yup'ik), but then no
5 (In Yup'ik) once -- once in awhile throughout the
6 winter I've been catching pike every once -- every once
7 in awhile we get a pike. We did get a sheefish, I
8 believe in January, we got a small sheefish in January.
9 But fish hasn't been -- we haven't been catching as
10 much as we used to, you know, five years ago we were
11 catching -- sometimes I'd pull up around 20, average,
12 around 20 little (In Yup'ik) mixed in with (In Yup'ik)
13 but now last year was really, really bad. Over a week,
14 when we checked the net we'd hardly ever catch any,
15 one, or no fish but then this year seems to be a little
16 better than last year. We've been averaging about four
17 fish in the little 3.5 inch (In Yup'ik) net down here
18 in the Alakanuk Slough.

19

20 So let's see, kind of touch on Henry
21 Parks' question there when the pollock fishery goes on.
22 I was a former pollock fishery fisherman back in
23 2006/2007 and the A season goes from January, February,
24 March and April, that's a four month season. And
25 that's usually the roe season. So during the January,
26 February, March and April they collect the roe and like
27 I said and gut the pollock and they package the roe,
28 the eggs inside of the pollock. And then there's
29 another season towards the fall and winter, I think,
30 it's another four or five month season, April, May,
31 June -- I believe it starts in June or July, August,
32 September, October, November. I think it kind of ends
33 before December. But that season, it -- they really go
34 directly after the pollock and not the roe during the B
35 season, the fall and winter season there's no roe in
36 the pollock. So kind of filling in his little question
37 there. So when it all comes together it's like an
38 eight/nine month -- nine months out of the year that
39 they're fishing out there, pollock. So as of right now
40 there should be a bunch of boats northeast of St. Paul
41 Island, St. George, a big fleet of -- when the night
42 comes -- rolls around it can look like a village out
43 there, a fairly nice sized village with all these
44 orange lights, a lot of pollock boats out there
45 fishing.

46

47 So -- but other than that, haven't --
48 haven't been doing any real hunting due to the cold
49 winter here in Alakanuk. I was just thinking about

50

0025

1 going out and putting out a blackfish trap because
2 people have been starting to go (In Yup'ik) now. We
3 did -- I did get a report last night that they're
4 starting to catch (In Yup'ik) for sheefish and they had
5 caught one right outside of NunamIqua there and
6 somebody reported that they caught one around TinCan,
7 which is a little farther up from NunamIqua. And then
8 someone -- a lady also reported that they -- they had
9 -- she had just caught a sheefish right out here at the
10 mouth of -- right outside the mouth of the Alakanuk
11 here. I believe it was a couple days ago she had caught
12 a sheefish. So sheefish are starting to come into the
13 river. More and more people are starting to go out (In
14 Yup'ik). Some people go up to Kwethluk, which is kind
15 of below Mountain Village on the south side, on the
16 tundra, and back inside of there they get a lot of --
17 they catch a lot of pike. So individuals have been
18 going out in groups and doing (In Yup'ik) for pikes
19 further up inside of the creeks there.

20

21 And other than that, let's see, I think
22 that pretty much wraps it up. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Thomas.
25 Thank you for your report. Next online we have
26 Jacqueline Cleveland from Quinhagak.

27

28 MS. CLEVELAND: Good morning. Quyana,
29 Chair. So I'm Jacqueline Cleveland, I'm a new member
30 and I'd say welcome to everyone. I introduced myself
31 last time but I'll just say quickly that I grew up in
32 Quinhagak as a subsistence hunter, fisher, gatherer
33 most of my life and have my background in
34 photography/videography, but I'm back here in
35 Quinhagak. I'm currently working as a Refuge
36 Information Technician for the Togiak National Wildlife
37 Refuge.

38

39 But I wanted to just get into fish
40 since everyone seems to be starting with fish business.
41 So in 2021 we had an okay season, we still met our
42 goals for subsistence, although the king numbers seemed
43 lower and smaller in size. The chums were almost none
44 but we had plenty of reds. And the escapement count
45 was -- we met our chinook count at 4,115 and that's at
46 the lower end of our goal, though, and then the sockeye
47 was 53,690 which, of course, met the goal. We don't
48 have a count for fish on -- for chum on the river.

49

50

0026

1 And then for commercial fishing this
2 year in District 4, there was 2, -- about 2,500
3 chinook, 78,000 sockeye, 13,000 coho and 5,000-ish
4 chums. There's 74 permitholders.

5
6 So we continue to face climate change
7 issues, mostly with erosion along the river. Some fish
8 camps have loss their access, including myself to our
9 fish camp because of the -- some roads completely
10 eroding into the river.

11
12 And then our tribal council meets on
13 the 10th of this month to come up with fishery proposal
14 ideas for the future Board of Fish deadline of April
15 11th. And some of the concerns I know, we came up with
16 was multiple nets out in the bay for subsistence and
17 not having accurate counts of any of our escapements or
18 research monitoring of our salmon out in the bay.

19
20 And there's some concerns of
21 sportfishing besides the huge number of boats that
22 contribute to the erosion to the river from their
23 wakes, I know there's concerns of contamination as
24 well, you know, like we would like I guess leave no
25 trace to be more, I guess, enforced in that sportfish
26 area because camps -- some camps are leaving everything
27 behind for the winter, including, you know, old
28 refrigerators, freezers and batteries, which raises
29 concerns for the river and the quality for drinking.

30
31 Our pike population continues to grow
32 and there is a concern that it's taking over our Native
33 species, trout and char. So people are reporting that
34 they're seeing less trout and char and more pike and
35 I've brought this concern up before but I'm told that
36 it's not so -- I guess you have to get rid of about 75
37 percent of the population somehow for it to make a
38 difference and we haven't come up with a solution yet.

39
40 And then quickly about I'll touch base
41 on moose. So this winter we were given a winter moose
42 hunting opportunity from December 1 to 15th but more
43 than half of that opportunity we faced storms and bad
44 weather and no longer access to trails to get to the
45 mountains and hunt. So I think only about three people
46 who benefitted from that harvest. And the same was
47 said about the fall hunting season and I reported on
48 that last time. The same exact, half the season was
49 such bad weather that not many fulfilled their tags.

50

0027

1 And overall between the two hunts fall and winter
2 there's only been about 10 harvested moose reported.
3 We did ask for one for March 1 to 15 but we haven't
4 heard back yet and we're assuming were not given the
5 opportunity. As we all know, the male, or the bull
6 moose don't have antlers have right now and we're only
7 allowed to harvest bulls and right now they would be
8 hard to differentiate between, bulls and cows without
9 their antlers.

10

11 236 moose were surveyed in November, 10
12 harvest fulfilled.

13

14 But fortunately, although we had poor
15 moose hunts and we don't have a Mulchatna caribou quota
16 anymore, there has been other food source out there
17 with our rabbits, ptarmigan and some trout.

18

19 And I'll keep that short, thanks.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 MS. CLEVELAND: Oh, sorry, that was it.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 REPORTER: Ray, or Eva, are you there.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Yes, Quyana, Jackie. Ray,
30 are you online with us?

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I'm still online.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr.

35

35 Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Are
38 you done with your report Jacqueline.

39

40 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes, I'm done, thank
41 you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Thank
44 you, very much for your report. Next on the line we
45 have James Landlord from Mountain Village.

46

47 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, good morning. This
48 is James Landlord from Mountain Village. I'm on the
49 tribal council for a few years. I've been serving on

50

0028

1 the RAC subsistence, I think this is my second
2 appointed term and my term expires next year.

3

4 As soon as the Yukon River froze people
5 were setting nets right in front of Mountain Village.
6 As soon as it was thick enough right in front of
7 Mountain -- right below Mountain -- above Mountain on
8 up, I set my net about five miles up on the river a
9 place called the landing, there was no other nets
10 around me, I was the only one that had set a net there.
11 At first I set only one net, under ice net, the next
12 day when I checked it I caught three whitefish. They
13 call them -- they were humpback, hump, they had a big
14 hump on their back, they're the first whitefish I've
15 eaten in a long time. I caught three of them so we ate
16 one and I gave the other two to my two aunties.

17

18 Then a few days later I set another
19 net, a longer net and checked it again the next day and
20 I had three nets all together I caught a lot of
21 sheefish, maybe 20, 25 altogether. I caught maybe
22 around 10 or 12 cohos, silvers, they were all black, or
23 (In Yup'ik). I caught maybe around five lush.
24 Sheefish were king size -- one of them was king sized
25 salmon, big fish, and also maybe pikes, I don't
26 remember how many pikes, but there were less than 10
27 but one pike was the size of a king salmon also.

28

29 It was getting cold and I think I set
30 my net about two weeks, three weeks, the ice was
31 getting thick and it was getting colder so I took my
32 nets out.

33

34 But I was surprised because I caught a
35 lot of sheefish, and even cohos -- gee I never caught
36 cohos this much and they were black, big teeth (In
37 Yup'ik).

38

39 We had kind of a cold winter like
40 Thomas and Henry said. Constant wind from the north,
41 especially the month of -- in February 24 hours a day,
42 just non-stop, just make me feel panicky, (In Yup'ik),
43 just continued cold wind from the north.

44

45 We had a lot of snow. A couple times
46 my son and I shoveled our yard -- I mean our road.
47 Also a couple times the city cleared our road with
48 their -- with their front-loader. The last one was our
49 tribe with their machine too, snowblower. So Quyana

50

0029

1 for them. But after that as soon they cleared our road
2 the weather dropped down, rain and rain, maybe three
3 days of continuous rain, just melt -- just melt the
4 snow and now our roads were just glassy ice. A lot of
5 snow melted, we could even see grasses, pieces of road
6 on the road.

7

8 My son took a ride up north,
9 Clearwater, we have a river called Clearwater, with his
10 friend -- couple friends and they took a ride and said
11 there's some moose up there, a bunch of moose. They
12 caught ptarmigan. He hasn't been able to take a lot of
13 ride, especially across the river, usually go out
14 almost every other day but this year he's been working
15 so.

16

17 I didn't hear too much under ice with
18 fish reports for Mountain, but my brother had one right
19 in front of his house. He said he caught (In Yup'ik),
20 quite a few sheefish also. As soon as the ice froze,
21 there was open water right across Mountain where people
22 are usually, really cold days, they go across the river
23 to set their blackfish traps or whatever, but not this
24 year, there was big open water, never froze for a long
25 time. But right below they had did a detour, they went
26 over a sandbar and there wasn't much snow, I think they
27 went by fourwheelers.

28

29 Like Jackie said in her area, erosion
30 in the river, also in Mountain Village, right in
31 Mountain Village this last fall when we had south wind
32 and southwest wind, right below Mountain that bank it's
33 just eroding. It looks really different compared to
34 when I was growing up. Right below Mountain, they used
35 to call it (In Yup'ik), (In Yup'ik) they called it Big
36 Eddy. A lot of people used to set their net there --
37 nets, all summer long, even in wintertime but it's just
38 changed and there's hardly any (In Yup'ik) just a
39 little tiny (In Yup'ik). Even though we have rocky
40 beach, I guess it erodes too, gradually, it gets swept
41 away. There's hardly any (In Yup'ik) there.

42

43 That's all I have for right now.

44

45 Quyana.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Thank you,
48 James, for your report. Next online I have Alissa
49 Nadine Rogers from Bethel.

50

0030

1 MS. ROGERS: Good morning. Quyana,
2 Ray. Good to hear everyone and particularly you. I am
3 Alissa Nadine Rogers. I am the daughter of Alan Joseph
4 and MariqaHanson. I'm the granddaughter of
5 (Indiscernible) Joseph of Hooper Bay and Alice and John
6 Hanson of Alakanuk. I've lived out here my whole life
7 minus the time I was away at school and exploring the
8 subsistence economy, natural resources, laws and
9 regulations that applied to all five regions of Alaska
10 before I came home.

11
12 I'm working towards a Masters in
13 Environmental engineering with a bachelor of science in
14 natural resources, biology, fisheries, science and
15 business administration.

16
17 I've been subsistencing all my life all
18 over Alaska. I also am a commercial fisherman. And I
19 do wildlife watching, take people on tours, introducing
20 them to our land, teaching them how to understand our
21 way of life and also I have history in fisheries study
22 along with (indiscernible) regulatory advocate and
23 protecting the subsistence way of life.

24
25 I am now 33 years old. I have been a
26 part of these meetings as far as I can remember. I
27 gave my first testimony to this RAC when we were
28 talking about -- they were talking about a moose
29 moratorium when I was nine years old. I have dedicated
30 my life to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta region's well-
31 being, health, subsistence, historical way of life and
32 defending our rights of our core Yup'ik values, guiding
33 subsistence principles and following in the footsteps
34 in my grandparents who dedicated their lives to defend
35 our ways so my children can continue to live off the
36 land and participate in our millennia way of life.

37
38 This past November, during the fall,
39 whitefish were super fat out here on the Kuskokwim,
40 which makes really good for baking and (In Yup'ik), I
41 prefer to eat them raw but my kids like them baked.

42
43 I got a few calls from the Lower Yukon
44 villages when fish were coming in that there was a
45 couple of fish that they had gotten and didn't know
46 what was going on with (In Yup'ik). They said that
47 their guts were looking like they were dissolved or
48 mesh -- mesh-like. Some people sent me pictures and
49 the livers looked like they had rice. You know when
50

0031

1 some of the birds that we catch they look like they
2 have rice in the breasts, that was the same thing that
3 liver in the fish looked like, they looked like they
4 had rice, little -- a bunch of little tiny rice in the
5 livers of the fish which was really weird.

6
7 Pike fishing this year on the
8 Kuskokwim, there were lots and lots, easy to catch, you
9 didn't even have to put anything on your hook. There
10 was lots of medium size pike this year, last year they
11 were smaller, this year they're a lot bigger.
12 Difference -- there's a really big difference when you
13 can tell when the tide's going to change. Because when
14 the tide's -- when the tide's out, the pike are more
15 darker color and then when tide's changing and coming
16 in, there's -- the pike are more brown. Like they have
17 a really brown look to them, which I found out. There
18 was also reports of lots of pike on the Kuskokwim this
19 year being disfigured. They had disfigured tails,
20 disfigured fins, disfigured mouths, they didn't look
21 well or healthy and some of them had flesh rots -- or
22 rotting flesh when they were being pulled in.

23
24 Lush fish this year on the Kuskokwim,
25 lots and lots of lush fish this past winter. They were
26 really, really big. And then they start to taper off
27 when it gets really cold out here. Not very many
28 people were out fishing for lush after it got cold.
29 And fishing didn't seem to pick up on the lush fish
30 when it started to warm up again.

31
32 Ptarmigans. We didn't go out very much
33 as we used to this year for ptarmigans. My snowmachine
34 was having issues with -- somehow it was getting water
35 in the oil and I didn't want my snowmachine to ruin so
36 we didn't take it out until we had someone that was
37 able to look at it and the other snowmachine didn't
38 arrive yet, they said it was still in Anchorage. So
39 hopefully it gets here. We want to go out to the Yukon
40 this year to go get our moose. Oh, yeah, ptarmigan.
41 When we went out we caught -- we caught towards the
42 tail end of the migration this year. We only seen
43 about two really nice big flocks when we went out. We
44 only caught enough to make dinner and make dry meat.
45 My kids love dry meat, it's something they look forward
46 to every winter.

47
48 Going back to moose. We didn't get to
49 go this year as our snowmachine issues. But I do have
50

0032

1 moose in my backyard that's been living there year-
2 round which is pretty nice because I never grew up with
3 moose in my backyard but I did pray for it when I was
4 younger, when the moose populations were pretty -- were
5 down. But the moose population between the islands and
6 the upper end of the Johnson River on the Yukon side,
7 I'm being told that there isn't as many moose up there
8 as there used to be. People are having to go further
9 towards the Yukon River. Down river past Mountain
10 Village area, or all the way up to the GASH villages in
11 order to catch their moose.

12

13 Rabbits this year. We haven't seen
14 very many, only around Bethel, which I call the Bethel
15 rabbit residents. There's not much out here this year.
16 We haven't caught any this year. We still see signs of
17 jackrabbits out at the bluff but I haven't seen any
18 this year. Last year we saw quite a bit but this year
19 we didn't see any. We did see a weasel kill a rabbit
20 though, little bugger.

21

22 The wolves. There seemed to be more
23 plentiful this year. Catching a lot more wolves
24 earlier in the hunting season. I've been hearing lots
25 of stories all the way from the Yukon down to the
26 Dillingham area that there's more wolves this year. A
27 lot more black ones than white, silvers this year,
28 which usually blacks are rare and they're looking
29 healthy and they're really big, which means they're
30 food source is really plentiful.

31

32 There's more wolverines around here
33 too. A lot more up in the range. There seems to be a
34 lot more towards the upper ends of the Yukon River
35 towards Canada, too. IT seems like they went through a
36 spike, maybe they're on a cycle, top end of their cycle
37 as well.

38

39 Mink are really plentiful out here,
40 especially on the outskirts near the bluffs. There's
41 quite a bit of families of mink out here.

42

43 More foxes have moved closer to the
44 Bethel area. It's probably because we had that rabbit
45 boom cycle a few years back and there's a lot more
46 foxes here than we had before.

47

48 I have a brown bear behind my house.
49 It's been living between our house and the bluffs.

50

0033

1 It's got a den out in the bluffs. It hasn't wrecked
2 havoc on our area yet, our homes, but it's definitely
3 making itself known.

4
5 So caribou, many folks that harvest
6 caribou in the past year, or rely on caribou because it
7 used to be plentiful and it was a part of our daily
8 diet have expressed the hardships of not being able to
9 go get caribou. Many families from the local villages
10 that don't have access to make those long trips to the
11 Yukon were unable to hunt moose. I'm still encouraging
12 tribes to work together to come up with a shipping
13 method for moose to be sent to other villages, the
14 Lower Yukon villages. For one thing it will help bring
15 the population down on the Yukon and the second part,
16 it gives another food source to other villages who are
17 unable to make the long trip. I know it's been pretty
18 hard with stores being empty, not being able to put
19 fish away this year, and with smaller game not being
20 plentiful, and the cycles, since we're in a low cycle
21 this year it's been pretty tough on some families who
22 have to rely on free food handouts, CARES Act handout
23 and I know there's been a bunch of people that's been
24 calling because they had no way -- they had no way of
25 getting food and are requesting that food be sent out.
26 And it's even hard to get food sent out from Bethel
27 because the airlines aren't taking cargo. They've been
28 backed up on mail and other more priority mail that
29 needs to go out to the villages so sometimes food sits
30 out here out at the airport like two weeks before it's
31 being sent out. And it's pretty tough, I got to tell
32 you, it's been pretty tough for our families out here.

33
34 For muskox. Tags were being
35 distributed out in the villages, which makes it harder
36 for folks who are outsiders to go to those villages
37 because the villages closed down due to Covid and if
38 you don't follow or have any of the guidelines then you
39 can't go get a muskox tag. So even that's out of the
40 picture. But after talking to Fish and Game, it looks
41 like they might be able to get some.....

42
43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted)

45
46 MS. ROGERS:muskox tags here
47 pretty soon, at least in the next couple years to come.

48
49 We have a herd behind Bethel that's
50

0034

1 growing in population. There was at least 20 more that
2 were counted in that herd that we usually see back
3 there. So that herd's starting to grow pretty nicely
4 and steadily. I don't know if we'll ever be able to
5 hunt them but they're nice to see when we run into
6 them.

7

8

I think that might be all.

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But I do want to let you guys know, we're still advocating against Donlin Gold. They are a huge threat to our subsistence way of life and our well-being of being out here. They're still not following through with their mitigation plans to clean up after themselves. And the more we're finding about the chemicals that they're planning on, it scares me even more, because those chemicals are -- they don't break down. They're there and the longer they're there, the more our children are going to be unhealthy. The inability to harvest our own subsistence right now and ability that we have to go hunting and fishing right now, that's not going to happen when Donlin Gold moves in. It's going to get harder, we're going to be more restricted and on top of that the health of our people is going to go down. There's no way -- I'm not going to sugar-coat it, Donlin Gold stuff should not happen. And if we are truly serious about protecting our salmon and our way of life and the ability to go hunting and fishing as needed for our food, we can't allow something this tragic to happen to our region. We rely way too much on our resources to have the ability to have stores like Carrs or Fred Meyers, in every single village. We get poor, while those people in those other countries and people in the Lower 48 get rich. I don't see how that's a winning situation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa, for your report. Next online I have Phillip Peter, Sr., from Akiachak.

MR. PETER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and the rest of the Board. My name's Phillip K. Peter, Sr., and my report will be short.

Me and my (In Yup'ik) don't go out to the wilderness because our age. We used to be traveling summer, fall and all those seasons when we

0035

1 were young, young men, strong men.

2

3

4 We had important meeting, yesterday,
5 Unit 4, Tuluksak, Akiak, Kwethluk, we had a Unit 4
6 meeting yesterday concerning those special action
7 requests. And we turn it over to Federalized
8 Kuskokwim, from the mouth all the way up to Aniak.
9 When we had that big meeting in Fairbanks we set --
10 setnetting and drifting for chinooks. And when we
11 discussed, we make a motion to accept that special
12 action request to Federalize the Kuskokwim.

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And other issue -- issue we discussed in -- when setnetting is open those Fish and Wildlife are patrolling from Napakiak all the way to Tuluksak, that's what we've been discussing. And some of the setnetters are guarding their net, they came over and harassed them and sometimes they -- when that person is catching, the chinook, it -- the fish -- those Troopers, the Fish and Wildlife Troopers came over and checked the net and they release -- released chinooks, it's not right. It's not right. When the Department of Fish and Wildlife opens the whole system for setnetting there's no restrictions, subsistence has -- subsistence has no restrictions. Once it's open it's open. When it's closed, it's closed. We follow those regulations and laws. And we got really upset because from the -- above Johnson, which is Napiakak all the way to -- above -- few miles above Tuluksak, below Napakiak they use pole stretch 50 fathom, six inches net and also up river from few miles above Tuluksak, those up river people they use 6 inch full net, 50 fathoms, on the middle, from Tuluksak all the way down to Napakiak, we use the middle river, use 25 fathoms and when we make it longer, like 30 fathoms or 35 fathoms, those patrolmans -- Department of Fish and Wildlife patrolmans came over and they confiscated their nets right away.

I hate to say this word, I really hate this word, we all know, discriminatory, we've been discriminated since when we start closing for chinook fishing. The middle river. Us, middle river. We had a lot of discussions concerning that one. And we make recommendations to Department of Fish and Wildlife Services to use from the mouth all the way up to Aniak, full net, six inch, full net so that it will be even for us from the mouth all the way to Aniak. And on the report on Department yesterday, she mentioned last year

0036

1 2022 [sic] the chinook escapements were over 120-plus
2 thousand and we only catch for consumption use, us
3 fishermen in Kuskokwim, 28,000-plus.

4
5 And that's my report.

6
7 Other report is going to be a short
8 report, what we did in November 16, 2021 meeting, we
9 meet in Bethel, in-person, Lower Kuskokwim Advisory
10 Committee, I am in the Chairman position. And I make a
11 short talking points what we did in November 16, 2021
12 in-person meeting.

13
14 Proposal No. 20. Short descriptions of
15 proposals, establish caribou subsistence hunting season
16 bag limit for Mulchatna Caribou Herd and how -- how the
17 AC voted on the proposal below Kuskokwim, they voted 7-
18 0 in favor proposal with amendment to create working
19 group and possible moratorium to be discussed.

20
21 And the other one is what the main
22 discussion points were Tier II is not supported.

23
24 And moose moratorium was successful in
25 Kuskokwim area, moratorium for caribou would be
26 supported.

27
28 The other one is really important for
29 us. Us, the Board, to help our tribes, our people, who
30 voted us to work with them. And sometimes it's hard
31 for Troopers to enforce poaching laws and outreach in
32 communities for tribal members and elders and
33 Department Staff. They -- those young people, from my
34 area, my unit, those young people, Akiak, Tuluksak,
35 Kuskokwim, and Kwethluk, whenever -- like myself, and
36 my (In Yup'ik), whenever we're thinking something to
37 eat, we get them, we come home and eat it, not
38 poaching. I don't want to -- I don't want to label,
39 from the Federal government and State government as a
40 poacher. We're not poachers. Like our elders,
41 whenever they were thinking about something to eat,
42 they go get it and bring it back and eat it. I really
43 -- I'm sorry, I'm really upset. And after that
44 meeting, those two villages from Kwethluk and Akiak,
45 good thing those patrolman Troopers didn't confiscate
46 their catch, I'm really glad that they didn't --
47 they're for consumption, not wasting, they're for
48 consumption. After that I never heard any complaints
49 from Unit 4, after that.

50

0037

1 And we need to fix these laws. We need
2 to fix these laws, not only caribou, all the land
3 animals and also on the river. I don't know how --
4 expensive nets been confiscated since chinook
5 restrictions and we cannot afford to get it and pay for
6 it and return it home, even the guns.

7
8 Several members mentioned the need for
9 education about conservation of the caribou. And the
10 other one, organizing the working group to decide how
11 this herd should be managed. Amended, not support,
12 Tier II, but support moratorium and would like to see a
13 working group formed.

14
15 That is all my report, Mr. Chairman.
16 Thank you, very much for listening to me. I hope --
17 we're not perfect yet on these important issues,
18 especially the regulations. Like I said, subsistence
19 has no law. Subsistence has no law. Only the
20 commercial fish -- commercial fishing has the law and
21 regulations. That's how I know. So if we work
22 together in one mind, we are powerful, not divided.
23 Only one mind and one law, like our elders, we're a
24 powerful people. We need to start doing it in action,
25 not talk. Not talking. Just action. No fear.
26 Nothing. Because our people are afraid. We let them
27 afraid and fear because we don't do our job. We need
28 to start doing our job and help our people so that some
29 day we'll be perfect people and abide by our own law.
30 Because we're suffering now. We're suffering.
31 Kuskokwim and Yukon people are suffering because we
32 don't do nothing but talk. We need to start doing
33 ourselves. We know our land. We know our rivers. We
34 know the Bering Sea. We all travel.

35
36 So I encourage you to work together
37 using one mind and group up as a clan.

38
39 Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Peter.
42 Your points are well taken. Thank you. Next online we
43 have Wasilly B. Alexie from Russian Mission.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Wasilly, are you back
48 online with us.

49
50

0038

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Last I heard he was going to go check on a plane and I don't know if he came back online yet. We could go on down to the next person, the next person I have online is Robert Hoffman from Bethel.

8

9 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, can you hear me,
10 sir.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, you're nice and
13 loud.

14

15 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. First of all
16 I'd like to appreciate that one individual, Peter
17 Phillip, I really appreciated his comments. What he
18 said was true. I love to say things that are truthful.

19

20 Okay, to begin my comments, the first
21 like I'd like to comment is on the moose moratorium.
22 I'm a lifetime hunter and fisherman and commercial
23 fisherman as long as it lasted. And I'm very, very
24 familiar with our subsistence needs here in the region.
25 I represent ONC, Orutsararmiut Native Council. I
26 represent the Bethel Native Cooperation. And most of
27 all I represent AVCP, the Association of Village
28 Council Presidents. I was elected to try to assist the
29 hurts and the harm of our people. And it may -- it may
30 -- if it appears like I am affecting the people that
31 are listening, the important people, the regulators,
32 I'm sorry. But like Peter I enjoy telling the truth.

33

34 Okay. The first -- the first issue on
35 moose. Since we had a moratorium we are abundant with
36 moose. Thank the people who accomplished that mission.
37 When I was a young little boy we had no moose, very
38 little, one or two moose in our area. We had to travel
39 way up river all the way past Stony River, over 200
40 miles just to get a moose. Since the moratorium, we go
41 right up to our fish camps and get a moose. I'm
42 pleased about the accomplishment of the moose
43 moratorium.

44

45 And the most important thing we have
46 now is fishing. Long ago we had abundant fish. We had
47 a lot of fish and everybody was happy. We were so
48 happy we even started commercial fishing. And I could
49 say I am one of the 14, first assigned commercial
50

0039

1 fishermen in Bethel. I was the youngest one given a
2 license to commercial fish. And I know all about
3 commercial fishing until it lasted.

4
5 First time this year we have -- we're
6 starting to see low counts of king salmon, chinook and
7 chum salmon that we subsist on for the winter months
8 for food, dry fish and frozen fish. And this year we
9 are told that because of the low counts that we're
10 having this year -- last year, this year, that is why
11 we're being regulated so strongly and the regulators
12 and the scientist people that are listening right now,
13 we know that -- I know that they are employees, there's
14 a difference between people who are employed and the
15 subsistence people who don't have jobs that depend on
16 subsistence. One of the reasons why we believe we're
17 told that our low fishing numbers are low is because of
18 global warming. They tell us the waters are warming
19 and that is one of the reasons why we don't have no
20 king salmon and chum salmon. But I have to say I don't
21 believe that. Because first time in our history we had
22 abundant of red salmon. When I was young we only used
23 to catch one or two a year. Then last year we had
24 abundance of red salmon. So I don't believe that
25 global warming has too much effect on our chums and our
26 king salmon because of the warm waters. If the warm
27 waters were affecting them the red salmon would not be
28 here either but they were abundant. Thank god they
29 were abundant. And we exchanged our kings and chums
30 with red salmon and we were happy.

31
32 I believe the big problems that we have
33 is we have no authority and no say so within the High
34 Seas fishing, the High Seas commercial fishing and the
35 High Seas trawling. All we hear of is what we call
36 bycatch. Bycatch. And we're told in order for them to
37 continue, High Seas fishing, High Seas trawling is
38 we're going to limit the bycatch. I have yet to hear --
39 I have yet to hear what happens when they reach their
40 limit, the High Seas trawling and fishing. I have yet
41 to hear that. What do they do, do they stop fishing.
42 Nobody wants to tell me. And I know there's important
43 people listening on this teleconference today.

44
45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47
48 MR. HOFFMAN: If I seem a little loud
49 or whatever, I'm sorry, that's the way I speak. No
50

0040

1 offense. So I'd like to -- I'd really like to find
2 other reasons than global warming because I don't
3 really believe in global warming because the red salmon
4 would not have come either if that were true.

5

6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8

9 MR. HOFFMAN: They're starting to go
10 up, the fish, the salmon are starting to go up not egg
11 laying normal.....

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15

16 MR. HOFFMAN:they're starting to
17 go in our Kwethluk, Johnson River, where we never heard
18 them go before.

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22

23 MR. HOFFMAN: I don't know who's
24 talking but I hope they're not -- we hear about -- we
25 hear about low rabbits this year, the reason I
26 believe.....

27

28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30

31 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm sorry, but I think I
32 got the floor. We hear about the low rabbit count this
33 year. One of the reasons why we have a low rabbit
34 count this year is that fur buying has collapsed, the
35 fur animals that we used to catch have collapsed. The
36 predators are going after the rabbits and the wolves
37 are going after -- helping us go after the moose and
38 caribou.

39

40 (Teleconference interference -
41 participants not muted)

42

43 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm really -- I heard a
44 little bit about Donlin Gold and the worry that the
45 chemicals will take care of the rest of our fish that
46 come up the river. Now my question is if we are hit
47 from the south, the High Seas, fishing and commercial
48 fishing and the trawling and then we are hit from
49 Donlin Gold on the upper end, I really, really feel

50

0041

1 sorry if you think of it, you miracly -- the middle
2 people, where we -- the Kuskokwim and the Yukon reside,
3 we're going to be in a great big hurt.

4
5 You know I know there's -- like I said
6 I know there's important people listening on the phone,
7 the regulators, Fish and Wildlife and whomever, them
8 people that are employed to try to solve the problems
9 and help our people. Our people have a problem with
10 employment and all that, and it got worse since Covid,
11 so I hope, you know, we get some real answers rather
12 than global warming problems and all that. I don't
13 believe in that very much.

14
15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participants not muted)

17
18 MR. HOFFMAN: Just the people that got
19 jobs are coming up with important things like that, I
20 don't think them are the real reasons. I enjoy was
21 Peter Philip was talking about, about being regulated,
22 being -- if we don't help our people, the people that
23 work to help -- are employed to help us, we -- will
24 create what is called poaching. And if we continue to
25 be related with these poor excuses, yes, there will be
26 regulated, we will be called poachers.

27
28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30
31 MR. HOFFMAN: You know I'm an old man
32 now and all my life I hear about proposals. What we,
33 the Committee is formed here to help our people, we
34 make proposals to try to help our people and yet we
35 don't have very impact on those bering of all these
36 proposals that we regulate. I don't know who we're
37 supposed to go to to get real help, whether it be
38 Congress or the President of the United States, or
39 whomever, but the only ones that are benefiting out of
40 this whole process are the people that are employed to
41 do their job and the majority of them, I know, are not
42 subsistence users like we.

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46
47 MR. HOFFMAN: No offense on you
48 employed people that are trying to help us but if you
49 could do a better job and find out where we can have
50

0042

1 some.....

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MR. HOFFMAN:so whether it be
7 with Congress or whether it be with the President,
8 because as we well know we are controlled by the State
9 of Alaska. But the State of Alaska does not condone
10 tribes yet. And that's what I hear and understand.
11 And all we get is every time we get in trouble the
12 State people take over. Well, no offense to you guys,
13 important people out there, that's' my opinion.

14

15 Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Robert, for
18 your report. Your points are also well taken. Next
19 online, I don't know if Wasilly Alexie is online yet.
20 Are you online, Wasilly.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa Rogers.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

27

28 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
29 I may inject here, for those of you who are on
30 teleconference, please star, six to mute your phones or
31 press the mute buttons on your phones. There's some
32 background noise that's going on and it's making it
33 hard to hear the speakers or people who currently have
34 the floor. If you could please mute your phones, I'd
35 greatly appreciate it. We do have folks on here that
36 are a little hard of hearing, myself included. All
37 right, thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 REPORTER: Thank you, Alissa.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Star, six to mute your
42 phone. please, please look at your phone again to see
43 if you are on mute, press star, six to mute if you're
44 not talking. Thank you.

45

46 Go ahead, Tina.

47

48 REPORTER: I was just thanking Alissa,
49 and I'll thank you, too, Ray. Yeah, so everybody

50

0043

1 please check your phone, either hit star, six to mute
2 or use the mute button. There's a couple of other
3 conversations going on at the same time as the speaker
4 so if we could just all mute, we could hear these
5 reports. Okay, go ahead, Ray.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Tina.
8 Is Wasilly Alexie with us, did you tune back in.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Wasilly Alexie from
13 Russian Mission.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hopefully he'll come
18 back on. If not, I'll go ahead and give my report.

19
20 Again, my name is Raymond Oney. I was
21 born and raised in Marshall, living here in Alakanuk
22 with my beautiful wife, going to be 45 years this
23 coming winter, this fall, and have been a resident ever
24 since.

25
26 Again, thank you all for your reports,
27 very, very good reports about being aware of your
28 surroundings and continuing to talk with people in your
29 area. This is how we get to know how, you know, how
30 we're doing as far as meeting our needs for people so
31 continue to advocate for your people. Talk to people.
32 Every time you see them, talk to them and let them know
33 how their subsistence way of life is doing. As we
34 heard, you know, we still got a lot of work to do. Our
35 work is never done. Our work is never done when we
36 come to issues relating to subsistence.

37
38 Pretty much everything what Thomas
39 Alstrom had mentioned, I'll echo him too on his report,
40 that I'll be giving.

41
42 This fall, as you heard, was a cold
43 winter, cold freeze-up, had a lot of rain, a lot of
44 storms. We had a lot of unusual, very high winds. We
45 just had one a few days ago where it went up to almost
46 40 miles an hour wind and it made me wonder if my house
47 was going to survive the night. But those are things
48 that we're beginning to see. Very high winds, a lot of
49 storms, changing from 10 below to 20 above, those are
50

0044

1 unusual weather patterns that we are experiencing. And
2 I'm sure that affects our subsistence way of life. I'm
3 sure it affects the migration and also the -- you know,
4 how animals reproduce themselves. I'm sure it's going
5 to have an affect on them in the long run. And that's
6 why we need to be vigilant. We need to be aware of
7 these things that are going on and report it within
8 these meetings and also to other agencies that advocate
9 on our behalf, to let them know and I'm very happy that
10 you guys are doing that, to be aware of your
11 surroundings and to report it as needed. So continue
12 to do that. Continue to talk to people. Talk to, you
13 know, elders, talk to the youth, you know, about our
14 way of life and to continue that because we still need
15 al to of work to do on our way of life and it sounds
16 like there's still a lot of things that are going on
17 that we need to hear about from agencies as far as
18 confiscation and stuff like that. I'm sure those
19 questions will come up as the agencies give their
20 report.

21

22 So I'll make mine short.

23

24 And like I said thank you all for being
25 observant and report when needed. So continue to
26 advocate on behalf of your people.

27

28 So at this time I thank you all for
29 your report and that concludes my report, too.

30

31 I don't know if Wasilly's still offline
32 but hopefully we could hear from him when he does come
33 online. So that concludes our Council member reports
34 for now and then next is the Chairman's report, if
35 there is anything that I need to report at this time.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No
38 additional Chair's report beyond what you would like to
39 share with the Council from your work in subsistence in
40 your community. There have not been any Board meetings
41 in between the last meeting. The Federal Subsistence
42 Board will meet in March -- sorry, actually that's for
43 another region, we have a special action -- the Board
44 will meet for the wildlife regulatory cycle in April
45 12th through 15th and RAC Chairs will be participating
46 in that meeting at that time.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair. If there's other
49 reports that you would like to provide for the Council

50

0045

1 on your behalf that would be great, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Yeah,
4 I did listen in on the Western Interior RAC meeting
5 when they discussed the draft letter that we submitted
6 and I believe they did -- made some comments relating
7 to that letter so hopefully we will be able to hear it
8 in this meeting.

9

10 I think that's all I have for the
11 Chairman's report. Thank you. Thank you, everyone.
12 right now it is almost 11:30 we could go ahead and take
13 public and tribal comment on non-agenda items at this
14 time and we'll go ahead and open the floor for that.
15 Is there anyone from the public that wants to comment
16 on non-agenda items at this time.

17

18 MR. WASKA: Evon Waska.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Evon Waska, you're
21 recognized.

22

23 MR. WASKA: Yeah, good morning to all.
24 It warms my heart to hear my people on the Board on the
25 comments that I was about to make, they're already
26 making those comments.

27

28 (In Yup'ik)

29

30 But anyway before I begin, are we
31 individually speaking, no, in our hearts we carry our
32 people, from the elders to the babies. Stomachs. They
33 all got stomachs like everybody else. Almost lunchtime
34 and, yeah, getting hungry.

35

36 We're in Alaska. We think we're going
37 to go run to the microwave and put something in the
38 microwave or run to your Fred Meyers or Dennys or
39 McDonalds, if you're new to Alaska, no. That's where
40 subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering comes in.

41

42 Before I speak, war in Ukraine,
43 pandemic's still going on, inflation. Bethel (In
44 Yup'ik) that's the Yup'ik name for it. When mentioned
45 high cost of living out here, 10 bucks a gallon of
46 milk, maybe four packs of New York Steaks over 100
47 bucks. Beef, pot roast, 100 bucks. Stick of butter 10
48 bucks. Bethel being the hub of six villages, they got
49 a barge and fly them in, that triples the price. Why I
50

0046

1 say that, me and my people are going to turn to
2 subsistence.

3
4 Like I said, before I begin, Quyana,
5 Mr. Bob Aloysius, for your service to our people.
6 Those of you that are sitting on the Board, those that
7 have testimonies and comments. And like I said, from
8 generation to generation, mom and dad's nomadic ways,
9 all over rural Alaska ended, they settled down, all
10 over rural Alaska to be near the rivers, why, because
11 of salmon species, king salmon, chums, reds, silvers,
12 why, and that's why all of our people have fish camps,
13 why, to make smoked dried fish, salmon in our freezers,
14 we have freezers now, it sustains us all through the
15 long winter months. Like I said all the way from our
16 elders to our babies, we don't think of ourselves, it's
17 like a whole family unit, we are a sharing people. If
18 you're new to my land and my waters, that's the way it
19 is with me and my people.

20
21 Subsistence. Like Mr. Philip Peter
22 says, discrimination, yeah, that's heavy on my mind.
23 With heavy heart I speak of the Yukon River people that
24 didn't get a chance to fish, from the coast all the way
25 up to the headwaters. When we bring up discrimination,
26 are they violating our own Elizabeth Peratrovich and
27 the discrimination law of 1945, already Federal Fish
28 and Game, and State Fish and Game, your policies and
29 rules, they have rules on subsistence, why are they not
30 being implemented. Why are not they being followed.
31 Like Mr. Peter said, subsistence is top priority over
32 commercial fishing. Testimony and comments in January,
33 and I'm angry and disappointed was that the Federal
34 Fish and Game stating bycatch one percent, liar. Why I
35 say that, on National Geographic, TV, there's a segment
36 with fish pirates, fish pirates all over the world, the
37 High Seas trawlers, they're getting everything in the
38 ocean and the seas, they're killing everything. They
39 only keep money fish and throw the rest away. 500,000
40 chums dumped along with king salmon and halibut. This
41 summer I only got two chums. I waited for them, they
42 didn't come. I noticed our silver salmon, they're
43 depleting. What's Fish and Game, Federal and State
44 waiting for, for total depletion and then act real --
45 hi, I'm going to make the first proposal, we'll stop
46 that High Seas trawler and the High Seas commercial
47 fishing. We need to have allocated fish escapement in
48 Area M, False Pass, for all Western Alaska.

49
50

0047

1 That's where discrimination -- that's
2 why like Mr. Phillip Peter said, I feel discriminated
3 against. You're violating that anti-discrimination law
4 of 1945 and in your rule -- your rules and your
5 pamphlets, your policies, that's wrong for that to be
6 happening.

7

8 Money. Area M fisheries, I seen them.
9 False Pass. (Indiscernible) fathom nets, over a
10 thousand feet. We need to have allocated fish
11 escapement, period. I propose that.

12

13 And how I hope like Mr. Phillip Peter
14 stated, harassment.

15

16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted - on hold)

18

19 MR. WASKA: Discrimination. Harassment
20 by State Troopers. Federal officials. When we're
21 trying to put food on our table, there's totally
22 something wrong with that.

23

24 And like I said before, we need -- you
25 guys have that obligation, State Fish and Game and
26 Federal to help us people, it's already written in
27 black and white, and I hope we got opportunity to put
28 our nets in this summer again and get our food source,
29 for food in our stomach. What's going to -- what are
30 we going to eat when it's depleted. It's already
31 happening. Interception. Bycatch. We already know
32 what's happening. You State Fish and Game and
33 Legislators and everybody needs to help us. Just like
34 Bobby said, those top officials up there, we're first,
35 subsistence should be first, not commercial fishing.

36

37 But what I say in closing, Quyana for
38 letting me speak, and I hope -- like I said,
39 subsistence is high priority due to inflation, high
40 cost of living, so I hope they let Yukon River people
41 fish this year on our rivers. Am I going to beg, yes,
42 please, we need to stop bycatch and interception, Area
43 M and False Pass. We need to have fish escapement
44 bound for the Western rivers in rural Alaska.

45

46 Quyana (In Yup'ik) and Quyana for
47 letting me speak, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Waska.

50

0048

1 Always good to hear from you. Any other tribal
2 comments that want to speak on non-agenda items at this
3 point.

4

5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted - on hold)

7

8 MS. EVAN: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is
9 Norma, may I add a comment.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Norma, go ahead.

12

13 MS. EVANS: I finally got a message
14 from one of the setnetters. Sheefish are starting to
15 show up. Last week he got six in his setnet in front
16 of town and the other days he got three.

17

18 I forgot to add also we had a young
19 moose that ran through town last Friday. Other
20 community members said they think there are more wolves
21 chasing the moose around. I did also not see much
22 rabbit tracks yet. I think Mr. Hoffman's observations
23 are right, there are more predators. I know trapping,
24 locally, dropped about 40 percent.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Norma. At
29 this time I'll ask if there's any tribes that want to
30 comment on non-agenda items, at this time.

31

32 MR. WASKA: Mr. Chair, I have one more
33 thing, may I.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Mr. Waska, go ahead.

36

37 MR. WASKA: Yeah, referring to Mrs.
38 Rogers on the Donlin Gold Mine. Presently I have an
39 ice net and catching whitefish, not only us -- under
40 the ice, those of you that are new to Alaska, we have
41 nets under the ice right now, we're catching whitefish.
42 My people are going after pike. Why. There's fish and
43 wildlife out there, Donlin Gold Mine ain't open yet,
44 totally opposed to that, why, they're going to have a
45 big lake and they're going to fill it up with mine
46 poison and tailings, no drainages to that lake.
47 Presently we have heavy winds, rain, heavy snow and
48 rain, we've been gathering rain water most of my life,
49 if we don't empty them they're going to overflow, same
50

0049

1 concept on that Donlin Gold Mine that they're
2 proposing, I'm glad litigation's going on. I hope the
3 Federal and State Fish and Game joins us, even the Feds
4 already gave them the go ahead and gave them papers
5 anyway but I'm totally opposed to that. Why, it's
6 going to overflow. Not only that, it's going to break,
7 all that mine poison and everything is going to be
8 dumped in the Kuskokwim River, our food source is going
9 to go.

10

11 Qu yana, Mr. Chairman, for letting me
12 add to my comment.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

15

16 MR. SAMSON: Mr. Chairman, Pat Samson,
17 am I able to say something.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pat Samson, go ahead.

20

21 MR. SAMSON: Okay, thank you. I just
22 wanted to say real quick that there is a Bill for -- in
23 the Alaska Legislature to require boaters to have
24 trained certified for boat safety and that they have to
25 carry a card when they're operating a boat that's 10
26 horse or more and they have to be at least 15 years
27 old, I think. That part I'm not too sure. But the
28 Bill required boating safety cards and boating safety
29 to all urban and rural areas before you operate, now.
30 Like the RealID, we have a lot of problems out in the
31 villages trying to get that ID going, and now this Bill
32 -- I'm sorry -- it's Senate Bill 148. It's currently
33 there and it's been referred to finance. But the
34 problems with like trying to get like voter
35 registration and the RealID and now if this Bill passes
36 through then they would require the boaters to have a
37 little card saying they passed this boating safety
38 thing and that they have a card to operate and that's
39 going to create a lot of problems, especially for the
40 rural areas coming in to places like Bethel to do their
41 shopping for lumber, food, groceries and whatever else
42 that they need.

43

44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46

47 MR. SAMSON: So I wanted to say we
48 should be -- that we should something about that.
49 Anyway, thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman.

50

0050

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Pat, for
2 that comment. I think we need to make a note of it and
3 hopefully we'll hear more about it. Thank you for that
4 comment. Is there anyone else from the tribe that
5 wants to comment on non-agenda items at this time.

6
7 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, James
8 Landlord.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

11
12 MR. LANDLORD: Thank you. I read a
13 report, it was also when I went to a watershed meeting
14 that Doyon is -- has land that extends out to Flat.
15 Flat used to be a gold mine years ago, they would like
16 to check if there's any gold left. It's a long range
17 plan, Flat is right around, I think, McGrath, Flat
18 would affect the Yukon River if they decided to see if
19 there's any gold left in the gold mine from way back
20 then.

21
22 I just wanted to say that.

23
24 Doi.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, James. Last
27 time, if there's any tribe that wants to comment on
28 non-agenda at this time.

29
30 (Teleconference interference -
31 participants not muted)

32
33 KWETHLUK - NICK: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, go ahead.

36
37 KWETHLUK - NICK: from Kwethluk.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

40
41 KWETHLUK - NICK: I have a concern
42 about the.....

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46
47 KWETHLUK - NICK: I have a concern
48 about the -- I know last year we had, in a fishing, the
49 up river people and the down river people had -- when
50

0051

1 they fish they have a full net and they would fish but
2 the middle portion of the river here, Bethel, Kwethluk,
3 Akiak, Akiachak, Tuluksak, you know, we're using half
4 nets and that's my concern about, you know, we were
5 getting citations because of using half nets, some of
6 the fishermen, you know, they don't know how long a
7 half a net is or they go over and they get citations.
8 And that's what, you know, it affects all of it being
9 fair about the up river people having a full net, using
10 full nets and down river from -- down river from
11 Napakiak, I guess, using a full net. And I think that
12 it would be fair if we would be using a full net also
13 in our -- when we fish in the summer and that's my
14 concern.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. I'm sure you
19 could address that when the proper people come online
20 when they give their agency report. At this time, last
21 time I'm going to ask if there's any other tribal that
22 want to comment on non-agenda items at this time.

23

24 MR. SHEPARD: Mr. Chair, this is
25 Stan.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead,

28

29 MR. SHEPARD: This is Stan Shepard, am
30 I allowed to speak I'm just Natural Resources
31 Coordinator for the tribal council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Mr. Shepard you have
34 the floor.

35

36 MR. SHEPARD: Thank you, very much, Mr.
37 Chair. A lot of these issues brought up when giving
38 the reports from the Council and they hit real hard.
39 Back in 1986 a majority of these problems when I was on
40 the Council we weren't discuss -- weren't even talk
41 about, back in 1986 it was -- the big issues was
42 subsistence moose hunting and there was hardly any
43 moose down here.

44

45 I like that the thought, the lady over
46 in Kuskokwim, originally from Alakanuk. The moose
47 moratorium over there, it's brought up the moose after
48 looking at the Yukon back in the '90s, early '90s when
49 the Lower Yukon Native Association submitted a proposal

50

0052

1 to have a five year moose moratorium and that was
2 passed. But a lot of people were angry at it. But
3 look at them now, they're happy, they're now gearing
4 toward these sportshunters coming in out of state, out
5 of the area, non-local and their big issue is wanton
6 waste. I've seen it myself above my fish camp, a whole
7 moose without ahead, maybe a front leg or a back leg is
8 off. But a whole moose is wasted all for that -- all
9 for that prize of the antlers, size of the antlers,
10 head hunters. And there's been a lot of discussion
11 about sporthunters for moose, harassing the Natives
12 about moose hunting. If later on in the next couple
13 days, if the Board could come up with some kind of
14 proposal or recommendation to the State and the Federal
15 for the game, if -- if, you know, the amount of moose
16 that's down here, Mountain Village down to the coast,
17 over toward Mountains, up towards Hooper and Scammon,
18 Chevak, if they can come up with some kind of
19 resolution to at least help the Kuskokwim that are in
20 dire need for subsistence moose, meat. I'm sure that
21 working together with the tribe, Mountain Village,
22 Kotlik, Emmo, Alakanuk, Nunam, Scammon and Hooper, that
23 we could certainly harvest moose and send the whole
24 moose out, we have the -- we have facilities where they
25 have the St.Mary's hub and probably the Emmo hub have
26 the capacity in their freezers, commercial freezers to
27 keep that meat frozen until they get to their final
28 destination over in the Kuskokwim. That would help,
29 you know.

30
31 And us being going on our third year of
32 no subsistence for salmon, it's starting to look like
33 moratorium with unknown closed dates, opening dates
34 while the High Seas fisheries out there is taking
35 bycatch over our subsistence harvest. Our subsistence
36 harvest is maybe .005 compared to the bycatch in the
37 High Seas and that's not right. That's not right.
38 They're wasting more salmon than we get subsistence.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Shepard.
43 Is there anyone else from the tribe that wants to
44 comment on non-agenda items at this time.

45
46 MR. NICOLAI: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Identify yourself.

49
50

0053

1 MR. NICOLAI: This is Martin Nicolai
2 from Kwethluk for Kwethluk, Incorporated.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

5
6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8
9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Can you hear me.

10
11 MR. NICOLAI: Am I allowed to speak.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, go ahead, you got
14 the floor.

15
16 MR. NICOLAI: Yeah, Evon Waska,
17 earlier, pointed out that last year over 500,000 chum
18 salmon were caught as bycatch and here we hardly caught
19 any chum salmon during last summer fishing openings.
20 And they were, once upon a time, even recently they
21 were the most abundant of all the same that -- to come
22 up the Kuskokwim. And then we find out that this year
23 there is no bycatch cap on the number of chum salmon
24 out in the High Seas. That means they could catch
25 another 100,000, 200,000, 300,000, 400,000, 500,000
26 chum salmon again this year that.....

27
28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted - static)

30
31 MR. NICOLAI: I would like to see a
32 statement from this Advisory Board that's going to the
33 proper authorities that we would like to see a cap on
34 chum salmon set because if they don't they're just
35 going to continue this destruction of our salmon until
36 they're all gone. I don't want to be the one to say to
37 my grandchildren or the ones that haven't been born, if
38 we live that long enough, in 10 years, I don't want to
39 say, we used to have chum salmon but we don't anymore
40 and we have to explain.

41
42 So if this Board can come up with a
43 statement towards the North Pacific Fisheries
44 Management Council and other agencies to establish a
45 bycatch cap for chum salmon along with the king salmon
46 and halibut, that would be a step in the right
47 direction.

48
49 Thank you, very much.

50

0054

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you for those
2 comments. Is there anyone else from the tribe that
3 would like to address the Council on non-agenda items
4 at this time.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
11 Council members. Eva Patton. Was just going to check
12 in with the Council, if there are no further public or
13 tribal comments on non-agenda items at this time, we
14 did have our caribou biologist available online. They
15 had other meetings this afternoon. Was wondering if
16 the Council would like to take up the next subject on
17 your agenda under old business, the discussion of.....

18
19 MR. SAMSON: Did we get cut off.

20
21 REPORTER: This is Tina, the reporter,
22 we are still on, Eva may have dropped but Ray.....

23
24 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa, Eva got --
25 I'm sorry go ahead.

26
27 REPORTER: Okay. Ray, are you there.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 REPORTER: Hum. Okay, go ahead, Pippa.

32
33 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Tina. I was
34 just going to say that I just got a text message from
35 Eva that she got dropped. It sounds like maybe a
36 couple of other people may have got dropped too.

37
38 (Pause)

39
40 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
41 Council members, this is Eva. I got reconnected
42 online. Apologies. Do we still have our Chair
43 and Council members online.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I just came
46 online. I got dropped just when you were going to move
47 on to the next item. If there is no other comments we
48 could go ahead and take on the old business, Mulchatna
49 Caribou Herd update.

50

0055

1 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, may I
2 interject.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa Rogers.

7
8 MS. KENNER: Hi, Alissa, this is Pippa.
9 I'm getting messages again that some people were
10 dropped.

11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted - echo)

14
15 REPORTER: Okay, Pippa, could you mute
16 your line so I can see if that's you.

17
18 MS. KENNER: My line was muted, thank
19 you.

20
21 REPORTER: Okay, thank you. I had a
22 big overfeed when you came on. Okay, Alissa, do you
23 want to just hold a second until Ray comes back?

24
25 MS. ROGERS: Yes, that sounds good,
26 thanks, Tina.

27
28 REPORTER: Okay.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hi, I got a dropped
33 call again. I believe we are under old business. Next
34 item is Mulchatna Caribou Herd update and discussion.

35
36 REPORTER: Ray. Alissa had a question.
37 Alissa had a question right when you dropped off a
38 second ago.

39
40 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, go ahead, Alissa.

43
44 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
45 greatly appreciate it. I was just going to suggest
46 that we wait for a couple minutes and have Eva do a
47 roll call since a lot of us had get dropped off the
48 line, I wanted to make sure we still had quorum.

49
50

0056

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Eva,
4 can you do a roll call again.

5

6 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, James
7 Landlord.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James. Go ahead,
10 James.

11

12 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, are we going to
13 break for lunch?

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I believe we're going
16 to hear the Mulchatna Caribou Herd update because the
17 person that's going to be presenting that has a meeting
18 this afternoon so if we have a quorum now we could go
19 ahead and take up that item because they had some other
20 duties to do.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
23 Council members. I got dropped again. I was just able
24 to reconnect. We were getting up to the Mulchatna
25 Caribou Herd update and discussion and we have both our
26 Federal managers with Yukon Delta and Togiak National
27 Wildlife Refuge biologists online and we also have
28 ADF&G area biologists online as well for that
29 discussion.

30

31 And I'm wondering maybe if we should
32 just do a quick check and make sure we got our Council
33 members online as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, Eva, go ahead,
36 Alissa recommended a roll call again just to see if we
37 had enough on this teleconference.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
40 members of the Council. Do we have Henry Parks online.

41

42 MR. PARKS: Yeah, I'm here Eva.

43

44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Henry.

45

46 Norma Evan.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0057

1 MS. PATTON: You might need to take
2 yourself off mute, Norma, if you're on. Star, six to
3 unmute.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MS. PATTON: Okay, we just got a note
8 -- oh, are you back on Norma.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MS. PATTON: We just got a note some
13 others got dropped as well. Hopefully Norma will be
14 able to call back in.

15
16 John Andrew.

17
18 MR. ANDREW: Still here.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Thank you, John.

21
22 Thomas Alstrom.

23
24 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, I'm here.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Jackie Cleveland.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. PATTON: Jackie, are you online
31 with us, you might need to unmute your phone.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MS. PATTON: We'll check back with
36 Jackie.

37
38 James Landlord.

39
40 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, I'm here.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you, James.

43
44 Alissa Nadine Rogers.

45
46 MS. ROGERS: Present.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Alissa.

49
50

0058

1 Phillip Peter, Sr.

2

3 MR. PETER: I'm here.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Phillip.

6

7 Wasilly Alexie, were you able to join

8 us again.

9

10 MR. ALEXIE: I'm here.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you,

13 Wasilly.

14

15 Raymond Oney.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Ray Oney here.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Yes, we have our Chairman.

20

21 Robert Hoffman.

22

23 (Teleconference interference -

24 participants not muted)

25

26 MS. PATTON: Are you still online with
27 us Robert. You might need to unmute your phone, star,
28 six.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair
33 and Council members. We do have quorum. And I got a
34 note, hopefully Norma will be able to call back in and
35 hopefully Robert is able to reconnect as well.

36

37 MS. CLEVELAND: Eva, this is Jackie,
38 I'm back on.

39

40 MS. PATTON: Wonderful.

41

42 MS. EVANS: Mr. Chair. Eva, this is
43 Norma.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Okay. We've got Norma.

46

47 MS. EVANS: I got phone disruption
48 about two minutes ago but I'm back on.

49

50

0059

1 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you
2 everyone, so we have all of our Council members so far
3 and it looks like Robert was trying to reconnect. So
4 thank you everyone for your.....

5
6 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm on now.

7
8 MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful, thank
9 you, Robert. Okay, so we have all 11 of our Council
10 members present again and thank you everyone for your
11 patience and persistence to get back online. And we
12 were going to proceed with the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
13 report and discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. I
16 don't know who's going to be the first to report but
17 after the Mulchatna Caribou Herd discussion is up I
18 will take up Wasilly and then we could go for lunch.
19 So if there's agencies that are going to be presenting
20 please introduce yourself and with agency you're with.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted)

26
27 REPORTER: Okay, before we start with
28 the report.....

29
30 MR. RINALDI: Mr. Chair. This is
31 Todd.....

32
33 REPORTER: Wait a minute, please.
34 Before we start with the report, if everybody could
35 stop, look at your phone, make sure you're on mute. We
36 have a lot of background noise. I know everybody's
37 interested in the report so I'm sure everybody would
38 like to hear the report. So star, six or mute please.

39
40 All right, go ahead.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tina, go
43 ahead.

44
45 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): Thank you,
46 through the Chair. This is Todd Rinaldi. I'm the
47 Regional Management Coordinator for the Central
48 Southwest region, which is Dillingham and King Salmon
49 and the Alaska Peninsula. We are the managers of the
50

0060

1 Mulchatna Caribou Herd out here in Dillingham. And
2 with me this morning, I have new area -- Dillingham
3 Area Biologist John Lancefield who has just arrived
4 last week from an area management position down in
5 Oregon. He's very excited to be here. So I will give
6 him an opportunity to speak in a few moments.

7
8 I guess what I would like from the
9 Council is, what are you looking for in terms of a
10 Mulchatna update. There was no hunting season this
11 past year and there is no ongoing hunting season. From
12 the last time we spoke, I don't think we have any
13 additional information since the last time we spoke, on
14 the population or anything, per se. But we can do is
15 we can provide what we plan on doing in the next year
16 to continue to monitor and understand what's going on
17 with the herd. Are there specific things you'd like to
18 hear addressed on the Mulchatna?

19
20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I believe on the
21 last report that we had was that, I believe Kenton
22 Moos, I think from that area was going to give us an
23 update on what projects that you were going to be doing
24 related to why the Mulchatna Caribou were declining. I
25 believe that was the last I heard relating to the
26 Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

27
28 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): Okay. Well, I
29 can hand this over to John, John can discuss what the
30 Department of Fish and Game is going to be doing as far
31 as monitoring, under surveying and inventory protocols,
32 basically management protocols and as well as what our
33 research division is going to be doing. As you know
34 we've been monitoring the herd for years. We've got a
35 number of research projects that are looking at
36 different elements and aspects of what's going on with
37 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, including diseased
38 screening.

39
40 So anyhow right now, this is John
41 Lancefield (ph), he's the new area biologist, so he'll
42 be the new manager for the Mulchatna Caribou, and he's
43 going to -- after he introduces himself he's going to
44 just give you a rundown of what we plan on doing to
45 monitor the herd and continue to understand what's
46 going on with the herd.

47
48 MR.LANCEFIELD: Hi everybody. This is
49 John Lancefield, excited to be here.

50

0061

1 REPORTER: Okay, hold on, hold on.

2 Excuse me.

3

4 MR. LANCEFIELD: So I'm the new.....

5

6 REPORTER: Excuse me.

7

8 MR. LANCEFIELD:area

9 wildlife.....

10

11 REPORTER: Excuse me, hang on, this is
12 the reporter.

13

14 MR. LANCEFIELD: Yep.

15

16 REPORTER: So you're really muffled and
17 it's really -- I had enough time understanding Todd, I
18 don't know if you guys are on a speaker phone or how
19 you're working that out but you're both coming in super
20 muffled. If you could maybe change how you're doing
21 that it would be appreciated.

22

23 MR. LANCEFIELD: yeah, is this any
24 better.

25

26 REPORTER: A thousand times, thank you.

27

28 MR. LANCEFIELD: Okay, excellent.
29 Okay, so this is John Lancefield, the new Area Wildlife
30 Biologist in Dillingham. Todd gave a brief, I guess,
31 update, but so over the next coming months, I guess
32 we've got 50-ish collars to disperse through the
33 Mulchatna Herd spread across Units 18, 17 and 9. I
34 think Togiak has a handful of collars, and we've got a
35 handful of collars headed out to Unit 18 and Cape
36 Pearce with Patrick and the Refuge Staff, who I think
37 will be primarily doing that. And then we have
38 research personnel in May that will be out here looking
39 at the productivity of the herd and then bumping down
40 to June we'll be doing our pre-flights for the photo
41 census survey which have been going on for many years,
42 if not a few decades at this point. Just trying to
43 understand a more complete picture of the population.
44 And then possibly the end of June, maybe July, once all
45 conditions are met we will proceed with the photo
46 census survey. And then that should give us a metric
47 of how the population is doing as a whole. And then
48 post-photo census survey we'll get up in the air again
49 and then do a herd count survey. And that looks at the
50

0062

1 ratios of sex, so bulls to cows and age class, young of
2 the year calves to cows. And then so into the fall and
3 October there'll be more capture work by our research
4 Staff and, again, conservation surveys.

5

6 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): And that gives
7 us over summer survival.

8

9 MR. LANCEFIELD: And that gives us over
10 summer survival of the calves. So that's kind of the
11 itinerary or the outline for the next few months.

12

13 You know there's been a lot of work put
14 into this herd, something we have great concern over
15 and will continue to monitor into the future.

16

17 If there's any questions I'll be free
18 to try to answer them or pass them along to Todd or --
19 other than that that's all I have as an update out of
20 the Dillingham office, and I appreciate your time.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, John, for
23 your report. Do we have any comments or questions for
24 John at this time from the Council.

25

26 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa Rogers.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa Rogers, go
29 ahead.

30

31 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
32 have a series of questions in regards to caribou but
33 I'll send them your way one at a time.

34

35 So for the first question, Through the
36 Chair, you are our current point of contact in regards
37 to a wildlife biologist in Dillingham, and now are you
38 Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

39

40 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): Yes, through
41 the Chair. This is Todd Rinaldi. So, John, is the
42 area biologist so he's the Wildlife Manager out of
43 Dillingham. He works for the Department of Fish and
44 Game.

45

46 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Through the
47 Chair. Can I go to my next.....

48

49 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): The assistant

50

0063

1 area biologist -- I'm sorry -- the assistant area
2 biologist is scheduled to start work the day after
3 tomorrow in Dillingham. We have increased Staff in
4 Dillingham (indiscernible - muffled) unlike we've had
5 in past years and part of that is due to addressing
6 these emerging conservation concerns. The assistant
7 area biologist was previously stationed in King Salmon
8 and provided support to Dillingham. Now the assistant
9 area biologist will be stationed in Dillingham and
10 provide support to King Salmon. So those positions
11 will be able to focus more closely on Mulchatna and
12 Unit 17 issues.

13
14

Thank you.

15
16

MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Through the
17 Chair. From the current status of where we're sitting
18 right now, what is our current population looking like
19 as of right now with what information we currently do
20 have. Is there anything that you're seeing that's like
21 an outlier or something highlighted in the system since
22 you guys started really looking into the Mulchatna
23 Caribou Herd. And at what point right now do we need
24 to do to interject to help the population on our end,
25 that you need us to do in order for you to do your job.

26
27

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29

MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): Thank you for
30 the question. Let's see the first question was.....

31
32

MR. LANCEFIELD: Population status.

33
34

MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): So, yeah, the
35 population status, the last couple years, two years
36 ago, three years ago we estimated 13,500, the following
37 year we pretty much came in at 13,500 again but there
38 was increased statistical precision there so it was
39 actually a better estimate the second year. And then
40 last year when we completed this, actually the estimate
41 was really -- had a high precision so that's how we
42 test the how good an estimate is, and that estimate
43 came in at 12,850 animals so slightly down from last
44 year and the year before but the precision, like I
45 said, and the accuracy was up so it was a good
46 estimate. We have no additional population information
47 since that summer photo census. And we did the
48 composition assessment at that time, and I believe I
49 shared that information with you previously. We had
50

0064

1 been scheduled to do a fall composition survey in
2 October which is typically when we do that. It gives
3 us an indication of over summer calf survival or the
4 number of calves that we have going into winter. We
5 were unable to get that accomplished this year because
6 of weather.

7

8 One of the thing that we are going to
9 be considering as we move forward is spending more time
10 in March to count the herd to understand over winter
11 survival because we think it's one of the pieces. We
12 have a pretty good understanding of what's happening in
13 the summer, one of the things we don't necessarily know
14 is what's happening in the winter, particularly in the
15 absence of hunting. So that's probably some increased
16 survey and methods that we're probably going to invoke.

17

18 There hasn't really been any smoking
19 guns that have come forward.

20

21 You know as we've discussed in the past
22 the decline of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd is likely due
23 to a variety of factors. One overarching factor being
24 that it was at 200,000 in the '90s and it's
25 subsequently come down pretty hard. There is likely
26 habitat -- there's likely some issues with habitat.
27 There's some issues with predation in some areas. And
28 one of the things, as you know, that we discovered when
29 we started -- we've been handling Mulchatna caribou for
30 decades at this point but the real increase in survey
31 and inventory activities, those are management
32 activities and research activities have increased since
33 2010 since this region became -- or Region 4, our own
34 independent region. One of the things that has shown
35 up that we've discussed is the prevalence of
36 brucellosis, as you guys have heard previously. It's
37 higher in the Mulchatna Herd than in other herds.
38 Brucellosis is often found at very levels in some herds
39 and in some populations but with the Mulchatna it's at
40 a higher level but we're not sure if that level now is
41 post-outbreak, or if it's pre-outbreak, or if it's just
42 a common background level of brucellosis that's spiked
43 in some areas. We have not detected it in any of the
44 moose that we sampled in adjacent areas. I believe
45 there's some Nushagak caribou samples that have been
46 sent off for brucellosis testing. In the occurrence --
47 or anything with brucellosis, it has not seemed to be
48 increased from the few observations that we've had over
49 the years while doing capture stuff.

50

0065

1 So what can folks do.

2

3

4 You know I hear -- you know, we do -- I
5 wanted to mention something -- we do have an
6 InterAgency -- an Mulchatna InterAgency Management
7 Group. It basically has members of the land owners,
8 the land managers and the wildlife managers and that
9 group, as I've mentioned before, was put together to
10 begin discussing the approach and the strategy for
11 this. A lot of it, really, has been the last couple
12 years of getting the information out, working with
13 locals, with communities and in villages and hunters to
14 let them understand that the Mulchatna caribou does not
15 have a harvestable surplus. At this point we believe
16 that every animal needs to be conserved so that it can
17 contribute to the population and help to grow the herd.
18 So essentially what we need from the public is not to
19 harvest Mulchatna caribou until we can get some growth
20 in the herd and we're guessing that when we can see
21 growth in the herd and see a preponderance of bulls to
22 cows in the herd, that we might be able to offer some
23 kind of harvest in a few years, we just don't know when
24 that's going to occur. So that's why we're encouraging
25 everyone to not harvest any of the caribou because
26 every one of those caribou are important right now.

26

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 And I can take any more questions,
thank you.

 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Mr. Chair,
additional questions.

 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

 MS. ROGERS: Thank you for that. I
really greatly appreciate hearing actual numbers and
what's going on with this herd. You mentioned that
there's an InterAgency multi committee that's happening
right now, who's all a part of those meetings and I
thought that it was currently in the works of being
created, like a working group and how do I get on it
because I've been advocating for caribou since 2003
when we started to see the declines happen and there
was som huge factors in the population that was
happening and then we had our king salmon crash and
then there was a huge estimate of people that were
going out and hunting more caribou because they had no
kings to fulfill their needs. So I've been following
this and tracking this for a very, very long and I

0066

1 really want to see this population rebound. I want to
2 be a part of what's going on with those discussions.
3 I'm very passionate about it and I've been tracking
4 what's been happening and putting forth proposals, et
5 cetera, to figure out how to protect this herd.

6
7 I feel that it needs to be equally
8 represented on all units and based on the population
9 and need of the caribou.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): Thank you.
14 Through the Chair. Yeah, so the InterAgency Agency
15 Wildlife -- the Mulchatna InterAgency Management Group,
16 like I mentioned, it's basically land managers and
17 wildlife managers. The real inception of that was to
18 get together, get all the managers involved so that
19 we're all on the same -- having the same conversations,
20 we're all on the same field and then we can start to
21 discuss an approach to reach out and to disseminate
22 this information and also to get buy-in from the public
23 on the conservation approach. And what the group has
24 been relying on, is it's been relying on the typical
25 vectors of communication through RACs, through ACs,
26 through the FSB, through OSM, through SRCs, through the
27 Board of Game and then some additional Federal and
28 State meetings as well as local meetings. One of the
29 things that's been inhibiting in the last two years is
30 our plan to go into communities and to discuss the
31 current state of caribou and to have questions and
32 answers and to do more one on one outreach, and that's
33 obviously been inhibited by the pandemic. But in that
34 course, the documents, the posters, the fliers, the
35 radio ads that you guys have all had and seen, everyone
36 should have got a postcard in the mailbox, we sent out
37 fliers and posters with dual languages to address any
38 language barriers on that. And the players currently
39 are the Department of Fish and Game, Division of
40 Wildlife Conservation, so we have the area biologist,
41 the assistants, we've got me, the management
42 coordinator, and our regional supervisor, we've got
43 research Staff that participate in this process but
44 they typically only participate when new information
45 has come up. The Yukon National Wildlife Refuge is on
46 this team as Togiak is as well, as well as their Staff
47 and members of their outreach in subsistence as well as
48 their biologists. We have folks, subsistence
49 specialists from Katmai, I believe from our group, and
50

0067

1 we also have the area biologists and Staff from Unit 18
2 from the Bethel area who are also on this InterAgency
3 group, and then I believe we do have intermittent
4 participation from Lake Clark -- I think their Chief of
5 Natural Resources has been on the call a few times.

6
7 So that's kind of where we're at. And
8 the reason -- one of the reasons why we haven't moved
9 towards a broader working group at this point is, one,
10 there's not much that we can do. I know that sounds
11 like I'm trivalizing it but there's not much that we
12 can do. One of the big things that's our ally and goal
13 in this herd is time. So we can't do much -- we can't
14 do anything to the habitat. There's no habitat things
15 that we can do to manipulate the habitat to benefit the
16 caribou. So we're kind of hamstringing them. There's
17 nothing that we can do with harvest or anything, there
18 is no harvest, so we can't -- we've already curtailed
19 all the harvest as much possible so there's really
20 nothing that we can actively do except for to continue
21 to monitor the herd, and to continue to investigate and
22 try to answer all these different questions that we
23 have so that we can get a better picture of what's
24 actually happened. Again, we don't think there's a
25 smoking gun, we think it's a variety of different
26 things that have waylaid the recovery of this herd.

27
28 And so really the only thing that can
29 be done is to curtail harvest. We just need no harvest
30 on this herd. We need to give it time. Time, to not
31 only grow, but also time for us to understand where
32 it's been -- we have a pretty good understanding of
33 where it's been but we're not sure of where it's going
34 right now. So we're at this interesting time.

35
36 But working groups that have been set
37 up in other places around the state, they're expensive
38 for starters and so we're not opposed to establishing a
39 working group, it's just the group, and the managers
40 just feel that it's premature to establish a working
41 group so we've chose to continue to move forward this
42 way and convey and work with the public through the
43 typical avenues.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Robert.

50

0068

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes. I wanted to inform
2 that individual that just spoke that informed us in
3 order for the population to grow, he asked us if we
4 won't hunt them caribou. I just wanted to inform you
5 all you have to do is put out in your State regulation,
6 Federal wildlife, we're not going to hunt, like you did
7 in the past and we always abide by that.

8
9 My question is, on predator control, do
10 you have predator control or is that too expensive like
11 you mentioned. IF we had predator control and the
12 population of our people don't hunt, that will save
13 time, time to grow, that will increase the possibility
14 of growing a lot quicker if you would find some money
15 or some way to have predator control because the wolves
16 are -- that's their main source of food is the caribou.
17 We've seen it in the past and that's why I mentioned
18 it, the wolves are another problem, besides the people
19 that take the caribou. I haven't heard anything about
20 predator control but you mentioned expensive. Is it
21 too expensive to create a predator control unit in
22 state of Alaska.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): Yes, through
27 the Chair. That's an excellent question. I'm glad you
28 brought it up because I was going to go talk about
29 predation control after I talked about habitat and
30 hunting. Yeah, so for at least five, six -- six years
31 or so we've had predation control in Unit 17, in
32 portions of 17B, C, a portion of 19 and portion of 9.
33 Previously we've limited it to 10,000 square miles and
34 so barely, we're able to with one contiguous, one
35 complete unit, we're just barely able to capture all
36 the calving grounds in the summer with that map. The
37 Board of Game has subsequently, at this last Board of
38 Game meeting, has expanded our ability to conduct
39 predation control. I think they authorized it for the
40 full extent of the Mulchatna range, which is 40,000
41 square miles. Now, obviously that goes well up into
42 18, 17, 19, caribou haven't been in those areas for
43 years, but they also -- so we have the ability to
44 basically expand some of those predation control areas
45 and focus those areas on top of the calving grounds.
46 So right now the majority of calving is happening over
47 kind of near Tundra Lake, near Lake Clark, kind of up
48 in the Twin Lakes area a little bit over towards Unit
49 19, and then the other group, mostly the animals from
50

0069

1 Unit 18, from your guys' area are just going west -- or
2 I'm sorry, going east just to the other to the Wood-
3 TikChiks in 17 and that's where they're calving. So
4 we'll be able to accommodate wolf control over both
5 those areas. The wolf control program is same-day
6 airborne and land and shoot, so it's currently being
7 conducted by permitted members of the public. They are
8 agents of the State and they are wolf control pilots.
9 It's not hunting. This is wolf removal. Predator
10 removal. So in that respect it doesn't cost the State
11 much of anything to administer this hunt -- I'm sorry,
12 I just said hunt, this removal, this predation control
13 program.

14
15 We have talked about predation control
16 programs in other areas and there was a proposal that
17 the Board of Game [sic] submitted to the Board of Game
18 [sic] this past year and it sought to expand predation
19 control into Unit 18. However, even if the Board of
20 Game did ratify that and I believe they did, we still
21 need concurrent from the Department of the Interior,
22 currently predation control is not allowed on Federal
23 lands and that includes Fish and Wildlife Refuges. So
24 we have -- we don't really have a path forward in Unit
25 18 to harvest wolves or to conduct -- or I mean to
26 conduct predation control, however, members of the
27 public can still continue to go in there and use the
28 liberal seasons and bag limits to not only harvest
29 wolves from Unit 18 but also to harvest bears in Unit
30 18.

31
32 One of the other things that the Board
33 of Game did pass, which it was something that they
34 invoked and created, is that they want us to go in on
35 the calving grounds and they want us to remove specific
36 bears that are found on the calving grounds during the
37 first two or three weeks of life. And there's a lot of
38 rationale for that approach. You know there's some --
39 there's' bears that are specifically really good at
40 taking caribou calves and they can take a considerable
41 number of calves on the calving grounds. So removing
42 even one or two bears that are focused on calves from
43 the calving grounds can have a profound consequence for
44 the population where they can give the population a big
45 pulse up and help them jump over that suppression that
46 predators can keep a population in. And sometimes we
47 can just pop through that threshold there.

48
49 We did something similar down on the
50

0070

1 Southern Alaska Peninsula. It wasn't really bears that
2 were the issue down there but there were a couple of
3 wolf dens that were down right in the heart of the
4 caribou calving grounds and so the wolves had a field
5 day with those caribou for awhile and the Department
6 finally went in and removed those wolves, almost
7 immediately in the following years we saw a tremendous
8 increase in calf survivorship in that area. And so the
9 Board is hopeful that if we go in there and remove some
10 bears from these calving areas in 17 and 19, that we
11 might get the same response.

12

13 So that that will be expensive. That
14 will be -- the Alaska Department of Fish and Game needs
15 to find the money if we're to follow through with that.
16 Bear removal would not occur until next year at the
17 earliest but, again, we also encourage people to
18 harvest bears and predators as the opportunity presents
19 itself. We think that would help with the population
20 growth there.

21

22 So I know that was a lot of
23 information. Hopefully I addressed your question.

24

25 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, you did, sir. But
26 predator control, due to the lack of fish that are
27 going up the streams as we speak and coming up the
28 Kuskokwim and the Yukon, I honestly believe that since
29 the bears and the wolves got nothing to eat, they're
30 going to go after the caribou. That's all I -- that's
31 all I wanted to say, thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Is there
34 any other.....

35

36 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, this is Alissa.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

39

40 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Through the Chair. In regards to the predator control,
42 are you guys actively going to be working with the
43 corporations and the tribes in regards to predator
44 control on private lands and possibly getting a
45 corporation or the tribes to participate in some type
46 of compensation for hunters and community members and
47 the public, pretty much, to participate in predator
48 control, and are you guys -- are there any plans in
49 regards to having at least three years worth of
50

0071

1 predator control in any area that could assist with
2 your current predator control that has been approved by
3 the Board of Game.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): Yeah, so
8 through the Chair, thank you for the questions again.
9 We haven't worked directly with the tribes or any local
10 communities about predation control programs. The
11 (indiscernible) or the predation, wolf control program
12 in Unit 17 is open to anyone that wants to participate.
13 There is some criteria because we are using firearms
14 and airplanes, it does need to meet certain criteria
15 because of Federal regulations and all. We don't have
16 any predation control programs that are occurring from
17 the ground, you know, anyone removing any wolves or
18 bears, they would just be harvesting them under current
19 harvest bag limits and quotas.

20

21 You know there's been discussion -- the
22 last time I heard a discussion about a bounty or a
23 payment for removing predators on the landscape was our
24 previous -- our previous Governor Sarah Palin, who
25 offered a bounty for a foreleg of a wolf, and that was
26 found unconstitutional, I believe, or something, and
27 the public pushed back on that. I -- I don't know if
28 the public and the politicians have an appetite for
29 paying for predation control or wolf removal. The
30 bounties on predators, they're just kind of frowned
31 upon, they're not socially acceptable in a lot of
32 places. Certainly something that we can look into but,
33 again, outside of bounties, I would encourage everyone
34 that has an opportunity to harvest wolves or bears in
35 the area to do so. The bag limits in 17 are pretty
36 liberal for brown bear and we have very small take. I
37 don't know what the brown bear population, or the bag
38 limits are out there in Unit 18, but I'm guessing with
39 the rapid growth of the moose population is that there
40 might be a relationship with the bears following suit.

41

42 So, you know, we would like to expand
43 predation control into a bunch of different areas,
44 really, we're just focused on capturing the calving
45 grounds right now. You know, I don't know really
46 what's happening with predation in Unit 18, maybe the
47 Feds might be able to speak a little bit to that. Unit
48 18 is managed out of the Bethel office so if Patrick
49 Jones or if someone's on the phone that could address
50

0072

1 that, I welcome that.

2

3 But, again, we're -- we are restrained
4 by only working on State land. Haven't really
5 discussed predation control on -- in -- on tribal land
6 and I guess would be open to that, too, I just think
7 that maybe the tracts -- yeah, we'd be open to that, we
8 just haven't discussed that. I think a lot of -- a lot
9 of these areas under predation control, we've just been
10 given the go-ahead, like with Ahtna they want us to go
11 ahead and do it, and I believe that previous
12 conversations with BBNA and other organizations down
13 here, they've encouraged us to -- it's not a trespass
14 issues on tribal lands. But if there's large tracts of
15 tribal lands in Unit 18 that might be effective in wolf
16 control predation and we -- we can talk about that in
17 the future and talk about that with Bethel Staff.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
22 anyone that wants to have any questions or comments
23 relating to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

24

25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, is
29 there.....

30

31 MR. PETER: I'm on -- hello, I'm on,
32 this is Phillip.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip, go ahead.

35

36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38

39 MR. PETER: About the report and I'd
40 like to make a few comments concerning the Mulchatna
41 Caribou. In '70s, or '60s or '70s or '80s, there were
42 a few -- a few caribous roaming in the Tuluksak, river
43 area and (In Yup'ik) Kasigluk and Kwethluk, very few,
44 nothing -- really few. But that time they were few and
45 they were (In Yup'ik). But -- and in '90s all of a
46 sudden the caribous come back huge, over
47 (indiscernible).....

48

49 (Teleconference interference -

50

0073

1 participants not muted)

2

3 MR. PETER:in those tributaries
4 that I mentioned, those Mulchatna caribous, spreading
5 in those three tributaries.

6

7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted)

9

10 MR. PETER: And then me and my (In
11 Yup'ik), in this time of the year, like March or April,
12 we went to river to hunt for caribou. There were quite
13 a few caribou along the way. We traveled to Kisaralik
14 and we cut that Kisaralik and go to the other mountain
15 to the Fog River (ph). Along the way we see a group by
16 group caribous.....

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20

21 MR. PETER: There was -- we want to go
22 to that Fog River (ph) and we seen quite a few -- quite
23 a few, lots of caribous. And we were sitting, using
24 our binoculars and look for what we're going to kill,
25 you know, and one of my (In Yup'ik) mentioned there is
26 (In Yup'ik), there's some (In Yup'ik), which means
27 reindeer. My (In Yup'ik) recognized it right away.

28

29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted)

31

32 MR. PETER: There's a few reindeer,
33 let's forget about the Mulchatna caribou and go after
34 them reindeer. We did and we catch one each. When we
35 returned back I invite all my uncles to come to my
36 house for eating, but they recognize it right away,
37 those are (In Yup'ik). those are reindeer, which come
38 from other side of the world. But the (In Yup'ik) here
39 in the Kuskokwim, through a barge, or sailing boat, I
40 don't.....

41

42 (Teleconference interference -
43 participants not muted)

44

45 MR. PETER: And they said that those
46 Mulchatna caribou are always moving, always moving.
47 Right now those Mulchatna caribous are on Kisaralik,
48 Kasigluk and Kwethluk Rivers. They're splitting, that
49 group, they're splitting. That's how I know. That's
50

0074

1 how I know what those Mulchatna caribou do.

2

3 But my main concern is predators. We
4 had a -- you know, Board of Game meeting, they had a
5 long discussion concerning about those Mulchatna
6 Caribou Herd predator control and.....

7

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10

11 MR. PETER:one of the Board
12 members mentioned that brown bear and grizzly bear are
13 really aggressive on young caribou right away. Those
14 bears are increasing in Togiak area. But I never see a
15 Bristol Bay area, but I know that the -- the movements,
16 they got rubbings, they always move, circling around
17 and Bristol Bay area to Holitna, Holitna to -- go to
18 Tuluksak River and then tributary and then Kisaralik
19 and then Kasigluk and then Kwethluk.

20

21 But I encourage the Department, Fish
22 and Wildlife to work with the State of Alaska and come
23 up with a good predator control but I'm really -- we're
24 going to wait for long, long time I guess, those
25 Mulchatna Caribou Herd to be increased. But I want to
26 know the numbers. I want to know the numbers if those
27 caribous increase.

28

29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted)

31

32 MR. PETER: I want to know if those --
33 give me those numbers -- I'd like to know if those
34 caribous increase to hunt, give me -- I'd like to know
35 the numbers when it's going to be open because I don't
36 know how many.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 REPORTER: Okay, could we all please
41 mute our phone.

42

43 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): Through the
44 Chair. Todd.....

45

46 REPORTER: Hang on. Hang on.

47

48 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED):Rinaldi.
49 I think that.....

50

0075

1 REPORTER: Could we all please mute
2 our.....

3
4 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): This is Todd
5 Rinaldi, and I think right here at.....

6
7 REPORTER:phone.

8
9 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): Yeah, it's a
10 really good question, we don't know. We presume that
11 maybe -- we're trying to investigate and understand
12 what that group at Cape Pearce is going, it seems to be
13 separate from the other groups. We don't know if
14 they're interacting during calving. We don't know how
15 -- how -- how nomadic those caribou are there so that's
16 one of the efforts that we -- we included them in our
17 previous photo census.....

18
19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted)

21
22 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED):our
23 population counts, but we don't know how they're
24 contributing.....

25
26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28
29 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED):to the
30 population. It's the same with a group out in Unit 9,
31 in the Ilimana Hills, there's a smaller group out there
32 that seems to be isolated. We're going to get some
33 collars on them. We include them in the survey every
34 year but we don't actually know what's actually
35 happening with those groups.

36
37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted)

39
40 MR. RINALDI (MUFFLED): So it's a very
41 -- it's -- it's a likely possibility that maybe one of
42 these groups will provide some surplus animals. We
43 need to understand what these satellite groups are
44 doing. That's what we call those -- those groups that
45 are off by themselves, satellite groups. And so we --
46 we expect that in a few years there'll be a high enough
47 bull to cow ratio that we can begin to harvest some
48 bulls while still allowing the herd to grow. It's just
49 a little too early and obviously we haven't seen any
50

0076

1 indi -- we have seen some indications that the bull to
2 cow ratios growing, I've shared that with you in the
3 past. We had a -- an -- an extra large group of small
4 and medium bulls that are up moving up the -- up the
5 age cohort and they're going to start reproducing now
6 so we're hoping that that's going to give us a little
7 pulse of population but we expect the first harvest to
8 -- we're unsure of when it's going to happen but
9 there'll likely be some surplus bulls in a very small
10 amount in certain areas but that's -- that's all we can
11 say, we -- we just don't -- and that's part of the
12 reason why the Board of Game just -- we asked the Board
13 of Game to dismiss that Tier proposal because we don't
14 know where the herd's going and we really can't set any
15 harvest seasons or bag limits at this point until we
16 actually get to a point where we anticipate a surplus
17 or we actually have a surplus that we can figure out
18 how we can divvy up.

19
20 So I hope that answered your question.

21
22 I wish I could give you more.

23
24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted)

26
27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
28 any more comments or questions for the Mulchatna
29 Caribou Herd at this time.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'm still hearing a lot
34 of background noise. Somebody's typing like a bat out
35 of hell so if you could mute your phone or something
36 that would be helpful for us. Thank you.

37
38 Is there anyone else that's going to
39 give a report regarding the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

40
41
42 MR. BLIHVDE: Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. BLIHVDE: Yeah, this is Boyd,
47 Refuge Manager at Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge. I don't
48 have too much to add but if I could add just one thing
49 to what Todd mentioned that'd be great.

50

0077

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you.

2

3

4 MR. BLIHOVDE: The only thing that I
5 was going to add was that Todd did mention that we've
6 had trouble here around local communities and going to
7 villages so we weren't able to go visit in-person to
8 many villages. But Todd was involved and other
9 managers were involved in some phone calls that we had
10 with villages when the caribou did come down from the
11 hills and close to villages. I just want to compliment
12 local leadership from different communities including
13 Kwethluk, Eek, Akiak, Akiachak because they really
14 listened to the information that we provided,
15 especially Todd, providing data and they supported, you
16 know, spreading the word to their communities and
17 really trying to get the word out about the closure
18 because even though we did our best to get information
19 out through the mail, like Todd mentioned, there's
20 still some folks that don't always get that
21 information. So the phone calls that we had, I think,
22 were productive and there was a lot of discussion about
23 a lot of different topics. But, overall, the leadership
24 really supported a pause on hunting and harvest and
25 getting that word out. So it was really helpful and I
26 just wanted to say I appreciate that.

26

27

That's all, thanks.

28

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. I know
31 there's a radio station there at Bethel that can be
32 utilized too. You could maybe even go on air and
33 address this issue, I'm sure you'll get a lot more
34 people's attention so appreciate your participation.

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Anyone else that's going to be giving a
report regarding the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, James.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

MR. LANDLORD: I support a pause in
hunting caribou in that area. And also at the same
time I think the predators, wolves especially, should
be hunted down like -- like all of the elders -- the
two elders that retired from the RAC -- we were having
a meeting in Bethel and those two retired and one of
them made a comment that nobody eats wolves but they
eat caribou and moose and others that we subsist on. I

0078

1 thought that was a very good comment that I heard, that
2 nobody eats wolves.

3
4 At the same time I think the caribou --
5 the Mulchatna, we should let them grow, and hunt down
6 the wolves and the grizzlies or brown bear or whatever
7 bears are over there because I think that can increase
8 the population in the range.

9
10 Qu yana.

11
12 Doi.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, James.
15 Thank you for your comment. Is there anyone else that
16 has any comments or questions relating to the Mulchatna
17 Caribou Herd at this time.

18
19 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, John Andrew.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John Andrew, you're
22 recognized.

23
24 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, Qu yana, Mr.
25 Chairman. I think we've had the discussion long
26 enough, I could recommend -- I strongly recommend that
27 we go for a five or seven year moratorium that way they
28 could build the caribou back up because it'll depend on
29 the other villages too.

30
31 (In Yup'ik)

32
33 By the way, I'm getting hungry, let's
34 take a break until 2:00.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: All right, sounds good.
37 If there's no other comments or there's no other
38 reports from agencies regarding the Mulchatna Caribou
39 Herd, at this time I thank you all for your report,
40 the agencies, and I'm sure we'll hear more about it
41 here in our fall meeting. So updates are good. I
42 think we should take into consideration, the Council,
43 if we could make an advisory recommendation to the
44 Federal Fish Board [sic] and I think a moratorium
45 should be in place if we're going to see the Mulchatna
46 Caribou Herd rebound. So at this time, keep in mind
47 when we're ready to, you know, make proposals.

48
49 So if there's no other agencies that
50

0079

1 are going to give a report regarding the Mulchatna
2 Caribou Herd then I recommend that we take an hour
3 lunch and come back at 2:00 o'clock.

4

5 Eva.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
8 members of the Council. That sounds like a good plan.
9 And, again, a big thank you to Todd and John and Boyd
10 for a great discussion on the Mulchatna caribou. I
11 know it's really important for the Council, and the
12 Council's interested in helping with that outreach for
13 the communities as well.

14

15 So thank you, Council members,
16 excellent questions and discussion and enjoy a good
17 lunch and we'll resume at 2:00 with -- we can hear our
18 Council member report from Wasilly Alexie and resume
19 with the Council's -- North Pacific Fisheries
20 Management Council at that time.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 Quyana.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. So we'll
27 take a break until 2:00 p.m. Have a good lunch.

28

29 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. PETER: I'd like to make a motion
34 for lunch break until 2:00 o'clock.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Motion on the floor by
37 Mr. Peter to take lunch break and come back at 2:00
38 p.m.

39

40 MS. ROGERS: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do I hear -- second by
43 Alissa. All those in favor say aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, say no.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

0080

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: We'll go ahead and take
2 a lunch break and come back at 2:00 o'clock.

3
4 (Off record)

5
6 (On record)

7
8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'll go ahead and call
9 the meeting back to order. The time now is 2:09 p.m.
10 We're going down through old business. We heard about
11 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and we're going to hear from
12 Wasilly Alexie from Russian Mission to give us an
13 update on his report. We could go ahead and still do
14 that as long as he comes on. Maybe in the meantime if
15 we could go on to the next item. Is there any
16 questions or comments.

17
18 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa Rogers.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

21
22 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
23 the light of our discussion that we just recently had
24 before we broke for lunch, and hearing the voices of
25 our Yukon Kuskokwim people and following our
26 predecessors for the moose moratorium, I make a motion
27 that the Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council puts
28 forth a Mulchatna Caribou Herd moratorium.

29
30 The first item of action would be for a
31 special action request to the Federal Subsistence
32 Board.

33
34 The second action item would be an
35 agenda change request for the statewide Board of Game
36 meeting or the earliest convenience of the Board of
37 Game meeting to introduce our special action and do a
38 change request on how the Board of Game be on board.

39
40 The third item of action would be to
41 appoint a RAC representative to speak at the statewide
42 Board of Game meeting this Saturday to convey the
43 intentions of the moratorium.

44
45 No. 4 would be during the April Federal
46 Subsistence Board where they're going to be taking up
47 the proposal which was supported by all the RAC
48 Councils authorizing the delegation of authority to Ken
49 Moos, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that if there is
50

0081

1 a harvestable surplus over 30,000, which would be
2 equally spread out amongst the units, not just one unit
3 opening to take for subsistence, but for all units to
4 have the ability to take for subsistence, that the U.S.
5 Fish and Wildlife Service manager will have the
6 authority to end the moratorium or override the
7 moratorium for that surplus take.

8

9 No. 5. Action items and management
10 objective. To allow the caribou population to increase
11 above 30,000. Maintain a age/sex structure ratio that
12 will increase the productivity of getting age
13 appropriate females pregnant. Conduct all scientific
14 research that was discussed in earlier discussion and
15 support of the YKDelta RAC in searching for additional
16 funds for more research. Conduct hunts consistent with
17 population goals. And improve knowledge of and
18 compliance with harvestable reporting requirements and
19 hunting regulations through education and incentives.
20 And outreach to users, to tribes and corporations and
21 education materials in schools who would be our next
22 following hunters.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.
27 What is the wish of the Council at this time.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any comments from the
32 Council at this time to suspend the rules to consider
33 the five points that Alissa has mentioned.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hello, can you hear me?

38

39 REPORTER: I can hear you Ray.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tina.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
46 Eva I can hear you. I wanted to give a pause there, I
47 wasn't sure if the Council was thinking about that. So
48 it does sound from Alissa's request, the first request
49 would be to submit a special action request to the
50

0082

1 Federal Subsistence Board requesting a moratorium on
2 the harvest of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and a
3 followup request to the Board of Game for a similar
4 request. Those are the two avenues that I see from
5 what Alissa was addressing there, that if the Council
6 wanted to take that up it would be a motion on the
7 floor to submit a special action request.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva.

12
13 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

16
17 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair, this is
18 Wasilly, I'd make a motion to accept the request.

19
20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
24 on the floor by Wasilly Alexie from Russian Mission to
25 consider those special action requests and also to
26 followup a similar request to Board of Game, do I hear
27 a second.

28
29 MR. ANDREW: Second by John Andrew.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John Andrew seconds the
32 motion. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

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

38
39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, say no.

40
41 (No opposing votes)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
44 carries. So we will consider those, that special
45 action request and.....

46
47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
48 members of the Council. And if we could, Alissa had
49 discussed quite a bit of detail in support of that --
50

0083

1 submitting a special action requesting a moratorium on
2 the hunting of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, but if we
3 could have a few -- a few lines of justification for
4 the Council's action as well.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman, this is
9 Phillip.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip Peter, go
12 ahead.

13

14 MR. PETER: I got a question on how many
15 years for -- I'd like to know how many years, that
16 moratorium.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Maybe we could.....

19

20 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY:have Alissa go
23 through her proposal, her written proposal and then we
24 could see what we could include after we hear what the
25 special action request would be.

26

27 MR. PETER: Okay.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So at this time,
30 Alissa, if you could go ahead and read out the special
31 action request. Thank you.

32

33 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Through the Chair. I am suggesting that the moratorium
35 will be five to 10 years. I'm sure our scientists and
36 biologists have a better idea of what type of
37 population rates of the caribou's history is in
38 increasing that population. The objectives would be to
39 allow the population to increase above 30,000. Right
40 now according to what we were just told we're sitting
41 at 12,508, if I'm incorrect please correct me. So we
42 actually decreased in population and it's really
43 alarming to find out that we're decreasing in
44 population since we have really been looking into our
45 caribou.

46

47 The second bulletin point was that they
48 conduct a scientific -- continue their scientific
49 research in support of finding how to increase the

50

0084

1 productivity of the caribou and getting age appropriate
2 -- age and sex structure ratio that is appropriate for
3 an increasing population.

4
5 Then also conduct hunt predator control
6 to help population goals increase.

7
8 And the other bulleting point was to
9 improve our knowledge and compliance with harvest
10 reporting requirements and hunting regulations through
11 education at schools or going to tribal offices or
12 getting research out there, just some of the same
13 things that we did with the moose moratorium. So the
14 work has already been done for us in the moose
15 moratorium and we're just going to be mirroring pretty
16 much what happened in the moose moratorium and then
17 molding that moratorium that was created, an outline
18 for us, to fit caribou.

19
20 The factors that include that we have a
21 poor cash economy. It's difficult to have stores
22 that's stocked with food, and they're declining and
23 subsistence fishing opportunities -- predator control
24 is getting -- is increasing because they don't have any
25 fish as we heard in earlier discussions and growing the
26 population and more cows in the area will -- with these
27 factors, ability to manage the caribou, it'll be easier
28 for our caribou to increase.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that's all I
31 have.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. Do
34 we have any questions at this time.

35
36 MR. PARKS: Henry from Nunapitchuk. I
37 have a question to Alissa's motion. There's a unit --
38 we're certain units on that caribou population here, so
39 I think it would be better for her to make -- if she
40 makes a motion then the units, if they are included so
41 correct me if I'm wrong.

42
43 MS. ROGERS: No, you're -- sorry,
44 through the Chair. You're right. The language of the
45 special action probably is going to be developed by our
46 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service folks -- no, I'm sorry,
47 Office of Subsistence Management folks to help with the
48 legal fancy language and sprinkle all of their goodness
49 all over it so that we can have it better written out.
50

0085

1 We're going to have this meeting consecutive for the
2 next couple of days but I've been highlighting all of
3 the stuff that we discussed in the special action
4 request for a moratorium. So if you want to hear the
5 full language of the special action request I can work
6 on it and have something written up so that we can take
7 it up at the end of our meeting. Would that work for
8 everyone so you guys know.....

9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12
13 MS. ROGERS:what's going on and
14 what the language is going to look like?

15
16 MR. PARKS: Yes.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I think -- do the
19 Council members have any recommendations or comments
20 relating to the special action request, I think this
21 would be the time for you to put in your two cents
22 worth to see what you'd like to include in this special
23 action request so that towards the end of the meeting
24 we could at least have a draft proposal that we could
25 submit.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
28 Council, this is Eva.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

31
32 MS. PATTON: If I may make a
33 suggestion, so there was a critical question that was
34 asked about how many years the special action request
35 would be requesting and that would be an important
36 detail for the Council to make a motion and agree on
37 that timeframe. Excellent question also on which units
38 this would cover. And my understanding from Alissa's
39 proposal was protecting the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
40 across its range and so we can ensure that -- if the
41 special action is submitted that it includes all the
42 management units in which the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
43 moves through. But I think it would be important how
44 many years a moratorium would be in place, is a really
45 critical part of requesting the moratorium and what's
46 being asked of communities. So that would be good to
47 have a vote on the record as well for that detail.

48
49 Thank you.

50

0086

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva,
2 for the clarification. Alissa mentioned five to 10
3 years so I think a hard number would be good to
4 consider and also I believe that you mentioned that the
5 management for Fish and Wildlife can ask to.....

6
7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ONEY:open it up even
11 earlier if you feel the Mulchatna Caribou Herd are
12 rebounding, but definitely a hard number should be
13 included.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
16 Council.

17
18 MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Alissa had also suggested
21 30,000, the population reaching a sustainable
22 threshold, so that's another target number that the
23 Council could utilize if you wish to make it clear when
24 the moratorium would be lifted.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Yeah,
29 I think, yeah, we will be considering the years or the
30 population growth. And I think.....

31
32 MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, who's
35 speaking.

36
37 MS. CLEVELAND: This is Jackie
38 Cleveland.

39
40 (Teleconference interference -
41 participants not muted)

42
43 MS. CLEVELAND: I was -- I agree with
44 identifying a hard number.....

45
46 REPORTER: Jackie. Jackie.

47
48 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

49
50

0087

1 REPORTER: Excuse me, Jackie.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Excuse me, Jackie.

4 We're still hearing background noise. Please look at
5 your phone and mute by pressing star, six. We're
6 hearing a lot of background noise and disturbing the
7 person that's speaking. Can you repeat what you said,
8 Jackie.

9

10 REPORTER: Thank you, Ray.

11

12 MS. CLEVELAND: Okay. So I do agree on
13 maybe establishing a hard number for this -- for the
14 years and for the cap number, I guess. But also I had
15 -- wondered if any tribal consultation should happen
16 based on the areas where this would cover and then also
17 when the draft is done can it be emailed to us so we
18 can see the draft before deciding on it.

19

20 That's it, Quyana.

21

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Thank
26 you for your comments, definitely.

27

28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: (Indiscernible -
32 overtalking/crosstalk) time to put together and we'll
33 see what we get by the end of the day on our third day.
34 So I don't know, Eva.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
37 Council. Yes, I think that's a great idea. Alissa and
38 I can assist in drafting up her proposal and the
39 language so that the Council would have an opportunity
40 to see that whole language and also followup on
41 discussion of number of years or cap or a sustainable
42 threshold, whichever.....

43

44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46

47 MS. PATTON:the Council would
48 wish to submit. And also another detail for the
49 process. So if the Council submits a special action

50

0088

1 request, that request will go to the Federal
2 Subsistence Board. They do review it and make sure
3 that this is something within their authority to review
4 and if so then it triggers a whole public process and
5 once the special action, if adopted by -- if accepted
6 by the Board then the OSM Staff, both the Wildlife and
7 the Anthropology Staff would work on an analysis to
8 look at the impacts of what that request would be, both
9 to the resource and to the people in the region
10 affected by the special action request. And then there
11 would be public hearings scheduled to hear from all of
12 the communities throughout the range of the Mulchatna
13 Caribou Herd and there would be tribal consultation
14 scheduled. And then the sum of both the Council's
15 request and justification and the public hearings and
16 the tribal consultation would all be considered by the
17 Board as to whether they would adopt the special action
18 request or not. So submitting the request is just the
19 first step of the process.....

20

21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted)

23

24 MS. PATTON:but the public
25 engagement is a very important part of that so there
26 would be public hearings and tribal consultation as an
27 integral part of the process. So I just wanted the
28 Council to be aware that there would be public
29 engagement and this is just the first step.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana, Eva.

34

35 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa Rogers.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

38

39 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
40 hearing my fellow Council members I looked up to
41 include -- by making a motion to include in the special
42 action request for the caribou moratorium Units 9A, 9B,
43 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 18 remainder, 19A and 19B with a
44 population objective of 30,000 or a moratorium for five
45 years. Also to include that in the event that there is
46 a harvestable surplus over 30,000, that will equally be
47 spread out amongst all the units for a harvestable
48 surplus, that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
49 manager will have the authority to allow for that
50

0089

1 additional harvestable take.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. All
6 points will be considered at this time and then when we
7 do have a draft we could bring that up during the --
8 towards the end of our meeting for a motion to submit
9 the special action request regarding the Mulchatna
10 Caribou Herd if that would be appropriate.

11

12 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
13 made a motion to include those into the special action,
14 I was looking to see if anyone else would like to put a
15 second to those points that were asked for in the
16 justification.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Do I
21 hear a second to Alissa's motion to include all those
22 units and also the hard cap. Is there a second to the
23 motion.

24

25 MR. ANDREW: Second by John Andrew.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Seconded by John
28 Andrew. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, same sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
40 carries so we could go ahead and put together that
41 draft and if there's any other additions to the special
42 action request from the Council then we could go ahead
43 and move on, or are you done, Alissa.

44

45 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, yes,
46 I am done. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Hearing no
49 other comments from the Council we could go ahead and

50

0090

1 move on. I believe we're going to hear Wasilly Alexie
2 from Russian Mission to give us a report from his
3 community to, you know, see what he may be experiencing
4 in that part of the river. Wasilly, you have the
5 floor.

6
7 MR. ALEXIE: I don't have real much to
8 report but I'd like to thank everybody for allowing me
9 to be on the Board. I haven't had any time to speak to
10 the community because of Covid still going on.

11
12 But we had a lot of concerns about
13 subsistence fishing and you all know that we all didn't
14 get to get much fish or any fish up and down the river.
15 That was the most concern about how it's going to be
16 this year and what are steps are going to be or what
17 are we to do if we're not able to fish.

18
19 We had a few families that went over to
20 the Kuskokwim, they were fortunate enough to get a few
21 over there but we're hoping we have enough chums to
22 sustain some of the fish for this fall.

23
24 And one concern was about, you know,
25 how -- like they switched our salmon nets from 8.5 to
26 7.5 and then we're restricted down to 4 inch. And
27 there's one person that -- to explain that switching
28 8.5 to 7.5 we fished out most of our young salmon and
29 now we're restricted down to 4 inch and we're fishing
30 out all the little -- the little young, two, three year
31 olds, maybe even smaller. There's -- a few years ago
32 when we were first restricted to 4 inch I had my net
33 out and I was catching a lot of little -- small little
34 kings, first time we seen those and we were surprised
35 -- a lot of people were surprised to see all them
36 little kings and we were wondering why they were coming
37 up the river and here we thought they'd go all the way
38 out to the ocean and spend their time out there. We
39 were concerned about that.

40
41 That's all I have to report.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Wasilly,
44 appreciate your report. Moving on we are down to
45 Council review and approval of draft letters. I believe
46 we have three that will need action. I will go ahead
47 and turn it over to Eva.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
50

0091

1 members of the Council. So you'll recall at the fall
2 meeting the Council had made a motion and voted to
3 submit a couple letters to the North Pacific Fisheries
4 Management Council. And one of the letters the Council
5 had wanted to invite other Western Alaska Regional
6 Advisory Councils to also weigh in and submit a joint
7 letter regarding the primary concerns of the Council
8 with the declining chinook and chum salmon runs on the
9 Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and also for the Norton
10 Sound Unalakleet region.

11

12 So the Council had drafted a letter.
13 That draft is in your supplemental materials. And it's
14 addressing similar concerns to previous letters the
15 Council had addressed to the North Pacific Fisheries
16 Management Council but also further asks a hard cap for
17 chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea trawl fisheries
18 and a request for two subsistence seats to be added to
19 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, two
20 subsistence or tribal seats.

21

22 So the key points in this letter are
23 the Council asking for a hard cap of chinook salmon
24 bycatch to be no more than 16,000 chinook salmon in the
25 Bering Sea/Aleutians commercial trawl fishery. And
26 then the Council had recommended significantly reducing
27 the chum salmon for non-chinook salmon bycatch in the
28 Bering Sea commercial fisheries. And at the time of
29 your fall meeting we didn't have an updated report from
30 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The last
31 report of chum salmon bycatch was roughly over 570,000
32 and when this letter went before the Western Interior
33 Advisory Council last week they had recommended, based
34 on your Council, based on the YKDelta RAC
35 recommendation to reduce that chum salmon bycatch by
36 half to immediately institute a hard cap of no more
37 than 250,000 chum in the Bering Sea fisheries.

38

39 So that's one edit that you'll see in
40 that letter it's highlighted in yellow because that
41 number hadn't been established yet and the Western
42 Interior Council had made the edit to that
43 sentence.....

44

45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47

48 MS. PATTON:as immediately
49 reducing the chinook and chum salmon bycatch, to no

50

0092

1 more than 16,000 for chinook and no more than 250,000
2 for non-chinook.

3
4 REPORTER: Hang on, Eva, I can't hear
5 you.

6
7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted)

9
10 REPORTER: Whoever's talking in a
11 conversation right now could you mute your phone. Do
12 we know who that is.

13
14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted)

16
17 MS. PATTON: Whoever's talking in the
18 background you're not on mute we can hear you talking
19 about the radio.

20
21 REPORTER: Whoever's giving their
22 credit card information right now, could you mute your
23 phone. Please.

24
25
26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28
29 REPORTER: Hello. Whoever's talking
30 about credit cards and receipts right now could you
31 please mute your phone.

32
33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35
36 MS. PELTOLA: Hey, Tina, that's
37 AnnaRose MacArthur.

38
39 (Pause)

40
41 REPORTER: Thank you, Mary. Thank you,
42 Ray.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray and Council
45 members, apologies for that.

46
47 So the Western Interior Council which
48 met last week did make a motion to support the
49 Council's letter as written with one addition and to
50

0093

1 have the hard cap for non-chinook or chum salmon no
2 more than 250,000 and they had made one edit small edit
3 too that those hard caps be instituted immediately. So
4 if your Council supports that addition from the Western
5 Interior Council, this letter continues on to our other
6 Western Alaska Councils, if they are interested to also
7 sign on and support it would go to the Seward Peninsula
8 Council next and they very may well want to add a
9 little bit more detail about the Unalakleet River
10 specifically and then it would go to the Eastern
11 Interior Council, if those Councils wish to sign on and
12 submit this as a joint letter.

13

14 So with the Western Interior's
15 additions, the key asks of this letter are to institute
16 a hard cap of 16,000 chinook bycatch and a hard cap of
17 250,000 chum salmon bycatch for the Bering
18 Sea/Aleutians trawl fishery. Additionally to request
19 two subsistence or tribal seats be added to the North
20 Pacific Fisheries Management Council. And then the
21 Council is also asking the Federal Subsistence Board to
22 elevate these concerns to the Secretary of the Interior
23 to the Secretary of Commerce.

24

25 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

26

27 MS. PATTON: And.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Standby with your
30 comment. Eva, I'll recognize Alissa after is done,
31 thank you.

32

33 MS. PATTON: No, thank you, Mr. Chair,
34 that's it. So if the Council wanted to support this
35 letter and continue to move it on to the other Councils
36 with the one addition from the Western Interior Council
37 setting the chum salmon hard cap of 250,000. That
38 would just be a motion and a vote on the record from
39 the Council and any discussion there.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva.

44 Alissa.

45

46 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I so
47 move to accept the additions from the Western Interior
48 RAC and move this on to the next RAC. Thank you, Mr.
49 Chair.

50

0094

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa for
2 that motion. Do I hear a second to the motion.

3
4 MR. ALEXIE: I second, this is Wasilly.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Wasilly. All
7 those in favor of adding those hard cap of 16,000 for
8 chinook and a hard cap of 250,000 hard cap for chum
9 signify by saying aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that are opposing
14 signify by saying no.

15
16 MR. PARKS: No.

17
18 REPORTER: Who voted no.

19
20 MR. PARKS: Henry Parks voted no.

21
22 REPORTER: Thank you. Okay, thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. For
25 the record I will ask for a roll call vote. Eva.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
28 members of the Council. Roll call vote and, again, the
29 motion is in support of the Council's joint letter with
30 requesting a hard cap of 16,000 for chinook bycatch, a
31 hard cap of -- no more than 250,000 for chum bycatch
32 and two subsistence seats on the North Pacific
33 Fisheries Management Council.

34
35 Henry Parks.

36
37 MR. PARKS: No. Mr. Chairman, the
38 reason why I say no is the hard cap of those chums are
39 a little too high. Thank you.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

42
43 Norma Evan.

44
45 MS. EVAN: Aye.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Norma.

48
49 John Andrew.

50

0095

1

MR. ANDREW: No.

2

3

MS. PATTON: Thomas Alstrom.

4

5

MR. ALSTROM: Yes.

6

7

MS. PATTON: Jackie Cleveland.

8

9

MS. CLEVELAND: Can you come back to

10 me.

11

12

MS. PATTON: Sure.

13

14

James Landlord.

15

16

MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

17

18

MS. PATTON: Alissa Nadine Rogers.

19

20

MS. ROGERS: Yes.

21

22

MS. PATTON: Phillip Peter, Sr.

23

24

MR. PETER: No.

25

26

MS. PATTON: Wasilly Alexie.

27

28

MR. ALEXIE: Yes.

29

30

MS. PATTON: Raymond Oney.

31

32

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

33

34

MS. PATTON: And Robert Hoffman.

35

36

MR. HOFFMAN: No. For the reason being
nobody told me what's going to happen after they get to
the cap, are they going to quit fishing or what?

37

38

39

40

MS. PATTON: That was the request in
the letter, that the hard cap would close the commercial
fishery.

41

42

43

44

MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

45

46

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Hoffman.
And we'll come back around to Jackie Cleveland.

47

48

49

MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

50

0096

1 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair
2 and members of the Council. So we have eight yes and
3 three no. So motion carries.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Eva.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, go ahead.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Oh, I was just going to
12 say thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council.
13 So this letter would proceed then to the next two
14 Regional Advisory Councils if they also wished to sign
15 on. And then the final letter, of course, will come
16 back to you, as the Chair, for your final review and
17 signature and will be submitted to the North Pacific
18 Fisheries Management Council and to the Federal
19 Subsistence Board with the request that these concerns
20 be elevated to the Secretary of Interior and Commerce.

21
22 And, additionally, the Council had also
23 initiated two letters in the fall. One the same as
24 this with the addition of requesting a reduction in the
25 halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea and concerns for
26 habitat destruction through the trawl fisheries in and
27 around the coastal communities of the YKDelta and
28 Nunivak Island and so those letters will also be
29 submitted to the North Pacific Fisheries Management
30 Council as an enclosure. And some other Councils are
31 also drafting their own letters addressing more detail
32 specific to their Councils.

33
34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36
37 MS. PATTON: And then lastly the other
38 letter that the Council had initiated at your fall
39 meeting which we'll submit after this meeting to the
40 Board of Fish and that was addressing concerns about
41 the Area M, False Pass intercept fishery and the
42 Council had requested that if subsistence fishing is
43 restricted in the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, that the
44 commercial fishery be closed to prevent bycatch of
45 salmon that may be bound for the Western Alaska rivers.
46 And further the Council had requested that genetic
47 testing in the Area M, commercial fisheries, be
48 conducted as a regular part of the management for that
49 fishery. And we have an opportunity, if there's more
50

0097

1 discussion from the Council on these fisheries issues
2 through this meeting to add more details to those
3 letters as well. But the Council had made a motion and
4 supported those two letters.

5
6 And the Board of Fish letter would be
7 submitted as a proposal as well through the Board of
8 Fisheries process, comments are due on -- proposals are
9 due on April 11th.

10
11 So thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
12 members.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Are we
15 ready to move on to the next action item.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Thank you. I couldn't get
22 off mute there. Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of
23 the Council. If there are no further questions on the
24 fisheries letters we did have under old business as
25 well appointing an alternate for the YKDelta RAC seat
26 on the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group. As
27 many of you know our long time Council member Bob
28 Aloysius served in that role for many years as has John
29 Andrew. And Bob just recently retired from the Council
30 and we want to recognize him for his many years of
31 wonderful service and all the roles that he played,
32 both on the Regional Advisory Council and the Kuskokwim
33 Salmon Management Working Group and all of his
34 heartfelt engagement with fisheries management and also
35 our youth and education and outreach. But with Bob's
36 retirement, currently John Andrew is the only formal
37 appointed seat to serve as the YKDelta RAC
38 representative so we wanted to have this opportunity if
39 there's nominations for others who may want to serve as
40 an alternate on that Kuskokwim Salmon Management
41 Working Group.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
44 Council.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Is
47 there any recommendations right now for an alternate to
48 Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group.

49
50

0098

1 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa Rogers.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa. Alissa, go

4 ahead.

5

6 MS. ROGERS: I don't know if I can do
7 this but I'd like to recommend myself to that seat, Mr.
8 Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: If there's no
11 opposition I don't see why not on this, if there's no
12 other interest then we could vote.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, then.....

17

18 MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

21

22 MS. CLEVELAND: Can I -- can I also
23 make a nomination, this is Jackie, I nominate Phillip
24 Peter, Sr.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
27 on the floor by Jackie to nominate Phillip Peter and
28 also Alissa's interested, anyone else.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, we could
33 go ahead and do a vote between Alissa and Phillip
34 Peter.

35

36 Eva.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
39 and members of the Council. Yes, and absolutely we can
40 take volunteers so that's wonderful. I know Alissa is
41 already greatly involved in the Kuskokwim Salmon
42 Management Working Group meetings. And we can
43 definitely have two alternates to serve in that
44 capacity so if one person is not available to serve
45 then another may be able to serve on that seat for that
46 particular meeting. So we can definitely vote and have
47 two alternate seats. So I would open it up to you, Mr.
48 Chair, for a vote on our two -- our one nominee and our
49 one volunteer.

50

0099

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. What's the wish
2 of the Council.

3
4 MS. PATTON: And.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

7
8 MS. PATTON: I was just going to check
9 in with Phillip Peter, Sr., if you accept the
10 nomination to serve as an alternate on the Kuskokwim
11 Salmon Management Working Group.

12
13 MR. PETER: Am I on.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I can hear you.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Yes, you are.

18
19 MR. PETER: I'd like to decline that
20 nomination because I got so many organizations in my
21 village now so I'd like to decline that nomination.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Thank you,
24 Mr. Phillip, for your consideration for the appointment
25 and declining and so at this time we have Alissa to be
26 the alternate. Do we still vote on it, Eva.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
29 and members of the Council. It would be helpful to
30 have a formal motion and a vote on the record. Thank
31 you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. If there's
34 no other nominations the nomination is for Alissa to be
35 the alternate to the Kuskokwim Salmon Management
36 Working Group.

37
38 MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair, Jackie
39 Cleveland.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

42
43 MS. CLEVELAND: Since the nominations
44 are still open can I nominate Robert Hoffman of Bethel
45 then.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, nominations are
48 still open. So there's a motion on the floor by Jackie
49 to nominate Robert Hoffman from Bethel. Robert, do you
50

0100

1 accept?

2

3

MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, I accept.

4

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. We have two nominations. I believe if there's no other nominations at this time we could go ahead and do a vote between Alissa Rogers and Robert Hoffman.

6

7

Eva take the vote.

8

9

10

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. And, again, we have two alternates serving so we can vote for both. Thank you.

11

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I think.....

13

14

MS. PATTON: So people are welcome to vote for both if you wish to do so. They can always use two alternates, that's fine. So if one wasn't able to attend then the other would.

15

16

We'll start with Alissa Nadine Rogers -- and would you like to do roll call vote or we can do all in favor, say aye, all opposed, same sign.

17

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: A roll call vote because I don't know how they're going to vote on the next one so roll call vote.

19

20

MS. PATTON: Okay. So we have a nomination for Alissa Nadine Rogers to serve as an alternate for the YKDelta RAC seat on the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group.

21

22

Henry Parks.

23

24

MR. PARKS: Yes.

25

26

MS. PATTON: Norma Evan.

27

28

MS. EVAN: Yes.

29

30

MS. PATTON: John Andrew.

31

32

MR. ANDREW: Yes.

33

34

MS. PATTON: Thomas Alstrom.

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

0101

1 MR. ALSTROM: Yes.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Jackie Cleveland.

4

5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted - typing)

7

8 MS. PATTON: Did we lose you Jackie.

9

10 MS. CLEVELAND: Oh, sorry, yes. I
11 nominated someone else so I'll vote no.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Okay.

14

15 James Landlord.

16

17 MR. LANDLORD: When voting yes that
18 means both of them.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Yes, we're voting for one
21 at a time but, again, we can have two alternates
22 available so if one isn't available to participate in
23 the meeting as a RAC representative then another one
24 may be.

25

26 MR. LANDLORD: Then I can.....

27

28 MS. PATTON: You can vote for both.

29

30 MR. LANDLORD: Then I can vote for

31 both?

32

33 MS. PATTON: Sure.

34

35 MR. LANDLORD: Okay. Both.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. Alissa
38 Nadine Rogers.

39

40 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Phillip Peter, Sr.

43

44 MR. PETER: I'll vote for both.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Vote for both, okay.

47

48 Wasilly Alexie.

49

50

0102

1 MR. ALEXIE: I'll vote for both.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Okay.

4

5 Raymond Oney.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I will vote for both.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Okay. And Robert Hoffman.

10

11 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. PATTON: Was that a yes?

16

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thank you.

20 And then we do have a vote for Robert Hoffman, too, so

21 some had voted for both in support of Robert Hoffman as

22 serving as an alternate for the Kuskokwim Salmon

23 Management Working Group.

24

25 Henry Parks.

26

27 MR. PARKS: Yes.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

30

31 Norma Evan.

32

33 (Teleconference interference -

34 participants not muted - typing)

35

36 MS. PATTON: In support of.....

37

38 MS. EVAN: Yes.

39

40 MS. PATTON:Robert Hoffman.

41

42 John Andrew.

43

44 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Jackie Cleveland.

47

48 MS. ROGERS: Hey, I'm sorry to
49 interrupt Eva but somebody is typing really loud.

50

0103

1 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes for.....

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REPORTER: Whoever's typing in the background, could you quit typing please -- or you don't have to quit typing but could you mute your phone please.

(Laughter)

MS. CLEVELAND: And is this for Robert Hoffman?

MS. PATTON: Yes, this is for Robert Hoffman.

MS. CLEVELAND: Okay. Yes. Thanks.

MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you.

Thomas Alstrom.

MR. ALSTROM: Yes.

MS. PATTON: Thank you.

James Landlord.

MR. LANDLORD: I think I voted for both.

MS. PATTON: Oh, that's right you did, thank you.

Alissa Rogers.

MS. ROGERS: Both.

MS. PATTON: I'm sorry, I didn't hear you Alissa.

MS. ROGERS: Both.

MS. PATTON: Okay. And Phillip Peter, Sr.

MR. PETER: Both.

MS. PATTON: Oh, you voted for both, that's right.

0104

1 MR. PETER: Yeah.

2

3 MS. PATTON: And Wasilly voted for both
4 and Raymond Oney voted for both and Robert Hoffman, do
5 you vote for yourself.

6

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. So we do have
12 a majority of yes for both as serving as an alternate
13 for the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta RAC seat on the Kuskokwim
14 Salmon Management Working Group. And so John Andrew is
15 our diligent primary and with having two alternates
16 then if one was not able to attend then the other
17 would. And then Robert we would get you tied in to the
18 North Pacific -- sorry, we've been talking so much
19 about North Pacific Fisheries Management -- we would
20 get you looped into the Kuskokwim Salmon Management
21 Working Group meeting so you're on their distribution
22 list and available to listen in and serve on those in-
23 season meetings as well. So those recommendations for
24 alternates will be submitted to the Staff -- Kuskokwim
25 Salmon Management Working Group, and I'm sure they'll
26 be pleased to have full representation again from the
27 YKDelta RAC.

28

29 Thank you so much, Council members.
30 And thanks again to both John -- both John and Bob
31 Aloysius for their.....

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35

36 MS. PATTON:lifetime service.
37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you John.
40 Thank you for your continued work for our people on
41 both Yukon and Kuskokwim and also people in your area,
42 appreciate you being there and also the alternates.
43 Eva, do we have any other action items that we need to
44 take up at this time.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
47 members of Council. That is it for our old business
48 and that moves us to new business. And also just
49 wanted to touch base.....

50

0105

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3

4 MS. PATTON:I know we're moving
5 pretty quickly on these special action requests and we
6 -- we want to followup with some more information on
7 the delegation of authority of letter that is coming
8 before the Federal Subsistence Board at their April
9 meeting and the impacts that would have in terms of the
10 management of the herd versus a special action request
11 at this time. So we might try to followup with that
12 later as well for the Council.

13

14 But up next on the new business is the
15 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and we have OSM
16 Fisheries Staff online, Cory Graham.

17

18 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair. Members of the
19 Council. For the record my name is Cory Graham and I'm
20 a Fisheries Biologist for the Office of Subsistence
21 Management in Anchorage. I'm accompanied by Pippa
22 Kenner who is an Anthropologist for OSM. I'll start by
23 providing the Council with an update regarding the
24 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. This is not an
25 action item.

26

27 We are currently in the final phase of
28 the 2022 Monitoring Program funding cycle. The Federal
29 Subsistence Board met in early February and endorsed
30 the final Monitoring Program funding plan. The
31 Assistant Regional Director of OSM just approved the
32 funding plan and all applicants have been notified of
33 the status of their submissions.

34

35 With this cycle coming to an end, it's
36 time for the Councils to begin developing priority
37 information needs for the 2024 Monitoring Program call
38 for proposals. Priority information needs, which you
39 may hear referred to as PINS are an important component
40 of the Monitoring Program as they identify issues of
41 local concern and knowledge gaps related to subsistence
42 fisheries. Further, priority information needs guide
43 the funding process by determining the type of projects
44 that are submitted for funding and providing a
45 framework for evaluating and selecting project
46 proposals.

47

48 We are asking for several volunteers
49 from the Council to meet by telephone this summer to
50

0106

1 identify knowledge gaps and information needed for
2 management of subsistence fisheries in their region.
3 The draft list of priority information needs that is
4 developed by the volunteers will be presented to the
5 Council for final approval during their fall 2022
6 meetings. Again, this isn't an action item but if
7 there's anyone on this Council that would like to
8 volunteer to help develop priority information needs
9 for the next cycle it would be greatly appreciated.
10 Because this Council covers both Yukon and Kuskokwim
11 regions it would be nice if there was at least one
12 volunteer from each region.

13

14 And this concludes my presentation
15 regarding the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
16 update.

17

18 Are there any questions or volunteers
19 who would like to help develop priority information
20 needs.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Cory, for
23 your report on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
24 Program. Do we have any volunteers right now to be
25 appointed to follow through with what Cory's asking
26 for.

27

28 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa Rogers.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

31

32 MS. ROGERS: I'll volunteer myself.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, good, thank you.

35 Anyone else.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, Alissa
40 you are appointed to be part of that so thank you for
41 your volunteer work. Which items that we need to
42 consider, Cory?

43

44 MR. GRAHAM: There are no other items
45 but, again, if there's anyone from the Yukon region
46 that would like to volunteer, that would be appreciated
47 but it's not necessary.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I would like to

50

0107

1 see someone from the Yukon. Is there anyone from the
2 Yukon who would like to volunteer at this time to be on
3 this committee.

4

5 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

8

9 MS. ROGERS: I nominate Tommy Alstrom.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Tommy Alstrom has been
12 nominated, do I hear a second.

13

14 MS. EVAN: Mr. Chair, this is Norma
15 Evan, second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Norma. Any
18 other nominations.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, Thomas
23 you are appointed as our representative for the Yukon.
24 So I don't think we need to vote on it, you're
25 appointed so any comments.

26

27 MR. ALSTROM: No. Thank you, Mr.
28 Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Thomas.
31 Thank you for your volunteering. I believe that takes
32 care of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
33 information. Does Pippa have any comments to add.

34

35 MS. KENNER: No, I don't, thank you,
36 Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Pippa.
39 Moving on, I believe to the next item, call for Federal
40 fish and shellfish proposals, OSM.

41

42 MR. GRAHAM: Again, for the record my
43 name is Cory Graham and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with
44 OSM. I'll now provide an update on our call for
45 Federal fisheries and shellfish proposals. This is an
46 action item for your Council and relevant materials for
47 this presentation should be located in Tab 4 of your
48 workbook.

49

50

0108

1 The Federal Subsistence Board will be
2 accepting proposals this winter and into spring to
3 change Federal regulation for the subsistence take of
4 fish and shellfish on Federal public lands and waters
5 for the time period of 2023 through 2025 regulatory
6 cycle. The Board will consider proposals to change
7 Federal fish and shellfish seasons, harvest limits,
8 methods and means and customary and traditional use
9 determinations. The window of opportunity to submit
10 proposals has not yet opened, however, as a Council,
11 you may vote on fisheries proposals and submit them to
12 your Council Coordinator. Once the window officially
13 opens, Coordinators will submit the proposals on your
14 behalf. The general public will need to wait until the
15 window for fisheries proposals has opened, which should
16 be sometime soon and will stay open for at least 30
17 days. There will be a public news release from our
18 office announcing the window once the dates are set.
19 Proposals from the public will need to be submitted to
20 the regulations.gov website. The proposals will be
21 analyzed and presented to the Councils during their
22 fall 2022 meeting for Council recommendations.
23 Proposal analysis and Council recommendations will be
24 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board for their
25 actions during the January 2023 fisheries regulatory
26 meeting.

27
28 This concludes my update for the call
29 for Federal fisheries and shellfish proposals.

30
31 Does the Council have any questions or
32 regulatory proposals to put forward.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any comments
35 or questions relating to any proposals that the Council
36 would like to submit or consider.

37
38 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

41
42 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
43 would like to bring up rainbow smelt that we have on
44 the Kuskokwim River. I know we have such a huge
45 fluctuation in the population but the variability of
46 the amount of barge traffic that we're going to be
47 incurring and the ones that we already currently have
48 that have been increasing over the years directly
49 impacts our subsistence resources because those barge
50

0109

1 -- barge -- sorry, I can't think -- budge propellers
2 destroy the spawning grounds for the smelt. And also
3 accident spills of diesel fuel and other cargos such as
4 cyanide that are going to be coming up from -- for the
5 Donlin Gold Mine, if they haven't put them up already,
6 because we know they're mining up there, small -- small
7 mining procedures but that stuff is still being barged
8 up here. So in the light of what's been going on I
9 want to bring up the smelt as a fishery of concern and
10 if we could put that into our regulation book because
11 as of right now I'm not seeing smelt in our regulations
12 under the Kuskokwim area subsistence fishing on Page 37
13 in your Federal subsistence management regulations for
14 the harvest of fish and shellfish law book -- laws and
15 regulation book. If we could have, I guess my -- I
16 guess it would be a new species that has customary and
17 traditional use determination with a no limit and an
18 open season but as of right now because of the concerns
19 that we have in regards to the rainbow smelt, it would
20 be good to get them on the books so we can start
21 getting data points and baselines with this proposed
22 Donlin Mine coming in.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.
27 Others that may want to add for fisheries proposals.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council
30 members.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
35 Council members, if I may -- thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Through the Chair. I just had a clarifying question.
37 Were you asking, Alissa, for a customary and
38 traditional use determination for recognition of
39 subsistence use of smelts or were you looking to make
40 regulatory recommendations, like season and harvest
41 restrictions. The habitat, unfortunately, is not
42 something the Federal Subsistence Board is able to
43 address so, you know, in-river impacts to subsistence
44 from barge traffic is not something under the Federal
45 Subsistence Board jurisdiction. And there is -- there
46 is already a C&T determination and as you noted that
47 the -- you know the fishing is open year-round and
48 there is no limit. So just wanted to clarify if you
49 were suggesting seasons or limits.

50

0110

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Eva. Through
4 the Chair, if I may.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

7

8 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 guess what the main goal of what I am trying to get at
10 is that I would like to see the Rainbow smelt be put as
11 a highlighted species in our Federal regulation book
12 and I believe establishing a harvest limit and open
13 season would benefit the population growth. I know
14 that it's been pretty much hit or miss. There's years
15 where we only have one hour of fishing because there's
16 just not that many smelt in the rive versus river times
17 -- times during the river season where we would have
18 maybe two or three days worth of good fishing before
19 the season is over. I -- there would have to be more
20 informational research or study of how our abundance
21 can be examined or can be put into a number. It has to
22 be put into a number of how much an estimate, the
23 abundance, and how to get that abundance. I guess
24 that's where I'm at right now, Mr. Chair.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
31 Council, if I may.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Through the
36 Chair. And just to respond to your request Alissa, I
37 think you're identifying a really good topic for the
38 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, which does
39 target those critical information needs and proposals
40 for projects to monitor important subsistence fisheries
41 and that may be a good starting place to identify those
42 important subsistence Rainbow smelt populations on the
43 Kuskokwim River. And that might help identify the
44 harvestable surplus of that species if that's the
45 information that you were looking for for the basis of
46 a proposal in the future.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50

0111

1 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

4

5 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 Thank you, Eva. Yes, that's exactly what I was trying
7 to figure out. Thank you. Mr. Chair, at this time I'd
8 like to rescind my motion to put this into a proposal
9 at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. I
12 think right now we're just getting some ideas on what
13 we want to present as a proposal to the Office of
14 Subsistence Management and your idea is good and I like
15 that and I'd like to see also included there for the
16 Yukon. I know smelts come into the Yukon yearly and
17 sometimes we hit and miss and when the runs are coming
18 in -- I think getting a good hard cap on how much
19 smelts are coming in and where they're spawning, I
20 think, would be a good thing to know that way we could
21 at least monitor them from time to time.

22

23 Is there any other suggestions that
24 you'd like to see submitted as a fishery proposal to
25 Office of Subsistence Management.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Maybe something to
30 consider. I know we talked a lot about moratoriums, we
31 talk a lot about proposals, we talk a lot about --
32 about the salmon bycatch, would we be able to submit a
33 proposal to instigate a moratorium on the chinook and
34 chum if they're not being met, like maybe five years
35 according to what we are proposing in the letter. Like
36 if we don't see rebounds of the chinook and chum
37 salmon, would we be allowed to submit a proposal to ask
38 for a moratorium on those two species.

39

40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

43

44 MS. PATTON: Just a clarifying
45 question. Are you asking about the Bering Sea trawl
46 fisheries or are you asking about subsistence or
47 commercial fishing in-river.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I think in the

50

0112

1 last how many years we haven't had no commercial
2 fishery on the Yukon River because of low abundance. I
3 think the next step is to look at where we know these
4 salmon are being harvested and I think that would go
5 into the trawl fishery as we do need to let the High
6 Sea trawl fishing know that if our needs aren't being
7 met then I think definitely a moratorium should be in
8 place.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead and I'll
15 get Robert. Go ahead, Eva.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
18 Council members. So currently we're discussing the
19 Federal subsistence fisheries proposals, which the
20 jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Management
21 Program is in the Federal waters in-rivers, we don't
22 have jurisdiction over the marine fisheries. But the
23 Council had requested in your own letter to the North
24 Pacific Fisheries Management Council the hard cap
25 reduction and had further requested that, you know, if
26 the fishery had continued to decline that, you know, in
27 the future that a hard closure may be warranted. So we
28 can add that particular language to the Council's own
29 letter that will be submitted along with the joint
30 letter as well.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Eva. I
33 think that's the right.....

34

35 MS. PATTON: And.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, go ahead.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
40 Council. And we will have the North Pacific Fisheries
41 Management Council report on Thursday morning. So
42 there'll be more opportunity for dialogue specific to
43 that Bering Sea management. And my understanding was
44 that the June North Pacific Fisheries Management
45 Council meeting will have salmon bycatch on the agenda
46 and so there would be an opportunity for public and
47 Council member comment at that time in addition to the
48 letters that the Council is submitting.

49

50

0113

1 But this call for the Federal
2 subsistence fisheries proposal is addressing just the
3 in-river fisheries management within Federal waters.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva,
8 for that clarification. Robert, were you going to
9 comment.

10
11 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, just -- just I'm not
12 quite understanding that recommendation was for the
13 North Pacific fishing industry to go on moratorium, or
14 the Kuskokwim on moratorium. Because I don't -- I
15 don't know how we could -- Kuskokwim and Yukon go on a
16 moratorium when we're already having that problem and
17 the problem doesn't seem to come from our end. But if
18 it is for the North Pacific fleets to go on moratorium,
19 that sounds very well, very good, but I'm pretty not
20 sure that that could be possible. Because I believe
21 they got their own fishing industry and it would be
22 just a recommendation from our end.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Robert. I
27 think we should include that in our own letter to the
28 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and bring
29 this up during their presentation when they come on.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 Is there any other recommendations that
34 the Council wants to consider for OSM to put together
35 on fisheries proposals.

36
37 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

40
41 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
42 just got a text message, for the salmon to allow
43 dipnetting year-round. Dipnetting for salmon. And
44 that's a public request to include salmon species --
45 allowable dipnetting year-round and not only during
46 restrictions. Because as many reds are running through
47 the river and as many fish -- I'm sorry -- the amount
48 of people dipnetting in the river it won't -- it won't
49 do as much harm as a gillnet and they can catch and
50

0114

1 release chinook salmon a lot more safely. And they can
2 also pick out the reds that they're catching which will
3 allow for subsistence fishing for folks who have Monday
4 through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 jobs and are not able to
5 go out fishing when there's openings.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.

10
11 Any other comments from the Council.

12
13 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

16
17 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, I have a question
18 for Eva.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

21
22 MR. LANDLORD: Okay. On the Yukon
23 River, the Federal waters is from Russian Mission down
24 to the mouth of the Yukon?

25
26 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry, through the
27 Chair. Thank you, James. Can you please repeat your
28 question I didn't quite hear.

29
30 MR. LANDLORD: Federal waters on Yukon
31 River, is Federal waters from Russian Mission down to
32 the mouth of the Yukon?

33
34 MS. PATTON: Thank you for that
35 question, James. And I'm just pulling up our Federal
36 lands and waters map here. So the entire Yukon is a
37 patchwork of Federal and State waters and the -- and
38 the Yukon within the YKDelta RAC region, the Federal
39 waters of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
40 where the Yukon River flows through the Yukon Delta
41 National Wildlife Refuge, there is a -- above Paimiut,
42 so it actually does go above Russian Mission on the
43 south side to above Paimiut on the Yukon River and then
44 down to the mouth.

45
46 MR. LANDLORD: Okay, thank you.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you for that
49 question, James. And I'll send this Federal waters map
50

0115

1 again tonight for the Council's discussion tomorrow
2 while it might be handy for everyone.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 And we did also want to clarify for
7 Alissa, were you asking about submitting a proposal for
8 dipnets and if that was on the Kuskokwim or the Yukon
9 and we might be able to help clarify what the current
10 regulations are and some of it is bound by the in-
11 season management actions as well so when the Federal
12 manager has that in-season authority they may further
13 restrict gear through the in-season management action.
14 But just wanted to clarify if you're talking dipnets on
15 the Yukon or on the Kuskokwim.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Eva. Mr.
20 Chair, a response.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, go ahead.

23

24 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Eva. Yes, it's
25 going to be for both the Yukon and Kuskokwim. I know we
26 have an abundance of pink salmon on the Yukon River,
27 not as much red on the Yukon River as much as we do
28 here in the Kuskokwim area now, but it would still be
29 beneficial for them to get some type of fish into their
30 freezers regardless of restrictions. Like I said,
31 again, dipnetting, you can pick and choose what is
32 catch and released, and it's been effective that you
33 can catch kings and release kings safely back into the
34 water. So I would put the dipnet to be allowable year-
35 round regardless of the closures, in the books, for
36 subsistence users to catch other non-chum or chinook
37 salmon species.

38

39 Thank you, Eva.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Thank you for that,
42 Alissa. And I might call on our Fisheries Staff and
43 our Anthropology Staff here. Part of the in-season
44 management is that in-season decisionmaking is
45 delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board to the in-
46 season fisheries managers so they have the authority to
47 make those regulatory decisions in-season and so what's
48 in the regulatory book then becomes superseded by the
49 in-season manager's actions. So right now dipnetting

50

0116

1 is legal gear on both rivers and as a selective tool,
2 you know, to be able to harvest specific species and
3 release live. So that was a tool in particular for
4 when the chum salmon was doing well and selective
5 release of chinook salmon. But, again, it might be the
6 actions of the in-season manager that would restrict
7 even that selective gear at times when the chum salmon
8 are also so low and other salmon species on the river
9 are so low.

10

11 But I'll just touch base with our
12 Fisheries Biologist and Anthropologist and make sure
13 that that is the case that we have it on the books and
14 in regulation that subsistence nets are legal gear in
15 the -- currently in regulation through the fishing
16 season. I don't know if Cory or Pippa.....

17

18 MS. KENNER: Hi, Eva.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Hi Pippa, thank you.

21

22 MS. KENNER: Okay, for the record this
23 is Pippa Kenner and I work for OSM. Unfortunately I
24 just realized I have the old regulatory book. In the
25 old regulatory book on Page 34 for the Yukon we have a
26 statement in here that explains it. It says salmon may
27 be harvested by dipnet at any time except during times
28 during conservation, the Federal in-season manager may
29 announce restrictions on time, areas and species. So
30 it is legal gear to harvest fish year-round unless the
31 -- unless there's a special action or emergency order
32 that makes them a not legal gear.

33

34 I think, Eva, that's what you said
35 also.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Thank you for that, Pippa,
38 I was trying to pull up my reg book here real quick so
39 I'm glad somebody else had a chance to look that up so
40 the Council and public know where to find that so thank
41 you for that.

42

43 So would.....

44

45 MR. VICKERS: Hello, Eva.....

46

47 MS. KENNER: It's under gear
48 restrictions, it's the final bullet.....

49

50

0117

1 MR. VICKERS: Eva.

2

3 MS. KENNER:in the Yukon.....

4

5 MR. VICKERS: Hello, Eva, this is

6 Brent.....

7

8 MS. KENNER:northern area.

9

10 MR. VICKERS:Vickers.

11

12 MS. KENNER: Sorry, go ahead, Brent.

13

14 MR. VICKERS: Okay, I'm just -- thank
15 you. This is Brent Vickers, Anthropologist from OSM
16 and I'm just confirming that it's also in exactly,
17 verbatim what Pippa just read out is in the current
18 2021/2023 regulations also on Page 23. It is the last
19 bullet point under gear restrictions.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you for
22 confirming that, Brent, and I'm.....

23

24 MR. VICKERS: Yes, thank you.

25

26 MS. PATTON:looking at.....

27

28 MR. VICKERS: And thank you Pippa.

29

30 MS. PATTON:the 2021/2023 book as
31 well. So thanks everyone for helping look that up and
32 clarification. And then I'm.....

33

34 MS. KENNER: And then on the.....

35

36 MS. PATTON:just want to.....

37

38 MS. KENNER:on the Kuskokwim,
39 it's in my regulatory book on Page 38 that says you may
40 take salmon by gillnet, dipnet, beach seine, fishwheel,
41 rod and reel subject to the restrictions in these
42 regulations. So it's pretty much open year-round
43 harvesting salmon with a dipnet except when it's
44 otherwise closed through a Federal special action or an
45 emergency order.

46

47 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

50

0118

1 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Thank you guys for finding that. But what I'm trying
3 to get at is I would like dipnets to be available for
4 harvesting other species that are not chinook or chum
5 or stock of concern with the ability to dipnet year-
6 round even during special actions or emergency orders.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Either Eva or Pippa can
9 comment on that.

10
11 MS. KENNER: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you.
12 For the record this is Pippa Kenner. I just received a
13 note from Deena Jallen, manager on the Yukon, I think
14 what she's telling me is that they have not restricted
15 the use of dipnet.

16
17 MS. JALLEN: Through the Chair, this is
18 Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department of Fish and
19 Game, I can maybe just add a little bit in response if
20 that would be helpful.

21
22 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Deena, yes.

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

26
27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Deena.

28
29 MS. JALLEN: Hi, yeah, so we've got in
30 our gear, dipnets are legal gear for salmon and non-
31 salmon species, however, we have other -- a couple
32 other sections in our gear where during the times when
33 it's necessary for the conservation of king salmon we
34 can have an emergency order that says that you can use
35 dipnets but must release king salmon and we also have a
36 regulation for chum salmon, where during times of
37 conservation for chum salmon we can have an emergency
38 order that says all chum salmon must be released. So
39 otherwise if you're using a dipnet and getting non-
40 salmon or other salmon you can fish those species
41 unless we've got an emergency order saying you have to
42 release those species alive. And that's just for the
43 Yukon River only.

44
45 MS. KENNER: And that's the same as the
46 Federal regulations. This is Pippa. Thank you, Deena.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Alissa.

49
50

0119

1 MR. BLIHOVDE: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

4

5 MR. BLIHOVDE: This is Boyd, the Refuge
6 Manager at Yukon Delta. And I just wanted to basically
7 provide the same type of information for the Kuskokwim.
8 We've been, at the Refuge, and also with the State and
9 partners like the InterTribal Fish Commission, we've
10 agreed that promoting the use of alternative gear types
11 is a good conservation effort that we've tried to do,
12 and in the last few years we've allowed for those
13 alternative gear types even within the closures, or
14 during closures. Last year the conservation measure
15 stated that we wanted kings released but that those
16 alternative gear types could continue to be used. The
17 2020 season, kings were allowed to be kept by qualified
18 users during closures.....

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted - typing)

22

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm sorry, I need
24 to interrupt.

25

26 MR. BLIHOVDE:so it's -- I guess
27 it's gone back and forth different years with.....

28

29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Somebody, whoever
30 is typing can you please mute your phones, thank you.

31

32 MR. BLIHOVDE: So it's gone back and
33 forth was my final comment. But certainly for those
34 other species of salmon we've been promoting it as a
35 good conservation measure, to try to promote those
36 alternative gear types like dipnets. So I just wanted
37 to add that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Boyd.
40 Any more comments.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, is there
45 any other proposals, fisheries proposals that the
46 Council wants to consider at this time for OSM to put
47 together.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0120

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, Eva, I
2 believe that's it for the.....

3

4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted)

6

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY:Fisheries Resource
8 Monitoring Program information. I believe we're down
9 to call for Federal fish and shellfish proposals.

10

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Yes, this was part of the discussion on the call for
13 Federal fisheries proposals. Excellent discussion.
14 It's always this sort of discussion that helps clarify
15 and highlight where there may be any confusion for
16 those, you know, who are trying to harvest some fish so
17 excellent questions and excellent discussion and thanks
18 to everyone who's helped to clarify. And also, just to
19 highlight, as we're moving forward, too, for those
20 communications and outreach, to be clear when people
21 are able to use selective gear for other types of fish
22 during these conservation times so thank you for that.

23

24 And I did just want to clarify for the
25 Council and the public, that this is just the first
26 call for fisheries proposals. The Federal Register has
27 not been posted yet so once it does post there'll be at
28 least a 30 day opportunity, possibly more, for the
29 public to submit proposals. And any member of the
30 Council can submit a proposal at any time during that
31 open call and any member of the public can submit a
32 proposal, so once that Federal Register notice does
33 post we'll be sure to distribute that widely to all the
34 communities in the region so there'll be ongoing
35 opportunity to submit proposals. So if Council members
36 think of something, you know, in the following weeks or
37 you're working with your community or your tribe and
38 they would like to submit a proposal, there will be at
39 least 30 days to do that once the Federal Register
40 notice posts. So we'll be sure to do that outreach
41 widely to the Council and communities in the region.

42

43 And then finally any proposals that are
44 submitted for the YKDelta region will come back before
45 you, will come back before you, will come back before
46 this Council for your recommendations at your fall
47 meeting, so it will be ongoing discussion.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the

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0121

1 Council.

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. I believe we are ready to move on. If there is no other recommendations for consideration we could move on to the next item under new business.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, for the record my name is Cory Graham and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with OSM.

During the upcoming fisheries regulatory cycle OSM Staff will review closures to Federal subsistence fisheries similar to the wildlife closure reviews during your last cycle. Because the fisheries closure review process is relatively new I wanted to briefly describe OSM's closure review policy and provide the Council with a list of the fisheries closures that will be reviewed during the upcoming cycle. This is not an action item.

So Title VIII of ANILCA establishes a priority for the taking of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and waters for non-wasteful subsistence uses of the taking of fish and wildlife on such lands for other purposes. Under certain circumstances specified in Title VIII, the Board is authorized to restrict, close and reopen Federal public lands and waters to the taking of fish and wildlife. Like other Board established rules closures are subject to change during the regulatory cycle. It is the Board's policy that Federal public lands and waters should be reopened as soon as practicable once the conditions that originally justified the closure have changed to such an extent that the closure is no longer necessary. To help ensure that closures do not remain in place longer than necessary, the Board has directed OSM to review existing closures.

OSM will review half of all closures during each applicable regulatory cycle. Closure reviews will include analysis of all relevant considerations and OSM will recommend an action for the Council's consideration on the closure. The types of actions that the Council can recommend include, to retain, which means the closure remains in the regulations unchanged. A second option is to modify, which means a change directly related to the actual closure, for example, adjusting the dates the closure's

0122

1 effective, assigning an expiration date or broadening a
2 closure to both subsistence and non-subsistence users.
3 A third option is to rescind, which means to remove the
4 closure from the regulations. If rescinded, applicable
5 regulations from the closure area would apply. The
6 last option is to defer, which means the closure
7 remains in place until that time the Board takes up the
8 closure again, normally no longer than the next
9 applicable regulatory cycle.

10

11 I want to point out that changes to
12 harvest limits, seasons or allowable gear types cannot
13 be made through any of these options. These changes
14 would require a parallel proposal to be submitted with
15 the closure review.

16

17 During the upcoming regulatory cycle we
18 will be bringing forward fisheries closure reviews for
19 the Council's consideration at the fall 2022 meetings.
20 OSM will be reviewing three closures located in the
21 Western Interior region. These closures are Jim River,
22 Bonanza Creek, and Kanuti River. OSM will also be
23 reviewing two closures in the Eastern Interior region,
24 and these closures include Nome Creek and Delta River.
25 These closures are relevant to your Council because
26 they are located within the Yukon River drainage and
27 rural residents of the entire drainage could harvest
28 fish in these areas if the closures are rescinded.

29

30 And this concludes my presentation of
31 the closure review update. Are there any questions
32 from the Council.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Cory. Is
35 there any questions or comments from -- for Cory at
36 this time from the Council.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, thank you
41 Cory. I believe we could go on to the next item on the
42 agenda.

43

44 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner. I
45 am ready to present the next agenda item.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pippa, you have the
48 floor.

49

50

0123

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Hello to you and members of the Council. Again, for
3 the record, my name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an
4 Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management
5 here in Anchorage. I'm here to provide you with a
6 brief overview of the current call for proposals for
7 nonrural determinations in Federal regulations. This
8 is not in your Council meeting materials and this is
9 not an action item on your agenda.

10

11 A nonrural determination is the process
12 for formally changing in Federal regulations a
13 community's status from nonrural to rural or from rural
14 to nonrural. This is the second call for proposals for
15 nonrural determinations since 2018. Any valid nonrural
16 determination proposals submitted this year will be
17 acted on by the Board in 2025. The call for nonrural
18 determination proposals occurs every four years at the
19 same time as every other fisheries regulatory cycle.
20 The next call for proposals for nonrural determinations
21 will be in 2026.

22

23 As you just heard from our colleagues
24 in the Fisheries Division, the call for proposals has
25 not yet published due to the lengthy clearance process
26 in Washington, D.C. When it gets published the public
27 comment proposal -- the public period to submit
28 proposals will be open for at least 30 days.

29

30 There's a flier on our website on how
31 to submit proposals to change nonrural determinations.
32 The flier includes information on where to submit a
33 proposal and lists items a proposal must contain to be
34 accepted for consideration by the Board. Our website
35 address is www.doi.gov/subsistence and click on faqs,
36 frequently asked questions. This flier can be found
37 near the bottom of the frequently asked questions page.
38 Additional information may be found in the soon to be
39 published proposed rule for the 2023 to 2025
40 subsistence fish and shellfish proposed rule.

41

42 Again, this is not an action item for
43 your Council but an update on where we are in the
44 process.

45

46 Thank you very much for your attention
47 and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Pippa. Do

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0124

1 we have any questions for Pippa at this time.

2

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(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, thank you, Pippa. I believe we are ready to move on to the next item, which is review and approve FY2021 annual report, Council Coordinator.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. You will find your annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board under Tab 5 in your meeting books. And for our new Council members, the Regional Advisory Councils are authorized under Title VIII of ANILCA and within the provisions, .805, the Council submits a report to the Board, to the Federal Subsistence Board and it provides an opportunity for the Councils to relay recommendations on fish and wildlife regulations, anticipated subsistence needs, bring awareness to subsistence issues and concerns within the regions and relay other issues of importance to subsistence. And often the Council relays your observations and traditional knowledge of both the environment and subsistence fish and wildlife within your region to help bring that to the attention of the Board.

And this year the Council, in your draft annual report, so these topics were developed at the Council's fall meeting. The Council brought up a number of topics of concern.

1. Donlin Gold Mine and impacts to subsistence resources.

2. Whitefish research request highlighting the importance of subsistence whitefish and concerns about its decline since whitefish has now been prioritized -- was opportunity for subsistence fishing when chinook and chum salmon returns are low.

3. A request for sockeye salmon research. Communities observing an increase in the sockeye or red salmon populations in the Kuskokwim River and wondering about the interactions in the ecosystem.

4. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and a request to lower salmon

1 bycatch. This is in the Council's annual report and
2 also in the Council's letters to the North Pacific
3 Fisheries Management Council which are also being
4 directed to the Federal Subsistence Board as well.

5

6 5. The concern about the Mulchatna
7 Caribou Herd decline. Some of the issues and concerns
8 that the Council just raised in the earlier discussion
9 about a potential special action request and concerns
10 that a full closure may be warranted until the
11 population expands to at least 30,000 caribou and also
12 the Council had supported the delegation of authority
13 to the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager for the
14 management of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. And, again,
15 that action from the Federal Subsistence Board will be
16 coming up at their April 12th through 15th meeting at
17 that time and the Council requests the in-season
18 managers to engage with the communities on conservation
19 measures and consider the traditional knowledge in the
20 management of the herd.

21

22 6. The Council also had a request for
23 information about snowy owl populations and concerns
24 for how there may be an interaction perhaps between the
25 jackrabbits decline in the region and the snowy owl
26 population. There's a relationship between predatory
27 and prey there.

28

29 So those are the topics that the
30 Council had identified at your fall meeting. Those six
31 topics. If you would take a moment to review the
32 report and see if there's any edits or additions that
33 you would like to add to this report and I will
34 finalize it, incorporating your feedback and any
35 further edits and get it back to the Chair for his
36 final review and then it will be submitted to the Board
37 for their consideration.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
40 Council. If there's any questions on the annual report
41 or any additions or edits you would like to make.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Do we
46 have any questions or comments relating to the draft
47 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding those
48 highlighted that we want to submit to.....

49

50

0126

1 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

4

5 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
6 would like to look at adding a concern of the over
7 population of moose in the Lower Yukon River. If the
8 Federal Subsistence Board and the Office of Subsistence
9 Management can look into helping reducing the moose
10 population or assisting in any way in helping with
11 tribes to hunt moose on the Lower Yukon Rivers and help
12 distribute it out to other villages who need the
13 assistance due to the recent declines -- or, sorry --
14 due to the recent closures of our fisheries, caribou on
15 the Kuskokwim, and other declines that we are seeing in
16 other species that are -- have been harvested a lot
17 more to replace our main subsistence food.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. So
22 maybe on No. 4, North Pacific Fisheries Management
23 Council, request lower salmon bycatch, we just approved
24 a draft letter to reduce the chinook salmon to 16,000
25 and also to request a chum salmon cap of 250,000 and in
26 our letter it mentions that to reduce bycatch for both
27 chinook and chum salmon to 16,000 for each species, how
28 would that -- how would that fit in with our tri-letter
29 to the RAC -- how would that work out to make it that
30 we are supporting one number rather than two numbers.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
33 Council members. And thank you for catching that.
34 That is actually my typo, my mistake there. The
35 Council had made a specific recommendation for the
36 chinook bycatch to be 16,000 and the chum salmon they
37 were -- the Council was also recommending to reduce by
38 half so we had a number for the chinook bycatch at that
39 time, which was roughly 36 or 37,000 for that previous
40 year but we didn't have a chum salmon bycatch number.
41 But the Council had recommended to reduce at least by
42 half. So my apologies, Mr. Chair, that was my typo in
43 your report there.

44

45 And then the discussion that the
46 Western Interior Council had at their meeting when they
47 took up the Council letter to the North Pacific
48 Fisheries Management Council, they did receive that
49 report at the same time from Dr. Stram on that chum
50

0127

1 salmon bycatch was roughly 570-some-thousand, so the
2 reducing it by half, or less than half is where that
3 250,000 number came up.
4

5 But we can also include in this letter
6 to the Board, the Council's specific request for that
7 hard cap reduction to the chum salmon as well.
8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
10 I think if we're going to try and be united with a set
11 number, both for YK, Western Interior, Seward Peninsula
12 and Eastern Interior then we need to stand together on
13 a hard cap with one number that way hopefully that
14 they'll consider, but if we send a letter with
15 different hard cap numbers I think it'll make it
16 confusing for them so I think since we recommended that
17 chum salmon cap be cut in half to 250,000, that number
18 should be included in this letter to the Federal
19 Subsistence Board.
20

21 Thank you.
22

23 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 will make that addition, thank you for that.
25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Is there any
27 other comments or concerns relating to the draft letter
28 to the Federal Subsistence Board.
29

30 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.
31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.
33

34 MR. LANDLORD: Thank you. I think
35 Alissa made -- or there was a motion made from Wasilly
36 and seconded by John Andrew to reduce for -- have a
37 five year moratorium on the caribou until it reaches
38 about 30,000 caribou and in the letter it says until it
39 rebounds to an established stable population objective
40 of at least 30,000 caribou, should we add five year
41 moratorium on the letter also.
42

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.
44

45 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
46 members of the Council. Yes, if the Council wishes to
47 add that as a suggestion for proceeding with a
48 moratorium and -- and this might be a good time to talk
49 a little further too -- we moved very quickly through
50

0128

1 the Council's request for a special action and we might
2 want to discuss a little further, the overlap. I know
3 the Council had expressed an interest to have a
4 moratorium for a very clear messaging to the public.
5 There is currently overlap, as noted, in the Council's
6 letter that the Council had supported the delegation of
7 authority to the Togiak National Wildlife in-season
8 manager and what that would do is allow the in-season
9 manager to make those management decisions in-season
10 and, currently, all harvest is closed. So if there was
11 a special action request that could close for the
12 remainder of the regulatory year, which would be about
13 two years since they're just about to adopt the new
14 regulations now, including that consideration of the
15 delegation of authority and then it would take a
16 regulatory proposal to put it on the books of closing
17 harvest to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

18
19 So there's a little bit of overlap
20 between what's happening right now already with the in-
21 season management of closing that caribou herd and
22 whether the Council wishes to make it very clear with
23 the request for a moratorium in that messaging. So the
24 Council is welcome to add that to your annual report
25 and we might want to followup with further discussion
26 on the special action request itself.

27
28 And we do have our wildlife biologist
29 online as well that might be able to assist with that,
30 where that overlap between the in-season management and
31 if a special action was to be supported. But the
32 Council can certainly.....

33
34 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Eva.....

35
36 MS. PATTON:put that request in
37 your annual report as well. Thank you.

38
39 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, I forgot.....

40
41 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair.....

42
43 MR. LANDLORD:the authority to
44 Togiak so.....

45
46 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
47 is Lisa.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Lisa, go ahead.
50

0129

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
2 Mr. Chair. This is Lisa Grediagin. I'm the Wildlife
3 Division Supervisor with the Office of Subsistence
4 Management. And as Eva mentioned there is a proposal
5 that will be coming before the Federal Subsistence
6 Board in April and the Council acted n this proposal,
7 it was WP22-41, that would delegate authority to the
8 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager to, you know,
9 close the season, set the harvest quota and set harvest
10 limits and open and close seasons, and I missed your
11 earlier discussion about the special action but I
12 understand the Council's interested in a five year
13 moratorium on the Mulchatna Caribou hunt and one option
14 would be for the -- when the Board considers this
15 proposal during their April meeting for the Chair of
16 the Council or the Council representative to
17 communicate to the Board that you're even -- even
18 though you're aware that the Togiak Manager would have
19 the delegated authority you would support just closing
20 that season for five years and so it might be worth
21 seeing the Board's action on that and then wait -- you
22 know, if -- because a special action -- what the
23 outcome of that proposal is before submitting a special
24 action because that could affect what the season and
25 management of the herd is, you know, next year.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Lisa, for
30 that clarification.

31
32 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

35
36 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Really quick question in regards to closing the
38 Mulchatna and having a five year moratorium on this
39 herd it will not allow other units where the Mulchatna
40 Caribou Herd currently roams to open up a season and
41 that was the purpose of having a moratorium closure so
42 that all the parties that are involved, including all
43 the units that I had mentioned would not be allowed to
44 harvest any Mulchatna Caribou Herd -- sorry, harvest --
45 yeah, harvest any portion of any unit of the herd
46 regardless of unit, it will completely close out all
47 hunting of this herd for five years or until the 30,000
48 goal is met. Because right now we have other units
49 that are proposing to go hunting when other units are
50

0130

1 closed. Now, I don't know however many of you on this
2 RAC know that other units for the Mulchatna Caribou
3 Herd are currently roaming have put in proposals to
4 allow take of Mulchatna Caribou Herd in their units
5 based on whatever studies that they get. And I know
6 for a fact if we close it here on Unit 18 and don't
7 allow people to go hunting on Unit 18 and they open it
8 on Dillingham side, it's not going to be a pretty
9 picture. So in the respect of building this population
10 up that's why the moratorium was put in place because
11 you could hear it from our Council, you could hear it
12 from our participating people of the Yukon Kuskokwim
13 Delta who are concerned about this population and you
14 could hear it from managers that this population is not
15 getting better, in fact we are going down in population
16 as we speak even with our current closures.

17
18 So that's why the moratorium is being
19 put in place.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.

24
25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is
26 Lisa. I just have a followup question or clarification.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Lisa.

29
30 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I just wanted to
31 ask Alissa when she was talking about other proposals
32 from other areas if she was referring to Board of Game
33 State proposals or Federal subsistence Board proposals
34 or what proposals she's exactly referring to.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

37
38 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
39 regards to the State side. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, through the
42 Chair, Alissa, this is Lisa. And a special action to
43 the Federal Subsistence Board would not have any effect
44 on these State proposals and the State regulations. I
45 mean if you're just talking about a closure of Federal
46 lands but currently the proposal to the Board would
47 grant that authority to the in-season manager so it
48 would be within his decision on whether or not to open
49 a season each year. So I understand perhaps a
50

0131

1 moratorium would be a bit, you know, clearer method
2 versus, you know, just have that authority delegated
3 but it'd be functioning to the same effect of, you
4 know, having a closed season. But, again, if these
5 State proposals, there is really limited ability for
6 any Federal special action to have an effect on that.

7

8 MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair, this is
9 Jackie.

10

11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm sorry, can you
12 repeat your name.

13

14 MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair, this is
15 Jackie.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Jackie, go ahead.

18

19 MS. CLEVELAND: I had a question for
20 Lisa. So I currently work for the Togiak National
21 Wildlife Refuge and I had wondered about that, too,
22 when the language included 17, and I'm new with them
23 also but are you suggesting, Lisa, that if we took out
24 that Unit 17 language out of the draft that maybe it
25 would be stronger.

26

27 Thanks.

28

29 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair, this
30 is Lisa. And what -- could you clarify what exactly
31 you're talking about, removing that Unit 17 language.

32

33 MS. CLEVELAND: I think Alissa had, if
34 I remember correctly, included the Unit 17 and 18 and
35 pretty much Bristol Bay and here, YKDelta and you're
36 saying that the Mulchatna Caribou Herd is under their
37 management in Togiak, and I guess it's a question of
38 can we even include their area in this.

39

40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, thank you for that
41 clarification.

42

43 MS. CLEVELAND: Or I guess the question
44 is for anyone.

45

46 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, correct, so the
47 -- currently the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
48 manager has delegated authority for all the Mulchatna
49 Caribou Herd range so Units 18, 17, 9, 19 and currently
50

0132

1 that delegation is through a special action so it's
2 temporary but there is a proposal that will be
3 considered by the Federal Subsistence Board at their
4 meeting in April to codify that regulation change --
5 you know to maintain the delegation of authority to the
6 Togiak manager for the entire range of the Mulchatna
7 Caribou Herd. And, again, I mean it would be within
8 the authority, assuming that proposal is adopted, of
9 the Togiak Refuge Manager to close the season every
10 year to basically have a moratorium but, again, if the
11 Council wants to convey this to the Board at their
12 meeting in April, you know, that's one option since
13 this proposal will actually already be before the Board
14 anyway.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20

21 MS. CLEVELAND: Okay, that makes sense,
22 thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more questions or
25 comments relating to the draft letter to the Federal
26 Subsistence Board at this time.

27

28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30

31 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

34

35 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
36 like to add to the letter our concerns about chum
37 salmon in relation to what we've heard over our
38 discussions. The chum salmon return populations and
39 providing -- to provide the continued -- sorry, I lost
40 my train of thought -- the chum salmon concerns of the
41 returning population and the fact that we weren't able
42 to harvest or be able to get subsistence on that chum
43 salmon. I want the Federal Subsistence Board to know
44 how much of an impact it was for our people and those
45 who subsist on chum salmon.

46

47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted)

49

50

0133

1 MS. ROGERS: As we heard from many
2 users, including our public users, which we are here to
3 represent, that the hardships that they had to endure
4 from not having king salmon opportunity to go fishing,
5 not having the chum salmon opportunity to go fishing
6 and including what Mr. Waska said, that the numbers of
7 chum salmon that were dumped, along with halibut, in
8 those bycatch, 500,000, and his concerns that he only
9 got two chum this year and he waited and waited and
10 waited. He was really concerned in regards to them
11 depleting. And then you also heard it from people on
12 the Yukon side as well, the natural resources directed,
13 Mr. Stan from Mountain Village, who also mentioned chum
14 as a concern. And Mr. Martin Nicolai from Kwethluk
15 who also had a concern of chum. And our RAC members.
16 If we could get that language put in there, that Item
17 No. 8 possibly, that chum salmon is a huge concern for
18 our subsistence way of life.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. I
23 believe under No. 4 there, on the second paragraph
24 pretty much addresses what you're saying but if there's
25 any language that needs to be put in there to make it
26 stronger then that's the purpose of this conversation
27 right now.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

32
33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35
36 MS. PATTON: This is Eva. Yes, thank
37 you for that feedback, Alissa and members of the
38 Council and, absolutely, we can rearrange the report so
39 that we have this additional topic, not just addressing
40 chum in the Bering Sea bycatch but the importance of
41 chum for subsistence and the hardship communities are
42 facing with the drastically low chum returns. So we
43 can kind of put those back to back so the information
44 ties in but add that additional detail of all the
45 feedback that we've heard from members of the public on
46 the importance of subsistence chum and hardship these
47 last couple years, so we can add that detail.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0134

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more comments or
2 suggestions that we'd like to include in the draft
3 letter at this time regarding those that are
4 highlighted and bold.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, yes, we
12 will go ahead and include all those comments from the
13 public and also from the Council regarding the chum to
14 let them know that everyone is suffering as a result of
15 not fishing for the last couple years so I think those
16 points need to be made in the letters.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 If there's no other -- any other
21 suggestions or recommendations for the draft letter, I
22 believe we will see another letter to include those and
23 to approve it for submission.

24
25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: If there's no other
29 comment maybe we could go on to the next item, Eva.

30
31 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr.
32 Chair and Council members. If I may, it would be
33 helpful to have a formal recommendation on the record
34 if the Council would like to make a motion to submit
35 the annual report with the discussed edits and
36 additions and a vote, that would be helpful, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Eva.
39 You heard the recommendation, is there a motion on the
40 floor to include the language to the Federal
41 Subsistence Board, both from the Council and from the
42 public, at this time.

43
44 MS. ROGERS: I so move, Mr. Chair,
45 Alissa Rogers.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. For the record
48 Alissa Rogers moves. Do I hear a second.

49
50

0135

1 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom seconds.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, seconded by
4 Thomas Alstrom. All those in favor signify by saying
5 aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, say no.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
14 carries. So thank you -- thank you all for your
15 comments and recommendations. I don't know how late
16 you guys want to go but I believe we have another -- we
17 still could go on or take a break or take up the next
18 action, under new business.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 If I may, there was an accidental omission in your
26 agenda, in addition to the annual report I do have an
27 update on the Council's charter if I may provide that
28 update quickly for the Council. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, go ahead, Eva,
31 you got the floor. Thank you.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
34 members of the Council. You will find your Council's
35 charter under Tab 15 in your meeting books.

36

37 And all 10 Subsistence Regional
38 Advisory Councils were chartered under the Federal
39 Advisory Committee Act, or FACA. The Council charters
40 are renewed every two years. And last year, if you'll
41 recall the Councils reviewed the charters and proposed
42 some changes. And the Federal Subsistence Board
43 supported most of the Councils proposed changes and
44 forwarded it for recommendation to the Secretary of
45 Interior and Agriculture for their review and approval.

46

47 And nine of the 10 Councils wanted to
48 add the carryover term clause to all Council charters
49 to avoid temporary vacancies on the Councils that occur
50

0136

1 between the expiration date of the current member terms
2 and the annual Secretarial appointments. So this
3 Council recalls, I'm sure, that the past couple years
4 that appointments were not made or were significantly
5 delayed by the Secretary of the Interior and that left
6 big vacancies on the Council. And so the -- and many,
7 many of all 9 of the Regional Advisory -- or 10
8 Regional Advisory Councils experienced something
9 similar and suggested if a carryover term was in the
10 charter then a Council member would continue to serve
11 until a new appointment was made. So normally terms
12 conclude at the end of December and new appointments
13 are supposed to be made at that same time.

14

15 And with the carryover terms -- and you
16 will find that under Section 12 in the membership and
17 designation, the added language reads:

18

19 If appointments for a given year have
20 not yet been announced, a member may continue to serve
21 on the Council following the expiration of his or her
22 term until such appointments have been made. And
23 unless reappointed, the members service ends on the
24 date of announcement, even if that member specific seat
25 remains unfilled.

26

27 So -- but that allows for a, you know,
28 full membership on the Council and continuation of the
29 Council's work until appointments are made. So that
30 was a positive addition requested by all the Councils.

31

32 Then the Board also supported a request
33 from the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory
34 Council to strike out subsection 4(h) and 4(i), of
35 Section 4, in the description of duties. And you won't
36 see that in your charter now because it has been
37 removed. And that was irrelevant language that was
38 inserted by the Secretary of the Interior in the
39 previous Administration. It was inserted in all
40 charters for all FACA Committees across the United
41 States but it was irrelevant to the Councils mission
42 and mandate under Title VIII of ANILCA. And the
43 Secretaries approved -- the current Secretary approved
44 removing those irrelevant sections inserted by the
45 previous Administration. So you won't find those in
46 your charter anymore.

47

48 And then specific to the YKDelta RAC,
49 the Board supported the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta's Council

50

0137

1 charter change request to add regional geographic
2 membership balance to the charter given the
3 understanding that the goal might not be met depending
4 on the geographic distribution and ratings of the
5 actual applications that are received. But they did
6 support making that effort to have that broad
7 representation across the region, so Section 12 under
8 membership and designation now reads:

9
10 To ensure that there is geographic
11 membership balance and balanced representation on the
12 Council, the Secretary will strive to appoint members
13 to equally represent the communities across the Yukon
14 Kuskokwim and Delta region and on both the Yukon and
15 Kuskokwim Rivers.

16
17 So those were the changes that were
18 made to your Council charters. And that concludes the
19 charter update. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
20 members.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Good
23 work, Council, for all those recommendations and the
24 majority of them have been accepted. Are we looking
25 for other ideas that we could submit at this time or
26 this is just what you're presenting to us from the
27 Federal Subsistence Board on the charter?

28
29 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
30 members of the Council. So the Council charters are
31 renewed every two years so you'll see on the last page,
32 on Page 4, your charter was signed by Secretary of
33 Interior Deb Haaland, and signed just this past year,
34 December 2021, and so it'll come up again in the next
35 cycle for review. So the Council has an opportunity
36 every two years to review your charter if there's any
37 further changes that the Council would like to make.

38
39 So this is just a report on those
40 recommendations the Council made at your fall meeting
41 that were accepted and adopted by the Secretary of the
42 Interior.

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva, for
47 that clarification. So the next review will come in in
48 two years then. If that's the case then I believe I'd
49 like to maybe comment relating to our charter changes
50

0138

1 if that's appropriate at this time.

2

3

MS. PATTON: Sure, thank you, Mr.

4

Chair.

5

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Yeah,

7

I think I'd like to also include somewhere in the

8

language, because of the Covid, that we've been

9

experiencing for the last two years, and we've been,

10

you know, doing our duties at home and using our own

11

cell phones and our own way of being participants of

12

the Council, I'd like to see if we could be

13

compensated. I know it's a volunteer position. But as

14

you know we've been going through a lot of hardships

15

the last two or three years and a lot of times we take

16

away a lot of time from our families to do, you know,

17

our work on the local level and I know this is only

18

twice a year, fall and winter -- winter and fall, so if

19

we could somewhere in the language if we could be

20

compensated, even retroactive pay to, you know,

21

compensate the Council for their duties because of the

22

Covid that's preventing us from traveling, if we could

23

include language somewhere if -- if -- under that

24

charter. I know if this is going to be the way that

25

we're going to be conducting business for the

26

Subsistence Regional Advisory Council then we do

27

recommend compensation for it. That'd be my

28

recommendation.

29

30

Thank you.

31

32

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

And, absolutely understand the challenges and hardship

34

that the Councils have experienced especially in these

35

past couple years with having to meet all by

36

teleconference and the additional resources that you

37

all put into it through use of your cell phones and

38

resources to call in and participate in the meetings

39

when we're not traveling. Because the Regional

40

Advisory Councils are chartered under FACA Committees,

41

the Councils do serve as volunteers and we have

42

explored this in the past of finding a way to

43

compensate Council members for their work and time and

44

it would actually take a change to the Federal

45

Committee Act. But what we can do is continue to

46

explore what the options are within the Federal

47

Subsistence Management Program especially in lieu of

48

the travel per diem that Council members would normally

49

receive in being able to participate in person. And

50

0139

1 maybe what I might suggest since this is a timely
2 issue, if the Council would like to include that
3 request and relaying the challenges in a letter to the
4 Federal Subsistence Program to the Federal Subsistence
5 Board and that may be a way to get a quicker response
6 and to see what the options may be within the Federal
7 Subsistence Program to support our Councils during
8 these times.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
13 I think we should put that in a letter -- that language
14 into the letter because like you said it takes time
15 away from our family and our duties, if we could at
16 least include that in the letter, because of the work
17 that we're doing, I think it'll be good. So if there's
18 -- is there a recommendation from the Council to
19 include that language in the draft letter to the
20 Federal Subsistence Board regarding compensation.

21

22 MS. ROGERS: I so move, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. All
25 those in favor say aye -- oh, sorry, do I hear a
26 second.

27

28 MR. ANDREW: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by John Andrew.
31 All those in favor say aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose
36 signify by saying no.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
41 carries, thank you. So that language will be included
42 in the draft letter to the Federal Subsistence Board on
43 our compensation. So thank you, thank you all for your
44 input. I believe we are -- is that it for the charter,
45 Eva.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. I believe we

50

0140

1 could go ahead and move on, what is the wish of the
2 Council, we could take a break or we could go ahead and
3 move on.

4

5 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, this is John
6 Andrew. I'd like to go for a break. I'm getting booted
7 out of my borrowed space right now, I'm sitting in one
8 of the tribal offices and they're closing up in about
9 15, 20 minutes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. So we could go
12 ahead and ask for a break, do you want to continue the
13 meeting or you want to go ahead and find another place
14 to call in.

15

16 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, I just
17 recommend we go for a recess until 9:00 in the morning.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Thank
20 you, John. Since your office is being closed and I'd
21 like your participation in all of our meeting, so if
22 there's no objections to taking a recess at this time
23 then we could go ahead and conclude our meeting in the
24 morning.

25

26 Eva.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
29 and members of the Council. And if I may, maybe just
30 make a recommendation and the Council may wish to
31 recess anyway, we don't want to keep John there past
32 the office closing, the next topic on the agenda is
33 actually related to the annual report and so I'm
34 wondering if the Council might like to take that quick
35 moment right now to discuss the Board's reply on the
36 annual report process.....

37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted)

40

41 MS. PATTON:since we just
42 discussed the annual report, kind of the discussion and
43 timing of that might be helpful. As the Council
44 wishes, though, thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, you heard the
47 recommendation, what is the wish of the Council.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0141

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, we're
2 going to go ahead and take a break and recess until
3 tomorrow morning. We could take that up in the morning
4 to continue on our agenda.

5

6 Eva.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
9 members of the Council. Sure we can do that, and we
10 also had planned to take up the Federal in-season
11 management discussion and the fisheries special action
12 in the morning and then we can return back to where we
13 left off under new business.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, so we
16 could go ahead.....

17

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
21 So we could go ahead and continue that in the morning.
22 So at this time we could go ahead and take recess until
23 9:00 a.m. See you in the morning.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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

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