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YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

2

PUBLIC MEETING

3

VOLUME II

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TELECONFERENCE
October 7, 2021
9:10 a.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

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Raymond Oney, Chair
Thomas Alstrom

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John Andrew

Jackie Cleveland

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Norma Evan

James Landlord

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Myron Naneng

Henry Parks

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Phillip Peter

Alissa Rogers

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Richard Slats

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Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Teleconference - 10/7/2021)

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(On record)

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MS. PATTON: Welcome everyone. I will
turn it over to our Chair, Raymond Oney, to reconvene
our meeting this morning.

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, good morning, Eva.
And thank you everyone for coming on board to continue
our YKRAC meeting this morning. I hope everyone had
plenty of coffee and a good breakfast to start off the
day. So before we get started if there's any
housecleaning item that needs to be brought up before

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8

9 we get started.
10 Eva.
11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
maybe for the record we could do roll call first thing
12 so we establish quorum.
13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, of course.
14 MS. PATTON: And then we'll pick back
up where we got dropped off yesterday.
15
CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, very good, thank
16 you. Richard, I'll go ahead and have you do the roll
call.
17
MR. SLATS: Okay. Can you hear me?
18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.
19 MR. SLATS: Okay, Henry Park.
20 (No comments)
21 MR. SLATS: Henry Parks.
22 MR. PARKS: Here.
23 MR. SLATS: Norma Evan.
24 MR. PARKS: Hello, did you hear me?
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1 MS. EVAN: I'm here, good morning.
2 MR. SLATS: Yes, we heard you.
3 John Andrew.
4 MR. ANDREW: Here.
5 MR. SLATS: Thomas Alstrom.
6 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, present.
7 MR. SLATS: Jacqueline Cleveland.
8 MS. CLEVELAND: Here.
9 MR. SLATS: James Landlord.
10 MR. LANDLORD: Here.
11 MR. SLATS: Alissa Rogers.
12 MS. ROGERS: Present.
13 MR. SLATS: Phillip Peter, Sr.
14 (No comments)
15 MR. SLATS: Phillip Peter, Sr.
16 MR. PETER: Here.
17 MR. SLATS: Thank you.
18 Wasillie Alexie.
19 (No comments)
20 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. Wasillie Alexie is excused absence, and our
21 good thoughts for the community of Russian Mission.
He's addressing Covid issues for the community.
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MR. SLATS: Yes. Yes, okay, thank you.
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MS. PATTON: So our good thoughts for
24 Russian Mission. Thank you.
25 MR. SLATS: Okay.

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Raymond Oney.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Here.

MR. SLATS: Myron Naneng, Sr.

MR. NANENG: Here.

MR. SLATS: Robert Aloysius.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. And, again, Robert will not be calling in for the meeting. Thank you.

MR. SLATS: And Richard Slats is here. Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard.

10

11 11 present.

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: 11 present, so noted. Wasillie Alexie is excused for the record.

13

MS. PATTON: Thank you. Mr. Chair and Council. And we'll begin with making the obligatory request for everyone to mute their phones. And just check in on your phones, you know, as you unmute to speak, just take a look to make sure the mute button is pressed, or you can hit star six to mute your phones and that'll help reduce the background noise so we can hear the Council and everyone speaking. And especially for all the agency folks, if you receive an incoming call, please disconnect from the teleconference, because otherwise we get put on Muzak and we don't have a way to disconnect from that. So any incoming calls, please disconnect from the teleconference, and then you can call back in later. So, thank you, everyone.

20

Also wanted to make the announcement we have our Yup'ik interpreters online today, Sophie Evan and Pat Samson, and we have -- today we'll be getting into the wildlife proposal analysis and so we'll be taking time to take a break and check in and see if anyone would like Yup'ik interpretation. And, maybe, Sophie, if I could ask you to let folks know in Yup'ik, to just speak up at any time and ask for interpretation throughout the meeting.

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MS. EVAN: Quyana, Eva.

(In Yup'ik)

MS. EVAN: Good morning.

MS. PATTON: Quyana, Sophie. We do have one more announcement to make regarding written public comments. If anyone would like to submit written public comments on the wildlife proposals, you can do so by emailing subsistence@fws.gov. And, again,

7 when we get into the wildlife proposals there's
8 opportunity for both the public and the tribes to
9 provide oral comments and you can provide written
10 comments if you wish to do so too, and the way to do
11 that is to submit any written comments to
12 subsistence@fws.gov. And we'll be walking through that
13 process as outlined in the meeting book, the proposal
14 procedures. And so for each proposal we'll go through
15 the analysis and then we have an opportunity for public
16 comment, for tribal comment, and each of the agencies
17 comments as well. But if you want to submit written
18 public comments, then please submit those to
19 subsistence@fws.gov.

13

Thank you.

14

15 And for everyone online, as you know we
16 got disconnected suddenly yesterday when the Verizon
17 teleconference service went down so to begin with this
18 morning we'll finish that order of business that we
19 were in the middle of. And the Council was discussing
20 topics for the annual report. And I can list those
21 topics here that the Council was discussing and just
22 about to vote on yesterday.

19

20 So we had concerns about Donlin Gold,
21 impacts to subsistence.

20

21 More whitefish research needed,
22 especially with concerns of the decline of whitefish
23 and whitefish being what everyone falls back on when
24 there are low salmon returns.

23

24 Third topic was sockeye or red salmon
25 research, about the abundance and if there's any
26 concerns about spawning grounds and tributaries and
27 competition, I think, was -- you know, people wondering
28 if there was any competition between sockeye salmon and

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1 other species of salmon.

2

3 Concerns about the Donut Hole in the
4 Bering Sea. Commercial fisheries occurring in that
5 area. Concerns about those being critical chinook
6 feeding grounds.

4

5 Number 5 was, let's see, request for
6 lower bycatch to 16,000. Concern about the decline of
7 chinook stocks and impacts to subsistence.

6

7 Number 6 request Mulchatna Caribou
8 remain closed to harvest in all locations for the
9 future of that herd.

8

9 Number 7 was concerns about snowy owl
10 populations and conservation for snowy owls.
11 So the Council was just about to vote
12 on those topics for the annual report.

13 And, again, we will continue to discuss
14 annual report topics through the meeting and touch base
15 again at the end if there are any additional topics
16 that come up through discussion in the meeting that the
17 Council would like to add.

18 And I should note as we talked about
19 before, sometimes there's topics that would be most
20 effective to be directed to the agency that manages
21 that issue. So there's a couple here, the Donut Hole
22 and snow owls that we'll work with the council to
23 figure out the managing agency that would be most
24 effective to address those two.

25 And I think we left off, Myron had
26 noted a conflict of interest and you are correct,
27 Myron, if there's an economic investment you can
28 abstain from voting on that issue.

29 MR. NANENG: Yeah, this is Myron again.
30 Mr. Chairman, I would have to abstain on Item No. 1,
31 but I do support the other items, Number 2 through 6
32 but I would declare conflict of interest on Item No. 1.

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Myron, so
34 noted.

35 MS. PATTON: Okay. And we were just
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36 about to vote when the teleconference lines went down.
37 So if the Council wanted to make a motion at this time
38 to support those topics, and, again, we can add more as
39 we go through the meeting today and tomorrow.

40 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

42 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
43 already had a motion on the floor and we were about to
44 do -- we were about to vote and Myron declared he
45 couldn't do Item No. 1, so my recommendation at this
46 point would be to vote on them as individual pieces.
47 We could Item No. 1 and then Item No. 2 through 6, that
48 way he can -- sorry, I lost my train of thought, so he
49 can abstain from the vote on Item No. 1. So if it's
50 okay with my second I'll go ahead and rescind my
51 current motion and remake the motion to take up Item

No. 1. Mr. Chair, thank you.

11

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, so
noted. Is there a second to Alissa's motion to take up
the items one at a time.

12

MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, second.

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Thomas'
second to the motion. All those in favor say aye.

14

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IN UNISON: Aye.

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oppose, same sign.
(No opposing votes)

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, the
motion carries. So the first item to be voted on is
Donlin Gold, impact on subsistence resources.

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

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
on the floor by Alissa Rogers to take up Donlin Gold
impact on subsistence resources, do I hear a second.

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MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, second.

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, Thomas Alstrom
seconds the motion. Discussion.

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MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa Rogers.

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

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MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
recommend that when we're doing our vote for this that
we do a roll call vote. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you, so
noted. Is there any more discussion to the motion.

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(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ONEY: If there's no
discussion, is there a call for the question with no
comment.

10

11

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MR. NANENG: This is Myron, question.

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, there's a motion,
can you state your name.

14

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MR. NANENG: This is Myron.

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, sorry, yes.
There's a motion on the floor by Myron to call for the

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question, all those in -- I'll turn it over to Richard
16 to do a roll call vote. Richard.
17 MR. SLATS: Can you hear me.
18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.
19 MR. SLATS: Okay, for the Donlin.
20 Henry Parks.
21 MR. PARKS: Yes.
22 MR. SLATS: Norma Evan.
23 (No comments)
24 MR. SLATS: John Andrew.
25 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
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1 MR. SLATS: Thomas Alstrom.
2 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, I vote
yes.
3
4 MR. SLATS: Jacqueline Cleveland.
5
6 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.
7
8 MR. SLATS: James Landlord.
9
10 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.
11
12 MR. SLATS: Alissa Rogers.
13
14 MS. ROGERS: Yes.
15
16 MR. SLATS: Phillip Peter, Sr.
17
18 MR. PETER: Yes.
19
20 MR. SLATS: Wasillie Alexie.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MR. SLATS: So, Mr. Chairman, Wasillie
25 is not in today.
0125
1 Raymond Oney.
2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Ray Oney here.
3 MR. SLATS: Are you voting yes, Mr.
Chair.
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5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.
6
7 MR. SLATS: Myron Naneng, Sr.
8
9 MR. NANENG: Abstain.
10
11 MR. SLATS: Richard Slats, yes. Mr.
12 Chairman we have one no response, one abstention and

nine ayes, nine yes.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard. So
24 the motion did pass. I don't know if Norma knows how to
mute and unmute her phone. If you're still online you
25 may be muted so if you're going to talk press star to
0125
1 talk, and press star six again to mute when you're done
talking.

2

MR. SLATS: Okay. So, Mr. Chairman we
3 have nine ayes and one abstention, and one no response.
4 Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard. So
5 the motion passes by nine votes. One abstention. One
6 no response. And one excused. Thank you. Going down
to the next item which is the whitefish research. Is
7 there a motion on the floor to put this for discussion.

8 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

10 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
time sake, if everyone's okay with it, I would like to
11 make a recommendation to put a motion on the floor to
take up Items 2 through 6 in one vote, Mr. Chair.

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. From 2 to 6.

13

MS. ROGERS: Yes, Mr. Chair.

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: As a block vote,
15 okay, without roll call. So for the record there's a
motion by Alissa to take up items two, whitefish
16 research; three, red salmon research; four Donut Hole;
and also lower the chinook bycatch 16,000, so those are
17 the five items that we'll be voting on as a block. Is
there a second to the motion.

18

MR. NANENG: This is Myron, I second.

19

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Myron.
20 There's a second to the motion by Myron. All those in
favor say aye.

21

IN UNISON: Aye.

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, same sign.

23

(No opposing votes)

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
25 carries. Thank you. And then we'll go down to Item

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1 No. 7 which is the immediate closure to snowy owl.

2 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

4 MS. ROGERS: Hi. We took up items 2,
3, 4, 5 and 6.

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

6 MS. ROGERS: So they're all done.

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, I thought we were
8 on No. 7, is that.....

9 MS. ROGERS: Oh, yeah, my mistake, I
forgot No. 7, sorry.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So we are on number 7,
so I'm looking for a motion to put this on the floor.

12 MS. ROGERS: Motion made.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.
There's a motion on the floor to accept the immediate
14 closure to snowy owls. Do I hear a second.

15 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom seconds.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Thomas
Alstrom. All those in favor say aye.

17

IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, sorry, my mistake.
Sorry. My mistake. My mistake. I'll correct that.
We've got this on the floor so we could present it for
20 discussion before we vote. So the floor is open for
discussion.

21

22 MR. NANENG: I just have a question,
this is Myron.

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Myron.

24 MR. NANENG: Do we have research or
population reports on the snowy owl to make an informed
25 vote on this?

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1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I believe Eva was
going to ask someone from the agencies to see who might
2 want to respond to this.

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. I don't know if we have anyone on at the
4 moment, if there's any Staff from Yukon Delta National
Wildlife Refuge that has any data on snowy owls that
5 might be able to share and if not then this can also be
part of the Council's request to get information on
6 snowy owls.

7 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

9 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can
10 I make a point of clarification to my motion that I
11 made for Item No. 7. It was a request that research be
12 done on population abundance and if there's a
13 population concern that they are in decline then the
14 next action in association with a population decline
15 and/or limited population would be to close it until we
16 hear more information and then we can address it later
17 on down the road, but if there is a population concern
18 when they're doing the research project they have the
19 authority to close it because we had discussed it. And
20 it's giving the reinforcement that if there is a
21 concern for snowy owls that they can close hunting for
22 snowy owls to protect whatever population of snowy owls
23 we have left.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,
19 Alissa.

20 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
21 Myron.

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Myron.

23 MR. NANENG: You know I support the
24 request to do research on population and get more
25 reports to make an informed -- and we can make the
26 decision on closure or continued opening at the time --
27 after we get that information. So I would vote in
28 support of the request to do research on population and
29 if there's any negative numbers that are shown with the

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1 research then I would request that a vote be taken then
2 instead of making a motion to close at this time
3 without any background information.

4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you for that
5 clarification. So definitely research is needed, so
6 maybe we could go ahead and put this on the floor and
7 request that research be made and hopefully things can
8 be put together hopefully for the winter meeting for us
9 to consider this.

6 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman, this is
7 Phillip.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip, go ahead.

9 MR. PETER: Concerning about the snowy
10 owl. Here in Kuskokwim area, there used to be a
11 plentiful snowy owl. When snowshoe hare abundance in
12 '70s there used to be but now when I go up to tundra
13 for ptarmigan hunting I don't see now snowy owls. We
14 call them (In Yup'ik). They used to hunt mostly

12 jackrabbits, snowshoe hare we call them jackrabbits.
13 But down at the coast I heard there's few, few not
14 much, them jackrabbits. But they're coming back. I
15 see a couple years ago when I go out hunting for
16 ptarmigan I was really surprised and also in
(Indiscernible) I see quite a few jackrabbits tracks.
17 But I will support that research for the snowy owl.
18 That's all I have, thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Phillip. I
22 don't think we need to vote on this, do we, to request
23 to do research on this or should we go ahead and vote
24 on it to ask to do research, provide any information so
25 that we could have better decision to make when we got
0129 all that put together. Do we need to vote on it?

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. I rescind my
motion on the floor.

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25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. So it'll just be
on discussion mode so we can go ahead and ask Eva to

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1 request research on the snowy owls, population-wise,
2 see how they're doing as far as see if there need to be
3 immediate closures to this resource. So we could make
4 that request to provide information for us to consider
5 maybe during our winter meeting.

6 MS. PATTON: Yes, absolutely, Mr.
7 Chair. So I will make that request and work on getting
8 that information and report for the Council at your
9 winter meeting. Thank you.

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11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you Eva.
12 And thank you Alissa. I think that concludes the items
13 that we need to vote on.

14
15 MS. ROGERS: Correct, Mr. Chair. Thank
16 you very much, I greatly appreciate it.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Eva, moving
19 on if we're done with that vote do we still need to
20 consider any other items related to the letter, the
21 annual report?

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23 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
24 Council. So if there's other topics that come up that
25 any Council members would like to add to the report
through the meeting today and tomorrow, we can always
add additional topics. And I will be working with the
Council in between this meeting and the next to draft

16 that annual report and then it will come back to the
17 Council at your winter meeting for full Council review
18 so there'll be an opportunity at that time for the
19 Council to edit or add any further details as well.
20 But the Council is welcome, as we go through the
21 meeting today and tomorrow, to add additional topics
22 that you would like to the annual report. There might
23 be discussion that comes up that the Council thinks,
24 you know, here's another issue we would like to bring
25 to the attention of the Federal Subsistence Board.

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Moving
23 on I believe we are.....

24 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa. Go ahead,
0130 Alissa.

1 MS. ROGERS: Sorry to interrupt. But
2 we still haven't done our tribal and public testimony,
3 if there's any that are non-agenda items, usually done
4 at the beginning of the meeting. Would we be able to
5 take that up if there is anybody online who wants to do
6 public testimony.

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I was going to
8 mention that since we're done with voting before we
9 take up the new business, like we do every morning. So
10 at this time I'm requesting if there's anyone from the
11 public or tribal that may want to comment on non-agenda
12 items at this time.

13 MS. HOOPER: Mr. Chairman, this is
14 Jennifer Hooper.

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Jennifer.

16 MS. HOOPER: Hi. I just wanted to make
17 sure, I know there's a couple of people that signed up
18 yesterday to testify at the North Pacific Council, and
19 I just wanted to make sure people knew that they
20 recessed for the day and are going to pick back up 8:00
21 o'clock Sunday morning with public testimony and they
22 have also given people the option of if you can't make
23 Sunday they can move you under the last item on their
24 agenda, staff tasking, on, I believe it's next Friday.
25 So for people who either signed up yesterday, those are
your two options, or if people are still interested in
signing up to provide testimony next Friday will be the
next opportunity. And if people have questions or need
more information feel free to get a hold of me.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Jennifer. So we still have an opportunity to sign up for that testimony to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council on chinook bycatch so if you're interested I believe the number to call for Mary, and her number was 545-6206. So it sounds like you still got an opportunity to sign up, to register to provide testimony on chinook bycatch. So if you can please do sign up.

Again, I'm asking for any public or tribal comments on non-agenda items. If anyone wants to provide any comments on non-agenda items.

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of comments from the public that were passing through me. So I believe that I'm stepping down as a Regional Advisory Council member and introducing the following comments. The first comment is going to be on behalf Mr. Domminic. He is concerned about the snowy owls and their populations. He was recently doing a public survey -- a self public survey looking for snowy owls, tracking them, finding the history and timeline of the last ones that were seen and the -- he's getting public comments, or public information of when the last time they seen them, when the last time they -- the locations that they were seeing them and about how many and what area and how far were these snowy owls. And he was concerned that due to the lack of seeing them within the time period of anywhere from 10 years, over the past 10 years, that there's a huge decline in snowy owls. And he was wanting to make a -- make that presentable so that we can take it up as a concerning issue towards our agenda but he wasn't able to get all the information that he was working on compiled enough. so there is that concern.

And then also by my neighbors, here's a second public comment that was made that there's a huge increase of mink, mink families that are happening on the outskirts of Bethel. There's been a few families, at least in our neighborhood, two families in our neighborhood who have been hit by mink very hard over this past year. It wiped out all their chickens and then it also wiped out the other people's chickens and then Leland had gotten two of the mink and then we are already having at least three or four running around in the neighborhood that were caught on game cams. So there is a huge increase of mink. And they were

21 wanting to know if there's a way to possibly have a
22 Federal subsistence mink harvest outside of the
23 hunting, trapping, and I told them I would bring it up.
24 And that I didn't have an answer for them. So that's
25 the other public comment.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Probably

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1 your best bet is to work with the local Fish and
2 Wildlife people there to see how you could be able to
3 deal with them.

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted - put on hold)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: You know so I would
6 recommend you work with Fish and Wildlife or Fish and
7 Game to see how you could make that possible to try and
8 eliminate the mink in that area.

7 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, this is John
8 Andrew at Kwethluk.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John, go ahead.

9

10 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, Quyana. Over here
11 some of the area, the hunters in this area, even people
12 coming up from Bethel and down river, they always ask
13 where does the Zone 1 and Zone 2 start because on the
14 river, Kisaralik, Kasigluk, (Indiscernible) and
15 Kwethluk, there's no -- where does those zone areas
16 start, between Zone 1 and 2. Some of them have asked
17 me right on the Kwethluk River if they could give a
18 better description or put buoys or plywood markers
19 where it would be visible to the hunters, it would be
20 helpful.

15

16 The other one is I've had complaints
17 from hunters out there guide, outfitters, they fly --
18 they scout the area by air and then they go hunt in a
19 day or two in that area whether they clean their moose.
20 Because the people at the village cannot -- you're not
21 supposed to do that, and they know it's not legal.

19 Yeah, Quyana.

20 (In Yup'ik)

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Quyana, John.

22 Once again, I'm going to ask for any public or tribal
23 comment on non-agenda items at this time.

23 (No comments)

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none we'll go
25 ahead and move on. I believe next item we have on the
26 agenda is under new business and to my understanding is

0133

1 we will take the discussion on Mulchatna Caribou Herd
2 conservation up to start the -- before we get into the
3 wildlife proposals.

4 Eva.

5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
6 Council. Correct, that was the plan was to have the
7 Mulchatna Caribou Herd reports and discussion prior to
8 getting into the proposals. I want to just step back a
9 minute, we did not have an opportunity yesterday to
10 hear Council member report from Norma Evan. The phone
11 lines got disconnected for her yesterday. So before we
12 proceed with the caribou discussion and wildlife
13 proposals, if we could provide an opportunity for Norma
14 to share with the Council this morning, that would be
15 great. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you, Eva.
17 Yes, we do need to hear from Norma. Norma, if you're
18 on, if your phone is muted just press star six to
19 unmute. So at this time you have the floor.

20 MS. EVAN: Good morning, Ray. Good
21 morning, Eva. My name is Norma.....

22 MS. PATTON: Good morning.

23 MS. EVAN:Evan. I was raised by
24 my grandparents, the late Martha and Jacko Evan, they
25 lived a nomadic lifestyle. My first language was
26 Yup'ik and they taught me all I know. I'm 45 years
27 old. Since I was 10 years old, every summer I never
28 missed a year on the river, either subsistence or
29 commercial fishing.

30 This year I know we had a difficult
31 year with no salmon. Everyone's all blaming Bristol
32 Bay for the salmon shortage but I don't think it's only
33 Bristol Bay. Five or six years ago we had no snowfall
34 at all. All our mountains surrounding us had a thin
35 layer of ice and I questioned it. If they could
36 survive, I don't think the salmon survived, they had no
37 water during the ice breakup. It seems like the past
38 two years on the river I haven't seen any mini schools
39 of fry salmon and they're usually very visible.

40 And I had another question about the
41 tundra melting and the permafrost, are they making our
42

43 baby salmon sick, you know. Because they live --
44 methane is coming out of the ground and into the water,
45 seems like that needs to be studied.

46 And that's all I guess. Small
47 questions that needed to be addressed. But, thank you,
48 I really appreciate it and I'll work hard for
49 everybody, all of you.

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Norma.
6 Thank you for your comments. I'm sure there'll be
someone out there that could answer your question.
7 Eva.

8 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Thank you, Norma. We do have quite a few reports which
9 will probably come up at the end of the day today. One
report from USGS, Vanessa VonBela, actually we would
10 need to get her report by the end of the day today
since she's not available tomorrow, but she will be
11 reporting on heat stress in Yukon River chinook and she
may have some information about those observations
12 you're seeing Norma with warming temperatures and
permafrost thaw. She's not online right now. We were
13 going to be letting her know when we get close to her
report at the end of the day today but she may be
14 probably the best person we have to address those
questions, you know, about warm water temperatures and
15 permafrost thaw impacts to juvenile salmon.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.
Moving on, I'll go ahead and turn it over to you at
18 this time, Eva, to start off the new business.

19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. And as you noted we were going to begin prior
20 to the wildlife proposals, to get the update on latest
information on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and kind of a
21 broader discussion on conservation strategies with both
the State and Federal biologists and managers. And we
22 have Mark Burch online who was going to be addressing
this for ADF&G and then we have all of our Togiak
23 National Wildlife Refuge biologists and Yukon Delta
Staff both Spencer Rearden, I believe was going to be
24 on and also Aaron Moses. So I will turn it over to
that collective that was going to address the Mulchatna
25 Caribou Herd updates.

0135

1 Thank you.

2 MR. BURCH: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
Mark Burch. I might start if that's okay.

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, you can start,
4 welcome, Mark.

5 MR. BURCH: For the record my name is
Mark Burch. I work for the Department of Fish and Game.
6 My title is kind of a -- oh, actually the special
projects coordinator, and this is one of the things
7 that I've been dealing with in my role with Region 4
with the Division of Wildlife Conservation, as well as
8 my role in helping to coordinate our interactions with

9 the Federal Subsistence Program. I'm going to talk a
10 little bit about our personnel and why it happens that
11 I'm giving this presentation. I'd also like to just,
12 kind of remind people, everyone, about the population
13 and management of the Mulchatna. I think that probably
14 most of you are well aware of the general situation.
15 I'll also talk a little bit about our outreach
16 approach. And mostly I would like to hear your
17 perspective on management of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
18 going forward and how we should approach that.

14 The Mulchatna herd is managed largely
15 out of our Dillingham office. And the area biologist
16 there takes the lead and, of course, he reports to a
17 management coordinator in our Region 4 office in
18 Palmer. The area biologist just recently resigned and
19 we also have a vacant assistant area biologist position
20 in Dillingham, and it turns out that our management
21 coordinator has been called back East for a short while
22 due to a family emergency so that's kind of why I'm
23 presenting this today for the Division of Wildlife
24 Conservation.

20 As you know, the Mulchatna herd has
21 been in a general decline for, actually more than a
22 decade, a couple of decades, and recently -- the most
23 recent population estimate is around 12,800 animals.
24 The management objective for that herd is 30,000 to
25 80,000 animals, so we're quite a bit below where we
would like to be. I apologize for my phone here. And
for that reason harvest has been closed for the last
couple of years on both the State and Federal side.
State and Federal managers have been working together
through a group we refer to as the InterAgency

0136

1 Management Group. It includes the Division of Wildlife
2 Conservation as well as the two Refuges, Togiak and
3 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Refuges. And I think it's fair
4 to say that we've actually been working together very
5 well and so I appreciate that relationship and being
6 able to coordinate our regulatory approach to
7 management, as well as outreach. Both the Division of
8 Wildlife Conservation as well as the Refuges have
9 people that are dedicated to public outreach, public
information and so we've all been working together to
communicate. Hopefully all of you have received a
newsletter in the last two or three months that kind of
outlined our management approach, remind everyone that
the season is closed for this year. It goes over the
population objectives as well as the population
estimate. And finishes up with some information about
how to interact with the two agency management
programs, both the Federal Subsistence Program as well

10 as the State Board of Game regulatory approach. As I
11 say, hopefully you've seen that, we sent it to every
12 box holder, every Post Office Box holder within the
13 range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. We also have some
14 fliers that we've printed up and those are both in
15 English and Yup'ik to give kind of general information
16 about the situation. And obviously there's a lot of
17 concern. We recognize that caribou are an important
18 subsistence resources and it's a problem not to be able
19 to harvest those, so we recognize that. And we're also
20 trying to get information out about the population
21 itself, and that 12,800 is our point estimate you could
22 say, for where we -- about where we think that
23 population is, which is of course well below our
24 management objectives. We're trying to get that word
25 out. Just thinking about it, you know, that's way
26 below our objective level, yet 12,000 animals is a lot
27 of caribou. If a third of those showed up in the
28 hills, say outside of a village, it may seem like an
29 awful lot of caribou. So unless you have a perspective
30 on where we are relative to our management objectives
31 you might not think it would be such a problem to take
32 a couple of those to feed your family. And so that's
33 really part of the message that we're working on here
34 and we'd like your help communicating.

35 So I think with that I might see if the
36 Refuges have anything they'd like to add and I'm
37 certainly willing to answer any questions you might
38 have. And as I said, what I'm mostly interested in is
39 the perspective of the Regional Advisory Council on how

0137
1 we should move forward with management.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Could we
4 take questions now or is there anyone from the agencies
5 that want to give reports on this.

6 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
7 Myron. I have a question.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron.

9 MR. NANENG: Yeah, one of the -- or the
10 question that I have is are you involving any group,
11 Native organization in your efforts to try and identify
12 what may be the cause of the decline. We all know that
13 hunting is part of it but predation and other things
14 that go on with wildlife management, what do you think
15 is the biggest factor.

16 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, if I might
17 respond to that. Yes, I would acknowledge there are

13 many factors that are likely to have an effect,
14 including harvest or take by people, but also
15 predation, disease. You might have -- you've probably
16 heard that there is some level of brucellosis in the
17 current population and that's a concern, especially
18 related to the reproductive health of caribou. There
19 are questions, too, about the habitat and its recovery
20 from when the population was quite a bit higher. And
21 although we've been -- and we continue to study some of
22 the predation, especially among the young caribou, the
23 calves, and we have for several years so we have some
24 of that information. We also continue to -- we're just
25 getting started, really, on some additional research on
0138 what some of the effects might be on the population.
1 We've been looking at habitat as well. And we've been
2 collecting samples to be analyzed for brucella. So all
3 of those things are possible and likely factors
4 affecting the population that we would certainly
5 acknowledge. And we're designing and implementing
6 research currently to get a better handle on those
7 things.

23

MR. NANENG: Okay, Qu yana.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
25 any more questions.

0138

1 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

3 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do
4 you have any ratios of calving survival rates and
5 looking at possible calf survival for this upcoming
6 season, and what is our current mortality rate for
7 calves, and what is our current bull to cow ratio?

8 MR. BURCH: Those are good questions,
9 Alissa. Through the Chair. No, I don't have those
10 numbers right handy. I think the last bull/cow count
11 may have been about a year ago but I don't have those
12 numbers in front of me. Sorry about that.

13 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, a follow-up
14 question.

10

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

11

12 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Through the Chair. Do you have a population percentage
14 or population counts of each section of the Mulchatna
15 Caribou Herd, for instance, how much is like over in
16 the Togiak area or Dillingham area, how much is over on
17 the Kuskokwim side, you know, do you have at least some
18 kind of grid that you could bring to our next meeting

15 to show us how much the population, or estimated
16 population is in each section?

17 MR. BURCH: Yes, I do have that
18 information. I don't have it on the computer right in
19 front of me. But we did -- that is how we estimated
20 the population this year, is we did it by -- where they
21 go in their calving grounds. So we have an estimate
22 for the east and for the west that we added together.
23 As I say I don't have them right in front of me but I
24 may be able to find that relatively, but absolutely by
25 the next meeting I'd be able to do that.

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any more
27 questions or comments at this time.

28 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, follow-up
29 question.

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

31
32
0139

33 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 What you're seeing currently right now with the
35 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, there were concerns about the
36 Mulchatna Caribou Herd being open in other areas, in
37 other units for a longer period of time. Now, because
38 of the population is currently no better than it was
39 last year, even with the closures that we had, are you
40 anticipating opening any other units and if so, on my
41 personal opinion, I don't see that opening any other
42 units when the Mulchatna Caribou Herd is such huge
43 decline is kind of like a smart biological move. If
44 it's at all possible we should continue to keep it
45 remained close until further notice. And then from
46 there we can assess it again at the next following
47 meeting. But the concern was coming from tribal folks
48 that were -- village and tribal folks that were
49 discussing why are they being able to go hunting for
50 caribou in their unit and we can't go hunting for
51 caribou in our unit and so on and so forth. So it
52 seems like if this is a huge Mulchatna Caribou Herd and
53 we're combining them both together, then if it's going
54 to be closed in one area it should be closed in all
55 areas if we're concerned about conservation and about
56 their abundance numbers.

57
58 Thank you, Mr. Chair, those are all my
59 questions.

60 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

61 MR. BURCH: Yeah, thanks, Alissa. Where
62 to start. Maybe I'll start back at the previous

17 question and answer the part about the east and the
18 west and then get into the management questions that
19 you followed up with.

20 We did count them separately. And we
21 counted 6,083 in the east, 3,850 in the west for a
22 total count of 9,933 caribou. And then we expanded
23 that using our population estimate process and that's
24 where we came up with an estimate of 12,837 caribou
25 plus or minus 945. So in the east 7,017 plus or minus
0140 512, and then in the west 5,820 plus or minus 799.

As far as -- to address your management
questions, yeah, I agree that we think of Mulchatna
Caribou Herd as a herd, which I guess makes sense on
the surface. And that we try to have consistent
approaches across the range of the herd. And so right

1 now harvest is closed under both State and Federal
2 regulations all the way from Unit 9 in the east, all
3 the way across Unit 17 into Unit 18.....

4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted - put on hold)

6 MR. BURCH:in Unit 18. So I
7 think we're consistent with the approach you're
8 advocating for. And how we go forward from here is one
9 of the questions I'm really asking today so I
10 appreciate your perspective on that question for sure.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more comments or
12 questions at this time regarding the Mulchatna Caribou
13 Herd.

14 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chair.

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard.

16 MR. SLATS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
17 is a couple of quick questions. When we were holding
18 our meetings between 2019 and 2020, this is about the
time that we were, you know, there was a huge decline,
a cause for concern on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. And
about that time, too, there was brucellosis was
detected, and I'm curious to know about the numbers,
what they are today and how much of the remaining herd
is being infected with brucellosis. Because when we
were making those decisions it was more of a -- because
caribou is a subsistence resource and it was just
before the caribou season. You know that's when we --
that's how I based my decision on, on the decisions
that I made at that time, is because of the infection.
And I wonder how much of those infections have an

19 effect on the herd. And also that during, you know,
20 between 2019 and 2020 there's been this climate change.
21 We've been having late freeze-ups way into November,
22 even December. So there was always that ice sheen over
23 their foods, and so the caribou had, you know, like
24 they would have to use their hoofs to break the ice to
eat and then even some of those people that -- the
tribes came out and spoke about the predation, the
wolves were coming close to the villages and going
after moose.

25 So these are some of the points that I
would like to ask about, you know, if it's -- I just
0141 wanted to let it be known that the decisions made were
1 because of the infection of brucellosis, and the
2 question of how much of the.....

3 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

4
5 MR. SLATS:herd is being
infected.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. BURCH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
Mark Burch again. Yeah, we have been taking some
8 samples for brucellosis analysis and we don't have
those numbers back yet so we really don't have a solid
9 understanding of what the effect of the brucella
bacteria are at this point. But that is an important
10 aspect of the question for sure, I agree with that.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Ray Oney here. I
believe we had some discussions earlier this summer,
12 this spring, I believe Kenton Moos from the Togiak
National Wildlife Refuge was going to do research on
13 what Richard Slats was mentioning about the foot
disease, I believe. I don't know if he's on now, if he
14 wants to provide any information regarding that or he
has an agenda item that we're waiting for him to make
15 his presentation.

16 MR. ADERMAN: Mr. Chairman, this is
Andy Aderman with the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.
17 Refuge Manager Moos is not available for this meeting.
The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is taking the
18 lead on research on brucellosis, and I think I heard
you indicate something about hoof rot. I know that
19 occurred in the herd back in the late '90s but I
haven't heard of it since then, being in the Mulchatna
20 herd.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

22 MR. BURCH: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
Mark Burch.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more questions --

24 Mark, go ahead.

25

MR. BURCH: I appreciate that -- the

0142

1 other thing I was going to mention too is I recall the
2 mention of an icing, and certainly that can have and
3 has had an effect in the past on caribou populations
4 and their ability to feed during the winter. Again, I
5 can't quantify it but I would acknowledge that that can
6 be a factor.

4

Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: All right, do we have
7 any more discussion on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
8 conservation strategy at this time.

7

8 MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair, this is
9 Jackie Cleveland from Quinhagak, if I may.

9

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Jackie, go ahead.

10

11 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana. So being from
12 -- or having grown up within the Togiak National
13 Wildlife refuge I just thought I would just speak on
14 behalf of the village and the community here in
15 Quinhagak. I just kind of wanted to mention, how it
16 used to be when I was a kid growing up and the
17 population was so great that they would be in big herds
18 and we'd always have enough to where, while we were
19 getting wood or something up river, we would just have
20 to pass through these herds, in the middle sometimes
21 because they wouldn't move for us. And that was always
22 fascinating, and I just never thought, you know, in my
23 lifetime, as a kid, that that would be lost. And I do
24 really miss that. And I really miss the taste.

17

18 Quinhagak, itself, used to -- this was
19 our main diet for big game. Before the moose
20 population increased, we used to have -- our main meat
21 was caribou and we had almost no moose when I was
22 growing up. So we do miss it.

20

21 So before I ask about the Western
22 Science part of it I wanted to also add that what
23 elders say about having the respect for animals when
24 we're harvesting and with this new generation, and I'm
not speaking on the whole generation, but we're seeing
more and more people who don't use the whole animal and
maybe waste parts of it and, you know, the elders used
to say that if we disrespect animals this way we will
lose that resource and go hungry in the end. And it

24

25 sounds way better in Yup'ik, by the way.

0143

1 So I would say in this day and age for
2 this community, it's split in terms of if a moratorium
3 were to be in place in the future, I just know my
4 community well enough that it would be split. You know
5 there are younger hunters that would be anti-moratorium
6 and not agree with any of it and just, you know, ask
7 for more hunting. But there's also the elders and the
8 more conservation savvy people here too that would
9 agree with this. So I'm not going to put a position on
10 that.

6

7 But what I wanted to ask though was
8 with the disease and all the factors of why the
9 population is declining, is there a way to put a
10 percentage or maybe I'm missing a draft that says this
11 somewhere, but is there a way to percentage on all the
12 factors, like is over hunting the most -- the reason
13 why -- the most factor, the disease, food shortage due
14 to climate change because of not enough snow a lot of
15 winters now in the past 10 years, or the increase in
16 predators. I might be missing more factors. But is
17 there a percentage breakdown on that.

12

13 Quyana.

13

14 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark.
15 Yeah, I can imagine it would be really nice to produce
16 a pie chart and be able to say that the mortalities in
17 the herd break down in a certain way and, certainly,
18 even natural accidents like drowning and things can
19 happen, so there's a whole broad variety of different
20 factors. The reality is we can't quantify some of
21 them, many of them. Harvest is like that -- especially
22 now when the season is closed, we get some anecdotal
23 information here and there, kind of reports of what's
24 going on out there from different people but we really
25 can't quantify human take in this herd. We're
26 continuing to do research, even to get a handle on some
27 of the other biological factors like predation and some
28 of those things. So at this time we really can't
29 quantify and say percentage breakdown what the various
30 factor effects are.

22

23 Thank you.

23

24 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
25 Myron.

25

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron.

0144

1 MR. NANENG: You know one of the things
2 that I don't appreciate of people talking about when
3 we're doing research management is that when people
4 live out in the area, and live there and observe what's
5 going on, the information that is provided is
6 continually called anecdotal. Unless somebody that's
7 -- that goes out there, that's never lived there,
8 observes and tries to quantify what's going on when
9 they haven't observed for years what is going on, so I
10 think the problem that we have with Fish and Game
11 management is that when people make observations and
12 reports don't consider it anecdotal, consider it as
13 part of the need to learn about what would be the best
14 management plan for these resources. So I'd like to
15 make that comment.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. I believe if
17 there is no more comments or discussion on the strategy
18 on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, then if there's no other
19 agencies out there that would like to provide more
20 information, at this time we could go ahead and.....

21 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, this is John
22 Andrew.

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John Andrew, go ahead.

24 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, Quyana, thank you.
25 Over the years I've been a hunter of just about
0145 anything, caribou, moose, bear. All our forefathers
1 time, they said there used to be plenty up there and
2 then they crashed. And then after that they said the
3 reindeer was introduced and same story. And summer and
4 winters too much snow, and then the chinook weather
5 came by and they thawed everything, freezing, they used
6 to say whole valleys of dead reindeer, it was the same
7 way with caribou. The Mulchatna caribou, as far as --
8 when we're hunting out there we used to see them back
9 in the '80s, '90s, at one time there were well over
10 100, to 200,000, we were allowed five per year and
11 recently they said they're down to 12,800, 20-
12 something, and we're not allowed to do that. Our
13 feelings at the village is right now we don't want them
14 to harvest the Mulchatna caribou all along the
15 migratory routes because the natural disasters that
16 come by and they -- some of them die of mass starvation
17 when their hoofs are frozen to the ground and the wolf
18 predation, they're killers, I've seen it back in the
19 '80s and '90s, I used to see a whole bunch of them

20 killed by wolves but not eaten. One time we saw 18 of
21 them, 18 dead ones, so many hundred yards apart, only
22 two of them were eaten. And all of there was just --

3 because when the wolves sense there's something wrong
4 with the animals they'll chase them down and kill them
5 and then they don't even eat them.

6 And like the older people, all these --
7 because this is -- happens in their back yard, we seen
8 all our lives, we've been observing them, seeing them,
9 seeing what's happened out there, and if we give
10 reports they simply ignore us.

11 Yeah, Quyana, thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. If there's
13 no other discussion or comments on the Mulchatna
14 Caribou Herd at this time maybe we could go ahead and
15 ask for maybe a 10 minute break before we get into the
16 proposals.

17 Eva.

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Yes, of course, if the Council would like to take a 10
20 minute break. Let's see the time is.....

21 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman, are we going
22 offline for this break. Is it safe to go off and go
23 back on again.

24 MS. PATTON: If you can, stay
25 connected. You can just put your phone on mute and
26 stay connected, if that works.

27 MR. SLATS: Thank you.

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, please stay
29 online. Please stay online. You might have a hard
30 time getting back on like we did yesterday. So please
31 stay on, it's only a 10 minute break. So we'll go
32 ahead and take a 10 minute break and be back at 10:40.
33 10 minute break.

34 Thank you.
35 (Off record)
36 (On record)

0146
1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Under Wildlife Proposal
2 22-41. Eva.

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
4 before we get into the proposals, I just want to walk
5 through the proposal presentation procedure with the
6 Council. You will find that on Page 46 of your meeting

books. And this is the process we'll walk through for each of the.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted - on hold/loud beeping - contacting operator)

MS. PATTON: A friendly reminder to everyone to please mute your phone, push the mute button or star six.

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted - on hold/loud beeping)

MS. PATTON:and then we go over a summary of written public comments if there were any. And also noted at the beginning of the meeting, if anyone wishes to submit written comments you can submit those to subsistence@fws.gov. And then we have the opportunity for public testimony, so any members of the public who would like to comment on the proposal. And then we go into the Council's discussion and justification on the proposal. And things that we like to keep in mind when the Council's developing a justification for recommendation on a proposal, is if the recommendation is consistent with established fish or wildlife principles; is it supported by substantial evidence such as biological and traditional ecological knowledge; and will the recommendation be beneficial or detrimental to subsistence needs and uses. And if there's a closure that's being discussed, if that closure is necessary for conservation of healthy fish or wildlife populations, or closure necessary to continued subsistence uses. And so that discussion and justification is a really important part of the Council's process so that the Council will vote whether to support or oppose a proposal, has the full justification for the reasons for the Council's vote.

And the Council follows Robert's Rules of Order. So there would be a motion to adopt. Again, we always want to make a motion in the positive so that

it's clear when a vote is supporting something, that it is in support, and if you're opposing something, that it's in opposition to the proposal. So a motion in the positive to adopt a proposal, and discussion and justification, and then restate the final motion for the record and a Council vote.

So that's the process we'll walk through for each of the proposals.

And our first proposal is addressing the delegation of authority for management of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. So we just had the latest

8 information that was available on the status of that
9 herd. And I will turn it over to Tom Plank, who will
10 be presenting the analysis. And a reminder again if
11 any Council members or public would like translation,
12 just speak up at any time to request Yup'ik
13 translation. And Tom will provide some, you know,
14 little pauses in between each part of the analysis,
15 too, so please do speak up at any time if you would
16 like translation on the analysis.

17
18
19 And with that I will turn it over to
20 Tom.

21 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Eva. Hello, Mr.
22 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Tom Plank
23 and I am the Wildlife Biologist in the Office of
24 Subsistence Management. I will be presenting a summary
25 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-41
0148 requesting that the Federal in-season manager be
1 delegated authority to open and close seasons, announce
2 harvest limits, and set sex restrictions for caribou in
3 all or portions of Unit 9A, 9B, 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18,
4 19A, and 19B via delegation of authority letter, and
5 this is starting on Page 47 of your meeting books.

6 The proponent states that the summer
7 2019/2020 population estimate for the Mulchatna Caribou
8 Herd was 13,500 caribou which represents a 50 percent
9 decline for the previous five years and is well below
10 the State's minimum population objective. The
11 proponents note that the 2019/2020 Federal and State
12 seasons were shortened due to conservation concerns and
13 the 2020/2021 season was also shortened providing for a
14 bulls only harvest in August and September while the
15 rest of the season remained closed. The proponent
16 states that the request will help conserve and recover
17 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and provide the flexibility
18 needed to make harvest management decisions in a timely
19 manner. The proponents recognize that the request will
20 reduce harvest opportunity in the short run, but that
21 conserving the Mulchatna Caribou Herd now will increase
22 harvest opportunities in the future.

23
24
25 As a result of the dramatic population
0148 increase the Mulchatna Caribou Herd experienced during
1 the 1990s harvest regulations were liberalized
2 throughout the range of the herd. By 1997 both State
3 and Federal seasons in portions of Unit 9, 17 and 19
4 extended from fall through spring with liberal harvest
5 limits and few restrictions. The population declined
6 from 2004 to 2014 during which time the State and
7 Federal regulations for Mulchatna Caribou Herd became
8

9 increasingly restrictive, including shortening seasons,
10 reducing harvest limits, eliminating non-resident
11 seasons, and requiring the RC503 registration permit.
12 From 2015 to 2018 the Board of Game and the Federal
13 Subsistence Board began liberalizing Mulchatna Caribou
14 Herd regulations, however, in 2019 ADF&G decreased the
15 harvest limit of the RC508 caribou registration permit
16 hunt, this was followed by the Federal Subsistence
17 Board approving a special action request to decrease
18 the harvest limit for the 2019/2020 regulatory year.
19 This included closing Units 18, 19A and 19B caribou
20 hunting except by Federally-qualified subsistence users
21 with a harvest limit of one bull and delegated
22 authority to Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager to
23 open and close seasons throughout the herd range. This
24 request was approved due to serious conservation
25 concerns for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and support
0149 from the affected Regional Advisory Councils and local
1 users. In 2020 ADF&G announced a bulls only hunt
2 across the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and the
3 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager announced the
4 identical Federal hunt for 2020/2021. The Board of
5 Game received several proposals concerning the
6 Mulchatna Caribou Herd during the Central and Southwest
7 regional call for proposals. They will consider
8 proposal changes in Unit 9 and 17 in January of 2022.
9 Proposed changes for Unit 18 and 19 will be addressed
10 at the Western Arctic, Western region and Interior and
11 Eastern Arctic region meetings respectively.

12 The population size and distribution of
13 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd has changed dramatically
14 over the past 40 years. The current range of the

15 Mulchatna herd is depicted in Figure 1 on Page 53 of
16 your meeting books. The herd primarily occurs in two
17 distinct populations, an Eastern segment and a Western
18 segment with separate calving and seasonal areas.
19 Based on radio collared animals mixing between these
20 two sub populations is low. The herd peaked at 200,000
21 caribou in 1996 declining steadily to 18,000 in 2013.
22 Between 2014 and 2016 the herd stabilized around 28,000
23 caribou. Then most recently in 2019 the population
24 estimate indicate that the herd declined to 13,500
25 caribou which is well below the State's minimum
0149 population objective. The Western segments population
1 has declined since 2012, while the Eastern segment's
2 population increased between 2014 and 2016 and then
3 declined back to 2012 levels in 2019.

4 Bull/cow ratios in the Mulchatna
5 Caribou Herd have been depressed since 2001. You can
6 see that on Table 1 on Page 61. Calf/cow ratios have

11 also been low and below State objectives while ratios
12 have improved in recent years. They are still below
13 the State management objective and continue to be
14 conservation concerns. While the cause of the decline
15 is unknown, decreased range quality, predation,
16 particularly by brown bears on the calving grounds,
17 icing events, deep snow, and harvest pressure may have
18 all contributed to the decline. Given the recent
19 substantial decline in the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
20 population conservation measures are warranted.

21 Reported caribou harvest has declined
22 in correlation with the caribou population from almost
23 4,000 caribou in 2000 to 28 caribou in the 2020/2021
24 season. Reported harvest numbers can be found in
25 Figure 5 and within Table 2 on Page 65 of your meeting
0150 books. Household harvest surveys and law enforcement
1 information and observations indicate actual harvest is
2 much higher than reported harvest, although the
3 magnitude of unreported harvest is unknown. While this
4 change may decrease harvest opportunity for Federally-
5 qualified subsistence users in the short-term, it may
6 also help conserve the Mulchatna Caribou Herd to ensure
7 future harvest opportunities. If this proposal is
8 approved, the Federal in-season manager will be
9 delegated authority to open and close seasons, announce
10 harvest limits, and set sex restrictions across the
11 range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. The conservation
12 benefits of adopting WP22-41 are uncertain. Delegating
13 authority to the in-season manager provide management

14 flexibility which is critical in responding to changing
15 herd conditions in a timely manner.

16
17 The OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
18 support Wildlife Proposal WP22-41.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
20 Council. I would be happy to field any questions.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'm sorry, I had my
23 mute on. Do we have any questions for Tom at this
24 time.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hello, can you hear me?

29
30 REPORTER: Yes, Ray, can hear you.

31
32 MS. ROGERS: I could hear you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

12 Again, I will ask if there's any questions from Council
at this time.

13

(No comments)

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, go ahead,
15 Tom.

16

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this
is Eva. We can walk through the proposal presentation
17 process. The first of which is a report -- the Federal
Subsistence Board consultation with tribes. And on
18 August 19th the Board held tribal consultation for
proposals within the YK Delta region. We did have a
19 handful of tribes from the region, tribal
representatives calling in for that consultation and
20 some ANCSA Corporation representation as well. The
Board had discussion on these proposals with those
21 tribal representatives but there were no formal
recommendations made at that time.

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva.

23

MS. PATTON: And then we will move down
24 to the agency comments. First under agency comments we
have ADF&G.

25

0151

1

MR. BURCH: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
Mark Burch from the Department of Fish and Game.

2

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Mark.

3

MR. BURCH: ADF&G supports giving the
4 Federal in-season manager the flexibility to manage the
Mulchatna Caribou Herd. By allowing them to open and
5 close the season, announce harvest limits and sex
restrictions. The Togiak National Wildlife Refuge have
6 been a partner in research, monitoring and education
when it comes to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and have
7 been a partner toward the longstanding common goal of
conserving the Mulchatna Caribou Herd throughout its
8 range.

9

Thank you.

10

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
any Federal agency comments at this time.

11

(No comments)

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none.....

13

MS. PATTON: I'm just checking online,

14 Mr. Chair, I just got some text.....
15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Eva.
16 MS. PATTON:that a couple of
17 people got dropped off the teleconference so I'll just
18 touch base and see if there are any comments from
19 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge or Yukon Delta National
20 Wildlife Refuge.
21 MR. MOSES: Hello, Eva, this is Aaron
22 Moses. We don't have any comments at this time.
23 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Aaron.
24 MR. ADERMAN: This is Andy Aderman with
25 the Togiak Refuge in Dillingham and we have no other
0152 comments at this time as well.
1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Andy.
2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.
3 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, and Eva, I'm
4 not making a comment on the proposal but some people
5 are trying to get back on to listen to the discussion.
6 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Myron. And
7 maybe we can just take a quick five minute break here
8 and make sure that we get folks back online okay.
9 MR. NANENG: They said if we put them
10 on hold again they wouldn't be able to get back online.
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, that's how it was
12 yesterday. We had a hard time trying to get back on, I
13 don't know if that's the same situation they're dealing
14 with but we'll go ahead and give five minutes and see
15 what happens. So we'll take a five minute break and
16 hopefully they'll come on.
17 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
18 we'll touch base here.
19 (Off record)
20 (On record)
21 MS. PATTON: So it sounds like people
22 were able to connect again. Maybe we'll just touch
23 base and make sure we have all our Council members
24 online. Henry, are you there. Henry Parks.
25 MR. PARKS: Eva, yeah, I'm here.
MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful.
MR. SLATS: Mr. Chair, would you like
me to conduct roll call.

19

MS. PATTON: Sure, that would be great,
20 thank you, Richard.

21 MR. SLATS: Okay. Henry Parks.

22 MR. PARKS: Here.

23 MR. SLATS: Norma Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Here.

25 MR. SLATS: John Andrew.

0153

1 MR. ANDREW: Here.

2 MR. SLATS: Thomas Alstrom.

3 (No comments)

4 MR. SLATS: Thomas Alstrom.

5 (No comments)

6 MR. SLATS: Jacqueline Cleveland.

7 MS. CLEVELAND: Here.

8 MR. SLATS: James Landlord.

9 MR. LANDLORD: Here.

10 MR. SLATS: Alissa Rogers.

11 MS. ROGERS: Present.

12 MR. SLATS: Phillip Peter, Sr.

13 MR. PETER: Here.

14 MR. SLATS: Wasillie Alexie.

15 MS. PATTON: Wasillie Alexie is absent
today.

16

MR. SLATS: Oh, okay, I'm sorry. Okay.
17 Raymond Oney.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Raymond Oney here.

19 MR. SLATS: Myron Naneng, Sr.

20 MR. NANENG: I'm here.

21 MR. SLATS: Richard Slats is here so we
have 10 back on, one no response. Mr. Chairman.

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard. I
23 believe it's Thomas and I'm hoping he'll come on. Eva,
could we continue or wait for him to come on.

24

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 I'll send Thomas a text here -- was that you Thomas?

0154

1 (No comments)

2 MS. PATTON: Thomas Alstrom.

3 (No comments)

4 MS. PATTON: I will send Thomas a text
here but we can continue here -- and just one moment.

5

(Pause)

6

(Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted - on hold/loud beeping)

8 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair
and Council members. I don't have a response back yet
9 from Thomas but hopefully he will be able to join us
again here shortly. But I think we can continue with
10 the comments on the proposal. So we left off, we
didn't have any Federal comments on this proposal. And
11 we would like to now check and see if there are any
tribal comments on this proposal requesting delegation
12 of authority to the Togiak and Yukon Delta National
Wildlife Refuges to manage to the Mulchatna Caribou
13 Herd. Do we have any tribes participating on the call
today that would like to comment on this proposal.

14
15 MS. ESQUIBLE: Hi, Eva. This is
Janessa Esquible with ONC. Can you hear me?

16 MS. PATTON: Hi Janessa, yes, go ahead.

17 MS. ESQUIBLE: Hi, awesome, thank you.
The ONC Subsistence Committee met on Monday, October
18 4th and they voted to support Wildlife Proposal 22-41
due to the conservation concerns for the Mulchatna
19 Caribou Herd, they were in support of delegating
authority to the in-season manager and providing the
20 managers with that flexibility that's needed to make
these timely decisions and respond to any sudden
21 changes observed in the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
population.

22
23 Thank you.

24 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you, Janessa.
And thanks to the ONC Council and Subsistence Committee
for the recommendation. And I did just get a text, we
25 have Thomas Alstrom online.

0155
1 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, hello, Eva. Good
morning, I'm on now.

2
3 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Good morning,
Thomas. Thank you. And then next on the presentation
4 procedure for proposals is summary of written public
comments and there were no written public comments
received for this proposal.

5
6 And, again, the Advisory Group
comments, there were no other Regional Councils who
7 have yet met to make a recommendation and we did not
receive any comments from the Fish and Game Advisory
Committees.

8
9 And then at this time we have an
opportunity for public testimony, if there's any

10 members of the public that would like to make a comment
or a recommendation on this proposal.

11 (No comments)

12 MS. PATTON: Any comments from the
13 public. Again, you'll just have to unmute yourself to
speak, star six.

14 (No comments)

15 MS. PATTON: Okay, hearing none. Then
16 we are up next to the Regional Advisory Council
recommendation. So a motion to adopt the proposal and
discussion and justification.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Thank you,

19 Eva.

20 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva -- I mean, sorry,
22 Alissa.

23 MS. ROGERS: No worries. Thank you,
Mr. Chair. I so move to adopt WP22-42.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, there's a motion
on the floor by Alissa Rogers from Bethel to adopt
25 Wildlife Proposal 22-41, do I hear a second.

0156
1 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman, this is
Phillip. I second the motion.

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
3 [sic] by Phillip Peter to second the motion. At this
time we could ask for discussion and justification for
4 WP22-41.

5 (No comments)

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Maybe, Eva, you could
7 lead us down through those bullet points to see if
there may be any comments related to those questions
8 that are on our procedure.

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Some of the points that are suggested to discuss and
10 develop part of the Council's recommendation is if the
recommendation is consistent with established fish or
11 wildlife management principles; is the recommendation
supported by substantial evidence such as biological
12 and traditional ecological knowledge; and will the
recommendation be beneficial or detrimental to
13 subsistence needs and uses. And if a closure is
involved, is that closure or that management action
14 necessary for conservation of healthy populations,

15 healthy populations, or is closure necessary to ensure
continued subsistence uses. And importantly, from the
16 Council's own observations and knowledge
recommendations for the management of this caribou
herd.

17

18 Myron.
MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is

19

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron.

20

21 proposal, however, I'd like to also ask that the Refuge
managers also work with those in the villages to get
their observations of anything that they observe
22 because they're out there in the field watching these,
or seeing them and they know what has happened in the
23 past. With that, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Myron.

25

MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, James

0157

1 Landlord.

2

CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

3

MR. LANDLORD: Do you know how long
this will be in effect?

4

5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
This is Eva, and, Tom Plank, can also speak to the
proposal itself, the length of time the delegation of
6 authority would be granted to the Refuges for
management of this herd.

7

8 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is
Tom Plank. I do not have an answer for that question, I
apologize.

9

10 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

11

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Robbin, go ahead.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Yes, hello, Mr. Chair,
thank you. This Wildlife Proposal 22-41 is requesting
a change in regulation, the delegation of authority to
the Refuge managers to announce harvest limits, set sex
restrictions and open and close seasons would remain in
14 regulation unless a proposal is submitted to change it.

15

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you for the
clarification. Does that answer your question, James.

17

MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Is there any

19 discussion to WP22-41 at this time.

20 (No comments)

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I believe we are ready
22 to restate the final motion for the record. The
23 question's been called by Alissa and we could go and
24 restate the final motion.

25

Eva.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
28 motion was to adopt Proposal -- Wildlife Proposal 22-41

0158

1 submitted by Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and.....

2 (Teleconference interference -
3 participants not muted)

4

5 MS. PATTON:Yukon Delta National
6 Wildlife Refuge requesting that Federal in-season
7 manager be delegated authority to open and close
8 seasons, announce harvest limits and set sex
9 restrictions for caribou in all portions of Units 9A,
10 9B, 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A and 19B via a delegation
11 of authority letter.

12

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
15 Question's been called by Alissa, so those in favor of
16 WP22-41 signify by saying aye.

17

IN UNISON: Aye.

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposing, same sign.

19

MR. ANDREW: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: All those that are
22 opposing WP22-41 signify by saying aye. Opposed.

23

MR. ANDREW: Aye.

24

25 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
26 Myron.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, Myron, okay, so I
29 recognize your opposition so at this time I believe we
30 should call a roll call.

31

32 MR. NANENG: No, I'm not opposing it.
33 But if they're opposing it, request that they say yes
34 or no and not aye.

35

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, sorry about that, a

22 lot clearer, my mistake. Sorry for that.

23 REPORTER: Ray.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Then let's.....

25 REPORTER: Ray.

0159

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, go ahead, Tina.

2 REPORTER: Yep, okay. So if we are
going to get some opposing votes, just so we're clear,
3 could those people just say their name and they're
voting no because I did get someone but I wasn't really
4 sure who they were.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I was confused
myself too. Okay. I'm going to restate the motion
7 again. All those in favor of Wildlife Proposal WP22-
41.

8

IN UNISON: Aye.

9

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that are opposing
10 signify by saying no.

11 MR. ANDREW: No.

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, then there's one
opposition and if you could state your name and give
13 the reasons why.

14 MR. ANDREW: John W. Andrew from
Kwethluk. I say no because I don't think with the
15 populations that are too low and the rest of all -- all
along the migratory routes, all those other units need
16 to vote on it too. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. And if we could have a few words of
19 justification from those that support the proposal.

20 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

22 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
reason why I voted yes is that the Federal in-season
23 manager will have the delegated authority to open and
close seasons, announce harvest limits, set sex
24 restrictions, and due to the shortened conservation
concern, this will provide flexibility that is needed
25 to harvest management decisions in a timely manner.

0160

1 This will help increase the harvest opportunity in the
future. By giving the delegate specific regulatory
2 authority to the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge to
issue emergency or temporary special actions, if
3 necessary, to ensure the conservation of the healthy
wildlife population to continue subsistence uses of
4 wildlife and for that reason for public safety and to

ensure viability of the wildlife population.

5

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Eva, will that be good enough or do we need more comments.

7

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is Myron.

8

9

MS. PATTON: Yes.

10

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

11

MR. NANENG: Yeah, I support the proposal, however, I think that there needs to be on the ground observations included from the people that live in the villages that see these caribou because of what happened back in the -- I believe in the 1980s, there was a recommendation that when the caribou herd.....

12

13

14

15

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

16

MR. NANENG:reaches 1,000 that the hunting will be opened, however, it turned out that there was more than a thousand animals in the Mulchatna Caribou Herd before they crashed -- or before the numbers got low again. So I don't want a repeat of that. That's why I support it but, however, I also would request that the Refuge managers work with the villages to include their observations. Their observations are not anecdotal. I would make that point.

17

18

19

20

21

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, for the record.

23

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. And those recommendations will go into the Council's final recommendation to the Federal

24

25

0161

Subsistence Board. So that will be reflected in the Council's overall recommendation. Thank you, Myron.

1

2

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Is there anyone else that wants to provide reasons why they voted, or would that be good enough, Eva.

3

4

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray. Yes, thank you for those justifications, unless there are other Council members that would like to add any further comments.

5

6

7 (No comments)

8 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Thank you, Council.

9

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. I
10 believe that concludes our discussion and vote on
Wildlife Proposal 22-41 and I believe we are ready to
11 move on.

12 Eva.

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
next proposal up is WP22-42, which is requesting to
14 increase the harvest limit in Unit 18 remainder for
moose. And we do have both our State and Federal
15 biologists on the line. If there's current population
data updates for that Unit 18 remainder moose that
16 would be helpful for the Council to have that
information prior to deliberation. So I think we had
17 Phillip and Pat on and then Aaron on and possibly
Spencer. If there's any update that you're able to
18 provide the Council at this time.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. JONES: Hi, Eva, this is Patrick.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Patrick.

22 MS. PATTON: Hi, Patrick, thank you.

23 MR. JONES: So I can go over the most
recent information if everybody's ready for that.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I believe we are.

25

0162

1 MR. JONES: All right. So this past
winter we were actually able to get a lot of work done.
2 We, being both the Fish and Game Staff here in Bethel
and the Refuge here in Bethel. The Unit 18 remainder
3 includes the northern third of Unit 18 and when we're
talking about moose we're really talking about the
4 Yukon River and the Andraefsky River being the bread
basket for where moose are in Unit 18 remainder. And
5 we had the Yukon River and Andraefsky divided up into
three different zones. The lowest Yukon, which is
6 everything below St. Marys. We have the Andraefsky
which is kind of that middle section. And then the
7 upper section we call the Paimiut survey area. We were
able to survey all three survey areas this past winter,
8 so February and March.

9 So in the lower Yukon we counted 12,000
moose, in the Andraefsky area we counted 6,800, and in
10 the Paimiut area we counted 4,700; so roughly 24,000
moose on the Yukon in our survey areas. Of course
11 there's more moose outside of our survey area on the
tundra and down towards Nelson Island. But the take

12 home message here is we have a lot of moose on the
13 Yukon, too many moose I would argue. And when we look
14 at our bull to cow ratios we've been seeing the bull
15 ratio steadily climb the last few years as the number
16 of moose on the Yukon climbs. Our cow to calf ratios,
17 so the number of calves we see for every 100 cows,
18 that's actually dropped quite a bit and it's kind of
19 leveling off. Nothing to be concerned about, but it
20 kind of indicates a couple things. It indicates that
21 range or habitat is not as good as it used to be. And
22 on top of that we've been doing browse surveys in the
23 spring, the Refuge and Fish and Game Staff. And what
24 these browse survey do, we go and measure how much
25 food, so winter -- willows in the winter are available
0163 for the moose, and of all the twigs that are available
1 for moose, what percentage of them are they eating. And
2 what we're finding is they're eating about 30 percent,
3 and that's the -- and to put that in perspective, 30
4 percent is the range where we start getting concerned
5 about moose overgrazing the habitat. That's kind of
6 where we start seeing more skinny moose, we start
7 seeing more spike-forked bulls, we start seeing calf to
8 cow, our twinning ratios drop. And all those things
9 are indications that there are some nutritional
10 stressors going on on the Yukon, which is kind of what
11 we'd expect with 24,000 moose.

25
0163

1 So when we add all that together, the
2 Fish and Game would support this proposal with the one
3 caveat that Federal regulations kind of match the State
4 regulation. And what I mean by that is, is it's a long
5 season, it's the longest season in the state of Alaska
6 right now so the season opens August 1st and it closes
7 April 30th under both State and Federal regulations,
8 but then we break that down into three sections. So
9 August 1 through September 30th. We'd ask while the bag
10 limit is three moose, only one of those be a bull.
11 During October through November that it be three
12 antlerless moose, cows and calves. And then in
13 December through April, it just becomes three of any
14 moose, bulls, cows or calves.

8
9 And that's all I have unless there's
10 questions.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Pat. Do we
12 have any questions at this time for Pat.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any

13 questions or comments for Pat at this time regarding
14 Wildlife Proposal 22-42 to request the Federal
15 Subsistence Board increase the harvest limit of moose
16 from two to three in Unit 18 remainder.

17 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

19 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Pat, would it be too much to ask if we can increase the
21 bag limit again to four instead of three, or are we
22 asking for too much?

23 MR. JONES: Through the Chair, to
24 Alissa. I don't think you're asking for too much.
25 Right now we harvest roughly 800 moose off the Yukon
0164 every year, that's August 1 through April 30th,
1 biologically we could harvest closer to 4,000. So
2 there's lots of room here, to harvest more moose,
3 absolutely. I don't know if the number of people that
4 want to shoot four moose, I don't think that's a lot of
5 people but it can't hurt. But kind of the same theme
6 as my previous comment, you know, keeping the -- the
7 way we have the season broke up into three sections,

1 would kind of like to mirror that. With all these
2 extra moose we're harvesting, because the population is
3 so high, I want to encourage cow and calf harvest,
4 mostly cow harvest, because that's how we slow down
5 population growth and that's what we need to do. So we
6 need to concentrate more on cows than anything else.
7 So that's why I like only one bull in the fall season,
8 October through November, only antlerless animals, and
9 then in December, because the bulls are losing their
10 antlers and to make it easy on hunters -- I don't want
11 people to worry about what animal they're shooting in
12 the winter so have that be the any moose section.

13 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

15 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
16 what I'm trying to figure out is if we have -- because
17 we had such a huge crash in our salmon and there's
18 going to be a huge demand for another food resource for
19 folks to have out there especially because we weren't
20 able to get as much salmon as we needed to fill our
21 freezers and get us through the winter, I want to make
22 sure that we don't limit the folks out there to not
23 getting what they need in another resource. So for

14 families who need to reup on a moose because they ran
15 out of moose in like a month and a half, and I'm
16 guilty, my family's definitely guilty of eating a moose
17 in a month and half, I want to make sure that they have
18 the additional opportunity to harvest more moose since
19 they're so abundant.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.

22 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, Thomas
23 Alstrom, Alakanuk.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Thomas.

25 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, maybe not a question
0165 rather a comment. Being a subsistence moose hunter out
26 here in the village, I wasn't able to get my moose this
27 fall due to no freezer space. So I believe our family
28 here is full of freezers with moose. And then I went
29 about and contacted friends and family about if they

30 need moose but everybody seems to have their freezers
31 full of moose around here and, you know, increasing the
32 -- I'm in support of this proposal, like how stretching
33 out the moose, say one moose now, one in the winter and
34 one in the fall, you know. As time goes on, you know,
35 and we eat moose, you know, we'll eventually make
36 freezer space in our freezers and then we'll be able to
37 have that open opportunity to go out and catch another
38 moose to restock up on moose. But the problem I -- the
39 only problem I think we're having as of right now, is
40 everybody got their moose and there's no freezer space
41 like the Native tradition is, we only take what we
42 need. And we -- as of right now, the only problem I
43 see is no freezer space. A lot of family's freezers --
44 say their freezers are too full and that they can't
45 take on any more moose.

46 So thank you. That's it, Mr. Chair,
47 thank you.

48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,
49 Thomas. Yeah, I'm in the same situation too, I haven't
50 hunt moose here for the last, maybe four or five years,
51 due to family giving moose to me. And, again, like
52 Thomas mentioned, my freezer's full right now. Like we
53 mentioned earlier at the beginning of our comments is
54 that we didn't get an opportunity to put salmon in our
55 freezer and we've been waiting all summer to see if we
56 would be able to, you know, get salmon to put in the
57 freezer, but now that the fishing is over with, you

16 know, people are getting their moose and they're
17 getting them every day. I had to refuse a couple of
18 people giving me meat because I had no freezer space.

18 I will be in support of this proposal.
19 Like Thomas said, you could get one now and then winter
19 and then later on in the spring.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
22 Myron.

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron.

24 MR. NANENG: Yeah. If the
24 recommendation is to harvest cow moose, especially
25 those without calves, I think one of the things I think
25 should be recommended to the sports hunters because

0166
1 there's quite a number of them that come through with
2 antlers only. A few do bring their meat back from
3 wherever they came from. But I think one of the other
4 considerations should be the sports hunters should be
5 encouraging hunting for -- we tried to reduce the
6 population, because one of the observations, and it was
7 done by a Board of Game person up on the middle
8 Kuskokwim, was that the sports hunters substantially
9 reduced the big bulls that reduced the population on
10 the middle Kuskokwim area like Holitna. So I know that
11 there's a lot of moose out there and a lot of people
12 have gotten their moose, but a lot of these sports
13 hunters do only go for the trophy moose, and maybe the
14 State can also consider opening the cow moose hunt to
15 them so they wouldn't (indiscernible - cutting out) of
16 the antlers but would just say that they
17 (indiscernible) not a cow.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted)

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, I believe we are
22 on the number 2, report on Board consultation, correct
23 me if I'm wrong. Eva.

24 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
25 Council. So we did hear the latest population update
26 from Patrick. We do have an analysis that Tom Plank
27 will present to the Council and it provides just a
28 little more background and context of the request and
29 management. So we can start, at this time, with that
30 analysis overview from Tom and then we'll walk through
31 the proposal procedure process.

32 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Tom.
21 MR. PLANK: Hello, again, Mr. Chair.
22 Members of the Council. For the record my name is Tom
23 Plank and I am a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of
24 Subsistence Management. And I'll be presenting a
summary for the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-42
requesting to increase the harvest limit of moose from
two to three in Unit 18 remainder. This is starting on
Page 74 of your meeting books.

25
0167

1 The proponent states this request is
needed to continue subsistence use and increase
2 opportunity for sharing moose throughout the YKDelta
region and help to ensure long-term sustainability of
3 the lower Yukon River area moose population, which is
currently too high to be supported by the local
4 environment. Increased harvest and sharing
opportunities is especially needed in these times of
5 low salmon returns on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers
and the recent closures of the harvest of Mulchatna
6 caribou.

7 In 2005 the Board of Game increased the
fall season 21 days and increased the winter season 10
8 days in response to the rapid growth of the lower
Yukon moose population. In 2009 the Federal
9 Subsistence Board approved a special action increasing
the harvest limit from one to two moose per regulatory
10 year with one allowed in the fall and one in the
winter. The Board of Game extended the winter season
11 to February 28th and adjusted the unit boundaries. In
2010 the Federal Subsistence Board increased harvest
12 limit to two moose per regulatory year extending the
winter season to February 28th, adjusted unit
13 boundaries and issued delegated authority to the Yukon
Delta National Wildlife Refuge. In 2012 the Federal
14 Subsistence Board adopted a proposal to combine the
fall and winter hunts in a one season from August 1st
15 to March 31st with a harvest limit of two moose with a
stipulation that antlered bull harvest was limited to
16 only between August 1st and September 30th. In 2014
the Federal Subsistence Board adopted a proposal with
17 modification that adjusted unit boundaries establishing
a single Yukon drainage hunt area and modified the bull
18 harvest stipulations stating bulls could not be
harvested from October 1st to November 30th, Unit 18
19 remainder harvest limits was two moose. In 2018 the
Federal Subsistence Board extended the season to April
20 30th and in 2020 the Board of Game extended the winter
season to April 30th stating concerns that the Paimiut
21 area had surpassed carrying capacity. And in 2021

22 WSA21-02 was approved by the Federal Subsistence Board
increasing the harvest limit for moose in Unit 18 to
23 three moose for the remainder of the 2020/21 season.

24 Moose began to migrate into the Yukon
Kuskokwim Delta during the mid- to late 1940s and have
25 become an important subsistence resource for locals.
Much of the region supports only low, to very low

0168
1 density moose populations, however, productive habitat
does exist along river corridors with approximately
2 4,500 square miles and 3,500 square miles of suitable
moose habitat occurring along the Yukon and Kuskokwim
3 Rivers respectively. The Yukon River moose population
currently occupies most of the available riparian
4 habitat at a moderate to high density and has high half
production and yearling recruitment and the population
5 is growing. Population and composition surveys are
conducted in five survey units in Unit 18 shown in Map
6 2 on Page 82. And as mentioned in the update three of
the five survey areas are located within the Unit 18
7 remainder hunt area. The most recent survey was done
in February/March of 2021. The lowest Yukon was
8 estimated with a population of a little over 12,000
with a density of 6.89 moose per square mile. The
9 Paimiut and the Andreafsky units were conducted
together with estimated population of around 4,800 and
10 6,900 respectively and a combined density of the two
units at 3.68 moose per square mile.

11
12 ADF&Gs harvest records for the general
moose in Unit 18 only includes Unit 18 remainder as
13 moose harvest in the other units of Unit 18 are by
registration permit. Over the past 10 years the
14 largest portion of the harvest has been by Alaska
residents as seen in Figure 4 on Page 85. Total
15 reported harvest has increased roughly 26 percent from
2010 to 2019, while the number of hunters has stayed
16 relatively the same in the past 10 years, the success
rate for those hunters has increased from 52 percent to
73 percent.

17
18 The moose population in the Unit 18
remainder hunt area far exceeds management objectives
and is believed to exceed the habitat carrying
19 capacity. Approval of this proposal will provide
additional opportunity for Federally-qualified
20 subsistence users. Increasing the harvest limit from
two to three moose may help limit the growth of this
21 moose population. And, furthermore, the expanded
harvest limit might promote further sharing of moose

22 throughout the Yukon Kuskokwim region and support
subsistence families in need.

23

24 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
support Proposal WP22-42.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the

0169

1 Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tom. Do we
have any questions for Tom at this time.

3

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

4

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

5

6 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Through the chair. Like I had asked Pat, if it's
possible to increase the bag limit from -- instead of
going for three, changing it to four, just because
throughout the year, like Thomas said that we're going
to be eating out of our freezers but as we're starting
to run low, I don't want them to be limited, let's say
they get one or two moose now and they get another one
in the winter time but they still didn't have enough to
get them through the following until fish, or birds
come, or another form of meat came. Would that be a
possibility?

11

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Tom, do you
care to respond.

14

15 MR. PLANK: Yes, through the Chair.
You can make an amendment to the proposal to increase
it to four. But this regulation won't take effect
until next season but I could be wrong on that.

16

17

MS. PATTON: Thank you.

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
Chair. Yeah, so when the Council is making a motion on
this proposal, the Council can make a motion to amend
the proposal requesting to increase the harvest limit
to four. And then, again, this proposal is part of the
regular regulatory cycle and if adopted would not go
into effect until summer of 2022. So after we're
through the process of this regulatory proposal, as we
discussed earlier in the meeting yesterday, if the
Council wishes to also submit a special action request
in order to increase the harvest limit for this current
season the Council can do that as well.

24

25

0170

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 (No comments)
3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.
4 (No comments)
5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, did we lose you
6 Ray.

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I'm back on. My
8 call got dropped too. I'm back on now.

9 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. Did you
10 get dropped before the discussion about proposal
11 amendments?

12 (No comments)

13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, are you still
14 online.

15 (No comments)

16 MS. PATTON: It sounds like we might
17 have lost our Chair. Maybe we'll just give a moment
18 for Ray to call back in.

19 (Pause)

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, hi, Eva, I'm back
21 on. My call got dropped twice so I'm back on now.

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Apologies for the challenges with the teleconference.
24 I just wanted to check in with you if you had gotten
25 dropped before the discussion on amending the proposal.

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, that's a comment
27 that Alissa mentioned and you were starting to comment
28 and that's when I got the call dropped.

29 MS. PATTON: Okay. So the Council can
30 amend this proposal that's before you now. So when the
31 Council goes to make a motion you can also make a
32 motion to amend the proposal requesting an increase to
33 the harvest of four moose if the Council wishes to do
34 so. So you can amend this regulatory proposal to

0171
35 increase the overall harvest. And also wanted to make
36 the Council aware that this is a full regulatory
37 proposal so it would not take effect until summer of
38 2022 but if the Council wished to increase the current
39 moose harvest in Unit 18 remainder for this season,
40 which is open now, and then runs through -- concludes
41 in the spring, April/May, if the Council wished to
42 increase the harvest for this current season, the
43 Council can make a special action request too. So

6 that's an option to also take action on at this meeting
7 if the Council wishes.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Eva.
9 I believe we were still asking questions to Tom. If
10 there's any questions or comments on WP22-42 to
11 increase the harvest limit from two to three.

12 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard.

14 MR. SLATS: Yes, thank you. I wonder
15 if it would make any sense to do an opening. When the
16 fish are not running, open during the fishing season.
17 So I don't know how many of the people that dry their
18 moose but that would be something to have in the back
19 of our minds. Because what we do out here on the coast
20 is that we do our spring seal hunting to dry and a lot
21 of our meat is -- seal meat is dried before the flies
22 start flying. So I'm just throwing that in, Mr. Chair,
23 thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Anyone wish
25 to comment on that.

26 (No comments)

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Anyone care to comment.

28 (No comments)

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hello, am I still on?

30 MS. ROGERS: I can hear you, Mr. Chair.

31 MS. PATTON: Yes, we can hear.

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Okay, I thought
33 I might have gotten another dropped call. Does anyone

34 want to comment on Richard's question.

35 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
36 Robbin.

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Robbin, go ahead.

38 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, hi, thanks. So the
39 proposal that you are reviewing now is to change
40 regulations to increase the harvest limit and one of
41 the amendments you are suggesting is to increase that
42 harvest limit instead of the proposed two to three, you
43 are talking about, potentially amending it to increase

8 that harvest limit in regulation from two to four. And
9 I believe that is an amendment we can make on this
10 analysis. However, to change the season of the
11 harvest, to extend it or to open the season earlier in
12 regulation may require a new analysis. And that this
13 would -- I think there would be a number of different
14 considerations to review if you were to extend or open
15 the season earlier.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,
14 Robbin. You know in my opinion I think I would keep it
15 the same without changing the seasons. I think we are
16 pretty liberal at this time on the moose harvest. So I
17 know towards the spring that's when the birds arrive
18 and when you get increase of under ice, sheefish,
19 whitefish, those are the other resources that we could
20 depend on and right about in the springtime when the
21 birds come around. So I think I would just go with the
22 increase from two to three at this time. And if
23 there's any -- if we feel that we needed a special
24 action to increase it then we could take up that matter
25 maybe in the winter meeting. Like I mentioned I think
26 we are very much liberal on the moose hunt at this
27 time.

28 And I would like to even recommend -- I
29 know there's a lot of non-profits out there that we
30 could support in harvesting moose for them, such as the
31 home or there's non-profits that are there in Bethel,
32 wherever we could provide moose for them. I know we
33 have a number of elders that are at the elderly home
34 there in Bethel and if there's a way that we could
35 provide moose for them, I think that that would be an
36 opportunity to at least reduce some of that in that

0173 way.

1 Did we have any more.....

2 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY:comment or -- go
4 ahead, Alissa.

5 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
6 there is no more comments or questions can I go ahead
7 and make a motion on the floor to support the proposal
8 as is. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, we could.....

10 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY:do that.....

12 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman, this is
Phillip.

CHAIRMAN ONEY:at the end of the

13 when we need to -- go ahead, Phillip.

14 MR. PETER: I'm supporting what you're
15 saying. I am from Kuskokwim, we usually go hunting
16 when the ice is good enough to travel but when there's
17 no snow we don't go for moose hunting in Yukon. My
18 suggestions will be three is good enough. In the
19 future, we could increase it, bag limit, but I'm
20 supporting what you're saying. Only a few from my
21 village go to the Yukon and hunt moose in the
22 wintertime. We usually take home only two moose, not
23 three, only a couple of moose we kill and respect that
24 two moose and go home right away.

25 That's my comments, thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

21

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Phillip.

22

MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, Thomas

23 Alstrom.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas, go ahead.

25

MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, I have a question.

0174

1 For Unit 18 remainder, when we increase the bag limit
2 for moose from two to three moose, are we welcoming
3 outside hunters because, you know, we kind of don't
4 want to have trophy hunters, antler hunters coming out
5 in Unit 18 remainder and trophy hunting and catching
6 their bag limit of three moose and that kind of wanton
7 waste, you know, that's something we got to keep in the
8 back of our mind. One of my question's is, with
9 increasing the bag limit from two to three moose, are
10 we welcoming sports hunters, outsiders to come in and
11 hunt Unit 18 remainder?

12 MS. EVAN: This is Norma, I have a
13 comment, Mr. Chair, about sports hunters. They were
14 prevalent in the Marshall area the whole moose hunting
15 season, flying around all day long, morning until
16 night. And that's my comment.

10

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

11

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

12

MS. PATTON: Yeah, thank you, Mr.

13 Chair. This proposal is only for Federal subsistence
14 regulations and so would increase the harvest limit
15 only for Federally-qualified subsistence users on
16 Federal land. The State harvest would be a separate
17 process to increase the harvest limit on the State
18 side. But this proposal applies only to Federally-
19 qualified subsistence users on Federal lands.

16

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you for that
19 clarification.
20 MR. ALSTROM: Thank you, Eva. This is
21 Thomas.

22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may. And
23 I don't want to interject if there's more questions
24 from the Council. But before we get into a motion we
25 still do have our public process to walk through.

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Uh-huh.

27 MS. PATTON: So we would need to hear
28 from all the groups prior to the Council's motion.

29
30
0175

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
3 If there is no other questions for Tom we could go on
4 to the next report on Board consultation.

5 Eva.

6 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
7 I do believe we do have Orville Lind online. OSM
8 Native Liaison, Orville Lind.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Orville.

10 MR. LIND: Yes, go ahead, Eva.

11 MS. PATTON: Hi, Orville. I was just
12 wondering if you wanted to provide the tribal ANCSA
13 consultation updates.

14 MR. LIND: For this particular
15 proposal, as of August 19, during the consultation
16 session we didn't have any questions or comments on
17 that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Orville. And
20 we did have tribes calling in on the discussion about
21 the proposal, but no formal recommendation. Thank you
22 for that Orville. And then we are on to agency
23 comments, the first of which is ADF&G.

24 MR. JONES: Thank you, Eva. This is
25 Patrick Jones, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
26 Bethel. I'll just keep it short because I included the
27 Department comments with the biological information
28 earlier, my apologies for that.

29 But just in short, Fish and Game
30 supports increasing the bag limit from two three for
Unit 18 remainder.

31 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Patrick. And

23 Federal agency comments.

24 MR. MOSES: Hi, Eva, this is Aaron
25 Moses. Yukon Delta supports it since we have no
0176 biological concerns over increasing it from two to

1 three moose.

2 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Aaron. And any
3 tribes participating on the call today that would like
4 to comment on this proposal.

5 MS. ESQUIBLE: Hi, Eva, this is Janessa
6 Esquible again with ONC. ONC voted to support this
7 wildlife proposal requesting to increase the harvest of
8 moose from two to three in Unit 18 remainder. And they
9 felt that if this proposal passes it could have a
10 positive impact on the moose population by helping to
11 limit the growth of the population.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Janessa.
14 Thanks to ONC. Any other tribes participating today
15 that would like to make a comment or recommendation on
16 Proposal 22-42.

17

(No comments)

18

19 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. And,
20 again, we don't have any Regional Advisory Council
21 comments at this time on this proposal or any AC
22 comments that were submitted. And there were no
23 written public comments submitted for this proposal.
24 And I'll just -- during the regular comment period --
25 and I'll just touch base with Robbin and make sure
there weren't any written public comments submitted
today.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
28 Robbin. Thank you, Eva. There are no further -- or
29 there are no public comments submitted via email, thank
30 you.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Robbin. And
33 then we have an opportunity for public testimony. Do
34 we have any public that has joined us today that would
35 like to comment on this proposal, 22-42, requesting to
36 increase the harvest limit for moose in the lower Yukon
37 Unit 18 remainder. And just a reminder, if you'd like
38 to address the Council please unmute your phones, star
39 six.

40

(No comments)

41

0177

1 MS. PATTON: Any public comment.

2 MS. EVAN: Hi, this is Norma again. I
was just thinking back a couple years ago when we
3 first.....

4 MS. PATTON: Norma, I'm sorry you were
breaking up.

5
6 MS. EVAN: I was just remembering back
when we first got our antler buyer in our region, that
springtime we were out boating, I don't know how much
7 carcasses we seen but also might have an impact on the
antler hunters that are not there for the meat itself,
8 but for the antlers and that's a comment I'd like to
make.

9
10 Mr. Chair, thank you.

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Norma. Any
other comments from the public participating today on
this proposal.

12 (No comments)

13
14 MS. PATTON: And if we have no public
testimony at this time, now we are on the Regional
Advisory Council recommendation and motion. Thank you.
15 Mr. Chair.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva.
17 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman, this is
Phillip.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip, go ahead.

19
20 MR. PETER: I'd like to make a motion
for discussion on this proposal, WP22-42.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. So it's to adopt
before we go into discussion.

22
23 MR. PETER: Yeah.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Your motion is to adopt
WP22-42.

25 MR. PETER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

0178
1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we hear
a second.

2 MR. NANENG: I second the motion.

3 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Can you.....

5

MR. NANENG: Myron.

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa and then I'll
7 recognize Myron. Go ahead Alissa.

8

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can
I also make a friendly amendment to that adoption that
9 we mirror it to the State season so that our
regulations with the Fed and State regulations match
10 and there's no confusion.

11

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

12

MS. ROGERS: But addition would be,
13 that there would be only one bull in the fall time.
Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. I
15 believe we can do that when we're ready to vote for the
final motion.

16

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

MR. NANENG: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
18 Myron. I was going to second Mr. Phillip Peter.

19

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a second
by Myron. All of those in favor of Wildlife Proposal
20 WP22-42 request the Federal Subsistence Board increase
the harvest limit of moose from two to three in Unit 18
remainder. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

21

IN UNISON: Aye.

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, say no.

23

(No opposing votes)

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion

25
0179

1 carried. Thank you all. I think we could go ahead and
take an hour lunch. It is now 12:25. Eva, if there's
2 anything else that you need to bring up before we go to
lunch and come back at what time?

3

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Absolutely. And I'll let the Council decide if you'd
like to take an hour lunch break, I think it looks like
5 the time is 12:20.

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: How long a break do you
want to take.

7

MS. ROGERS: 1:30.

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: 1:30 it is. So we'll
9 come back at 1:30, we could go ahead and have a lunch

break and come back at 1:30. Thank you.

10

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 Thank you, everyone.

12 (Off record)

13 (On record)

14 MS. PATTON: We're still waiting for a
15 few Council members here. Hopefully they'll be able to
16 join us back online. Mr. Chair, if I may have a
17 request on the order of the proposals. We have Rick
18 Merizon online who was going to address the proposal on
19 Alaska hare. And the timing would work out best, he
20 has some other obligations between 2:30/3:00, I
21 believe, and if we could switch the order of those two
22 proposals and take up the hare proposal first, and then
23 come back to the Unit 18 moose that Kuskokwim hunt area
24 moose afterwards.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, sounds like a plan
to me.

21

MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful, thank

22 you.

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we need a motion or
24 what.

24

MS. PATTON: Sure, if the Council would
like to make that friendly amendment to the agenda.

25
0180

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

3 MS. ROGERS: I so move that we make the
friendly amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. There's a
5 motion on the floor to switch the two last proposals on
6 the regional proposals to take W022-45, which is Unit
7 18, 22, 23 hare, establish season harvest limit for
8 Alaska hare and then take up the other proposal right
9 after. Do I hear a second.

8 MR. NANENG: I second.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Myron. All
those in favor say aye.

10

IN UNISON: Aye.

11

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that are opposing
12 say no.

13 (No opposing votes)

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
15 carries. So we will take up WP22-45 as soon as we come
on board.

16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
17 I'll just check back on here to see if Henry Parks has
18 joined us yet.

18 (No comments)

19 MS. PATTON: I know Henry had texted
20 earlier, they were having a lot of difficulties with
21 GCI in Nunapitchuk right now, so hopefully he will be
22 able to join us again.

21 John Andrew.

22 (No comments)

23 MS. PATTON: James Landlord.

24 MR. LANDLORD: I just dialed in.

25
0181
1 MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful. Thank
2 you, James. Just one moment I'll see if I can get a
3 hold of John and Henry by text.

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.

4 MS. PATTON: Hopefully we'll have our
5 full Council again before we begin on the proposals.
6 One moment.

6 (Pause)

7 MS. PATTON: Okay, John replied, he's
8 trying to call in right now. And I haven't heard back
9 from Henry. He did specify right before lunch break
10 that GCI was having difficulties so hopefully he can
11 join us. But, yeah, there seems to be connection
12 problems there. And hopefully John will be able to
13 connect here soon.

11 (Pause)

12 MS. PATTON: And maybe I should just
13 check on teleconference, Rick, are you on
14 teleconference with us now.

14 MR. MERIZON: Yes, this is Rick
15 Merizon, I'm standing by.

15 MS. PATTON: Okay, great. Thank you,
16 Rick. I just got the message from Mark over lunch so
17 hopefully this timing will work out for you here.
18 Thanks for being on.

18 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, I appreciate your
19 and the Council's flexibility, thank you.

19 (Pause)

20 MS. PATTON: And do we have John Andrew
21 on yet.

22 MR. ANDREW: Hello, I just got on,
thank you.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful. Thank
you, John. Okay, with that, for the record we have all
25 of our Council members participating. Henry Parks is
having some difficulties with GCI so hopefully he'll be
0182
1 able to join us at some point here. I believe we can
reconvene the meeting now, Mr. Chair, and we'll start
2 with our proposals WP22-45.

3 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
I'll call the meeting back to order, the time now is
1:40, we're back in session so we'll be taking up the
6 next proposal. It was requested that the last two
proposals be switched and we are taking up Proposal
7 WP22-45 request to create specific harvest regulations
for Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and 23.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
And, again, we'll hear the population updates and other
information relevant to this proposal and we do have
10 ADF&G biologist Rick Merizon online. So the floor is
yours, Rick, thank you.

11

12 MR. MERIZON: Thank you, Eva. And
thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Council.
Just for point of clarification would you like me to
13 introduce the proposal or is that something you would
like Tom to do first?

14

15 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

16 MS. PATTON: However works best for
you. If you'd like Tom -- Tom will provide the
17 proposal analysis, if you prefer that come first, and
then provide, you know, any current updates that you
18 have to add.

19 MR. MERIZON: I'm happy to provide
whatever input I can, what's most efficient for the
20 Council. I just wanted to make sure I didn't step on
anybody's toes. But, I'm happy to introduce the
21 proposal and provide any insight we might be able to
offer.

22

23 REPORTER: Okay, then this is Tina.
Hang on Eva. This is Tina, the reporter. Before Rick
starts, if everybody could take a second, check your

24 device, make sure you're on mute, by either pressing
25 star six or your mute button, and that way we can hear
the presentation. There's quite a bit of background

0183

1 noise right now.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tina.

4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Tina. And,
5 yeah, perhaps a good way to begin would be for you to
6 provide the background and overview of the analysis,
7 Tom, and then we have Rick on to add any additional
information and respond to questions about the
population.

7

MR. PLANK: Sure, I can do that.

8 Again, hello, Mr. Chair and member of the Council. My
9 name is Tom Plank and I am the Wildlife Biologist in
10 the Office of Subsistence Management. And I will be
11 presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife
12 Proposal WP22-45 submitted by ADF&G requesting to
create specific harvest regulations for Alaska hare in
Units 18, 22 and 23, and this is starting on Page 110
in your book.

12

13 The proponent states that the once
14 abundant Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and 23 is now at
15 very low density and has a patchy distribution
16 throughout the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Seward Peninsula
17 and Northwestern Alaska region. The Alaska hare is
18 sometimes called Jackrabbits, Tundra hare, or Arctic
19 hare. The Alaska hare is called the Tundra hare in the
20 Federal regulations but Alaska hare seems to be the
21 dominant term in contemporary usage including in State
22 regulations. The Alaska hare is a different species
23 than the snowshoe hare despite being lumped together in
24 Federal regulations.

19 Federal Subsistence regulations for the
20 hares in Units 18 and 23 have not changed since 1990
21 when the Federal Subsistence Management Program began.
22 At that time a year-round season with no harvest limit
23 was adopted from State regulations. Federal
24 subsistence regulations for hares in Unit 22 were
25 established in 1990. In 1995 the Board adopted a
26 proposal to shorten the season for hares in Unit 22
27 from July 1st through June 30th, to September 1st
28 through April 15th, with the intent to close the season
29 for hares during the mating, breeding and birthing
30 seasons. ADF&G submitted Proposal 15 and 43 for the
31 Alaska Board of Game's consideration during the January

0184

1 2020 meeting noting very low densities and patchy

2 distribution of Alaska hares in these units. ADF&G
3 requests that the reduction in season and harvest
4 limits in Units 18 and 22 and for consistency the Board
5 of Game adopted an identical management structure for
6 all the units, 18, 22 and 23 for the Alaska hare
7 consistent of a harvest limit of two per day and a
8 total of six per season, August 1st to May 31st season
9 that required the hunters to salvage the hide or meat
10 for human usage.

11 Alaska hares are among the most poorly
12 understood game species in Alaska. From local
13 observations abundance is well below historical levels
14 throughout the range of the species. In 2018 ADF&G
15 initiated a multi-year study to evaluate movement and
16 mortality as well as long-term capture techniques.
17 Little is known about the harvest of Alaska hare.
18 Household harvest surveys indicate that this is
19 harvested throughout the communities of Western and
20 Southwestern Alaska.

21 If this proposal is adopted the Alaska
22 hare season would be reduced although hunters will
23 still have the opportunity to harvest hares during
24 winter when they're engaging in other subsistence or
25 recreational activities. The change in daily and
26 overall harvest limits may be effective in reducing
27 harvest which could translate to an improvement in the
28 conservation status of these populations. Any positive
29 effects these changes have on the Alaska hare
30 population will benefit subsistence users in the long-
31 term, despite for the immediate reduction in
32 subsistence opportunity. The proponent requests a
33 season which would be more restrictive than existing
34 State regulations, and if adopted as requested
35 Federally-qualified subsistence users would still be
36 able to harvest Alaska hares in August and May under
37 State regulations.

38 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
39 support Proposal WP22-45 with modifications to shorten
40 the season to August 1st through May 31st and to modify
41 the definition of hare in the Federal regulations.

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
43 Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tom. Do we
45 have any questions for Tom at this time regarding WP22-
46 45.

47 (No comments)

4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any
questions from the Council for Tom at this time
regarding the hare, rabbit.

5

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

7

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
8 was wondering if there's a possibility in reducing the
number, from the current amount that we have to
9 lowering it, is there any biological reasons why we
can't lower it and lower the yearly bag limit?

10

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Anyone care to give a
12 response.

13

MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is
Tom.

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Tom, go ahead.

15

MR. PLANK: All right, thank you. I
16 would probably want to refer this to have Rick's input
on this. From my analysis, I was not able to find any
17 substantial biological information to go either way on
that. But the State has done a lot more on this.

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

19

MR. MERIZON: Mr. Chair. Members of
20 the Council. This is Rick Merizon, Small Game
Biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
21 And, again, I appreciate everyone's flexibility in
accommodating my schedule this afternoon. I'm very
22 grateful for that.

23

Regarding the harvest limit, really the
reason that harvest limit was put into this proposal
24 was to match the current State regulations as closely
as possible just to eliminate confusion among the
resource users. You know that would certainly be an

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1 option up to the Council to make an amendment on that.
But as far as a biological justification there's
2 limited harvest data on the species and there's also
limited population data to give you a real concrete
3 answer but, you know, it's certainly that could
obviously be changed.

4

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is

5 Myron.

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

7 MR. NANENG: With just the comments
8 that he just made about limited information and limited
9 population information I would not support reducing the
10 bag limits because we don't have enough information to
11 support that. So that's my comment, thank you.

12 MR. MERIZON: Mr. Chairman, this is
13 Rick Merizon again with Fish and Game. I may just add,
14 just to give you a little bit of background and ongoing
15 work with Alaska hares throughout the species range in
16 Western and Southwestern Alaska. As Tom alluded to,
17 we've initiated a multi-year research study that is
18 occurring across the entire range of the species. We
19 have two primary objectives. One is to develop a long-
20 term monitoring technique and then the second objective
21 is to try to capture and radio-collar several
22 individuals to learn more about their overall movements
23 and sort of scale of habitat use. So those are two
24 very different objectives.

25 Regarding the first objective, the
26 long-term monitoring project. What we've begun to
27 develop and feel a very high degree of confidence that
28 we have developed a meaningful population assessment
29 tool is through the use of collecting pellets and
30 subsequent DNA analysis from those pellets. That
31 actually allows us to determine individual, so we can
32 conduct a pellet collection survey and across that
33 survey range of anywhere from 50 to 80, we can
34 actually, with a high degree of confidence, estimate
35 the number of individuals that we identified in that
36 survey. Based on those preliminary data from those
37 surveys that we've now performed for three years,
38 again, it very clearly points to the fact that Alaska
39 hare or jackrabbits are at very very low density across
40 the range. And I guess I was alluding to that when
41 answering that prior question. We don't have hard,

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42 concrete information like folks might be accustomed to
43 with a moose survey or a caribou survey, our
44 methodology is simply not robust enough to have real
45 concrete population estimates that way. However, based
46 on what we do know, like I said the species is at very
47 very low density across the range.

48
49 MR. NANENG: Follow-up question. Are
50 they cyclic like we have our rabbits, the smaller ones,
51 where they do a population increase and then the
52 population crashes and then comes back again, are they
53 cyclic like that?

54
55
56
57

8 MR. MERIZON: Again, this is Rick
9 Merizon with Fish and Game. We don't have any
10 information to suggest that during the last 10 years or
11 15 years they have been cyclic like snowshoe hares. I
12 believe in talking to may village elders that -- Fish
13 and Game Staff several years ago conducted fairly
14 intensive village visits across the YK and Seward
15 Peninsula where we tried to learn about Alaska hares
16 from many village elders. And it does seem like back
17 30, 40, 50 years ago that Alaska hare may have been
18 more cyclic than they are now, more similar to snowshoe
19 hare. But, again, just from our own research and our
20 own observations on the landscape in talking to
21 residents and other Federal and State biologists, it
22 does not appear as though Alaska hare have been cyclic
23 over the last five or 10 years and that may be a
24 function of the low density.

16

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

17

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

18

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A
19 comment. With the years of data that you've been
20 trying to get and understanding that there's really
21 hardly any information to be collected based on the
22 there's no hare out there and trying to get information
23 and data on something you can't get your hands on, I
24 completely understand it, and it only makes it more
25 cause of concern. Because if it's hard to collect data
then that means there's not many out there. And since
this project has been a few years now it's only common
sense that there's not enough hare out there to make
any type of -- to stay standstill and not do something
about it. So in my personal opinion, I would say that
I would go for lower harvest numbers and yearly amount

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1 bag limit. Until we can actually get concrete
2 information or more information and study information
3 on how much actual abundance we technically have.
4 Because if you're already at so many years into your
5 project and we're still not seeing any jackrabbits out
6 here and people are talking about where's all the
7 jackrabbits, we haven't seen any, there used to be so
8 many back in the day, now there's none and we're like,
9 what, 30 years, 40 years from the last time we had a
10 huge abundance out here.

6

Like over by my area over towards
7 Oscarville Bluffs, for instance, there used to be so
8 many back there, now there's -- you're lucky to even

7

8 find a track. And then over like if headed out to the
9 Yukon you used to see them jumping a lot all over the
10 place and now I can't even find a track. Like last
11 year I didn't see nothing out there.

12 So I don't see there's no logical
13 reason that we cannot reduce this and/or make a
14 reduction even more because if there's nothing there
15 why are we trying to hunt them out, Mr. Chair, I don't
16 see why we're not worried about them repopulating.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,
19 Alissa.

20 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
21 Myron.

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

23 MR. NANENG: Yeah, the only reason why
24 I made my comments is because I don't want to create
25 regulations or bag limits that will create hardship on
26 our people because the regulation is there. But if
27 there's concrete information like the one who's making
28 the report, if there was really a reduction -- or low
29 population then I would support it.

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

31 MR. REARDEN: Through the Chair, this
32 is Spencer Rearden.

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Spencer, go ahead.

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34 MR. REARDEN: Just a comment on this.
35 I think I heard earlier comments that we don't always
36 want to look at anecdotal information and brush it
37 aside and so I, too, am a proponent of listening to the
38 local people. And one of the things that I hear often
39 is that the Alaska hare numbers are low. That's not
40 just from a few individuals. I think many folks out
41 here would agree that this information points to the
42 same direction. I've heard a lot of stories where
43 there used to be an abundance and those stories seem to
44 originate from quite a ways back, I mean maybe from the
45 '80s. I'm not old enough to have experience with big
46 numbers that people once described, which is
47 unfortunate. And I never really heard the reason why
48 numbers may have decreased, although local knowledge
49 from people that once hunted them believe that through
50 the increase technology of snowmachines, people were

more efficient at actually harvesting them.

10

11 Sure, there's not very much data on
12 them, and, I, too ask myself how would you study
13 something you can't find. But I am a proponent of
14 listening to local people and I think, as well as many
of you probably heard, the stories are similar from
Kotzebue down to Bethel, I know that, that the numbers
are nowhere near what they used to be.

14

15 So in any case I just wanted to point
16 that out. Thanks.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
18 any questions or comments at this time from the
19 Council.

20 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, this is John
21 Andrew from Kwethluk.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John Andrew, go ahead.

20

21 MR. ANDREW: Thank you. When I used to
22 trap over here back around Kwethluk all the way up to
23 the hills I used to catch most of my jackrabbits as
24 incidental catches on my fox snares. It was the same
25 way with my late father. We used to catch them more
down towards Tuntutuliak, (In Yup'ik) back in the '60s
0190

1 we used to see lots of them, and it was much easier for
2 us to go track them after a fresh snowfall and they
3 were pretty easy to catch at night. But most of the
4 ones we caught over here were on traps or snares. And
5 lately not too much because hardly anybody does any
6 more trapping and snaring over here. With a very few
7 exceptions that go for beaver and otter, mostly for
8 beaver and otter.

5

6 And I think this -- because there's two
7 types of hares we used to see. The Tundra hare are
8 much bigger, they got between 10 to 15 pounds, then the
9 ones we see in the foothills were way much smaller and
10 lighter and much more rare up there. And it also
11 depends on how much snow we got out there. In the
years we have real heavy snow we'd see their tracks
everywhere. And when you don't have much snow out
there they're they're easy prey for snowy owls and
eagles.

10

11 Yeah, Quyana.

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, John. Do we
13 have any more questions or comments from the Council on
14 WP22-45.

14 (No comments)

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Ray here. Yeah,
16 I was just thinking on how I could address this. I
17 know when I first came down here there were jackrabbits
18 in the early mid-80s. I used to see them outside the
19 village down on Flat Island, up toward Akulerak and
20 then for some reason they seemed to disappear. And
21 like Alissa said, hardly any tracks anywhere. You know
22 I feel that even to consider a moratorium, I think
23 would be more appropriate at this time instead of
24 trying to create a bag limit when we have hardly any
25 information on population-wise for the species. So
0191 until we get good numbers, as far as increase in this
1 population, then we could consider bag limits but for
2 now I feel even a moratorium should be in place.

22 That's my opinion, thank you.

23 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

25 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
0191 Would it be all right to make a friendly amendment
1 through the current discussion as we go into our
2 voting, when we start to make our voting, that we
3 reduce the Alaska hare to one hare per day and three
4 per season?

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 And then if the time being, if we're
6 truly seeing that there is a dire need for us to go
7 into a moratorium on the hares that we ask for the
8 Federal managers to create an emergency order.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. I
10 believe that would be in order if you want to make
11 amendments to how it's currently proposed.

11 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
14 I don't want to interrupt the Council's process here,
15 we do still have the presentation procedures through
16 the proposal to walk through, comments from tribes and
17 public and agencies.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, if there is no

17 other questions or comments we could go ahead and
18 follow through.

18 (No comments)

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Eva.

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

Chair. And then after that, of course, we'll get back
21 then to the Council motion and recommendation. Again,
22 there was tribal consultation and ANCSA consultation
23 held on August 19th and we had a few tribes calling in
for information but no formal recommendations from that
tribal consultation with the Federal Subsistence Board.
And agency comments we start with ADF&G first.

24

MR. MERIZON: Yeah, again, this is Rick
25 Merizon with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I

0192

1 guess at this point I don't have any additional
comments beyond what I've already provided unless there
2 is questions specifically about the issue or the
species.

3

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Rick. Any
4 further questions from the Council for Rick.

5 (No comments)

6 MS. PATTON: And Federal comments.

7 MR. MOSES: Hi Eva, this is Aaron Moses.
We have no additional comments, thank you.

8

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Aaron. And do
9 we have any tribal representatives on the call today
that would like to make comments or recommendations on
10 Proposal WP22-45.

11 MS. ESQUIBLE: Hi, Eva. This is Janessa
Esquible. ONC voted to support Wildlife Proposal 22-45
12 with an amendment to reduce the bag limit to two Alaska
hare per day and three per season given the
13 conservation concerns for the hare and many of the
observations that were shared from local hunters not
14 seeing as many hares as they used to see.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Janessa. And
thanks to ONC. And, again, we have no other Regional
17 Advisory Councils or AC comments on this proposal at
this time and no written public comments submitted. I
18 will just check in with Robbin to see if there were any
emails received with written comment.

19

MS. LAVINE: Hello, thank you, Eva and
20 members of the Council. Through the Chair. There are
no comments submitted via email. Thank you.

21

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Robbin. And at
22 this time we'd like to check in with the public
23 participating on teleconference today, if anyone would
24 like to make comments or recommendations on this
25 proposal. The floor is open to the public and, again,
just push star six or your mute button to unmute.

(No comments)

0193

1 MS. PATTON: Any public comments at
this time on this proposal.

2

(No comments)

3

MS. PATTON: Okay, hearing none, then
4 that brings us to a Council motion. Mr. Chair.

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Is
there a motion on the floor to adopt Wildlife Proposal
6 WP22-45 with a request to create specific harvest
regulations for Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and 23.

7

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
8 Myron. I move to adopt the proposal as proposed.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
on the floor by Myron to accept the proposal as
10 written. Do I hear a second.

11 MR. PETER: This is Phillip, I.....

12 MS. ROGERS: Second.

13 MR. PETER:second the motion.

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
by Mr. Phillip to second the motion. We are on
15 discussion.

16 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

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

Through the Chair. I still am willing to make a
19 friendly amendment recommendation that we reduce the
bag limit to one per day and three per year due to the
20 hardships of trying to collect data information because
there is not an abundance of hare right now.

21

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Is there
23 any other comments or questions from the Council at
this time.

24

(Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted)

0194

1 (No comments)

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Ray Oney here. I

3 feel the same way too. We should make a friendly
4 amendment as Alissa mentioned to have one per day and
5 three per season until we get enough data to make
6 another sound decision, hopefully not too long from
7 now, to get the information data regarding the species.
8 So I'd go for one per day and three per season.
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any other Council.....

12 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY:that may want to
14 comment at this time.

15 (No comments)

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, if you could go
17 down the bullet points to see if there might be any
18 comments related to that.

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

20 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is Lisa
21 Grediagin, I have a comment.

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Lisa.

23 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you. Yeah,
24 again, Lisa Grediagin with OSM for the record. And I
25 just wanted to make the Council aware that everyone is
0195 able to hunt the Alaska hare under State regulations
1 and so if the Federal regulations are more restrictive
2 than the State, you know, regarding the harvest limits
3 it would functionally not have much of an effect
4 because everyone could still hunt the hares under the
5 more liberal State regulations. And so I just wanted
6 to make the Council aware of that.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

9 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, follow-up

10 comment.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

12 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
13 will be putting a Board of Fish -- or sorry, Board of
14 Game proposal in to match the Federal Subsistence Board
15 if they do take on this proposal to reduce the bag
16 limit and the daily limit. So there is going to be a
17 Board of Game proposal coming from me that's going to
18 be reducing it to the proposed amendment that I just
19 made today.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any other comments or questions at this time on WP22-45.

9
10 (Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

11

MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman, I hate to interrupt. Right now we're having a GCI network service problem here in my village.

12
13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, is that you Henry.

14

MR. PARKS: Yes.

15

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. So we'll keep checking in on you and hopefully they fix the problem.

16
17

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any other comments from the Council. Any discussion, justification to WP22-45 at this time.

19
20

REPORTER: Okay, hi, this is Tina. Could I have everybody mute their phone please. Go ahead. Except for Ray.

21
22

MS. PATTON: Thank you, everyone. Yeah, please check and mute your phones, hit the mute button or star six.

23
24

(Teleconference interference -

0196

participants not muted)

1

MR. NANENG: Are we going to vote on these two separate, the friendly amendment or the proposed amendment. This is Myron.

2
3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I was going to have Eva go down those bullet points to see if there were any comments related to that, so if Eva could go ahead and go through that. Thank you.

4
5
6

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, issues to consider for the Council's justification. Is the recommendation consistent with established fish or wildlife management principles; is the recommendation supported by substantial evidence such biological and traditional ecological knowledge; local observations; will the recommendation be beneficial or detrimental to subsistence needs and uses. And if a closure is involved, is it necessary for conservation of healthy wildlife populations, or is the closure healthy necessary for continued subsistence uses. And, again, the Council's experience and observation and those of your community are important

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13 to consider in the recommendations as well.

14 And, yes, as Myron noted a vote would
15 be needed for both the main proposal and a vote would
16 be needed to accept the amendment proposed as well.

16 Thank you.

17 We did have a motion on the floor to
18 adopt Proposal WP22-45 as written so this is the
19 proposal as put forward by ADF&G to create specific
20 harvest regulations for Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and
21 23. And then we had an amendment from Alissa
22 requesting to reduce the bag limit to one per day and
23 three per year.

21 And we did move on to some other
22 discussions there. I think -- so Alissa made that
23 friendly amendment and I know, Ray, you said you
24 agreed, but maybe we could get a formal second to that
25 amendment.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, yeah, thank you.
25 I was kind of confused the same as Myron on how we
0197 should do this. So I guess my question at the time is

1 to ask the Council if they do want to make a friendly
2 amendment to WP22-45 which is to reduce the bag limit
3 to one per day and three per season.

3 There's a motion on the floor to make a
4 friendly amendment.

4 MR. NANENG: I thought there was a
5 motion.

6 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, are you
7 asking.....

7 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair.

8 MS. ROGERS: Go ahead, Myron, you're
9 good.

10 MR. NANENG: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I
11 thought there was already a motion, and was it
12 seconded, as Chairman?

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Yeah, and that's what I was trying to confirm, you had
15 agreed, yourself to adopt that amendment, Robert's
16 Rules of Order, normally the Chair doesn't make the
17 motion, if there's anyone else who would like to
18 second.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you. Thank
17 you for the reminder, I will withdraw my motion at this
18 time.

19 MR. NANENG: No, I think -- Mr.
Chairman, this is Myron again. I think Alissa made the
20 motion and from listening to your comments I think you
agreed but I didn't hear anyone second it.
21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I only commented.
22 MR. NANENG: Okay.
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: And it wasn't to -- it
was not in a vote, it was just a comment to make that
24 friendly amendment.
25 MR. NANENG: Yeah. I just want to make
0198
1 sure that whenever we make friendly amendments that
they're seconded before we make comment.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I made a mistake
by making that, so we are waiting for a second at this
time, correct me if I'm wrong.
4
5 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
Do we have a second on the.....
6 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman.
7 MS. PATTON:on the amendment.
8 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman. Yes, my
understanding is that Myron made a motion to accept the
9 proposal as is, seconded by Peter Phillip, and then we
moved right into.....
10
11 MR. PETER: The friendly amendment.
12
13 MR. SLATS:the friendly amendment
but then we never voted on -- or no question --
question needs to be called for Myron's motion, I
14 believe, at this time because the.....
15 MR. NANENG: The process is that the
friendly amendment, it needs to be seconded and then
you vote on that amendment and then you go back to the
main motion.....
16
17 MR. SLATS: Okay. Okay.
18
19 MR. NANENG:and vote on the main
motion.
20 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Council. And
you're doing good here so we are just waiting for a
second on that friendly amendment.
21 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.
22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.
23 MR. LANDLORD: This is James. Who's
friendly amendment that's waiting for a second, who's,
24 Alissa or Myron?
25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James. The

0199

1 friendly amendment came from Alissa and the proposal
2 was to amend WP22-45 to further reduce the bag limit to
3 one day and three per year.

4 MR. LANDLORD: Okay. It also has a
5 reduction on time, and in the past it had no limit, and
6 from July 1 to June 30, but the proposed for the
7 regulations would say from September 1 to April 15th.

8 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct. And so the
9 proposal, as written, would reduce the season and then
10 the amendment that Alissa was recommending was to
11 further reduce the harvest limit. The proposal as
12 written currently is two hare per day and six per
13 season. And Alissa's friendly amendment was suggesting
14 to further reduce that harvest limit to one per day and
15 three per year -- or three per season.

16 MR. LANDLORD: The friendly amendment
17 would still have to be voted on, either yes or no.

18 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct. And it does
19 require a second to vote on it but if no one else is
20 interested in supporting that friendly amendment,
21 without a second it would fail.

22 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, it'll die, yeah.

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So at this time we're
24 looking for a second to the friendly amendment which is
25 to have the bag limit of one per day, three per season.

(No comments)

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, the next
27 process would be to, what, Eva?

28 MS. PATTON: Then we would go back.....

29 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, we would go
30 back to.....

31 MS. PATTON:to -- thank you, Mr.
32 Chair. We would go back.....

33 MS. ROGERS:the original.....

34 MS. PATTON:to the original
35 motion.

0200

1 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

2 MS. PATTON: Which the motion was
3 presented by Myron to adopt Proposal WP22-45 as
4 written. And, again, that's requesting to create
5 specific harvest regulations for Alaska hare in Units
6 18, 22 and 23 and as James noted it would reduce the
7 harvest season from July 1 to June 30th, it would

5 reduce the harvest season to September 1 to April 15th
6 and reduce -- I'm sorry, the season, and then reduce
7 the harvest limit to two per day and six per season,
8 and that was seconded by Phillip. So the motion is to
9 adopt Proposal 22-45 as written, and open for a vote at
10 this time.

11

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
13 At this time I'm going to ask for a vote on Wildlife
14 Proposal WP22-45, which is a request to create specific
15 harvest regulations for Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and
16 23.

17

MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

19

MR. LANDLORD: Yes, James. I see in the
20 booklet they have existing Federal regulations and
21 proposed Federal regulations on Page 113 and on Page
22 118 and 199 OSM preliminary conclusions and they
23 support 45 with modification to shorten the season from
24 August 1 to May 31. Maybe we could vote only bag limit
25 two per -- two per day, six per season, and vote on
that and then maybe we could vote on the season because
that's a different season. Federal has September 1 to
April 15th and OSM preliminary conclusion says they
support August 1 to May 31.

26

MR. NANENG: I second the motion,
27 James.

28

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

29

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 James just to clarify your request here. So you would
31 like to take up a vote on the OSM recommendation for
32 the season?

33

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1

MR. LANDLORD: Both of them have Alaska
2 hare, two hare per day, six per season. The Federal
3 and the OSM, they're both the same. But the seasons
4 are different.

5

MS. PATTON: Yes, correct.

6

MR. LANDLORD: Maybe we could vote on
7 two hare per day first and then we could maybe vote on
8 the season because those are both different.

9

7 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James. So that
8 would be requesting an amendment to the motion that's
9 currently on the floor to vote separately on the
10 harvest limit and separately on the season.

11 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

12 MS. PATTON: Okay. So we have a
13 request for a friendly amendment from James to vote
14 individually on the harvest limit and the season.

15 MS. ROGERS: Second. Alissa.

16 MS. PATTON: Okay, a second from
17 Alissa.

18 MR. NANENG: I call for question.

19 REPORTER: Is that Myron?

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: The question's been
21 called by Myron.

22 MR. NANENG: Yes.

23 REPORTER: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. So we have a
25 vote on the floor right now to vote on WP22-45 to
26 accept the OCM [sic] proposal and also to add a
27 friendly amendment to change the season from September
28 1 to April 15th. Correct me if I'm wrong.

29 MS. PATTON: And so we would need a
30 vote on that friendly amendment to vote on at a time.
31 First on the harvest limit, and then second on the
32 season. So if we could vote on that friendly amendment
33 and then we'll go back to the main motion and take up

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34 each part of the proposal as two separate votes if that
35 is supported.

36 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, I called for
37 question on the motion that was made by James and so a
38 vote (indiscernible - cuts out).....

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: You were broken up,
40 Myron, I didn't catch the last comment.

41 MR. NANENG: Okay. Since we already
42 made -- since James made the motion, it was seconded
43 and I called for the question on the motion to separate
44 those two, the bag limits and the season, I think we're
45 ready to vote.

46 REPORTER: Yes.

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. A vote is on the
48 floor at this time. All those in favor of adopting
49 Proposal 22-45 signify by saying aye.

50 (Teleconference interference -
51 participants not muted)

13

IN UNISON: Aye.

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those opposed, say no.

15

(No opposing votes)

16

CHAIRMAN ONEY: The motion has been adopted. And we go down to -- go ahead, Eva, I'll hand it over to you before I get confused here.

18

MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. So now we'll take up the proposal separately. So first we'll address the proposal for the harvest limit, so we would need a motion on the floor to adopt WP22-45 reduction in harvest limit, two hares per day and six per season.

21

22

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, a motion on the floor to accept WP22-45.

24

25

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1

MR. PETER: Mr. Chair.

2

3

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair. I think there was already a motion, Mr. Chair.

4

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tina. Okay, Eva.

(No comments)

REPORTER: Eva.

(No comments)

MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: James.

MR. LANDLORD: Yes, we just voted on an amendment to the motion, to the main motion so we'll have to vote on the main motion now. But I'd like to know what the main motion was.

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, James.
20 Eva, if you could clarify that for the Council.
21 MS. PATTON: Yes, sorry, Mr. Chair, I
22 got disconnected there. So we are back to the main
23 motion and, again, the Council just voted to separate
24 the season and the harvest limits and so the main
25 motion now is to support WP22-45 with a reduction in
0204 Alaska hare harvest to two hare per day and six per
1 season.
2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I thought I just did
3 that.
4 (Laughter)
5 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.
6 MS. PATTON: We actually -- we voted on
7 the amendment to separate out the two, the harvest
8 limit and the season so now we're actually back to
9 voting on the harvest limit and the season.
10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. So we're ready
11 to vote then?
12 MS. PATTON: And, again, that proposal
13 is to reduce the harvest limit of Alaska hare to two
14 per day and six per season, and ready for a vote, Mr.
15 Chair.
16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Thank
17 you for that clarification. Everybody heard, this is
18 the final vote for WP22-45 which is to request to
19 create a specific harvest limit, harvest regulation for
20 hare in Units 18, 22 and 23. All those in favor
21 signify by saying aye.
22 (No aye votes)
23 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
 Myron.
 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.
 MR. NANENG: Yeah, I'm getting
 confused. You know the process usually goes that when
 there's an amendment, we vote on the amendment first
 and a request was to separate the season as well as bag
 limits, but are we voting on the bag limits first, or
 are we voting on the season. I think since there was a
 process, that motion was made and seconded and a
 question and I think (cuts out) we're probably voting
 on the bag limits right now and then the next thing is
 voting on the seasons. Is that right, James?
 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I thought I just.....
 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. That's -- I wanted

24 to separate them because the seasons are -- the
25 proposed Federal regulations are different from the
0205 OSM. The vote right now would be to adopt the two per
1 on.
2

MR. NANENG: Okay, Quyana.

3 MR. LANDLORD: We're just separating
4 the two.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. The first vote
5 was to separate them two and now we are voting to adopt
6 WP22-45 as recommended by OCM [sic], which is to.....

MR. LANDLORD: Just adopt two per day,
7 six per season.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, just that.

MR. LANDLORD: Yeah.

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Just that, two per say,
11 six per season.

MR. LANDLORD: Because there was no
12 limit in the past and right now it's down to two per
13 day, six per season.

MR. NANENG: Call for question on that,
14 on that motion.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
15 on the floor, there's a question by Myron to -- or a
16 question, we could go ahead and vote on this. All
17 those in favor signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, signify by
19 saying no.

MS. ROGERS: No. Alissa Rogers.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. For the record,
21 Alissa Rogers votes no. What's the next process here,
22 do we go to a roll call or what's the process here?

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

25
0206
1 MS. PATTON: So motion passes for that
2 motion, reducing the harvest limit for Alaska hare to
3 two hare per day and six per season. And next the
Council wanted to take up the season dates with the
proposed season as recommended in the OSM preliminary
conclusion and that season date was recommended from

4 August 1 to May 31st. So that would be -- that would
5 end up having a longer Federal season than what the
6 State proposal had suggested. And so if we could get a
7 motion on the floor to vote on that season date, OSM
8 recommended season date of August 1 to May 31st.

9 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, I so move.
10 Alissa Rogers.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.
12 There's a motion on the floor by Alissa to accept the
13 OSM's recommendation of open season date of August 1 to
14 May 31. Do I hear a second.

15 MR. NANENG: Second. This is Myron.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: A second by Myron. All
17 those in favor signify by saying aye.

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those opposing, say no.

20 (No opposing votes)

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, the
22 proposal has been adopted, thank you. Are we ready to
23 move on.

24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted)

26 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
27 Council. Actually if we could just get a few words
28 from the Council on the overriding motion, which was to
29 support the reduction in harvest limit and reduction in
30 season. Just a few words of justification from Council
31 members.

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James.

33 MR. LANDLORD: Are you calling me?

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes. If you could put
35 on the reason why you voted for that.

36 MR. LANDLORD: In the past, you know,
37 there was no limit for hunting for jackrabbits and
38 right now we lowered it to two per day -- two
39 jackrabbits per day, six per season. They said that
40 it's the most misunderstood wildlife in our area, in
41 Alaska, and all the information came from
42 questionnaires from the hunters and -- I don't remember
43 his name, but he said in the past there was -- there

7 was abundance of hare and it has -- the population has
gone down and little is known on why it's gone down but
8 it's not as abundant as in the past. We have -- in the
old days, in the '50s or '60s like my dad used to set
9 snares, whether winter camp or spring camp, we had dog
teams and now days, '70s, '80s, '90s we have
10 snowmachines that can rundown jackrabbits and tire them
out and shoot them. You got to have a fast snowmachine
because they travel pretty fast, 70 miles an hour. So
11 with no information why they decreased, they have no
bag limits and the population is steadily going down so
12 I supported the two per day and six per season.

13 Doi.

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. I
think that would be good enough. Is that good enough,
15 Eva?

16 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you very much
for that James. Thank you, Council.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Are we ready to
18 move on.

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

20 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Someone was speaking,
go ahead.

22

MS. LAVINE: Yes, hello, Mr. Chair.
23 This is Robbin LaVine, Policy Coordinator for OSM. And
I have a request for the Council.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Robbin.

25

0208

1 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Currently we have moved some of the new -- some of the
2 wildlife proposals around a bit, certainly to ensure
that the State biologist Rick Merizon was here to
3 support discussion and I'm requesting we do the same
for two statewide proposals, WP22-01 and WP22-02
4 because of a potential conflict in timing for the Staff
who are presenting those proposals. So I'm requesting
5 if it's possible, and if the Council would agree, can
we next take up statewide proposals 22-01 and 22-02.

6

Thank you.

7

MR. NANENG: In that case I would move
8 -- this is Myron. I move to suspend the rules to move
up WP22-01 and WP22-02 on the agenda, because we're
9 working off of an adopted agenda. So I move to suspend
the rules.

10

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Myron.
11 There's a motion.....

12

MS. ROGERS: Second. Alissa Rogers.

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, there's a motion
14 on the floor by Myron to suspend the rules to take up
the two statewide proposals, which is WP22-01 and WP22-
15 04 [sic] and seconded by Alissa. All those in favor
signify by saying aye.

16

IN UNISON: Aye.

17

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that are opposing
18 signify by saying no.

18

(No opposing votes)

19

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none the motion
20 has been adopted so we could take up those two
proposals at this time.

21

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 This is Pippa Kenner with the Office of Subsistence
Management.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hi, Pippa.

24

MS. KENNER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
25 and members of the Council. The analysis for Wildlife
0209

1 Proposal WP22-01 begins on Page 145 of your Council
books that were sent to you and is also available at
2 the Federal Subsistence Program website at
DOI.gov/subsistence/regions look for the Yukon
3 Kuskokwim Delta region meeting materials.

4 How am I sounding, am I too loud, too
soft?

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: You're sounding good,
6 nice and clear.

7

MS. KENNER: Thank you. Okay, so
8 Proposal WP22-01 was submitted by the Office of
Subsistence Management and it requests to clarify who
9 is and who is not a participant in a community harvest
system.

10

First, I'll describe community harvest
11 systems in Federal regulation. Community harvest
systems generally allow hunters to harvest animals up
12 to a community harvest limit. Individual harvest
limits such as one moose do not apply to hunters in a
community harvest system. Each hunter may continue to
13 harvest until the community harvest limit is met.
These regulations generally describe what animal

14 species may be taken, where they may be taken and whom
15 may take them. Now the general regulation describing
16 community harvest system harvest limits is split
17 between Pages 148 and 149 in your Council book and I'm
18 going to read it for you.

19 It says: An animal taken under Federal
20 or State regulations by any member of a community with
21 an established community harvest limit for that species
22 counts towards the community harvest limit for that
23 species. An animal taken as part of a community
24 harvest limit counts towards every community member's
25 harvest limit for that species taken under Federal or
State of Alaska regulations.

26 Now what this regulation doesn't say is
27 that a person might not want to participate in their
28 community harvest system. For moose, for example.
29 This proposal -- this proposed regulation clarifies
30 that a person can request a registration system where
31 only people who register may participate in the
32 community system. The proposed regulation reads: For
33 the purposes of this provision, all residents of the
0210

1 community are deemed participants in the community
2 harvest unless the Board approved framework requires a
3 registration as a prerequisite to harvesting or
4 receiving any fish, wildlife or shellfish pursuant to
5 that community harvest in which case, only those who
6 register are deemed participants in that community
7 harvest.

8 So the regulation simply clarifies that
9 the Board can adopt a community harvest framework with
10 a registration system.

11 So currently there are no community
12 harvest systems in regulation in your region so I can't
13 point one out to you.

14 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
15 support the proposal, WP22-01 because subsistence users
16 and others will find this modified regulation less
confusing and easier to use.

17 Finally, this Council is only the
18 second to act on this proposal. The proposal is a
19 request to change general regulations that affect all
20 regions of the state, so we are asking all Regional
21 Advisory Councils to act on this proposal. Last week
22 the Kodiak/Aleutians Council supported this proposal.

23 That's the end of my presentation and
24 I'm available to answer any questions.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the

17 Council.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Pippa. Do
19 we have anyone from the Council that wants to provide
20 questions or comments for Pippa on 22-01 at this time.

21 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
Myron.

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

23 MR. NANENG: I have a question, how do
24 you define a community member who might be
participating in this community harvest limit or quota?

25 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
question, Mr. Naneng. Through the Chair. So the way a
0211

1 community is defined actually isn't in regulation,
2 however, one community harvest system that is in
3 regulation over in Units 11 and 13 for Ahtna
4 communities defines those communities as residents of
5 the census designated place around those communities,
6 is generally an area that the census uses to describe
7 what the population is in an area.

8 MR. NANENG: So if that's the case, so
9 the person that was not included in the census count is
10 not considered to be a community member? I just.....

11 MS. KENNER: Yes. I'm sorry, I
12 interrupted you, go ahead.

13 MR. NANENG: I'm just asking that
14 question because if they're using the census data and
15 the person was not counted, then how do they define
16 that person that was not included in the count?

17 MS. KENNER: Oh, thank you for the good
18 question, Mr. Naneng. Through the Chair, this is
19 Pippa. So the who's a member of that community isn't
20 necessarily based on the U.S. Census, what they're
using is just that area that the census uses. The
census designated places generally surround the
population surrounding a village or other community
that isn't otherwise defined by city limits. And so it
generally encompasses everybody that lives in the
community and in proximity to the community. And --
but it allows for people to move in and out of that
community. It's not -- it's not stagnant. It changes
as people move in and out, the population of that
community changes.

21 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, follow-up
22 question. Alissa.

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

21 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hi,
22 Pippa. Does this mean that let's take Bethel, for
23 instance. The language that's being put in right now
24 as proposed, if this passes, that means that people who
25 are currently living in Anchorage and living in Bethel,
which technically they don't qualify as being a Federal
user because they're not residing in Bethel 100 percent
of the time, those people would be considered community
members to harvest Federal subsistence, correct?

0212

1 MS. KENNER: I think I understand the
question, thank you, Member Alissa. This is Pippa,
2 through the Chair. These regulations only apply to
Federally-qualified users. Federally-qualified
3 subsistence users who live in a rural area of Alaska.
It would not make -- if this regulation were adopted,
4 those definitions of who's a Federally-qualified
subsistence user would not change.

5

6 MS. ROGERS: Follow-up question, Mr.
Chair.

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

8 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
my follow-up question, Pippa, can you please redefine
9 what a Federally-qualified user is and by definition
geographically can you please describe that to us
again.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 MS. KENNER: Yeah, thanks, Member
Alissa. Through the Chair, this is Pippa. So there
are two requirements to being a Federally-qualified
subsistence user. One is that you live in a non-rural
14 area of the state and those non-rural areas are defined
in regulation. And, two, that you possess a customary
15 and traditional use determination for that species in
that area.

16

Thank you.

17

18 MS. ROGERS: Follow-up question, Mr.
Chair.

19

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

20

21 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa. Can you
please define living in the community, like how do you
determine who actually lives in the community? Are you
22 guys going through their -- like how are you actually
defining if someone actually lives in that community
when they also live somewhere else? Like what -- how
23 does that consider them a Federally-qualified user is
what I'm trying to get at?

24

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
0213

1 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I understand that
question. Thank you, Member Alissa. Through the
2 Chair, this is Pippa. So if you have made -- first of
all you have to have lived in the state of Alaska for
3 at least 12 months, and if you've done that and you
live in a rural area, that rural area is your permanent
4 domicile, and we define that many ways. It's not
defined in regulation, but someone might ask for your
5 electricity bill, for instance, so you can demonstrate
you're a permanent resident of a rural area.

6

MS. ROGERS: Follow-up question, Mr.
7 Chair.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

9 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
Pippa, does that also include people who live in
10 Anchorage as well, because they have a home here and
they have a home in Anchorage and they go back and
11 forth, like majority of the time, be out here for one-
fourth of the time, and they're living in Anchorage for
12 three-fourths of the time, do they still qualify?

13 MS. KENNER: Okay, thanks, Member
Alissa for the question. Through the Chair, this is
14 Pippa. It will have to do with why a person is away
from the community and those situations are evaluated
15 on a case by case basis by law enforcement, for
example. Or if you were applying for a permit by the
16 manager who's issuing a permit.

17 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No
more questions.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
any more questions or comment for Pippa at this time.

20 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair, this is Myron.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

22 MR. NANENG: Yeah, I kind of question
the use of having an electric light bill in order to
23 qualify that you live in rural Alaska. Some people
have moved away from their villages and they use their
24 electric bill even though they haven't been home for
many years. I'm not trying to disqualify them from
25 being a subsistence user because I know they've used it

0214

1 in the past, but I -- I'm questioning the fact that
they want to use an electric bill or phone bill or
2 something to have them qualified as rural subsistence
users. I'm just raising that as a question because
3 people have not lived at home for years.

4 MS. KENNER: Yeah, this is Pippa again.
5 Through the Chair. These are questions that are
6 difficult to answer because there's so many different
7 situations an individual might be in so the general
8 regulation says that you must be a permanent resident
9 of the non-rural area. That means you would have
10 intentions to stay in that area. How that's, you know,
11 how that's defined on a case by case basis may vary.

12 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, hello, this is
13 Robbin.

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Robbin, go ahead.

15 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, hi, Mr. Chair. And
16 thank you so much, Pippa, and thank you Council Member
17 Alissa. These questions about community, who is a
18 rural resident and who qualifies as a Federally-
19 qualified subsistence user are questions that apply to
20 all of our regulations because, of course, for our
21 regulations to -- our regulations support the
22 Federally-qualified subsistence user and to be
23 Federally-qualified you must be a rural resident, and
24 you must have C&T. And whether or not a person --
25 well, let me back up. So that's how you understand who
26 is Federally-qualified, you must be a rural resident
27 and you must have a customary and traditional use
28 determination or a species.

29 And the two proposals that you're
30 considering are not changing those qualifications at
31 all. These two proposals specifically address
32 designated hunters, and community harvest and it's a
33 slightly different arena. But we're not trying to
34 change who's Federally-qualified. And I'll leave it at
35 there before I get myself more confused.

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
38 any more questions at this time for Pippa.

39 MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair, this is

0215

40 Jackie. I wanted to maybe go off of what Myron said
41 about not just doing the electric bill but something
42 else. For instance what if there was a parent and
43 their children had transcripts and transcripts from the
44 school in the rural area, would that work as proof that
45 they're residence -- permanent residence, on top of
46 customary use to a species.

47 That's it, Qu yana.

48 MS. KENNER: Yes, Member Jackie. This
49 is Pippa Kenner, through the Chair. I really cannot

7 answer these questions. It might be better to -- if a
8 Refuge Staff member or, you know, law enforcement could
9 help me out on how they determine if somebody is a
10 Federally-qualified subsistence user.

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. KENNER: And if not, I just really
14 need to say that the way this would be determined in
15 different areas of the state is probably different.
16 And in the YK Delta area, if your permanent address is
17 in the region and you intend for that to be your
18 permanent domicile then you qualify.

19

20 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Myron.

23

24 MR. LANDLORD: It's James.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, sorry, James, go
27 ahead.

28

29 MR. LANDLORD: Let's say that -- Pippa,
30 let's say that this is adopted by the Council, would
31 this go to -- are we going to define who is community
32 harvest limit count, or it would go to each village in
33 the YK Delta?

34

35 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Council Member.
36 This is Pippa, through the Chair. Tell me if I'm
37 correct in assuming that your question has to do are we
38 seeking -- are we outreaching to the communities in
39 your area about this regulation; is that what you
40 intended?

41

42 MR. LANDLORD: I just didn't know who

43 0216

44 -- who's going to say who is not a participant in a
45 community harvest system? How.....

46

47 MS. KENNER: Well, I'll give you.....

48

49 MR. LANDLORD: Okay, go ahead.

50

51 MS. KENNER: Yeah, okay, so this is
52 Pippa again. Through the Chair. So one of the reasons
53 -- the reason why this question came up is that we have
54 a group of Ahtna communities over in the Copper River
55 who have one of these community harvest systems. And
56 they asked themselves that question, and what they
57 determined was that these census designated areas
58 worked well for them. So they asked the Board to
59 support that definition of what that community was. So
60 that's an example of how a community might define who
61 its members are.

10

MR. LANDLORD: Is the Ahtna -- this is James again. Is it the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission, that.....

12

MS. KENNER: Yes.

13

MR. LANDLORD:sounds like all tribal members. Because only.....

14

MS. KENNER: Okay, so I.....

15

MR. LANDLORD: Because only the tribe can enact InterTribal Resource Commission.

16

MS. KENNER: Okay. So, yeah, one of the problems is we -- you know, there is no community harvest systems in regulation in the YK Delta region. I think your question was about how this would affect tribal members and how it would affect Federally-qualified subsistence users. Is that what your question was?

17

MR. LANDLORD: I -- well, I'm still kind of confused over this proposal.

18

MS. KENNER: I under -- I under -- I understand, yeah.

19

MR. LANDLORD: It seems like it would go against me as a Native or a tribe, or it would be

20

for me as a Native or tribal member?

21

MS. KENNER: Right. It -- it won't -- thank you for the question, and this is Pippa again. It won't affect you as a tribal member or as a Federally-qualified subsistence users. All of our regulations apply to Federally-qualified subsistence users, which includes people who are members of tribes, but it also includes others who live in the area.

22

The purpose of this regulation is simply that for those who have asked for a community harvest system where they can -- individual members of the community can continue to harvest until they reach the community harvest limit, rather than there being one harvest limit per person, like for moose. This is to clarify to people that not everybody in your community has to participate, that actually there are some people who do not have to register and then they won't be part of that community harvest system and they'll continue to hunt and harvest the way they would normally. So this is just to allow people who do not want to participate in the community harvest system to be able to opt out.

23

13

We got this request from the Ahtna
InterTribal Resources Commission when they were
developing their community harvest system.

15

The reason why a person might want to
opt out is because they want to do something different
with their individual harvest limit. One of the things
they might want to do is designate another hunter for
harvest for them who isn't -- who otherwise might not
be able to if they were part of the community harvest
system.

19

MR. LANDLORD: This is James.....

20

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

21

MR. LANDLORD:again. Oh, go
ahead.

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: James and then Robbin.

23

MR. LANDLORD: The community harvest
system came from Federally-qualified members, where did
Ahtna find this community harvest system to.....

25
0218

1 MS. KENNER: What is the what?

2 MR. LANDLORD: Where did they find it,
the community harvest system? How did -- where did it
appear from, I'm still.....

3 MS. KENNER: Oh, that's a good
4 question.

5

MR. LANDLORD:confused, where did
6 it come from?

7

MS. KENNER: That's a very good.....

8

MR. SIMON: Jim Simon is on the
9 phone.....

9

MS. KENNER:question.

10

MR. LANDLORD: Okay.

11

MR. SIMON:and can answer these
12 questions.

13

REPORTER: Okay, so I need one person
to talk at a time and please identify yourself also
when you cut in. So I think James was still asking a
question.

15

MR. LANDLORD: Yes, I just wanted to
16 know where the community harvest system came from
because it seems like I've never heard of it before.

17

MS. KENNER: Well, first -- this is Pippa again. First I'd like to answer and then I'd like to hand over to an AITRC representative, or the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.

20 Where these systems came from is at the beginning of the Federal Subsistence Management Program when people were making comments on the program there were a lot of requests for these types of systems, where a community would have a community harvest limit, and people could continue to harvest until they reached their community harvest limit or some kind of quota. This was because it was recognized that there was some people in the community who we consider super harvesters, who are part of super households who tend to harvest the majority of moose, for example, for a

0219

1 community and then they share their harvest.

2 So as the Federal Subsistence Board was developing regulations it created categories of permits that were permits for so-called special purposes, and this is one of the permits they came up with, is a permit for a community harvest system, which can be requested to be put in Federal regulations.

5

6 Our AITRC representative, would you like to take over.

7 MR. SIMON: Yes, thank you, if that's okay with the Chair. This is Jim Simon with the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.

8 This proposal was not submitted by the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission but it came from the Office of Subsistence Management because of some of the issues in existing Federal regulations that came to light as the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission negotiated with OSM and the DOI Solicitor's office to establish this Federal community harvest system for moose and caribou in much of the Ahtna traditional use territory.

13

14

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted - typing)

15

16 MR. SIMON: Originally the request originated from a memorandum of agreement signed by the Secretary of -- the UnderSecretary of the Interior in 2016 to establish a way for the Ahtna -- Federally-recognized Ahtna tribes to manage their own hunt. And it turned out in the negotiations that there was no ability for the Federal Subsistence Board or Program to allow the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission to simply administer a community harvest moose and caribou

19

20 hunt for only their tribal members because ANILCA Title
21 VIII only really provides protections for rural
22 Alaskans. So there was also consultations with then
23 Secretary of Indian Affairs Tara Sweeny about trying to
24 utilize the definition of community that the Bureau of
25 Indian Affairs uses in order to provide for tribal
0220 member uses, regardless of where tribal members lived,
that, of course, didn't go anywhere. And then it
turned that the Ahtna tribes have to allow non-tribal
citizens to also participate if they so choose, which
is fine, and -- but there was no interest in trying to

1 explore utilizing the Bureau of Indian Affairs
definition of community in order to define social
2 relationships that define Ahtna communities -- tribal
communities.

3

4 And the -- so the Ahtna tribes were
5 very reluctantly forced by the Office of Subsistence
6 Management and the Federal Subsistence Management
7 Program to utilize U.S. census designated places to
8 define eligibility based simply on geographic location
9 of one's primary permanent residence.

10 So that is why that definition of
11 community is used, it's a policy decision by the
12 Federal Subsistence Management Program to use census
13 designated places. And it is used elsewhere, you know,
14 within the Federal Program on defining rural and non-
15 rural areas, et cetera.

16

17 So the -- so I hope that helps to
18 address some of Myron's original questions about it.
19 This -- because there are no Federal community harvest
20 systems in the YK Delta region, it -- it's -- this
probably sounds very confusing. What I am familiar
with, the closest, is a community harvest system for
dall sheep in Nikolai, so way up river on the
Kuskokwim. And there, everyone is part of the system,
there's no like real registration, you just have to
live in that village, and -- but if there's a quota,
and so many sheep were taken, someone who just -- like
a school teacher who maybe didn't -- wouldn't want to
register and be part of the community quota might not
be able to harvest if the community quota is met by the
residents of the -- or the participants of that
community. So the Ahtna tribes didn't want to have any
impact on their neighbors that might not want to
participate in the community harvest hunt being
administered by the InterTribal Resource Commission, so
this proposal helps to ensure that only -- that people
who don't want to participate in the community harvest

21 won't be affected.

22 So right now in all of your villages
23 you can use a Federal designated hunter permit to go
24 hunt for someone in your, you know, another Federally-
25 qualified user who may not have a Sno-Go or maybe have
a broken leg or something like that, and so that is
what the community harvest system accomplishes, but
doesn't require a permit -- going to the Federal

0221

1 government to get a permit, et cetera. So the
community harvest system has an administrator who takes
2 care of a lot of the paperwork and stuff so that the
community members and hunters themselves aren't
3 burdened by that. And as Pippa said, your super
hunter, you know, your guy who is good at getting moose
4 can go out and get moose for other people, they just
have to have a harvest report with them that then the
5 InterTribal Commission provides to the Federal
agencies, et cetera.

6

7 So that's what these two -- first two
proposals are about, is to minimize the impacts on non-
tribal participants, and non-Native participants in
8 these community harvest systems so that their hunting
opportunities aren't affected.

9

10 And I apologize for taking so long but
hopefully that helps to provide where this is coming
from, you know, the definition of community and who's
11 Federally-qualified really aren't what these two
proposals are about.

12

All right, thanks.

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Jim.

14

MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.

15

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

16

17 MS. KENNER: Yes, I think people are
thinking. This is Pippa. And I don't want to
interrupt their thoughts. But I thought it might be
18 helpful for me to read the proposed regulation again.

19

20 And the proposed regulation says: For
the purpose of this provision, all residents of the
community are deemed participants in the community
harvest unless the Board approved framework requires a
21 registration as a prerequisite to harvesting or
receiving any fish, wildlife or shellfish pursuant to
22 that community harvest in which case, only those who

23 register are deemed participants in that community
24 harvest.

25 What this does is makes clear to people
0222 that even if your community is mentioned as part of a
community harvest system, you, yourself, you,

1 personally do not have to participate unless you wish
to. This proposed regulation just clarifies that point
2 and we think it will make it easier for people who are
wanting to establish a community harvest in their
3 community, it will make it clear that only people who
wish to participate will participate. Those who do not
4 want to, do not have to.

5 It seems kind of simple, but it is kind
of simple.

6

MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

7

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

8

9 MR. PARKS: Henry Parks. I have a
question to Pippa on this WP22-01. Can you define
fish, because there's a fish and there is shellfish,
10 subsistence taking of fish, what kind of fish are
those. That's my question.

11

12 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Member Parks.
Through the Chair, this is Pippa Kenner again. This is
a great question. So one of the reasons why this
13 regulation includes fish, wildlife or shellfish, what
it's referring to are any fish, wildlife or shellfish
14 that are under the authority of the Federal Subsistence
Board for managing and those are the species that you
15 see in your regulation book.

16

MR. PARKS: Thank.....

17

MS. KENNER: So for instance.....

18

MR. PARKS:you.

19

MS. KENNER:it -- yes, okay,

thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Does that answer your
question Henry?

22

MR. PARKS: Yes.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

24

MR. PARKS: Yes, Mr. Chair.

25

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more questions or

0223

1 comments at this time for Pippa.

2

(No comments)

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, are we
ready to go through the process.

4

(No comments)

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

6

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. If there are no
8 further questions then we can go through the
9 presentation procedures for the proposal.

10 (No comments)

11 MS. PATTON: So, again, the Board did
12 hold tribal consultation August 19th. And there were
13 tribes participating to get information on the proposal
14 but no formal recommendations on this proposal. And
15 next we have agency comments, if ADF&G had any comments
16 on this proposal, WP22-01.

17

(Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)

19 MS. PATTON: Hearing no comments from
20 ADF&G, do we have any comments from Federal managers or
21 agencies.

22 (No comments)

23 MS. PATTON: Hearing none, do we have
24 any tribes participating on the call today that would
25 like to make a comment on WP22-01.

26 MS. ESQUIBLE: Hi, Eva, this is Janessa
27 Esquible with ONC. I appreciate everyone spending time
28 trying to help clarify this proposal but the
29 Subsistence Committee did meet on Monday, October 4th
30 and they voted to oppose the proposal due to some
31 confusion and also lack of information that they felt
32 was provided in the packet. And that's all I have for
33 you, thank you.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Janessa. And
36 thanks again to the ONC Subsistence Committee for the

0224

1 recommendation. And, again, we did have -- since this
2 is a statewide proposal there were a couple other
3 Regional Advisory Councils that did take action on
4 this, and, Pippa, you may be able to report for the
5 Councils that have met already.

6 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Eva. This is
7 Pippa Kenner, through the Chair. The only Council
8 that's met and taken this up is the Kodiak/Aleutians
9 Regional Advisory Council and they supported this
10 proposal.

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Pippa. That's
12 right, and I think Southeast will be getting this
13 proposal from you just this afternoon, so thank you for

14

9 that. And there were no comments from Fish and Game
10 Advisory Committees. And we did not receive any
11 written public comments during the comment period. But
12 we did just receive a written public comment that was
13 delivered to OSM today and this is a -- a written
14 comment from Becky Schwanke of Glennallen. And she did
15 have recommendation on WP22-01 and WP22-02, which is
16 coming up next. And she asks that these proposals be
17 tabled and requests that recommendations are to defer
18 to the proposer's request, which is a separate proposal
19 unique to the Ahtna region to clarify their own
20 requested regulation.

21 And, Robbin, maybe I'll just check in
22 with you to see if there were any other written public
23 comments submitted today on WP22-01.

24 MS. LAVINE: Hello, this is Robbin.
25 Through the Chair. There were no further comments
0225 submitted. Thank you.

1 MR. PATTON: Thank you, Robbin. And
2 then we have opportunity for public testimony. If
3 there are any members of the public online today that
4 would like to comment on this proposal, WP22-01.

5 (No comments)

6 MS. PATTON: And hearing.....

7 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

8 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.

9 MR. SIMON: Yes, this is Jim Simon and
10 I just wanted to -- I've already given my public
11 comments and I appreciate the opportunity to do that
12 out of turn. So hopefully -- if there are other
13 questions about the Ahtna InterTribal Resource
14 Commission it would be good for them to contact Karen
15 Linnell in Glennallen. Thank you. And I can help get
16 contact information for anyone who's interested.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Jim. Any other
19 public testimony or comments from the public.

20 (No comments)

21 MS. PATTON: Okay, hearing none, then
22 we are down to the Regional Advisory Council
23 recommendation. And, again, the Council has a number
24 of options. A motion to adopt, and the Council can
25 support, oppose, support with modification or the

12 Council can also vote to take no action or to defer a
13 proposal to -- often the Councils refer to it as the
14 home region, deferring recommendations on a proposal to
15 those regions, in this case, that have community
16 harvest systems. So the Council has all those options
17 to support, oppose, support with modification, take no
18 action, or defer to the home region.

15

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
17 So what is the Council recommendation at this time for
18 WP22-01, request clarification who is and who is not a
19 participant in a community harvest system and how it
affects a community and individual harvest limits.

19

(No comments)

20

CHAIRMAN ONEY: What is the wish of the
21 Council.

22

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair, this is Myron.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

24

MR. NANENG: Yeah, I move to table this
25 proposal until we get further information because I'm
not sure how it would affect some of the programs that

0226

1 some of the tribes have for they have designated
2 hunters to benefit elders and those that are in need.
3 And, you know, that's the reason why I'm asking that
4 this be tabled until we get further information
5 regarding that.

4

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Okay,
there's a motion on the floor by Myron to.....

5

MS. ROGERS: Second.

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY:table WP22-01 and
7 seconded by Alissa. All those in favor signify by
8 saying aye.

8

IN UNISON: Aye.

9

CHAIRMAN ONEY: All opposed, signify by
10 saying no.

11

(No opposing votes)

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: The motion is to table.
Thank you. Pippa.

13

(No comments)

14

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and

15 Council members.

16 MS. KENNER: Oh, I'm on mute, I'm
17 sorry. Shall I begin -- okay, good afternoon, Mr.
18 Chair and members of the Council. The analysis for
19 Proposal WP22-02 begins on Page 163 of your Council
20 books that were sent to you and is also available at
21 the Federal Subsistence Management Program web page.
22 Again, my name is Pippa Kenner for the record, and I'm
23 an Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
24 Management in Anchorage.

21 So Proposal WP22-02 was also submitted
22 by the Office of Subsistence Management and requests to
23 remove language from designated hunting regulations
24 prohibiting the use of the designated hunter by a
member of a community operating under a community
harvest system.

25 Earlier we were talking about community
0227 harvest systems, and now we're going to talk about our
1 designated hunter system.

2 The current designated hunter
3 regulation is on Page 165 of your Council book and it
4 states: If you are a Federally-qualified subsistence
5 user you may designate another Federally-qualified
6 subsistence user to take deer, moose and caribou on
7 your behalf unless you are a member of a community
8 operating under a community harvest system.

6 So what we propose is to remove the
7 language that says: You may designate another
8 Federally-qualified subsistence user unless you are a
9 member of a community operating under a community
10 harvest system.

9 This is because if a person does not
10 register to participate in their community harvest
11 system, that person retains or still has an individual
12 harvest limit, one moose, for example, and should be
13 able to designate that harvest limit to someone else to
14 harvest for them through this designated harvester
15 system.

13 So, again, the OSM preliminary
14 conclusion is to support the proposal 22-02. The only
15 other Council who has taken this up is the
16 Kodiak/Aleutians Council last week and it voted to
17 support this proposal.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm prepared to
17 answer questions.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Pippa. Is
there any questions for Pippa at this time on WP22-02,
to request to remove language from designated hunting

19 regulations prohibiting the use of a designated hunter
20 permit by a member or a community operating under a
community harvest system.

21 (No comments)

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any
questions for Pippa or comments at this time for Pippa.

23

MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, James.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

25

0228

1 MR. LANDLORD: I think 22-01 was tabled
and I'd say this 22-02 here also is connected with 22-
2 01 and I think this can be tabled too.

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I think we have
to go through the process before we go down to the
4 final motion.

5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. If there are no further questions from the
6 Council we can walk through that procedure for the
proposals now.

7

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Eva.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. So, again, there was tribal consultation held
on this proposal on August 19th and we had numerous
10 tribes participating to get information, but no formal
recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board during
11 that tribal consultation. And we'll call on agency
comments, do we have any comments from ADF&G.

12

(No comments)

13

14 MS. PATTON: Hearing none, any comments
from Federal agencies.

15 (No comments)

16 MS. PATTON: Hearing none, any tribes
participating on the call today that have
17 recommendations on WP22-02.

18 (No comments)

19 MS. PATTON: Any tribal representatives
on the call that would like to comment on WP22-02.

20

(No comments)

21

22 MS. PATTON: And hearing none, again,
as Pippa noted, Kodiak/Aleutians took up this proposal
and can you please report again on Kodiak/Aleutians
23 recommendation.

24 MS. KENNER: Yes, thank you, Eva. The
Kodiak/Aleutians Council recommendation was to support
25 this proposal.

0229

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Pippa. And
there were no Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments
2 received on this proposal. And no written comments
submitted during the written proposal period, but again
3 we did get this one comment submitted by Becky Schwanke
from Glennallen, again, asking for both WP22-01 and
4 WP22-02 to be deferred to the proposers request for
them to clarify their own request of regulation. And
5 public testimony, if we have anyone from the public
online today that would like to comment on WP22-02.

6

7 MR. SIMON: Yes, Eva. Through the
Chair, this is Jim Simon.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Jim.

9 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead, Jim.

10 MR. SIMON: Thank you. Yes, I am a
consultant with the Ahtna InterTribal Resource
11 Commission as I identified earlier. And I will
reference some of my comments that I placed on the
12 previous proposal.

13 This proposal will simply allow tribal
communities or any rural community with customary and
14 traditional use determination to submit a proposal to
establish a community harvest system for any Federal
15 subsistence resource without affecting others who may
live in that geographic definition of community who
16 don't want to participate. So right now, in -- if --
like the example I gave before, of Nikolai, if someone
17 wanted to have a Federal designated hunter hunt a sheep
for them, they couldn't because the Nikolai has a
18 community harvest hunt for dall sheep. So this
proposal would allow someone who doesn't want to
19 participate in, for example, a tribally administered
community hunt to still utilize a Federal designated
20 hunter permit to have someone else hunt on their
behalf. So I urge you to support this proposal.

21

Thank you.

22

23 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Jim. And do we
have any other members of the public who would like to
provide comment on this proposal.

24

(No comments)

25

0230

1 MS. PATTON: And hearing none, then we

2 are down to the Regional Advisory Council
3 recommendation, Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. What
5 is the wish of the Council at this time. What is the
6 Council's recommendation.

7 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

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

10 This is a two part proposal that was broken down from
11 one proposal into two proposals and then being WP22-01,
12 we tabled that proposal, if it is the wish of the rest
13 of the Council I would like to go ahead and make a
14 motion to table this proposal. But if there is anyone
15 else who would like to make a different type of motion
16 I'm willing to be flexible.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,
21 Alissa. So right now Alissa's motion is to table WP22-
22 02.

23

24 MR. PETER: Second, this is Phillip.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. And Phillip
27 Peter seconded the motion. Discussion.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: We don't need to
32 discuss it. Eva.

33

34 MS. ROGERS: Question.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
37 Yes, if the Council could say a few words to the
38 reasoning for tabling or taking no action on the
39 proposal at this time that would be helpful for the
40 justification.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

45

0231

1 MS. ROGERS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. Since tabling WP22-01, the same justification
3 as Myron for WP22-01 to WP22-02, that the lack of
4 information and how it affects our area. It's really
5 hard to say how this would affect us and it kind of
6 makes me leery because there's no real information on
7 how it affects us and this seems more like an
8 individual area issue rather than it being a statewide.

5 So if we actually allow this into the system and then
6 we don't know how it's going to affect us out here so
7 I'm on board with Myron on this one.

7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. Is
9 there anyone that would like to provide comments.

9
(No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, is that
12 good enough Eva.

12 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Thank you, Council. Yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: The motion now is to
15 table and seconded by Mr. Phillip Peter. All those in
16 favor of tabling WP22-02 signify by saying aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose
18 signify by saying no.

18 (No opposing votes)

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, WP22-02
20 is tabled. Eva.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
22 Council. And the Federal Subsistence Board will not be
23 meeting on wildlife proposals until spring and so we'll
24 follow up with Pippa and OSM Staff on providing further
25 information to help the Council understand and clarify
26 what the effects of these proposals may have for the YK
27 Delta region specifically. So thank you, Mr. Chair and
28 Council. And then we can go back to our proposal
29 order, which brings us to the Kuskokwim moose, WP22-
30 43/44, Unit 18 moose.....

0232
1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

2
3 MS. PATTON:to delegate authority
4 to the Refuge Manager to adjust harvest, extend fall
5 season, and establish a winter hunt, and you'll find
6 that on Page 87 of your meeting books.

7 And we have Tom Plank on to provide the
8 analysis for that and also I think we still have our
9 ADF&G and Federal Staff online if there's any updates
10 for moose in that region, that would be helpful for the
11 Council to be aware of.

12 Thank you.

13 REPORTER: Okay, and this is Tina

10 again. Before Tom begins, can we all take a second and
11 look at our whatever we're calling in on and make sure
12 we're muted. I'm getting quite a bit of background
13 noise and it cuts the speaker in and out on the
14 recording for your transcript. So I'd appreciate it if
15 everybody could try to mute themselves, star six or the
16 mute button on your phone, please, while we listen to
17 the presentation.

18 Thanks, Ray.

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tina. Yeah,
20 I'm still hearing that background noise so if you can
21 please mute your phone by pressing star six to mute,
22 and if you want to talk press star six again. Thank
23 you. So at this time, Tom, you have the floor.

24 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Members of the Council. My name is Tom Plank and I am
0233 a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of Subsistence
1 Management. And I will be presenting a summary of the
2 combined analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-43
3 requesting delegating authority to the Federal in-
4 season manager to increase the moose harvest quota in
5 Zone 1 of the Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18 if the
6 water levels are too low to access Zone 2 and Wildlife
7 Proposal WP22-44 requesting that the fall moose season
8 on the Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18 be extended from
9 September 1st to September 30th to September 1st to
10 October 15th, and that a may be announced season be
11 established from December 1st to January 31st with a
12 harvest limit of one antlered bull by Federal

13 registration permit. And as Eva pointed out this is
14 beginning on Page 87 of your book.

15
16 For WP22-43 the proponent states from
17 discussions with Kwethluk residents that water levels
18 in the Kuskokwim River tributaries have been too low in
19 recent years to successfully access Zone 2 and hunt
20 moose. Low winter snow pack and hot dry summers in
21 recent years have increasingly made access to Zone 2 by
22 prop boat more challenging. When access to Zone 2 is
23 prohibited due to low water levels providing for other
24 subsistence opportunity is imperative.

25
26 And for WP22-44 the proponent states
27 that the average moose harvest since 2017 for the RM615
28 hunt within Zone 2 has been 78 moose, which is below
29 the quota of 110 moose. The proponent further states
30 that excluding the season in Zone 2, which is
31 predominately Federal public lands will allow for
32 additional hunting opportunities for Federally-
33 qualified subsistence users and the announcement of a

12 may be announced winter season would allow harvest of
13 any remaining fall quota.

14 Federal public lands in the Kuskokwim
15 hunt area have been closed to non-Federally-qualified
16 users since 1991. Between 2004 and 2008 the Federal
17 Subsistence Board and State Board of Game enacted a
18 harvest moratorium to promote growth of the Unit 18
19 moose population. Since 2009 moose harvest in the
20 Kuskokwim hunt area has been managed by quotas. In
21 2017 ADF&G and the Yukon Delta Refuge began managing
22 this unit in two zones. Zone 1 is primarily non-
23 Federal lands and quotas are set by ADF&G. Users can
24 easily access Zone 1 by boats along the mainstem of the
25 Kuskokwim River and quotas are quickly met. Zone 2 is
0234 primarily Federal lands and the Yukon Delta Refuge sets
1 quotas. Zone 2 is much more difficult to access and
2 quotas are not usually met. For regulatory year
3 2020/2021 emergency special -- wildlife special request
4 WSA20-05 extended the season seven days. Of note, the
5 Alaska Board of Game extended the State season in Zone
6 2 until October 15th at their January 2020 meeting
7 through adoption of Proposal 7, as amended. The
8 extended close date of October 15th was recently
9 updated and enacted for the 2021/22 season. So, again,
10 the State season in Zone 2 now closes on October 15th.
11 Wildlife Special Action, WSA21-03 was approved by the
12 Board in August 2021 which extended the fall moose
13 season to October 15th in Zone 2 aligning the 2021/22
14 season with current State regulations.

2
3 During the 1990s moose densities in the
4 Kuskokwim River drainage were low and hunting pressures
5 limited growth of the population. The 2004 to 2008
6 moratorium was effective in establishing a harvestable
7 population and since then the moose population has
8 continued to grow. Currently ADF&Gs estimates 4,000
9 moose in the Kuskokwim hunt area which exceeds
10 population objectives. Bull/cow ratios are high as are
11 calf/cow ratios, which indicate a growing moose
12 population. Since 2011 reported harvest has averaged
13 183 moose per year although harvest has increased so
14 has the moose population and, therefore, harvest quotas
15 have increased. Federally-qualified subsistence users
16 account for 95 percent of the moose harvest and demand
17 far exceeds moose availability. As previously
18 mentioned ADF&G and the Yukon Delta Refuge
19 cooperatively manage the Kuskokwim hunt area in two
20 zones. Prior to adopting a fixed season quotas in Zone
21 1 were quickly met and seasons closed early by State
22 emergency order. Under the fixed season Zone 1 was

13 open for 11 days in 2020 and will be open nine days in
14 2021. However, since 2017 average harvest in Zone 2
15 has only been 78 moose, which is well below the quota
16 of 110 moose. Harvest from 2019 to 2020 when the
17 season was extended seven days at a harvest increase of
18 20 percent with 90 moose harvested in 2020. This could
19 be an indication that the season extension was
20 effective for 2020. Zone 2 consists of tributaries to
21 the Kuskokwim Rivers and requires specialized boats to
22 access as well as longer travel times and more fuel.
23 The unmet quota in Zone 2 is likely a function of
24 difficulties in access, rather than lack of need for
25 moose meat.

19
20 If WP22-43 is adopted, the Yukon Delta
21 National Wildlife Refuge manager would be delegated
22 authority to expand the moose harvest quota in Zone 1
23 if the water levels are too low during the fall to
24 access Zone 2. Harvest quotas in Zone 1 are quickly
25 met and low bull/cow ratios in Zone 1 indicate no
0235 surplus bulls are available for harvest. However, if
the Federal manager did increase the harvest quota in
Zone 1 it would only apply to Federal public lands
which are very limited in Zone 1. Conservation
concerns exist for proposal WP22-43. The may be
announced winter season provides an alternative

1 approach to increasing subsistence harvest
2 opportunities if water levels are too low to access
3 Zone 2 during the fall hunt while not creating
4 conservation concerns.

3
4 If WP22-44 is adopted the moose season
5 in the Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18 would be extended
6 15 days closing October 15th instead of September 30th,
7 and a winter season would be announced if the fall
8 harvest quota was not met. This would increase hunting
9 opportunities for Federally-qualified subsistence users
10 and could increase total moose harvest in this area.
11 If water levels are too low in the fall to access Zone
12 2, a winter season could be announced providing easier
13 access via snowmachine which would also address
concerns expressed in WP22-43. Alternatively, if the
harvest quota is met in the fall, then the Yukon Delta
National Wildlife Refuge manager would not announce a
winter season.

11 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
12 oppose Proposal WP22-43 and support Proposal WP22-44
13 with modifications to clarify the regulatory language
and to delegate authority to the Yukon Delta National
Wildlife Refuge manager to announce a winter season via

delegation of authority letter only.

14

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

15

16

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tom. Do we have any questions for Tom at this time on the combined proposal WP22-43/44.

17

18

(No comments)

19

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any questions or comments from the Council for Tom at this time on WP22-43/44.

20

21

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

23

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So everything in 43 will be in 44, is that what my understanding is, is that why we're opposing 43?

24

25

MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is

0236

1 Tom Plank. 43 is requesting the authority to increase the moose harvest quota in Zone 1 whereas there is limited Federal lands in Zone 1. Where 44 is requesting extending the season in Zone 2 and that there will be a may be announced winter season.

2

3

Thank you.

4

MS. ROGERS: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. No more further questions.

5

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Do we have any questions at this time for Tom on WP22-43/44.

7

8

(No comments)

9

CHAIRMAN ONEY: I know at the beginning of the meeting Myron mentioned about Zone 1, I believe, do you still have that question Myron, you can at this time.

10

11

MR. NANENG: I didn't have a question regarding Zone 1, I think it was somebody else.

12

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, okay. I know somebody mentioned at the beginning of the meeting about Zone 1, but if there's no other comments we could go through the process.

14

15

MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, this is John Andrew.

16

17

CHAIRMAN ONEY: John, go ahead.

18

MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you. This is John Andrew again. I know hunting on the Kwethluk, Kisaralik, Kasigluk and Kwethluk, when the water level is really low it's pretty hard to get up to Zone 2. And this fall people hunting in Zone 1 they got way, way less than what they used to get before because the

19

20

21 weather was too mild for the bulls to be moving out
22 there compared to other years, it was probably the
23 lowest fall catch right in this area. Not just for the
24 villages and people coming in from Bethel and further
25 out and other villages. I have no trouble with
extending the hunting season September 1 through
September 30th and then on. But then on the proposed
winter season to be announced by the Refuge, I feel
uncomfortable with it. Because when they go out with

0237

1 snowmachines to get out there, there's a real chance of
over harvesting the bulls too.

2

Thank you.

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, John.

4

MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. PARKS: Henry Parks. I'd like to
8 make a friendly comment on this WP22-44. I'm going to
9 talk about a history back about this Unit 18 Federal
10 hunt on our area. Back in, I believe it was the '90s,
11 maybe early '90s or mid-90s, during that time I was
12 tribal council here in our village and we made a
13 proposal to open up the Federal land hunt and it was
14 approved by the Board. So I'm really happy about this.
15 It's been going on giving us an opportunity to hunt
16 even like Mr. John Andrew stated that some Bethel
17 residents, even Tunt residences, they come up to
18 Johnson River to hunt moose. So moose population right
19 now in my area is increasing to me. You know whenever
20 there's an opening people go up Johnson River, I hardly
21 go out hunting anymore myself because my cousins always
22 share their meat and give me some meat, which is good,
23 so I hardly go up hunt moose to Johnson River.

15

16 But then I really do like this WP22-44.
17 That's my comment, Mr. Chair.

17

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
any further questions or comments for Tom at this time
on WP22-43/44.

18

19

(No comments)

20

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

21

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

22

23

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
there weren't any other questions from the Council at
this time, I might just check in with our State and
Federal biologists who are online with us if they have

24 any reports for this moose population that would be
helpful for the Council's consideration.

25
0238

1 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair, this is Patrick
Jones with Fish and Game.

2

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Pat.

3

4 MR. JONES: All right. It might be
easier to take these two proposals as separate
proposals. First I'll talk to WP-43. The Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game has some conservation
concerns with that. The additional harvest in Zone 1
6 is just not appropriate at this time. Last year after
the hunt the bull to cow ratio we observed in October
7 was down to 25 bulls per 100 cows, and that's as low as
we want that to get. Really we want that number to
8 stay between 25 and 35. So harvesting additional bulls
out of Zone 1 would be of concern for us.

9

10 Also back when we started the 615 hunt,
we -- the first few years we started this hunt we had
11 it as Federal land quotas and State land quotas and
that caused a lot of confusion, both for hunters and
for law enforcement, it didn't work out very good for
12 really anybody and there was lots of confusion. And
that's why we eventually developed and adopted this
13 Zone 1 and Zone 2. If everybody will look at the map
on Page 94 of the book you can see the hunt in there,
14 Zone 1 and Zone 2. So in this map the white lands are
State managed and they're primarily made up of private
15 lands and tribal and corporation lands. And the pink
land is Federally-managed lands, Refuge lands with a
16 little BLM in there. So you can see on this map that
there is State land and Federal land in both zones but,
17 you know, the moose don't know that. So functionally
we have two different populations of moose here. We
18 have the moose that live along the Kuskokwim riparian
area and then we have the moose that live up in the
19 mountains. And there's some interchange between the
two populations but really not very much. We can treat
20 these and should treat these as two different moose
populations for biology reasons and hunt management
21 reasons. And it just happens that it works out better
if we do it Zone 1 and Zone 2, that simplifies land use
22 problems for hunters and Refuge managers, wildlife
managers and law enforcement, and it's better for the
23 moose too.

24

But what we'll see here in Zone 1, we
got the low bull/cow ratio of 25 to 100. We have the

25 most recent population estimate from the spring of 2020
0239

1 had the Zone 1 moose population 3,200 and we did a Zone
2 count, the Refuge and Fish and Game together also in
3 the spring of 2020 and we had a minimum count of 789 in
4 Zone 2. So right now the bull to cow ratio in Zone 2
5 is pretty high. It was around 60 bulls per 100 cows
6 this last year. But you also look at a total
7 population of just under 800 moose with a quota of 110
8 bulls. That's really an aggressive quota for that
9 population size by anybody's definition, and right now
10 we can afford to do that. But what we're seeing over
11 the last couple of years where people are harvesting 80
12 or 90 bulls, is we're bringing that bull to cow ratio
13 down and what I think we're going to see here in a
14 couple years, at this higher level of somewhere between
15 90 to 100 animals a year, we're going to bring that
16 bull to cow ratio down into the 30s. And so for that
17 reason, you know, we're opposed to the -- we have two
18 different populations so we're opposed to -- you can't
19 take animals from the Zone 2 quota and apply them to
20 Zone 1. That's just biologically not appropriate and
21 it would endanger the Zone 1 animals. And we still
22 have these extra animals in the mountains that need to
23 be harvested or can be harvested.

13 The other piece of the puzzle here is
14 we've been doing browse surveys in Zone 1 and Zone 2
15 here recently and that gives us a feel about how many
16 animals we have on the landscape and how many we can
17 have. And in Zone 1 our browse survey information is
18 in the high -- it's about 25, give or take a little
19 bit, so that's approaching the upper end of where we
20 want moose population to be. It means we can have a
21 few more moose in Zone 1 but not very many more. We're
22 getting close to the point where we want to harvest
23 cows in Zone 1 and, in fact, I intend to put a proposal
24 in for the State side at the next Board of Game
25 meeting, but that's two years away, and then we'll have
26 a mall cow hunt in Zone 1 because we want to start
27 leveling off the population down here on the main
28 river. Now what's happening in the mountains in Zone 2
29 is completely different. The browse survey is in the
30 high teens, which means Zone 2's moose population has
31 quite a bit of room to grow yet. So while there are
32 moose available to harvest in Zone 2, it's not
33 necessarily an emergency that we have to harvest them
34 right now.

24 So I guess all this added up together,
25 I guess we're opposed to the first proposal about
0240

1 moving quotas from between the zones. On the second
2 proposal, the State would support extending the Zone 2
3 Federal season to October 15th, which would match the
4 State season but we would oppose a winter hunt at this
5 time just because we believe the current management
6 strategy of extending the fall season is going to bring
7 that bull to cow ratio down to where it should be in
8 relatively short amount of time and there's no
9 emergency to speed that up with a winter hunt. And on
10 top of that, the winter hunt would be very small, we're
11 talking less than 20 animals after the fall hunt takes
12 place.

13
14 So there's a lot of moving parts in all
15 this but that's our recommendation is only thing that
16 we support right now is extending the Zone 2 Federal
17 season to October 15th.

18 And I can take any questions if there's
19 any questions.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any
22 questions for Patrick at this time on WP22-43/44.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, Eva, I
27 think we can go through the process now, or is there
28 other agencies that can give comment.

29
30 MR. REARDEN: Mr. Chair, this is
31 Spencer Rearden, Fish and Wildlife.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Spencer, go
34 ahead.

35
36 MR. REARDEN: Yes, I'd just offer a few
37 thoughts for consideration. So we view this population
38 as something that the public has helped managed, first
39 with the moratorium and then we're trying to do our
40 best to maximize subsistence opportunities in the long-
41 term. And to that, what that means to us is trying to
42 not miss opportunities and also allow sustainable
43 growth and we aren't certain as to what this population
44 could handle. But we had a quota that was based off of
45 population numbers and ratio numbers. And our bull
46 ratios early on were above 80 per 100 and in recent
47 times I believe it went down something north of 40. So

0241
48 every year we consider the bull ratio, harvest and
49 population information and come up with a quota. So
50 we're not necessarily advocating for increasing harvest
51 but for years, maybe this is one of them, where harvest

3 isn't as high as we expected it gives the manager the
4 ability to provide an additional opportunity, if he so
5 chooses, based off of what happens in the fall, to give
6 subsistence users another opportunity to fill their
7 freezers. And that's something that we take very
8 seriously here at the Refuge.

9 And, so, again, we're not advocating
10 for harvesting over a certain bull ratio whatsoever,
11 we're simply trying to advocate to allow us to have a
12 tool to ensure subsistence opportunities are not
13 missed. So that's our take on it from the Refuge and,
14 hence, why we proposed this.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. If there are
17 no comments or questions, or agencies that need to give
18 a report on this we could go ahead and go through the
19 process.

20 (No comments)

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
23 Council. If there's no further questions from the
24 Council we can go with the presentation procedure.

25 (No comments)

26 MS. PATTON: So again the Board held a
27 tribal consultation on this proposal on August 19th and
28 we did not receive any formal recommendations from
29 tribes. Tribes were participating to get more
30 information. And I know we've heard from ADF&G and our
31 Refuge Staff but we'll have the opportunity again for
32 any formal comments from ADF&G.

33 MR. JONES: Hi Eva, this is Patrick
34 with Fish and Game in Bethel.

35 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Patrick.

36 MR. JONES: I'm not sure what more I

0242
37 can add. I remember Trapper John had a question early
38 in the meeting about the boundary of Zone 1 and Zone 2
39 so maybe I could explain that. So on Page 94 you can
40 see that line kind of cutting Zone 1 and Zone 2 in
41 half. And so the landmarks we chose in all the rivers
42 -- I'll start on the Tuluksak, so the boundary starts
43 where the Fog River hits the Tuluksak and as you come
44 down to Kisaralik, Kasigluk it's the lower cut across
45 between those two rivers where they attach, there's an

6 upper cut across and a lower cut across, so the
7 boundary's that lower cut across on Kasigluk and
8 Kisaralik. And then moving down to the Akulikutak,
9 that point is where the snowmachine trail crosses the
10 Akulikutak at Three Step Mountain. And then moving
11 over to the Kwethluk River, Zone 2 starts at Magic
12 Creek and it's everything up stream of Magic Creek.
13 And then going over to the Eek River it's where the
14 Northfork and Middlefork Rivers come together. And
15 then it's just a straight line between all those
16 points. We were just trying to choose landmarks that
17 most people would know in between the Kuskokwim and the
18 mountains and these seem like the most obvious ones for
19 each one of the major rivers. We also have GPS
20 coordinates and maps available at Fish and Game,
21 anybody can request those. Or if you Google RM615 map,
22 it's the first thing that pops up on the internet.

23 But just to, I guess, summarize our
24 position, is that we're opposed to the WP-43 and then
25 for WP-44, we're in support of extending the season to
26 October 15th, which matches the State season and keeps
27 things really simple because we have two zones but this
28 is one hunt and we have a joint hunt with Fish and Game
29 and Fish and Wildlife, and that one permit allows
30 people to hunt one moose but they can shoot that moose
31 in either Zone 1 or Zone 2. And we have a long history
32 of cooperation with the Refuge and the State on this
33 hunt, getting the moratorium going, doing all of our
34 survey work and inventory work and hunt management. The
35 State generally sets the season for Zone 1 and the
36 quota and the Federal Fish and Wildlife Refuge normally
37 sets the season and quota for Zone 2. So we have a
38 really cool working relationship right now and a permit
39 and we'd kind of like to maintain that going into the
40 future, being able to use one permit for State lands
41 and Federal lands, and trying to avoid a situation
42 where we have a hunt just on one land versus another,
43 just trying to avoid mistakes and complications we've
44 had in the past.

0243

1 And then I guess I'd add on that, too,
2 is last year was the first year we had a Zone 2 hunting
3 season that went into October, it went to October 7th.
4 So the harvest last year ended up being 90 moose which
5 is the highest harvest we've had in Zone 2. This year
6 it's going to October 15th, so there's still another
7 week of season in Zone 2. At this point in time it's
8 unclear what the harvest is going to be this year.
9 There's still 1,200 permits that have not reported yet
10 for this hunt. In general it seems like things are

6 going slower than last year but it'll probably be
7 sometime in December when I get all the reports back in
8 the mail from everybody that I'll know what the actual
9 harvest is. So it's too soon to say if adding a --
10 going to the 15th of October did anything this year.
11 And at this point in time I think we should wait a year
12 or two and see if this additional hunting time in
13 October is effective in hunters getting moose or not
14 before we start making changes and I will leave it at
15 that.

11

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Patrick.

12

MR. NANENG: This is Myron, I'm back
13 on, I got disconnected.

14

MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Myron.
15 We just heard ADF&G comments. Do we have any comment
16 from Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

16

MR. REARDEN: Just again that.....

17

MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman.

18

MR. REARDEN:just a simple tool
19 -- this is Spencer Rearden again, sorry. A simple tool
20 to have in our toolbox to use where we think is
21 appropriate. So if quota numbers come in, close to
22 what the quota is actually at, let's say requesting a
23 may be announced season, obviously if it reached 110
24 this year and we had the ability to announce a winter
25 season, we wouldn't do so because we met 110. But if
26 we're able to provide additional opportunity for
27 something that wasn't reached in the falltime on some
28 other years, then we would. We would like to continue
29 to use the State permit system for all this, but we
30 also realize that it's probably not as administratively
31 able to do so with a separate season winter hunt, but
32 in our opinion the priority is to provide maximum

0244

1 subsistence opportunities and deal with the paperwork
2 afterwards.

2

3 So just a few more comments from our
4 thought process here at Yukon Delta. Thanks.

4

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Spencer. And
5 do we have any tribal representatives who would like to
6 make comment or recommendation on Proposal WP22-43 and
7 44.

6

MS. ESQUIBLE: Hi, Eva, this is Janessa
7 Esquible again with ONC. The Subsistence Committee
8 voted to oppose Wildlife Proposal 22-43 and to support
9 Wildlife Proposal 22-44. Thank you.

9

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Janessa. And

10 thanks again to the ONC Subsistence Committee. And we
11 don't have any Regional Advisory Council
12 recommendations or any Fish and Game Advisory Committee
13 recommendations. We did not receive any public
14 comments on this during the formal comment period. And
15 maybe I'll just check in with Robbin if there were any
16 received by email today.

17 MS. LAVINE: Hello, thank you, Eva, this
18 is Robbin. And there were no comments received by
19 email on this proposal. Thanks.

20 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Robbin. And
21 we'll open up the floor to public testimony. If
22 there's anyone from the public that would like to
23 provide comments on Proposals WP22-43 and 44.

24 (No comments)

25 MS. PATTON: Is there anyone from the
0245 public online that would like to provide comment.

1 (No comments)

2 MS. PATTON: Hearing none, we'll move
3 on to the Regional Advisory Council recommendation.
4 And as the Council wishes it may greatly clarify or
5 simplify things to take up each proposal separately
6 with a motion and justification. Mr. Chair, I'll turn
7 it over to you.

8 (No comments)

9 MS. PATTON: Uh-oh, did we lose you
10 Ray.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, sorry, I had my
12 phone on mute. I was hearing my dog barking earlier
13 and I didn't want to interfere with the teleconference.
14 So, yes, what is the wish of the Council, what is the
15 recommendation of the Council at this time.

16 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman, this is
17 Phillip.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

19 MR. PETER: Yes, I got question on the
20 report, how many hunters in each tributary in Zone 2,
21 Fish and Wildlife flyover, how many hunters inside of
22 Fog River, Kisaralik, Kasigluk and Kwethluk? How many
23 hunters do you guys spot when you're patrolling the
24 area?

25 MR. REARDEN: This is Spencer Rearden,
0245 through the Chair. During the falltime we have not

13 counted the number of hunters on those rivers.
14 Basically we believe that the majority of the hunters
15 are going up the Kwethluk and Kisaralik as that's the
16 areas where we receive the most harvest from through
17 the harvest tickets.

18
19 MR. PETER: From Kwethluk area, Zone 2.

20 MR. REARDEN: Yeah, I don't know the
21 number of hunters necessarily on each system but from
22 past experiences the reported harvest rates are
23 typically higher on the Kwethluk and Kisaralik relative
24 to the other rivers and tributaries.

25 MR. PETER: And I'd like to know how
26 many sporthunters in that area too, in Zone 2?

27 MR. REARDEN: There should be no -- in
28 Zone 2, on Federal lands you have to be a Federally-
29 qualified subsistence user to hunt moose in those areas
30 so there should be no outside hunters on Federal lands.

31 MR. PETER: Okay, thank you very much.
32 That's all I want to know.

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. At
34 0246

35 1 this time.....

36 2 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

37 3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

38 4 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
39 would like to bring up with ADF&G's recommendation to
40 split these two proposals because they are completely
41 separate. If it's okay with you we'd vote on Proposal
42 No. 43 first and then Proposal No. 44. And if you need
43 me to make a motion I'm standing by.

44 7
45 Thank you,

46 8
47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,
48 Alissa. There's a request to separate the two
49 proposals and take them up one at a time. What is the
50 wish of the Council.

51 11 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
52 make a motion to accept WP22-43.

53 12
54 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you.

55 13
56 MS. ROGERS: Second.

57 14
58 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Phillip
59 Peter. There's a motion on the floor by Phillip Peter
60 from Akiachak to separate the two proposals and take

16 them up one at a time and seconded by Alissa. All
those in favor say aye.

17

IN UNISON: Aye.

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that are opposed,
19 signify by saying no.

20 (No opposing votes)

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, we could
go ahead and take the proposals one at a time.

22

MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip Peter, go
24 ahead.

25 MR. PETER: I'd like to make a motion

0247

1 to accept WP22-44.

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
-- we did vote on 43 which is to separate them right
3 now and now, correct me if I'm wrong, we go back to the
main motion.

4

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
5 Council. Yes, so the Council just voted to take the
proposals up separately.

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

7

MS. PATTON: So now maybe the logical
8 order would be to take up Proposal 43 first and then
take up Proposal 44 second.

9

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I would take that
10 route, thank you.

11

MS. PATTON: And.....

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Is there -- go ahead.

13

MS. PATTON: And I'm just pulling up
the language for Proposal 43. So Wildlife Proposal
14 WP22-43 requests delegating authority to the Federal
in-season manager to increase moose harvest quota in
15 Zone 1 of the Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18 if the
water levels are too low to access Zone 2. This would
be increasing harvest in Zone 1.

16

17

MR. NANENG: I move, Mr. Chair, this is
Myron.

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, there's a motion
19 on the floor to move WP22-43. Do I hear a second.

20

MS. ROGERS: Second.

21

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Alissa. All

22 those in favor of WP22-43 which is to request delegate
23 authority to the Federal in-season manager.....

24 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY:to increase the
moose harvest in Zone 1 of the Kuskokwim hunt.....

0248
1 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

2
3 CHAIRMAN ONEY:area in.....

4 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

5 MS. PATTON: Just a minute, Mr. Chair.
6 For those folks on teleconference, can you please check
your phones to mute. Thank you, apologize, Mr. Chair.
Go head.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I lost my train
of thought. Moved by Myron and seconded by Alissa, all
those in favor signify by saying aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that are opposing
WP22-43 signify by saying no.

12 MS. ROGERS: No.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So noted.

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if
I may, and I don't mean to question the intent of the
15 Council. But by supporting WP22-43, that would be
supporting increasing the moose harvest in that Zone 1
16 of the Kuskokwim hunt area and the report from the
biologist was that Zone 1 moose population was
17 essentially at the level of the hunt that it could
sustain. So I just wanted to clarify, I don't mean to
18 question the intent of the Council, but just to clarify
that increasing the harvest is for Zone 1.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

21 MS. PATTON: And just to reconfirm, so
the yes vote on that was in support of increasing the
harvest in Zone 1.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

24 MS. PATTON: Okay.

25
0249
1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: And there was one no.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr.
4 Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.
7
8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is Lisa
9 Grediagin.
10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Lisa, go ahead.
11 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I would ask if the
12 Council members could also provide a justification for
13 their motion for their support of 22-43. Thank you.
14 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Lisa. Was
15 getting to that.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So at this time does
18 anyone have justification for support for 22-43.
19 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
20 Myron.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.
23
24 MR. NANENG: Yeah, I supported the
25 motion because it will give Fish and Wildlife
0250 flexibility in determining how much moose can be
1 harvested under that 43 to the levels that they've had
2 before.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Eva,
5 is that good enough.
6 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Maybe if one of the other Council members who were in
8 support of increasing the harvest in Zone 1 might be
9 able to speak to that as well.
10
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. So is there
14 any other Council members that would like to provide
15 justification to why we support 22-43.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Robbin, go ahead.
22 MS. LAVINE: I'm sorry to interject in
23 the middle of your deliberations. But I do want to

3 clarify as we're teasing these two wildlife proposals
4 apart, I want to clarify that Wildlife Proposal 22-43,
5 in OSM's justification the analysis says there are
6 conservation concerns for Wildlife Proposal 22-43. And
7 that for Wildlife Proposal 22-44, the may be announced
8 winter season proposed in 22-44 would provide an
9 alternative approach to increasing the harvest as
10 recommended -- or as proposed in 22-43. And so when I
11 heard one of your Council members give the
12 justification to supporting 43 as giving flexibility to
13 the in-season manager, I'm wondering if he is actually
14 referring to Wildlife Proposal 22-44.

9

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 MR. NANENG: Yeah, this is Myron again,
12 thanks for the clarification. One of the things I
13 heard from a lot of people this fall, many of them had
14 to go further and further away from the Bethel area to
15 harvest moose and many came back without moose and so
16 they had to go further up and further away from where
17 they usually have hunted for the last couple of years.
18 So sorry for that -- if there's a definite conservation
19 concern I would support the flexibility of Fish and
20 Wildlife to be able to monitor that and if they say
21 that there's less moose, meaning less bulls, not
22 necessarily less moose but less bulls available for
23 harvest then I would think that it would be their
24 prerogative to let the hunters know that there is a
25 conservation concern. And the reason why I say less
26 bulls is because that seems to be the targeted animal
27 compared to the cows and calves that we've seen in the
28 Bethel area over the last couple of years. within the
29 last two weeks I've seen five moose right across from
30 Napakiak, three cows and two calves and so I know that
31 there's moose population in the area but I haven't seen
32 any bulls around here in this area.

22

I just want to clarify that.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Myron. And any
other Council members wish to comment on the vote to
support WP22-43, which is again asking to increase the

0251

1 moose harvest in Zone 1. Again, this proposal would
2 only apply to Federal lands in that region and much of
3 the State lands -- and much of the lands along the
4 river corridor are State lands, so if adopted this
5 proposal would only apply to the Federal lands in that
6 Zone 1 region.

4

MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman, this is

5 Phillip.

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip, go ahead.

7 MR. PETER: Yeah, the quota would have
8 been set 100 bulls in Zone 2, but they never met their
9 quota last -- I don't know how many years they never
10 met the quota in those four tributaries. That's my
11 understanding, allocation of quota, 100, and they never
12 met their quota. I know this year people that are
13 going up Kisaralik and Kasigluk, they're good hunting
14 up there, a lot of bulls running around in the
15 Kisaralik and Kasigluk, that's what I hear from those
16 hunters from my place. They never see that many bulls
17 before.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

14 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

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

17 After hearing your guys' comments and us talking a
18 little more about the difference between 43 and 44, I
19 feel that there was confusion of the vote. Because 43
20 is talking about only Zone 1, there's no Zone 2 in
21 Proposal No. 43. And 44 is specifically to Zone 2. So
22 the way you guys are talking I don't think you guys
23 understood exactly what you were voting on. I -- Mr.
24 Chair, we've done it in the past before where we have
25 retaken up another proposal after it's been voted
26 because of clarification and misunderstanding of the
27 proposal. So if you want, tomorrow morning when
28 everyone's bright and early with coffee in their hand,
29 ready to go, we can take up Proposal No. 43 again,
30 after everyone thinks about the exact legalities or
31 what the understanding and description of between the
32 difference between 43 and 44.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

0252 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.

1 Eva.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
4 Council. And perhaps it might be helpful that we do
5 move on to Proposal 22-44 and that may help clarify the
6 difference between the two. And as Alissa noted, the
7 Council can come back to Proposal 43. There would need
8 to be a motion to reconsider but we can come back to
9 Proposal 43 afterwards. It might be helpful to address
10 Proposal 44 now to kind of provide that clarification
11 in the difference between the two proposals.

7

8 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
9 Myron. I'd like to be excused for the rest of the
10 meeting, I got to make a quick run to a village.

9

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Myron,
10 so noted. You are excused for the rest of the day.

11 MR. NANENG: Okay.

12 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So I think -- go ahead,
Alissa.

14

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
15 we still have quorum, I'd like to take up Item No. 44,
if that's okay with the rest of everybody else.

16

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, okay, thank you,
17 Alissa. There's a motion on the floor by Alissa to
adopt Proposal 22-44. Do I hear a second.

18

MR. PARKS: I second, Mr. Chair.
19 Henry.

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Henry Parks from
Nunapitchuk seconded the motion. All those in favor
21 signify by saying aye -- oh, sorry, sorry, my
confusion, the day is getting long, we're going into
22 the process.

23 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. So we did walk through the presentation
24 procedures for both these proposals combined. And to
clarify Wildlife Proposal WP22-44 requests that the
25 fall moose season in the Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18
0253

1 be extended from September 1 through 30 to September 1
through October 15th, and that a may be announced
2 season be established from January 1st -- I'm sorry,
December 1st through January 31st with a harvest limit
3 of one antlered bull by Federal registration permit.
And this is the proposal that is specific to extending
4 that opportunity in the Zone 2 moose hunt area because
that population, as noted by the biologist, could
5 sustain additional harvest and those harvest limits
have not been met. And we do have Spencer on who can
6 again speak to that if the Council has any questions.
But this is the proposal that would provide that
7 additional harvest opportunity in the Zone 2 of the
hunt area and options for extended season and to be
8 announced season if that harvest goal was not met
earlier in the season.

9

And just want to check in and see if
10 the Council has any questions on this proposal or would
like any clarification from our Federal biologist.

11

MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

13

MR. LANDLORD: Or Eva. If we're trying
14 to reconsider 43, can we table this for tomorrow, table
15 44 for tomorrow?

15

MS. PATTON: The Council could do that
16 if you wish. Because we've had all the biological
17 information and feedback from the biologists, I don't
18 know if it would be helpful for the Council to take up
19 WP22-44 at this time, and revisit 43 in the morning.

18

MR. LANDLORD: Oh, okay, yes, okay.

19

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

20

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

21

MS. ROGERS: If it's okay with the rest
22 of the Council I'll go ahead and rescind my motion to
23 take up WP22-44 and we'll wait until tomorrow.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

24

MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair
25 and Council. So with that, is the Council wanting to
0254
1 take up WP22-44 tomorrow morning?

2

MS. CLEVELAND: Yes, this is Jackie.
If I may make a motion to continue 43 and 44 tomorrow
3 morning.

4

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,
Jackie. There's a motion on the floor by Jackie to
5 table 43 and 44 for tomorrow morning. Do I hear a
6 second.

6

MS. ROGERS: Second.

7

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Alissa. All
8 in favor -- all those in favor signify by saying aye.

9

IN UNISON: Aye.

10

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, signify by
11 saying no.

11

(No opposing votes)

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, we will
13 take these proposals up in the morning, first thing in
14 the morning. Eva.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair
and Council. And maybe I'll just check in with
16 Spencer, if you would be available tomorrow morning as
well, Spencer, maybe we could provide an overview of
17 these proposals again before we get into the Council's
further deliberation and motions.

18 MR. REARDEN: Yeah, this is Spencer. I
actually have a meeting at 9:00, however, Aaron Moses,
19 who is familiar with the proposal and the biology
should be able to help answer some of the questions, if
20 needed.

21 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thank you,
Spencer.

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Moving on. What
23 is the wish of the Council. I believe we still have
one more proposal, WP22-47, which is Unit 22 caribou,
24 calf harvest, what is the wish of the Council at this
time.

25

0255

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. That is a crossover proposal, Unit 22
2 caribou, and can be found in your meeting books on Page
121. And Tom Plank is the presenter on this one again
3 and this is coming before the Council because
communities within the YK Delta region have customary
4 and traditional use determination for Unit 22 caribou.

5 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

7 MS. ROGERS: Hi. I don't know about
the rest of the group but I'm feeling pooped and my
8 brain is short-circuiting. I don't know if anyone else
feels that way but if it's okay with you, and okay with
9 you, Eva, I wanted to entertain that we recess for the
rest of the day.

10

MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

11

CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

12

MR. PARKS: This is Henry.

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Henry, go ahead.

14

MR. PARKS: Yeah, I totally agree with
15 Alissa's comment. We need a break. We need a recess.

16

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yep, I think so too,
17 thank you. So if there's no opposition to continue,
then we could go ahead and recess for the evening and
start fresh in the morning. So if there's no other

18 comments then we could recess for the evening.
19 Eva.
20 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
21 Council. Yes, indeed, get a good dinner and some good
22 rest and we'll be back on tomorrow morning at 9:00
23 a.m., and we can reconvene with the proposals tomorrow
24 morning. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.
CHAIRMAN ONEY: We can.....
MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

0256

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.
2 MR. PARKS: This is Henry.
3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Henry.
4 MR. PARKS: Eva, I've been having
5 network problems here in my village so hopefully
6 tomorrow morning I will be on and hopefully the network
7 services will be good tomorrow morning.

8 MS. PATTON: Thank you so much, Henry,
9 and thank you for your persistence in calling in and
10 grateful you were able to join us today and
11 hopefully.....

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted - loud banging)

10

11 MS. PATTON: It sounds like someone's
12 dinnertime.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.
14 (Off record)
15 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

0257

1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
3)ss.
4 STATE OF ALASKA)
5 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
6 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:
THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through

7 _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
8 YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
9 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken
10 electronically on the 6th day of October;

11 THAT the transcript is a true and
12 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
13 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
14 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
15 ability;

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

18 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th
19 day of October 2021.

20 _____
21 Salena A. Hile
22 Notary Public, State of Alaska
23 My Commission Expires: 09/16/22
24
25