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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE  
October 13, 2021  
9:05 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Jack Reakoff, Chair
  - Don Honea
  - Jenny Pelkola
  - Goodwin Semaken
  - Pollock Simon
  - Kevin Whitworth
  - Rebecca Wilmarth
- Regional Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 10/13/2021)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR PELKOLA: I'll call this Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting to order at 9:05. And -- okay, go ahead, I called it to order.

(Laughter)

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame Chair. This is Karen Deatherage, and at the Chair's request I'll go ahead and do roll call.

Pollock Simon, Sr.

(No comments)

MS. DEATHERAGE: Donald Honea, Jr.

MR. HONEA: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi Don.

MR. HONEA: Good morning.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

MR. REAKOFF: I finally got back on, I had to redial in.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, apparently there's some problems with getting in with the passcode so hopefully that's a short-term problem, but welcome.

Goodwin Semaken.

(No comments)

MS. DEATHERAGE: Is Goodwin on the phone.

(No comments)

MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, we'll come back.

0003

1 Kevin Whitworth.

2

3 MR. WHITWORTH: Here.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Kevin.

6

7 Rebecca Wilmarth.

8

9 MS. WILMARTH: Here.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Rebecca.

12

13 And Jenny Pelkola.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR PELKOLA: I'm here.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Alrighty. Arnold  
18 Demoski is on medical in Anchorage but he'll try to  
19 call in. And I just received an Inreach message from  
20 Tim Gervais. He's on his boat, or a boat, and he will  
21 try to call in if he gets into False Pass but he  
22 regrets that he won't be able to call in right away.

23

24 So with that let's see we have five out  
25 of nine, so we do have a quorum, barely.

26

27 MR. SEMAKEN: Hello. Hello.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is that Goodwin?

30

31 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, awesome, so  
34 Goodwin Semaken, welcome. Pollock Simon, did you join  
35 us.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: So what we're going to  
40 now is go right into the election of officers. But  
41 first I just want to remind everybody, we are on  
42 teleconference. We understand it's very difficult. We  
43 appreciate your patience, and ask that everybody mute  
44 your phone. There's a mute button on your cell phone,  
45 if you're using a cell phone. And then if you're using  
46 a landline, you press star, six. And as we were  
47 talking about earlier, the star is located down by the  
48 zero on your phone pad, and then six, to mute, and then  
49 star, six to unmute yourself if you need to speak. And  
50

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1 we appreciate everybody's patience with that. We also  
2 ask that you please, please do not put us on hold  
3 because as much as some of the music is okay, most of  
4 it is very obnoxious and we don't want to listen to it  
5 but please do not put us on hold because it's very  
6 disruptive for the meeting and there's no way that we  
7 can get in touch with you to get us off of hold so  
8 that's a very important thing to keep in mind.

9

10                   Anyway, I'm going to go ahead and move  
11 forward with the election of officers. As the  
12 designated Federal officer for the Western Interior  
13 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council I will be  
14 conducting the election for Council Chair, after which  
15 the Chair, the new Chair or the previous Chair will go  
16 ahead and hold elections for the other two officers.  
17 So I would like to now open the floor up to nominations  
18 for Chair from the Council.

19

20                   Thank you.

21

22                   MADAME CHAIR PELKOLA: This is Jenny, I  
23 nominate Jack.

24

25                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Jenny. Do  
26 we have a second for the nomination of Jack.

27

28                   MR. WHITWORTH: Second. Kevin.

29

30                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Kevin. And  
31 thanks for reminding me to ask the Council members to  
32 identify yourselves when you do nominate or move or  
33 make a comment so that we know who you are. Are there  
34 any additional nominations for Chair.

35

36                   MADAME CHAIR PELKOLA: I make motion  
37 to close the nominations. This is Jenny.

38

39                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Jenny.

40

41                   MR. WHITWORTH: Second. This is Kevin.

42

43                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Kevin.  
44 Nominations for Chair are closed. Now I'd like to call  
45 a vote, because we are on the phone I'll go ahead and  
46 do roll call for the vote.

47

48                   Pollock Simon, Sr.

49

50

0005

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

4

5 MR. HONEA: Yes.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

8

9 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

12

13 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

16

17 MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny Pelkola.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR PELKOLA: A big yes.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Jenny.

26 Okay, with that we'd like to congratulate Jack Reakoff  
27 on his reinstatement as Chair of the Western Interior  
28 Alaska Regional Advisory Council and I'll turn it over  
29 to the new Chair, Jack Reakoff, for the remaining  
30 officers. Thank you. And, thank you, Jenny, for  
31 serving as acting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thanks so  
34 much, I appreciate your confidence. And I think  
35 Pollock has probably had the same thing, I dialed in,  
36 it asked my name and put me on hold. So if somebody  
37 could call someone near Pollock to tell him to redial  
38 in, I think he's just sitting there waiting for  
39 something to happen like I did for awhile.

40

41 So we're going to go for a nomination  
42 of the Vice Chair, and so I'll open the floor for  
43 nominations for the Vice Chair.

44

45 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, I.....

46

47 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, I -- go ahead.

48

49 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, I nominate Don

50

0006

1 Honea, Jr., this is Jenny.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have a  
4 second for that.

5

6 MR. WHITWORTH: Second. This is Kevin.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
9 nomin.....

10

11 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I nominate  
12 Jenny Pelkola. This is Don.

13

14 MS. PELKOLA: I decline. I decline.  
15 This is Jenny, I decline.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
18 nominations.

19

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Motion to close, if I can.

26

27 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say again. A motion  
30 to close?

31

32 MR. HONEA: Yes.

33

34 MS. PELKOLA: I'll make that motion.

35 This is Jenny.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have a  
38 second to the motion to close.

39

40 MR. WHITWORTH: Second. This is Kevin.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So did you  
43 want to call the role there, Karen.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
46 I'd be happy to.

47

48 Pollock Simon.

49

50

0007

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

8

9 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

12

13 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

16

17 MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.

20

21 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 Mr. Honea has been elected as Vice Chair for the

25 Council. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Open the  
28 floor for nomination for Secretary.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, I'll  
31 nominate Kevin.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have a  
34 second for.....

35

36 MR. HONEA: Second. This is Don.

37

38 MS. WILMARTH: This is Rebecca, second.

39

40 (Teleconference interference -  
41 participants not muted)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have  
44 any other nominations.

45

46 MR. HONEA: Motion to close.

47

48 MS. PELKOLA: Second by Jenny.

49

50

0008

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.

2

3 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to call the  
6 roll there, Karen.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, thank you.  
9 For the position of Secretary.

10

11 Pollock Simon, Sr.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea, Jr.

16

17 MR. HONEA: Yes.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

24

25 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

28

29 MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.

32

33 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Kevin Whitworth is now the Secretary of the Western  
37 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.  
38 Congratulations.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thank you.

41

42 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is

43 Kevin.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

46

47 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, thanks everybody.  
48 That wasn't expected, you surprised me there. But I  
49 guess I'll have to learn, Karen you'll have to help me

50

0009

1 figure out what my duties are, I'm not sure what they  
2 are at this time. So as the meeting goes on just let  
3 me know if I need to take note of something.

4  
5 Thanks.

6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.  
8 Kevin, I'd be happy to.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks for  
11 accepting the nomination Kevin. So basically you would  
12 fill in if the other officers can't attend a meeting or  
13 something, that's basically -- it's a fairly light  
14 workload so don't worry. So, Karen, would you like to  
15 do the No. 5, welcome and introductions.

16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 The other thing is, Kevin, as Secretary, you have to  
19 buy the Council Coordinator chocolate when we do have  
20 on-site meetings, I just want to make sure that's  
21 clear.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thanks everyone.  
26 I'm going to go ahead and -- with the permission of the  
27 Chair, to do welcome and introductions.

28  
29 MS. PELKOLA: Excuse me, Karen.....

30  
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm going to start  
32 with.....

33  
34 MS. PELKOLA: Excuse me, Karen.

35  
36 REPORTER: Okay, hold on a second.  
37 Karen. Karen, hold on.

38  
39 MS. PELKOLA: Karen, this is.....

40  
41 REPORTER: Karen, hold on.

42  
43 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, we forgot  
44 the invocation here.

45  
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: If anybody would like  
47 to do the invocation they're welcome to, if the Council  
48 agrees. Thank you.

49  
50

0010

1 MS. PELKOLA: Go ahead, Don.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Thank you. Thank you,  
4 would you do it Jenny, you're really good at that. I  
5 appreciate that. Please.

6

7 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, are you saying it,  
8 Don, go ahead.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. HONEA: Boy, you're slippery.

13

14 (Invocation)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks so much,  
17 Jenny, for backing us up to No. 1 there. So go ahead  
18 for the welcome and introduction, Karen.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 Members of the Council. I'd also just like to remind  
22 everybody as we go through introductions so that we  
23 make sure that we recognize everyone to please press  
24 star, six to mute yourself when you're not speaking, or  
25 use the mute button on your cell phones. So I'm going  
26 to go by agency and organizations and then also by  
27 location to the best of my abilities. So we'll start  
28 with the Office of Subsistence Management and see who  
29 is on the phone, so for Anchorage, introduce  
30 yourselves. Office of Subsistence Management.

31

32 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. This is Tom  
33 Kron. And I'll be serving as leadership team  
34 representative for the Western Interior Council  
35 meeting. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tom.

38

39 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair. This Cory  
40 Graham, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of  
41 Subsistence Management.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Cory.

44

45 \*\*Transcriber Note\*\*

46

47 Hannah Voorhees contacted Computer Matrix Court  
48 Reporters requesting she be titled as Dr. Voorhees in  
49 transcripts and not Ms. Voorhees

50

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1                               \*\*End Transcriber Note\*\*

2

3                               DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is  
4 Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with Office of  
5 Subsistence Management.

6

7                               CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

8

9                               MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair. This is Kendra  
10 Holman, Wildlife Biologist with Office of Subsistence  
11 Management.

12

13                              CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning. Any  
14 other OSM Staff.

15

16                              MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. This is  
17 Karen Deatherage up here in Fairbanks and I'm the  
18 Council Coordinator for the Western Interior Alaska  
19 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council. And I can take  
20 over from here and move on to the next agency.

21

22                              CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

23

24                              MS. DEATHERAGE: So let's go to the  
25 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, do we have any folks  
26 from Anchorage on the phone.

27

28                              MS. CARROLL: Yeah, good morning, Mr.  
29 Chair. This is Holly Carroll. I'm the Yukon River  
30 Federal Subsistence Fishery Manager.

31

32                              MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Holly.  
33 Anybody else on the phone from Anchorage.

34

35                              MR. SEPPI: This is Bruce Seppi, BLM  
36 Anchorage BLM Field Office.

37

38                              MS. DEATHERAGE: For BLM, Bruce, I'll  
39 get to you. This is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
40 anybody on the phone from Anchorage.

41

42                              MR. SEPPI: Sorry.

43

44                              MS. DEATHERAGE: No worries. How about  
45 from Fairbanks office for U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
46 Service.

47

48                              OFFICER LONG: Jared Long, Fish and  
49 Wildlife Officer.

50

0012

1 REPORTER: Who was that.

2

3 MR. LONG: Jared Long, U.S. Fish and  
4 Wildlife Officer.

5

6 REPORTER: Thank you.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

9

10 CAPTAIN HERSHBECK: This is Rob  
11 Hershbeck. I'm a Federal Wildlife Officer and Patrol  
12 Captain in Fairbanks.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Welcome, thank you.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning. This is  
17 Hybrid Vince Mathews. I'm half-time Refuge Subsistence  
18 Coordinator and then acting Coordinator for Eastern  
19 Interior. And I just wanted to say hi to all my old  
20 friends and wish you the best meeting and patience with  
21 the teleconference. I won't be listening in more than  
22 that, but Jack mentioned it, it was really difficult to  
23 get on so hopefully that won't happen, it would not  
24 take the passcode number. So anyways good luck,  
25 whatever you need shared with Eastern Interior I'm sure  
26 Karen will keep me informed. So have a great meeting.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very much  
29 Vince. And sorry to hear about the phone issues. I  
30 didn't have any problems but I'm hearing that a few  
31 people are and hopefully that will be remedied. So  
32 let's go on with anybody else from Fairbanks on the  
33 phone from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

34

35 MS. FOX: Good morning. This is.....

36

37 OFFICER SMITH: Cody Smith.

38

39 MS. FOX: .....Joanna Fox. I'm the  
40 Refuge Manager at Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning, Joanne,  
43 and it's Cody Fox -- I mean Cody Smith.

44

45 OFFICER SMITH: Cody Smith. Senior  
46 Federal Wildlife Officer, Alaska Division of Refuge Law  
47 Enforcement.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Welcome Cody.

50

0013

1 MR. HARWOOD: Good morning. Chris

2 Harwood.....

3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Do we have anybody

5 on.....

6

7 MR. HARWOOD: .....Biologist at Kanuti

8 Refuge.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Chris. Anybody

11 else from Fairbanks for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

12 Service Kanuti or the Fairbanks office, if not we can

13 move on to the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife

14 Refuge.

15

16 MR. REBARCHIK: Yeah, this is Bob

17 Rebarchik. U.S. Fish and Wildlife for the

18 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko. And I was going to try and

19 introduce Ron Hershbeck and Jared Long, they're both

20 newly hired in positions and both stationed in

21 Fairbanks and are going to be a huge asset for the

22 region helping us out. Thanks.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's really good to

25 hear, thanks, Bob. Is Jeremy on the phone.

26

27 MR. HAVENER: Good morning everyone.

28 This is Jeremy Havener, Refuge Subsistence Coordinator

29 out of Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hey Jeremy. Anybody

32 else from the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko Refuge.

33

34 MR. CHASE: Good morning. This is Ken

35 Chase down in Anvik, RIT with the

36 Innoko/Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great. Good morning,

39 Ken.

40

41 MR. CHASE: Good morning.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Do we have anybody on

44 the phone from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife

45 Refuge.

46

47 MR. MOSES: Karen, this is Aaron Moses.

48 I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator.

49

50

0014

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Aaron.

2

3 MR. DECOSSAS: Hey, Karen. This is  
4 Gary Decossas, Fish Biologist at Yukon Delta.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi Gary. Anybody on  
7 the phone from Togiak.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right. We can  
12 move right into the BLM and Bruce Seppi and Walker  
13 Gussey have already introduced themselves. And so  
14 anybody from the Anchorage office for the BLM.

15

16 MS. MILLION: Good morning, Karen.  
17 Good morning, Mr. Chair and Council members. This is  
18 Bonnie Million. I'm the field manager with the BLM's  
19 Anchorage Field Office.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Bonnie.

22

23 MR. MCKEE: Good morning, Karen. This  
24 is Chris McKee, Subsistence Coordinator out of the  
25 Anchorage State Office.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hey, Chris. Anybody  
28 else in the Anchorage area for the BLM.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: How about up here in  
33 Fairbanks for the BLM.

34

35 MS. JULIANUS: Hey, Karen, this is Erin  
36 Julianus, Wildlife Biologist for the Central Yukon  
37 Field Office, Fairbanks.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Erin, hey.

40

41 MS. JULIANUS: And members of the  
42 Council.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Let's move on  
47 to the National Park Service. Anybody on the phone  
48 from Anchorage for the National Park Service.

49

50

0015

1 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning everyone,  
2 this is Dylan Patterson with the National Park Service  
3 Regional Office here in Anchorage.

4  
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: What's your first  
6 name, I'm sorry.

7  
8 MR. PATTERSON: Dylan. Dylan Patterson.

9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Dylan. Thank you,  
11 Dylan.

12  
13 MR. PATTERSON: Thank you.

14  
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: And anybody else from  
16 Anchorage for the National Park Service.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: We'll move into  
21 Fairbanks, Marcy are you on board.

22  
23 MS. OKADA: Hi, Karen. Good morning.  
24 This is Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates  
25 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning, Marcy.  
28 I left two messages for Pollock so I hope he knows how  
29 to get in.

30  
31 MR. JOLY: Good morning everyone.

32  
33 MR. DEACY: Good morning.....

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry.

36  
37 MR. JOLY: Good morning everyone. This  
38 is Kyle Joly, I'm a Wildlife Biologist with Gates of  
39 the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

40  
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Kyle.

42  
43 MR. CAMERON: Good morning. This is  
44 Matt Cameron, I'm a Wildlife Biologist for Gates of the  
45 Arctic with the National Park Service here in  
46 Fairbanks.

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hey, Matt.

49  
50

0016

1 MR. DEACY: Good morning everyone.  
2 This is Will Deacy, I'm a Biologist for the Arctic  
3 Inventory and Monitoring Division in Fairbanks. Good  
4 morning.

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Will. Okay, if  
7 that's it for Park Service, welcome, in Fairbanks and  
8 Anchorage. Let's move on to the Alaska Department of  
9 Fish and Game, and anybody from Juneau on the phone.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Palmer.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Do we have Mark Burch  
18 or -- how about Anchorage, anybody from Anchorage on  
19 the phone from Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

20  
21 MR. SMITH: Good morning. This is  
22 Nicholas Smith with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
23 Game, Kuskokwim Area Fisheries Management Biologist.

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi there Nick, thanks  
26 for joining us. How about from Fairbanks, do we have  
27 folks from ADF&G on the phone from Fairbanks.

28  
29 MS. STUBI: Good morning.

30  
31 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, good morning, this  
32 is.....

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: We got a few of them.

35  
36 MS. STUBI: Sorry go ahead.

37  
38 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, good morning. This  
39 is Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
40 Game, the Summer Season Manager for the Yukon River.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi Deena.

43  
44 MS. STUBI: And good morning, this is  
45 Lisa Stubi, Division of Sportfish, Yukon Area  
46 Management Biologist.

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning, Lisa.

49  
50

0017

1 MS. GLEASON: Good morning. This is  
2 Christy Gleason. I'm the Fall Season Fishery Manager  
3 for the Yukon River here in Fairbanks.

4  
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Christy. So  
6 anybody else on the phone for ADF&G.

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hopefully we'll have  
11 more folks joining us later. So we'll move on to  
12 tribal and Alaska Native Organizations, do we have any  
13 folks on the phone representing tribal or Alaska Native  
14 Organizations.

15  
16 MS. FITKA: Good morning. This is  
17 Serena Fitka, Executive Director of the Yukon River  
18 Drainage Fisheries Association.

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Serena, welcome.

21  
22 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, this is Catherine  
23 Moncrieff also of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
24 Association.

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Catherine.

27  
28 MR. STEVENS: Ben Stevens here with TCC  
29 in Fairbanks.

30  
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, thanks for  
32 joining us Ben.

33  
34 MR. IRVINE: Bruce Irvine with TCC  
35 Tribal Resources Stewardship Program.

36  
37 MS. LIND: Deborah Lind with TCC.

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry, who.....

40  
41 MS. WOOD: Good morning. This is Brooke  
42 Wood with the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission.

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Who was that before  
45 you Brooke that introduced themselves with TCC.

46  
47 MS. LIND: Deborah Lind.

48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sorry, I'm not  
50

0018

1 catching your first name, apologize.

2

3 MS. LIND: Deborah.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deborah, thank you.

6

7 MR. IRVINE: Hi, did you get Bruce as  
8 well.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: What -- who's that,  
11 sorry?

12

13 MR. IRVINE: Hi, Bruce Irvine, Tanana  
14 Chiefs Conference, Tribal Resource Stewardship Program.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, gotcha Bruce,  
17 thank you. Anybody else from TCC or any tribes or  
18 Alaska Native Organizations.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Then we'll move on to  
23 any folks.....

24

25 MS. SCHOMOGYI: This is Terese  
26 Schomogyi, Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission  
27 in Bethel.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: What's your last name  
30 again, Terese, I'm sorry.

31

32 MS. SCHOMOGYI: Schomogyi.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, that's right,  
35 gotcha. Okay, thank you, Terese.

36

37 MS. JOHNSON: This is Barbara Johnson  
38 with the Native Village of Georgetown.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Which village?

41

42 MS. JOHNSON: Georgetown.

43

44 REPORTER: And what was your first  
45 name?

46

47 MS. JOHNSON: Barbara.

48

49 REPORTER: Thank you.

50

0019

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Anybody else joining  
2 us from a village, or the general public.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Well, thanks everybody  
7 for your patience and we'll be doing roll call again,  
8 or introductions again in the meeting for folks that  
9 join us later. In the meantime with the Chair's  
10 permission I need to make an announcement about the  
11 teleconference protocols again and written and oral  
12 public comments for wildlife proposals.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

15  
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: So thank you everyone  
17 once again with your patience with our teleconference  
18 meeting. And, again, we ask that you please do not put  
19 us on hold and unless you are speaking, please mute  
20 your phone if it's a cell phone, you can press star,  
21 six to mute your phone if it's a landline.

22  
23 So I'm going to make an announcement  
24 here about written public comments for Wildlife  
25 Proposals today. The Council meetings provide an  
26 opportunity for the public and tribes to provide oral  
27 and written testimony and comments. There were be  
28 several opportunities for these throughout the meeting.  
29 At the beginning of each day there is an opportunity to  
30 provide testimony on non-agenda items. The Council  
31 Chair will announce these opportunities.

32  
33 There is also opportunity to provide  
34 oral comments on the wildlife proposals and closure  
35 reviews during or after an analyst presents proposal  
36 analysis. The order of receiving the comments is  
37 outlined on Page 25 of the meeting materials. The  
38 Council Chair will call for this public oral testimony.

39  
40  
41 There is also an opportunity to submit  
42 written public comments on these proposals. If you  
43 have a written comment please email it to  
44 subsistence@fws.gov. So that's subsistence@fws.gov.  
45 That's FishWildlifeService fws.gov. Please clearly  
46 indicate the number of the proposal or closure review  
47 you are commenting on in the title of the email. The  
48 comments need to be emailed prior to the proposal  
49 you're commenting on is presented to the Council. If  
50

0020

1 you emailed your written public comment to your Council  
2 Coordinator prior to the meeting, please resubmit it to  
3 subsistence@fws.gov today. If less than 10 written  
4 comments received, we will read those into the record,  
5 if more than 10 written comments are received they'll  
6 be tallied and a result will be presented to the  
7 Council prior to their deliberation.

8

9 So, again, there's three opportunities  
10 for comments. The first will be announced at the  
11 meeting for comment on non-agenda items. The second is  
12 oral testimony on the wildlife proposals and closures.  
13 And the third is an opportunity to submit written  
14 public comments to subsistence@fws.gov. These must be  
15 received prior to the Council's deliberations on the  
16 proposals.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -  
19 participants not muted)

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Are there any  
22 questions about commenting or public testimony on  
23 wildlife proposals today.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: If not, I'll turn it  
28 over to the Chair to review and adopt the agenda.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Karen. And  
31 I just want to say I did talk to Pollock last night, he  
32 called me, he didn't have his book and he needed the  
33 call in numbers, which I gave him. So I would like to  
34 get Pollock on the phone. I know you left him a couple  
35 messages but he may need those call in numbers again.

36

37 But we're going to go to review and  
38 adoption of the agenda. So did you have some  
39 additions, Karen, that you'd like to discuss.

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd  
42 like to propose to the Council the amendments to the  
43 agenda for the following additions or changes.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. The first  
48 one is to add Alaska Board of Game proposals at the end  
49 of new business. There are several Alaska Board of

50

0021

1 Game proposals for the Council to consider submitting  
2 comments for and the Council can review those at the  
3 end of new business on the agenda.

4  
5 The second item to add is Kevin  
6 Whitworth confirmation to the Kuskokwim River Salmon  
7 Management Working Group, and we'd like to add that  
8 after the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission  
9 report, which is under.....

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Is everybody  
14 getting this, and, if not, I'll help you out as we go  
15 along.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That'd be on Page 3  
18 under 13 right below Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish  
19 Commission. Go ahead, Karen.

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. The next  
22 is to move the Yukon River Fisheries update to the  
23 first report under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
24 Right now we have the Refuges reporting first but we'd  
25 like to go ahead and have the Yukon River Fisheries  
26 update from Gerald Maschmann from Fairbanks next, and  
27 the reason for that is the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta  
28 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council has asked for the  
29 Western Interior's consideration to sign on to a letter  
30 regarding bycatch. The letter would go to the North  
31 Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and so we'd like  
32 to get all the fishery reports and updates prior to the  
33 Council considering signing on to the bycatch sign-on  
34 letter. So that would be the next item after the Yukon  
35 River Fisheries update, would be to add the bycatch  
36 sign-on letter for consideration by the Council.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That'll be  
39 No. 1 under U.S. Fish and Wildlife on Page 3, thank  
40 you.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: The next item would be  
43 to add the Kaiyuh Flats issue under the  
44 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge report.  
45 Member Semaken has some information he'd like to share  
46 with the Council and with the Refuge regarding the  
47 Kaiyuh Flats moose hunt that went on this past season.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

50

0022

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: So that would be under  
2 the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge  
3 report.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: So for everybody's  
8 confirmation we have five items to add to the agenda or  
9 move.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you want to move  
12 these meeting dates and place up on the agenda also,  
13 Karen.

14  
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sure, yep, where would  
16 you like that, Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If we wanted to move  
19 up, do we want to move it up here with the review of  
20 the past minutes, right after No. 7, would that be a  
21 good spot.

22  
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: That would be an  
24 excellent spot, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll put  
27 that right behind No. 7. So that's the.....

28  
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
30 that's all I have.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Karen.  
33 Any other Council members have additions to the agenda.

34  
35 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, this is Don.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

38  
39 MR. HONEA: I'd like to make a motion  
40 to accept it with the changes.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43  
44 MR. HONEA: Or with the additions  
45 rather.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

48  
49 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is Jenny,  
50

0023

1 I'll second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Jenny seconds.

4 Any further discussion on the amended agenda and  
5 adoption.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MR. HONEA: Question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called,  
12 those in favor of adopting the agenda as amended, aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we want a roll  
17 call on this Karen or should we just take these votes,  
18 what's your recommendation.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: I thinking taking the  
21 vote is sufficient at this time on this issue.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Those  
28 opposed, same sign.

29

30 (No opposing votes)

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Amended  
33 agenda is adopted. And so we move on to previous  
34 minutes from the -- which is on Page 5 and it was the  
35 Western Interior Council's February 17, 18 2020 meeting  
36 by teleconference. Everybody read those minutes. Are  
37 there additions or changes that the Council would like  
38 to make.

39

40 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is Jenny.  
41 I'd like to move to adopt the minutes from the previous  
42 meeting.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a motion to  
45 adopt the previous meeting minutes by Jenny.

46

47 MR. HONEA: Second by Don.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don as a second.

50

0024

1 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.

4 Those in favor of adoption of the previous minutes

5 signify by saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
10 sign.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So adoption of those  
15 previous minutes. So we've moved up the meeting dates  
16 and place. Karen, would you like to have input at this  
17 point.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
20 Members of the Council.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: The calendar is on  
25 Page -- for the winter Regional Advisory Council  
26 meeting is on Page 446 of your meeting books and you'll  
27 note that the Council has its winter meeting scheduled  
28 for February 16 and 17th in Galena, so unless there's  
29 any changes to that or amendments, we can move on to  
30 the Council's selection of a fall meeting cycle  
31 location and date, which is on Page 447, the calendar  
32 is.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How does the Council  
35 feel about the Galena meeting on February 16 and 17,  
36 there's a lot of new Council members that have been  
37 appointed since this meeting location and time was  
38 selected. I would like to have new membership input  
39 into that.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any discussion on  
44 that meeting place in Galena, or the dates.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kevin, is that good  
49 with you?

50

0025

1 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this  
2 is Kevin. That works for me, it's a long ways off, so  
3 it's hard to predict what's going on then but it works  
4 for me, and the location works, too. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Rebecca.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Rebecca Wilmarth,  
11 are you still on the phone.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you're on the  
16 phone you may still be muted.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I don't hear her  
21 right now, just wanted to get her perspective on that.  
22 And Arnold Demoski, did you join this call.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And he's in  
27 Anchorage on medical you say, Karen.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So do we have  
32 affirmative on the Galena meeting for the Council,  
33 that's good with me but what does the Council feel.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll take a vote on  
38 this. So those in favor of February 16 and 17 meeting  
39 in Galena, signify by saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I hear three  
44 votes. Do we have our full Council members on the  
45 phone, do you know Karen.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, if you'd  
48 like I could do a quick roll call.

49

50

0026

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

4

5 Pollock Simon, have you joined us on

6 the phone.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

11

12 MR. HONEA: Yeah -- yes.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

15

16 Goodwin Semaken.

17

18 MR. SEMAKEN: No.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin, are you still

21 on the phone?

22

23 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes. Yes, and no was my

24 answer.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Goodwin,

27 okay. Kevin Whitworth.

28

29 MR. WHITWORTH: Here.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca, are you still

36 on the phone with us.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: We must have lost

41 Rebecca.

42

43 Jenny Pelkola.

44

45 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Mr. Chair,

48 we have five members on the phone.

49

50

0027

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right, so  
2 we had four votes for and Pollock is on the phone, did  
3 Pollock vote?

4  
5                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, Pollock did  
6 not respond so he's not on the phone yet.

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

9  
10                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, I see. Okay.  
13 So tentatively that's still the meeting place for the  
14 spring meeting, February 16 and 17. So then place and  
15 date, I prefer October meetings for our.....

16  
17                  (Teleconference interference -  
18 participants not muted)

19  
20                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....fall meeting  
21 because we're busy hunting and stuff in September and  
22 -- that's not a good time for.....

23  
24                  REPORTER: So, excuse me. I need  
25 people to mute their phones.

26  
27                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
28 Chair. Yes, if somebody could mute their phone that  
29 would be great, thank you.

30  
31                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, yeah, I hear  
32 somebody -- a lot of noise, background noise of doing  
33 something. If you have your phone open and are not  
34 speaking please mute, star, six.

35  
36                  REPORTER: Yeah, so whoever's going to  
37 be using a microwave or doing kitchen duties, if you  
38 could mute your phone, star, six or your mute button,  
39 thank you.

40  
41                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,  
42 Salena. So is this week good for people, this October  
43 12, 13 timeframe, middle of October, is that good for  
44 Council members. Kevin.

45  
46                  MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this  
47 is Kevin. I would prefer a little bit later in  
48 October. October -- the week of October 17th over the  
49 week of October 10 only because this time of year, if  
50

0028

1 the ice isn't flowing yet, I like to fish all the way  
2 up to -- and it's just -- anyway, October 17th, that  
3 week, any time would be better for me. Thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, great, that's  
6 the kind of comments I want.

7

8 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

11

12 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I would agree with  
13 Kevin. I think sometimes it's a little late here and  
14 people are still in the rivers. Here, like right now,  
15 it's ice free, so that's a -- he makes a good point.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

18

19 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is Jenny.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

22

23 MS. PELKOLA: I don't have any  
24 preference at this time but I don't know if that week,  
25 the 17th, or whatever, that week that Kevin picked,  
26 would coincide with AFN -- not AFN, but one of the  
27 meetings, I don't know which one.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I don't know the  
30 dates of AFN right now.

31

32 (Teleconference interference -  
33 participants not muted)

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: And I'm just.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The week of the 17th  
38 is a good week for me.

39

40 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, it doesn't matter  
41 with me, this is Jenny. Whatever week.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
44 comments. Goodwin.

45

46 MR. SEMAKEN: I like Columbus Day.  
47 Yeah, I was kind of thinking the same way Jenny was,  
48 you know, I think you had their dates pretty good there  
49 but I'll go along with the week of the 17th.

50

0029

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So meeting  
2 dates, what are good dates there, Karen, for the week  
3 of the 17th, it'd be like 19 and 20?

4  
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, thank you.  
6 That entire week is currently open. And I also wanted  
7 to chime in for Member Gervais, I think the latter week  
8 would work well for him, too, because often in the  
9 middle of October he's still on his boat. So -- but  
10 right now the entire week, October 17th through October  
11 21st is open. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So how about  
14 the 19th and 20th of October, Council members.

15  
16 MS. PELKOLA: I don't have a problem.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any objections to  
19 those.

20  
21 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, this is Jenny. I  
22 don't have a calendar in front of me but whatever dates  
23 you pick I'll go with.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's on Page 47 of  
26 your book. Do you have your book?

27  
28 MS. PELKOLA: No, I don't have my book  
29 because I was traveling and it's too heavy to carry.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see, okay. So  
32 that would be -- 19 and 20 is Wednesday and Thursday of  
33 that week. Are those good days of the week for you?

34  
35 MS. PELKOLA: That's good. Sounds  
36 good.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any Council  
39 comments on that.

40  
41 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don, I'm open  
42 to anything.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So  
45 tentatively October 19 and 20, location, Fairbanks,  
46 Council members.

47  
48 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is Jenny.  
49 That sounds good.

50

0030

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Don.

2

3 MR. SEMAKEN: That sounds good, this is  
4 Goodwin.

5

6 MR. HONEA: Yeah, yeah, sounds good.  
7 Great.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Kevin.

10

11 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, that works  
12 for me.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll  
15 pencil those in. Okay, that deals with that issue.  
16 And service awards is No. 8. And, Tom, are you going  
17 to be doing this one, Kron.

18

19 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Our service  
20 award this year goes to Jenny Pelkola for 15 years of  
21 service to the Western Interior Regional Advisory  
22 Council.

23

24 Jenny has served as a subsistence use  
25 representative on the Western Interior Council since  
26 2006. Ms. Pelkola has also served for many years as  
27 the only woman on the Council, which can sometimes be  
28 culturally challenging. Ms. Pelkola has served as Vice  
29 Chair for at least nine of her 15 years on the Council  
30 and was recently required to step in as Chair due to  
31 the delay in the 2020 appointments. There were only  
32 four active members of the Council on the meeting  
33 teleconference last winter, Ms. Pelkola did a superb  
34 job of running the meeting under very challenging  
35 conditions. Ms. Pelkola is acutely aware of Council  
36 protocol and process and actively participates to  
37 ensure that motions and other Council business are  
38 handled smoothly and appropriately. She passionately  
39 speaks out on issues where she believes she has  
40 important input.

41

42 Ms. Pelkola plays an integral role  
43 beyond the Council throughout the subsistence  
44 community. She is an active subsistence user and  
45 spends the majority of the summer months at her  
46 family's fish camp on the Yukon River. She's in  
47 communication with the Loudon Tribal Council in Galena  
48 and brings their issues to the Council's attention at  
49 meetings, including a request for the Council's  
50

0031

1 support. Ms. Pelkola also played a major role in  
2 ensuring that the tribal council participated in  
3 Council meetings held in 2019 in Galena and helped  
4 organize a potluck for the Council and tribal  
5 participants.

6  
7 On behalf of the Federal Subsistence  
8 Program, congratulations and thank you, Jenny, for your  
9 service on behalf of subsistence users in Western  
10 Interior, Alaska.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Tom.

15  
16 (Teleconference interference -  
17 participants not muted)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And thanks so much  
20 for your service, Jenny. I really appreciate you  
21 stepping up to the plate for the Council and the region  
22 and all the work you've done over the years so you're  
23 well deserving of the award.

24  
25 Do you have a speech.

26  
27 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, my goodness, thank  
28 you, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MS. PELKOLA: This was unexpected, how  
33 many of you knew -- how many of you knew about it, I  
34 didn't know. Thank you very much. Holy cripes, I just  
35 want to thank everyone and -- that caught me off guard,  
36 so thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Jenny.  
39 So we're going to move to reports, Council member  
40 reports. And since you were acting as Chair, would you  
41 like to start first, Jenny, for your Council member  
42 report.

43  
44 MS. PELKOLA: Yes, okay. Just give me  
45 a moment, I'm all choked up, yet.

46  
47 Okay, in February I attended the --  
48 through teleconference the Federal Subsistence Board  
49 meeting, which was held in, I think, Anchorage, on  
50

0032

1 January 26th through the 29th, and I learned a lot.  
2 It was very interesting and I just hope that more  
3 Council members with -- you know, try to sit in on that  
4 because you learn a lot. I did.

5  
6 And I didn't participate -- I felt like  
7 I didn't really serve as your Chair as much as I should  
8 have been, I spent most of my time in camp and then my  
9 brother got sick, and that's still an ongoing thing,  
10 and at the end my husband and I both got Covid, and so  
11 he has medical problems so that's another rock thrown  
12 at me. And just a lot of sadness at this time. I  
13 don't know if I can sit in for the whole meeting, I'll  
14 probably stay here until lunch. I do have other things  
15 planned as I'm leaving for home in the morning and I  
16 won't be in on the morning meeting.

17  
18 Let's see, we had a -- due to Covid  
19 there has been limited activities, you know, you can't  
20 go here and can't go there. We had a smooth break up  
21 last spring. And with fishing, there's no fishing. I  
22 got one king salmon, which is unheard of. I've never  
23 seen that in my entire life.

24  
25 Let's see our weather was rainy most of  
26 the summer, didn't participate with us. We didn't get  
27 our berries, we didn't get our moose. And I think I  
28 got four fish from the tribe, which is still in my  
29 freezer.

30  
31 And let's see, what else, I didn't know  
32 too much about the hunting because we were both sick  
33 and we couldn't get out. But we're feeling a lot  
34 better now, my husband is still dealing with illness  
35 and that's why we're up here in Fairbanks, so that's  
36 why I won't be able to make the afternoon meeting.

37  
38 And with that, gee, I just thank you  
39 again for the recognition, I didn't expect it. That's  
40 a fast report.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thanks so  
43 much. Yeah, it was a really tough summer for a lot of  
44 people fishing, and so thanks for your input there.

45  
46 Don, would you like to give a report.

47  
48 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Yeah, good morning  
49 everyone. I got to thank Jenny, my cousin, there, for  
50

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1 her leadership and stepping up when we needed her last  
2 fall and I just have to agree with the words that were  
3 said about her. She's well meaning, she brings  
4 perspective right from the fish camp.

5  
6 And I would have to agree with her, one  
7 of the big things for myself is this fishing thing and  
8 collectively, you know, whether it's ADF&G or TCC or  
9 anything, I think something's got to come to a head  
10 here, I'm really disgusted and unhappy with the fish,  
11 you know, there's so many variables in this thing that  
12 I don't really know where to point at, whether it's  
13 bycatch or whatever it is.

14  
15 But our moose population, our harvest  
16 here, I did not get a moose. I did not have time and I  
17 lost my brother and my father within a week apart here  
18 and it was really disastrous but at least we have some  
19 fish, we have some meat from last fall, so the year  
20 before.

21  
22 But other than that I'd like to see --  
23 I'm really kind of concerned, and talking to Kevin from  
24 Nowitna Wildlife Refuge, and if I could talk to Glenn,  
25 whoever could do something like a population estimate  
26 for the Nowitna Wildlife, and I'm just speaking about  
27 this because we are the closest village to the Nowitna  
28 Wildlife Refuge and it's a concern of ours, a  
29 particular concern of mine for the population. I'd  
30 like to see what the numbers that were harvested that  
31 came out of there because I know a lot of people that  
32 went to the Nowitna didn't get a moose this year and  
33 maybe the numbers might be the same but it's always an  
34 area of concern for us because of the wolf packs that  
35 live -- that are about 30 miles up the river there up  
36 on the Nowitna Wildlife Refuge.

37  
38 And incidentally I forgot all about I  
39 -- I believe that my cousin Tommy Kriska there was  
40 filling in in a seat so I was kind of surprised that  
41 he's not on there and I'm actually missing Pollock.  
42 It's too bad that someone can't give him a call at his  
43 home and walk him through this because I think he's --  
44 we need that -- his advice, we need his perspective of  
45 what's going on in his area there. And I welcome the  
46 new members, Rebecca, Kevin and Arnold. I'd like to --  
47 I like the idea of somebody calling in, whether it was  
48 from Georgetown or something, but I'd really like to  
49 see the McGrath area, or all areas represented and it's  
50

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1 really good -- it says something when a village  
2 council, or whatever, calls in and maybe they have a  
3 concern, but maybe they have something they want to  
4 share with us.

5  
6 With that, I welcome other views and I  
7 appreciate that.

8  
9 Mr. Chair, thank you.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much, Don.  
12 Appreciate your report. Goodwin, would you like to  
13 give a report.

14  
15 MR. SEMAKEN: Good morning. It's been  
16 slow down here. Thanks just the four fish we got from  
17 the Bristol Bay area, I guess, there's certainly going  
18 to be a shortage of fish this winter, that's for sure.  
19 There's a lot of concern about this hunters coming down  
20 from Fairbanks by boat and doing their moose hunt  
21 across here in Kaiyuh Flats. I don't know what  
22 protocol is used to have a Federal hunt but it seems  
23 like if they're going to permit those, it should be  
24 done here in Kaltag, if you're going to release those  
25 permits on the Federal side.

26  
27 And some of this, like this Kaiyuh --  
28 it seems to be -- some of it was made with Doyon lands  
29 and it's not accessible by water, it says, but, Doyon,  
30 no hunting on their lands yet there's trespassing going  
31 up to the Refuge. That's our main concern around here  
32 and I got a lot of calls about it. That's the first  
33 time we've seen that much hunters down here, that much  
34 boats.

35  
36 That's about it for now.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, there's  
39 a lot of hunters who are being pushed further away.  
40 There was like hundreds of trucks and trailers at the  
41 Yukon River bridge so a lot of those hunters go down  
42 river to hunt. It sounds like they've extended all the  
43 way to your country and below. So thanks so much,  
44 Goodwin, appreciate that.

45  
46 Kevin, would you like to give a report.

47  
48 MR. WHITWORTH: Sure, Mr. Chair, can  
49 you hear me?

50

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1                                 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can hear you fine,  
2 go right ahead.

3  
4                                 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay, I'll be brief.  
5 First, congratulations Mr. Chair, and, Don, for your  
6 positions on the Western Interior RAC. And also,  
7 congratulations, Jenny, for your award, that's well  
8 deserved.

9  
10                                Through the summer I represented the  
11 Western Interior RAC at the Kuskokwim River Salmon  
12 Management Working Group meetings, they're weekly  
13 meetings, with people from the entire Kuskokwim River,  
14 from the headwaters to the bay. I did my best on that  
15 meeting. I won't get into too many details, but please  
16 ask if there is any questions as far as my  
17 representation there, and it is a bullet item later on  
18 in the agenda and I could give a more thorough report  
19 if you guys would like. But, anyhow, I'll continue to  
20 go to those meetings and I don't mind representing the  
21 Western Interior RAC. I also am seated as an alternate  
22 for the upper Kuskokwim but I would prefer to be the  
23 seat for the Western Interior RAC.

24  
25                                So several concerns this summer that I  
26 saw and this fall, chinook and chum salmon, you know,  
27 both on the Yukon and Kuskokwim were very low. People  
28 aren't getting what they need. And it's been a very  
29 long time since people have gotten what they need for  
30 chinook salmon. And I thought, you know, in 2019, when  
31 we were maybe recovering chinook salmon, the run come  
32 back down, we haven't recovered. And then on top of  
33 the chinook salmon issues we had chum salmon in the  
34 past two years, collapse. You know in 2020, I didn't  
35 think chum would get any lower, it seemed like the  
36 bottom, but, really 2021 was worse. This year, for me,  
37 personally, you know, I catch anywhere from 200 to 300  
38 chinook salmon -- I mean chum salmon, and I caught less  
39 than 10, and a lot of that's been fall chum here in the  
40 upper Kuskokwim. I mean it surprised the heck out of  
41 me. Through the summer I caught like one or two chum.  
42 And my son is the one who caught it, he was fishing --  
43 no, I think we were fishing for silvers, so it was  
44 later in the summer, he says, dad, look at that fish,  
45 it looks different and it was a chum salmon, which  
46 that's the most common fish we usually catch up here.  
47 This year it was a disaster for chum and chinook. One  
48 concern of mine, too, is Kuskokwim has a healthy  
49 sockeye run but because we have area closures, we have  
50

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1 gear restrictions, we have very limited openers, it's  
2 hard to, I guess, capitalize on the sockeye run here in  
3 the Kuskokwim. But Fish and Wildlife Service, they are  
4 trying to promote the use of dipnets and it is  
5 effective so I encourage folks on the Kuskokwim to try  
6 the use of dipnets for the sockeye salmon. The one  
7 thing, for sockeye, is we don't get them here in the  
8 upper Kuskokwim, they rarely come up here, they do come  
9 up here, but most of them take a right-hand turn on the  
10 Stony River, you know, down river from us, they go up  
11 towards Lime Village. So even though some people might  
12 say, you know, sockeye salmon is kind of saving the  
13 Kuskokwim, really, up above Stony River village, that's  
14 not the case. You know we get chinook and chum up here  
15 but those numbers are very low, we don't get sockeye  
16 salmon, so we're putting a lot of pressure on other  
17 species like whitefish, sheefish and stuff like that.  
18 So it's a concern of mine.

19  
20 Also this fall, we just got a report  
21 from ADF&G, Fish and Game here in McGrath, I saw, I  
22 think about 44 moose had been taken, which is probably  
23 a third of what's usually taken. The fall survey last  
24 year was very good, it looked encouraging for the upper  
25 Kuskokwim for moose but something happened this year  
26 and there was a lot of grizzly bears and they were  
27 targeting moose and I believe it was because we had so  
28 low chinook and chum numbers up in the headwaters,  
29 these grizzly bears were having to do something else to  
30 find food for the fall and winter, and local guys think  
31 that they were targeting moose. You know out the road  
32 here in McGrath, there's a 15 mile road, normally 15 to  
33 18 moose are taken, this year there was like three.  
34 There's good moose numbers but they're just being  
35 chased by griz or something, I don't know what was  
36 going on but very few moose were taken.

37  
38 Lots of friends of mine, they go dall  
39 sheep hunting up in the Alaska Range, they came back  
40 way sooner than they normally -- they'd stay a week up  
41 there but the reports they were seeing from  
42 transporters and guides was that the sheep just weren't  
43 up there between the SouthFork of the Kuskokwim and the  
44 Big River, up in the Alaska Range out there, very few  
45 legal dall sheep were taken. Normally the first two  
46 days, or three days is when the majority of those --  
47 because it's so competitive, that the first two days,  
48 or three days, the majority of the sheep have been  
49 taken, but after two or three days this year Fish and  
50

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1 Game was saying that there was just very few legal  
2 rams. That's a concern of mine. People of Nikolai go  
3 up there for those, there's camps up in the upper Big  
4 River, people from Nikolai that go there to hunt sheep  
5 and I don't know how they did but the reports from what  
6 I heard it was very slim.

7

8 The other thing that's concerning to me  
9 is the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and what's going on  
10 there. It's just so low in numbers, now people are  
11 having to -- they don't have chinook salmon, they don't  
12 have chum salmon, the moose hunting was not very good.  
13 Dall sheep are down, caribou are down, everything's  
14 closed, so all this is very concerning to me and people  
15 are not getting what they need. And a lot of the  
16 people on the river are concerned that agencies, they  
17 need to take this seriously and start thinking about  
18 the local people so they can get what they need for --  
19 just to feed their families.

20

21 So that's all, thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much for  
24 that report, it brings out a lot of issues that are  
25 affecting other areas. So, Karen, can you get a hold  
26 of Vince Mathews for Pollock Simon's home phone number.  
27 He's in contact with -- I've looked all through my  
28 papers here and I can't find Pollock's number anywheres  
29 but we need Pollock on the line.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: I have called all  
36 three numbers that I have for Pollock, two of them went  
37 straight to voicemail, the other one I left a  
38 voicemail. I do have the correct numbers, and there's  
39 just no answer.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: And, also, I'm not  
44 sure why he didn't receive his materials because they  
45 were at the post office last week. I know he was on  
46 travel but I'm not sure why they're not answering the  
47 phone. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Okay,

50

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1 appreciate that. So that's all of the Council members  
2 that we have right now on the call that I know of. Did  
3 Rebecca get back on here?

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 MR. SIMON: This is Pollock.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Pollock, you're  
10 there, well, good we've been looking for you.

11  
12 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I was in there this  
13 morning and I'm listening to all the conversations.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're doing  
16 Council reports right now so would you like to give a  
17 Council member report.

18  
19 MR. SIMON: Yes, I would like to make a  
20 report, thank you. Yeah, July has been wet weather,  
21 it's just kind of dried up a little but August was a  
22 lot of rain and wind and high water. Moose hunting was  
23 great, in the slough and a little -- but the moose  
24 didn't move until later so hunting moose was kind of  
25 slow. My kids had to go out three times and the third  
26 time they got a moose. But -- not everybody got moose  
27 but they shared meat.

28  
29 It's rained quite a bit and fish  
30 cutting was not too good. We had -- I had only four  
31 inch mesh nets set in and that was the only one legal  
32 and so I catch whitefish and pikes and sometimes --  
33 every day I catch two dog salmon -- two dog salmon and  
34 flies -- female eggs -- I didn't like catching too many  
35 females that are going to the spawning grounds but they  
36 catch in the smaller net. But I also caught two king  
37 salmon in my four inch mesh so that was good. But  
38 otherwise it's okay.

39  
40 Yeah, I listened to the TV, I watch the  
41 TV quite a bit and it's where those -- those United  
42 States, the rest of the United States is a lot of fire  
43 and people's losing their homes and eastern United  
44 States there's too much water, they get flooded out, it  
45 damages their home. But here, anyway, in Allakaket,  
46 life is great, but there's only one problem, we don't  
47 have no salmon. Peoples get sick with the Covid19  
48 virus that -- but we're surviving so life is great here  
49 in Allakaket.

50

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1 So that's all, thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,  
5 Pollock. I'm glad you're on the phone here, appreciate  
6 your comments. Is Rebecca Wilmarth on here.

7

8

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
11 Karen.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,  
Pollock. I'm glad you're on the phone here, appreciate  
your comments. Is Rebecca Wilmarth on here.

(No comments)

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
Karen.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca had gotten cut  
off and she said she was trying to get back on.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, is that right,  
okay.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, but she got cut  
off. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, I'd  
like to get her report as a new member whenever she can  
get back on. So I don't think we have any other  
Council members here and so I'll give this Chair's  
report.

I felt it was very important to get  
Kevin Whitworth to represent the Western Interior  
Council to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Work Group and to  
have representation for the Kuskokwim River since we've  
had -- since Ray Collins' passed away there has been  
virtually little representation by the Western Interior  
on the very important Kuskokwim River issues. Last  
year, in 2020, I was representing the Council but I  
don't actually live on the Kuskokwim River, I have  
concerns, deep concerns about the Kuskokwim River  
management and the salmon meeting escapement needs on  
the Kuskokwim River. I do want to bring up that we've  
had many elders pass away this summer, and so I --  
there was a lot of information that was conveyed to me  
by these various elders, Raymond Paneak, up in  
Anaktuvuk Pass, I'm on the Gates of the Arctic  
Subsistence Resource Commission, he was the Chairman  
for many years, he passed away recently. And we learn  
a lot of things from these elders so I'm sad about  
losing these elders.

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1                   This summer was really wet here, unlike  
2 Fairbanks, who lived in the eye of the storm, where it  
3 was a nice summer. Most of the rest of -- there was a  
4 little dry stretch in July but early and late it just  
5 rained and rained and it was very cold and rainy, which  
6 is actually, for caribou and dall sheep, it's an  
7 advantage to have that kind of weather because they eat  
8 a lot of flowers, the pollinating insects can't fly, so  
9 those rainy summers are actually advantageous to those  
10 grazing animals, dall sheep and caribou.

11  
12                   I'm really concerned about the dall  
13 sheep population in the Central Brooks Range here on  
14 the south slope and everything from the Atigun Valley  
15 to the west is also real poor on the North Slope.  
16 These dall sheep populations took real beatings in 2018  
17 and '19, we had deep snow early, we had rain on snow in  
18 October, we had a lot of snow, we had 12.5 feet of snow  
19 fall out of the sky in '18/19 winter and then it rained  
20 on snow again at the end of the winter glazing the  
21 mountains, decimating the sheep population. 2020 it  
22 started into deep snow, rain on snow in October, and the  
23 next winter also another deep snow year and then rain  
24 on snow at the end of the winter, decimating the rest  
25 of the sheep population. So right now there's very few  
26 adult rams. Most of the sheep, and I aged them with a  
27 spotting scope, most of the rams that are alive right  
28 now are four, five and six years old. Six years old is  
29 sub-legal. I've watched hunters stalking with archers,  
30 bow hunters, stalking 7/8ths rams with the intention to  
31 kill them. They were furiously going after them and  
32 fortunately for the sheep they evaded the hunters. But  
33 there is a lot of hunters that had their sheep seized  
34 by Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Palmer. So  
35 there's so few legal rams that some of these hunters  
36 were actually taking sub-legal sheep or attempting to  
37 take and so sheep are being -- a lot of these younger  
38 rams are being killed before they're actually legal.  
39 This is a problem. Because we only have three cohorts  
40 right now, there's no young sheep below that. The  
41 cohort that we have right now behind them is lambs born  
42 this spring. A real good lamb production in the sheep  
43 population looks like it increased dramatically, but  
44 that's baby sheep that are not recruited and we got a  
45 high wolf population here right now, deep snow is  
46 driving the wolf population way up and the wolf  
47 population is really high right now and our hare  
48 population has declined, the moose population is way  
49 down because of the deep snow, and the dall sheep  
50

0041

1 population is low, and every last sheep is important to  
2 this population. So I feel that there was -- last year  
3 I counted lambs, there was about 10 lambs per 100 ewes,  
4 which is not that many, very few yearlings that went  
5 into the population this last winter. I'm super  
6 concerned about this dall sheep population and I want  
7 to discuss when we get to the BLM issues starting with  
8 the clients and the number of hunters and take of dall  
9 sheep on the BLM lands. This is a Federal Subsistence  
10 Council, and anything that affects subsistence can be  
11 addressed by this Council.

12

13 Our hare populations being so low that  
14 the lynx have migrated away. They have GPS collars on  
15 these lynx and a lot of the lynx has left the Brooks  
16 Range and some of them are way over in the McKenzie  
17 River, some of them are in Southern Alaska, they went  
18 all over the place. Lynx are very migratory when the  
19 hare populations decline.

20

21 I'm super concerned about the Yukon  
22 River salmon issues. Even with full on, virtually  
23 little, to hardly any harvest of salmon, the  
24 populations were not making the international  
25 agreements of chinook into Canada. And some of the  
26 lowest runs on record for chum salmon in the Kuskokwim  
27 and the Yukon River. This is a huge issue for people  
28 as everybody's stating. I didn't even fish. I usually  
29 go down to the Yukon River to go fishing, I didn't even  
30 want to put a net in the river, not even a small mesh  
31 net with the risk of catching one female chum salmon, I  
32 didn't want to do that. So I didn't go fishing at all  
33 in the Yukon River.

34

35 And so the Mulchatna Caribou Herd issue  
36 is another giant issue. The herd went from 200,000 in  
37 1997 to 22,500 and it grows a little bit and now it's  
38 down at just under 13,000. This is a giant issue. And  
39 so we need to think really conservatively about the  
40 population of that caribou herd.

41

42 The Arctic Caribou populations, the  
43 Central Brooks Range, the central areas of the Brooks  
44 Range have not had caribou, significant numbers for over  
45 50 years. Now, the Porcupine Caribou Herd, which is  
46 large has been moving to the west and just in the last  
47 week there were Porcupine caribou crossing the Dalton  
48 Highway going to the west. Just below Coldfoot -- I  
49 went for about a 30 mile stretch there and there's  
50

0042

1 small bunches of Porcupine caribou going straight west.  
2 This area has a lot of lichen for their use, the  
3 Central Arctic has been using the northern portions up  
4 in the high parts of the mountains, and the Western  
5 herd has been here occasionally, but this is the first  
6 time that some of the big herds have actually started  
7 to migrate here and a lot of caribou went through  
8 Anaktuvuk last week when the bulls were right before  
9 the rut and people are super happy because they  
10 harvested a lot of really fat bull caribou right before  
11 they went into rut when you can't eat those large bulls  
12 anymore.

13

14 So those are the issues that we have  
15 here. Those are the conditions, they're -- we have  
16 hardly any snow yet. I'm real happy about that. These  
17 sheep need every little boost. If we have perfect  
18 conditions this population of sheep might stabilize.  
19 Right now it's still in decline because we have wolf  
20 predation and we have such small numbers. These baby  
21 lambs that are born this year, and the researchers are  
22 going to tell you how the population has expanded big  
23 time, it's like unh-unh, the population is very low and  
24 is tottering and we need to restrict the number of  
25 hunters that are harvesting the remaining breeding rams  
26 that we have.

27

28 So those would be my comments right  
29 now. Any questions from Council members.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So hearing none,  
34 we're going to go to Agenda Item -- Karen, what do you  
35 think about breaks.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think it would be a  
38 good time to take a quick break before you call for  
39 public and tribal comment on non-agenda items.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Council  
44 members, we should take a 10 minute break. Everybody's  
45 home so you don't have to go down the hall to the  
46 bathroom or anything, so we'll take a 10 minute break.  
47 I got 10:30 so at 10:40 we'll come back on record.

48

49 10 minute break.

50

0043

1 MR. SIMON: That's fine with me.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

4

5 MR. HONEA: That's fine with me, Mr.

6 Chair.

7

8 MR. SEMAKEN: Okay with me, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So 10 minutes.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it's 10:40 now,  
17 and so we'll come back on the call. Who's online here.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there,

22 Karen.

23

24 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is

25 Kevin.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Kevin, go  
28 ahead, and Karen.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I'm online,  
31 I had to unmute me.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: And so we might want  
36 to do a roll call to make sure we have all the Council  
37 members back on board, and then ask if anybody new has  
38 joined us since this morning's introductions, if they  
39 could introduce themselves. Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go right ahead,  
42 call the roll.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 Pollock Simon.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0044

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

6

7 MR. SEMAKEN: Here.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi Goodwin.

10

11 Kevin Whitworth.

12

13 MR. WHITWORTH: Here.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca, are you back  
20 on the phone with us.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.

25

26 (Teleconference interference -  
27 participants not muted)

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: So Mr. Chair, we're  
32 missing Pollock, Don Honea and Jenny Pelkola.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So.....

35

36 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, I'm back  
37 on.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Jenny. Are  
40 you there, Don.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: I would like to remind  
45 everybody again, please, please mute your phones when  
46 you're not speaking. We're getting a lot of background  
47 noise. And also reminder to please don't put us on  
48 hold. So use star, six if you're on a landline to mute  
49 yourselves and the mute button on your cell phone.

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0045

1 Thank you.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this time, while we're waiting for Don to get back on, if anybody's joined the call since this morning when we kind of had introductions, you can introduce yourself and who you're with or who you're representing. Has anybody else joined the call.

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

MS. ATKINSON: Hi, this is.....

MR. GUSSEY: .....Walker Gussey with the Bureau of Land Management out of Anchorage. I understand Karen may have introduced me but just wanted to say hello and happy to be here.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say your name again.

MR. GUSSEY: This is Walker Gussey with the Bureau of Land Management.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Walker. Do we have another lady, go ahead.

MS. ATKINSON: Hi, this is Hannah Atkinson with the National Park Service. I'm in the office in Kotzebue that manages Noatak National Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park and Cape Krusenstern National Monument. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Hannah. Anybody else join.

MS. WESSELS: Hi, this is Katya Wessels. I am with the Office of Subsistence Management, Council Coordination Division, Supervisor. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Katya. Anybody else.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is Lisa Grediagin, the Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Lisa. Anybody

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1 else.

2

3 MR. GRAY: Hi, everyone, this is Ben  
4 Gray with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm  
5 a Fishery Manager, the Assistant Area Management  
6 Biologist for the Kuskokwim area.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
9 Anyone else.

10

11 MR. LAMARR: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is  
12 Tim LaMarr with the Bureau of Land Management, Field  
13 Manager for the Central Yukon Field Office out of  
14 Fairbanks.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Tim.  
17 Anybody else.

18

19 MS. DECKER: Hello. My name is Sam  
20 Decker, I'm with Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
21 Fairbanks.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And what's the  
24 capacity.

25

26

27 MS. DECKER: I'm the Assistant Area  
28 Management Biologist for the Yukon River Summer Season.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
31 Anybody else.

32

33 MR. CHYTHLOOK: John Chythlook with  
34 Fish and Game, Sportfish Division.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: John, good morning.

37

38 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Good morning.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: John, what is your  
41 last name again -- John, sorry.

42

43 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Chythlook, C-H-Y-T-H-L-  
44 O-O-K.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very much.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anyone else on the  
49 call.

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1 MS. ROGERS: Hi. This is Alissa Nadine  
2 Rogers. I sit on the YKDelta RAC.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning,  
5 Alissa. Anybody else.

6  
7 MR. VENT: Darrell Vent, Huslia.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say again.

10  
11 MR. VENT: Darrell Vent, Huslia.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Darrell. Good  
14 morning, Darrell. Any other persons that have called  
15 in since this morning.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't hear any so  
20 we're going to go to public and tribal comments on non-  
21 agenda items and that's provided each morning. So do  
22 we have any tribal entities that would like to comment,  
23 that would be tribal councils, TCC, AVCP, any tribal  
24 organization.

25  
26 MR. IRVINE: Hi, this is Bruce with  
27 TCC.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Bruce.

30  
31 MR. IRVINE: Thank you, Chairman Jack,  
32 and the WIRAC Council members, Rebecca, Don, Pollock,  
33 Kevin, Arnold, Timothy, Jenny and Goodwin, for this  
34 opportunity to provide my public and tribal comment.  
35 My name is Bruce Irvine and I'm an upper Tanana Dene'  
36 living in Tok and I work for the TCC Tribal Resource  
37 Stewardship Program, which includes the Hunting,  
38 Fishing Taskforce and the Yukon River InterTribal Fish  
39 Commission.

40  
41 So I'd like to start off by mentioning  
42 the poor Kuskokwim and Yukon chinook and chum runs and  
43 the harvest needs not being met. We need more  
44 information on the salmon bycatch issues in the Area M  
45 and Bering Sea fisheries. We need the State of Alaska  
46 and the Federal Government to do more to help with this  
47 situation. Not only are the salmon runs poor this year  
48 but the moose hunting season is poor as well.

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1                           After hearing from a lot of rural  
2 tribal members that they didn't harvest a moose, it is  
3 apparent that there is something out of bounds. In one  
4 of our previous meetings that we had recently it was  
5 mentioned that the Yukon River is heavily monitored and  
6 regulated during the salmon season, but as soon as the  
7 salmon season is done and the moose season starts the  
8 same monitoring and regulating is not there. We have  
9 talked to tribal members from upper Tanana at their  
10 culture camp this summer and they mentioned that last  
11 year hardly anyone harvested a moose. This is a big  
12 concern. And it's starting to paint a picture that  
13 moose numbers are low across Interior Alaska. And with  
14 climate change the remaining moose are starting to move  
15 later in the season. We would like to be proactive and  
16 propose some type of change and action. Maybe we can  
17 plan for next year by creating an extended moose season  
18 to help those tribal members who live along the  
19 Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers. We need action now.  
20 Because if the salmon season next year is like the poor  
21 season this year, we need alternative ways for food  
22 security and ability to practice and protect our ways  
23 of life.

24  
25                           So I just want to say thank you again  
26 for giving me this chance to share, and thank you.

27  
28                           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Bruce.  
29 Does anybody have questions for Bruce from the Council.

30  
31                           (No comments)

32  
33                           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, well, thanks so  
34 much. I think everybody's in agreement that the moose  
35 populations are lower than they were and much harder to  
36 catch. A lot of the moose here were really high and  
37 way out of reach, they were way back and way high and  
38 they're spread out because of the predation. Bears and  
39 wolves are chasing them around too much so they got  
40 spread all over the place.

41  
42                           Any other tribal or public comments at  
43 this time.

44  
45                           (No comments)

46  
47                           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you want to  
48 make.....

49  
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0049

1 MR. VENT: Hello, Jack, this is.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....a comment,

4 Alissa.

5

6 MR. VENT: Hello, Jack, this is

7 Darrell.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead,

10 Darrell.

11

12 MR. VENT: Yeah, I'd like to make a  
13 comment about what Bruce is talking about there. Right  
14 now we're facing some shortages here and we would  
15 really like for looking into the high seas fisheries  
16 about, you know, bycatch and the numbers they've been  
17 talking about. I know we spoke about this for years  
18 but now it's becoming a real matter that -- I think  
19 international waters are affecting our -- international  
20 fishing are affecting our fish here in the Yukon and  
21 the Koyukuk River.

22

23 And also the proposed road that's going  
24 to be coming into our headwaters, we're really  
25 concerned about how we're going to be able to  
26 subsistence use, which is customary and traditional to  
27 us. It's becoming more and more concern from the  
28 villages that we won't be able to utilize our cultural  
29 and traditional uses because of the way the mining and  
30 high seas fishing and everything that's affecting our  
31 areas plus the road that's being proposed to come in.  
32 So I just want to make a point that we need to really  
33 consider about how that proposed road that is coming in  
34 is not going to affect our subsistence. They need to  
35 make sure that we have some input on how we get that  
36 road proposed through our head waters there. And it's  
37 concerning because I see years from now we're not going  
38 to have any way of utilizing subsistence with the  
39 amount of, you know, intrusion into our areas. So I'd  
40 like you to make sure that, you know, we consider that  
41 when they start working on this road proposal. I know  
42 that they're quite a ways along in there but we have  
43 not been able to put our information in there, which is  
44 our areas of use on the land, and we need to make sure  
45 we're not left out on the process.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrell.

50

0050

1 And you're referring to the Ambler Access Road that the  
2 State of Alaska, Alaska Industrial Development Export  
3 Authority has appropriated several million dollars of  
4 work this summer. There's helicopters, there were five  
5 helicopters flying out of Coldfoot. They were doing  
6 river crossing inventory survey work and also  
7 archeological inventories. There's up to 40 something  
8 people at a time staying at Coldfoot flying out of  
9 there. There's a subsistence group that's supposed to  
10 be formed by the companies or the State of Alaska to  
11 advise and I would encourage Huslia, Allakaket, Alatna,  
12 Evansville to get on that subsistence advisory group  
13 that's going to be discussing the subsistence effects  
14 of the Ambler Road. So that would be my comment to  
15 your comment, Darrell.

16

17 MR. VENT: Yes, Jack, that is exactly  
18 what I am talking about there. Because before, in 1972  
19 to '74 we talked about our caribou herds that we used  
20 to get in the falltime and that was our subsistence  
21 areas that they utilized to run the Pipeline through  
22 and now we have no caribou here and we've been  
23 utilizing over around the Shungnak, Ambler and the hot  
24 springs area, and if they put this proposed road  
25 through that would completely cut off our subsistence  
26 use of caribou. So I just wanted to make sure that  
27 it's noted in this meeting. That way if it has to come  
28 about we have it documented because we did not have  
29 anything documented before.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,  
34 Darrell. The Western Interior Council could also  
35 request a representative to that State subsistence  
36 advisory group. I'm not exactly sure, they were  
37 talking about forming a group. So thanks for those  
38 comments, Darrell, appreciate that. Any other comments  
39 from the public on non-agenda items, or tribal  
40 comments.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So not hearing  
45 any.....

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
48 Karen Deatherage.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,  
2 Karen.

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 I did want to respond to Mr. Irvine's concerns about  
6 the Yukon River and the moose hunting and how he  
7 recommended pro-action. One of the programs that we  
8 did a lot of outreach on this year is the Federal  
9 designated hunter program. I'm not sure how many of  
10 you are familiar with it. But it's a program that  
11 allows a Federally-qualified subsistence user to hunt  
12 on behalf of another Federally-qualified subsistence  
13 user on Federal lands. And because we realize a lot of  
14 folks that fish don't necessarily hunt we thought this  
15 was a good opportunity to get out to the folks along  
16 the rivers to let them know that this program was  
17 available. There are some stipulations but if anybody  
18 would like additional information about that program  
19 and be involved, I'd be happy to send them that. We do  
20 have a wonderful fact sheet. The Refuges and the Parks  
21 are involved in issuing permits. So we're ready to go  
22 with this program for those that need it.

23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Karen.  
27 Yes, that's a good time for the public to know that  
28 they can -- you know, you might not have a boat or a  
29 rifle or anything but you can designate your hunting --  
30 your ability to harvest a moose to a designated hunter  
31 so you could get meat. So that's a program that the  
32 Federal Subsistence Board has provided. Any other  
33 comments.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
38 old business, Item No. 11 -- did we have another  
39 comment.

40  
41 MR. IRVINE: Hi, Chairman Jack, this is  
42 Bruce. I was going to just say thank you to Karen for  
43 bringing that up. I appreciate the meeting that we had  
44 with them this year in learning about that opportunity  
45 and, you know, I'm really glad that that's available  
46 and hopefully we'll get that out there and get the word  
47 out to everybody and make sure that they all know about  
48 it. And so I just wanted to say thanks.

49  
50

0052

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Bruce.  
2 If you could get the word out that'd be great. Any  
3 other public or tribal comments.

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So then we'll.....

8  
9 MR. VENT: This is Darrell, Jack.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrell.

12  
13 MR. VENT: Okay. I just wanted to make  
14 one little comment about, you know, hunting on Federal  
15 lands. We do hunt on Federal lands over here in  
16 Huslia, but the problem we have is we have complication  
17 with predators and it's always been an issue to us.  
18 And I just want to make a note that our predators are  
19 really competing with us now because the fish is not  
20 there no more and so they're competing with us for our  
21 moose and they've really been working on the calves so  
22 I just want to make a note, you know, that we have to  
23 start thinking about what are we going to do to help  
24 our people with the predators that are increasing in  
25 numbers.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Western  
30 Interior Council has been proactive on liberalizing  
31 seasons and bag limits for predators to, not excessive  
32 amounts, but right now there's opportunity with  
33 regulation to take predators. The Federal government  
34 basically refuses to have any kind of predator control  
35 efforts if that's what you're referring to. So they're  
36 not going to go there. But there is opportunity to  
37 harvest predators.

38  
39 So any other comments.

40  
41 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chairman, this is Ken  
42 Chase.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ken.

45  
46 MR. CHASE: I have a question for  
47 Darrell Vent there, not as an RIT for Innoko, but as a  
48 private citizen. I'm just curious, he's speaking on  
49 predators on Federal lands up in that area, and what is  
50

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1 the situation on black bears up in that country now. I  
2 know that Huslia, up area, use black bear a lot yet for  
3 their personal use for subsistence, I'm just curious to  
4 see how the population is up there because down in our  
5 region here we really lost our black bear population in  
6 the last five years.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrell.

9

10 MR. VENT: Jack, this is Darrell.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

13

14 MR. VENT: Yeah, you know, we have been  
15 using the black bear as a food source for years and the  
16 only problem I see is we're competing with the  
17 grizzlies, the big animal, they've been taking a lot of  
18 the black bear, they've been taking moose calves. They  
19 -- the only reason that they're increasing on that,  
20 that we have noticed, is that there's no fish in the  
21 river. Utilizing that fish way up in the tributaries,  
22 that's where they used to go to catch their -- the  
23 falltime before they go into their dens, you know,  
24 they've been fattening up on fish but the last -- we  
25 noticed in the last two years that they've been really  
26 working on the calves, and the bears, the black bears.  
27 They've been getting them right out of the holes. So  
28 we're competing against a different predator now and  
29 it's increasing also with the wolves. I noticed that  
30 there's a pack of 30 down there around the Dalbi area,  
31 so we're really getting hit because they're not able  
32 to, you know, get their needs met with the fish and  
33 other resources that they utilize.

34

35 So that's my comment there, thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

38

39 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ken.

42

43 MR. HONEA: Hey, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair,  
44 could you hear me, this is Don.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Don. Don, go  
47 ahead.

48

49 MR. HONEA: Yeah, hey I had a question

50

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1 -- if -- I had a question for Bruce. Well, I want to  
2 thank Bruce for his little presentation there. You  
3 know we have the same concerns along with Darrell and  
4 everybody else about the fishing thing but I was  
5 wondering if I was kind of jumping the gun here in  
6 talking about the -- I would like to see what actually  
7 -- what Ben at TCC or Serena or anybody else -- I mean  
8 maybe we're going to have this conversation tomorrow or  
9 something but I was -- I'm just so concerned about this  
10 that I think there should be a concentrated effort for  
11 every organization out there that has to do with fish  
12 as to what we can actually do for the -- even if we got  
13 to work with the Kuskokwim Working Group or whatever it  
14 takes. I mean I'm hoping some good suggestions, some  
15 good conversations on this as to, you know, are we just  
16 going to live with it. Maybe it's too soon but I  
17 appreciate Bruce's stand there.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Don.  
22 Yeah, we have -- we're going to talk about -- lower in  
23 the agenda, when we get to Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish  
24 Commission, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association,  
25 those are going to be agenda items later on in the --  
26 probably tomorrow, so we got some other stuff before  
27 the fishery issue. But we are going to address that.  
28 Thanks for your comment.

29

30 MR. HONEA: All right, thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any other public  
33 comments at this time.

34

35 MR. IRVINE: Hi, Chairman Jack, this is  
36 Bruce.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,  
39 Bruce.

40

41 MR. IRVINE: Thank you, Chairman. Thank  
42 you, Council Member Don. This.....

43

44 (Teleconference interference -  
45 participants not muted - on hold)

46

47 MR. IRVINE: .....send me an email or  
48 we can work something out and, you know, have some more  
49 discussion on the topic. And maybe after we talk about  
50

0055

1 it later on the agenda, but, thank you, I appreciate  
2 it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for  
5 your response. So we're going to move to old business,  
6 No. 11, this is the .805(c) report. Karen.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9 I'm going to do a brief update on the .805(c) report  
10 and the annual report reply. The Council members  
11 should have received both of these as letters but  
12 they're also included in your meeting books. And  
13 speaking on that topic I do want to apologize to  
14 Pollock Simon. Last week when I looked up your  
15 tracking for the meeting materials it showed that it  
16 was in Allakaket for pickup. I just looked at it again  
17 and it shows it went back to Anchorage and then to  
18 McGrath and is now back in Anchorage, and is on it's  
19 way to you. I want to apologize for that. I have no  
20 idea what happened. These were sent out three to four  
21 weeks ago, these materials. So I'm willing to do  
22 whatever you need, Pollock, to help you navigate this  
23 meeting without the materials.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen. Do you have  
30 a book available in Fairbanks you can take over to  
31 Wright Air and put it on the afternoon flight?

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: I do not have a book  
34 available at this time.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can OSM put it on  
37 Alaska Airlines and send it up to you or somebody that  
38 can put it on Wright Air, they have an afternoon flight  
39 coming up here departing Fairbanks at 1:00 o'clock.

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: We can certainly try.  
42 At this point I'm not sure how the flights are going to  
43 be able to get out there but we can certainly try.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, they have an  
46 afternoon regular flight, they have a twice daily  
47 schedule into Allakaket, so there's going to be a plane  
48 leaving at 1:00 o'clock. So if they can get that book  
49 up there at least today to you or to somebody that can  
50

0056

1 pick it up and give it to Wright Air, or send it  
2 directly to Wright Air. Wright Air's got planes going  
3 to Allakaket. If they put it in the mail it's never  
4 going to get there.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Right, it's not going  
7 to get there in the mail and it left the distribution  
8 center today from Anchorage so I don't know that it's  
9 going to get there today either. It might get there  
10 tomorrow into Allakaket. But my suspicion is the mail  
11 is in the afternoon so it wouldn't get there until then  
12 anyway. So we can check with the Refuge offices. I  
13 have no way of printing right now plus I need to  
14 facilitate the meeting but we can check with the Refuge  
15 offices and see if we can get some help to get a book  
16 over to Wright Air, so great suggestion there, thank  
17 you very much. So it looks like BLM said they could  
18 print it and get it to Wright Air, wonderful people.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's exactly  
21 what I was going to say, there's people that are  
22 in.....

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, so thank  
25 you.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....Fairbanks that  
28 can print.....

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....BLM. And  
31 that.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....that book  
34 and.....

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....would be great,  
37 Erin, I will check in with you in regards to payment  
38 and things like that shortly, thank you very much.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, I  
41 apprecia.....

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, so Pollock,  
44 we're working on this, we'll get you what we can. In  
45 the mean time a lot of the information is going to be  
46 shared with you over the phone and so hopefully that  
47 will help you to make any decisions you have to make.

48

49 Right now I do want to refer everybody

50

0057

1 to Page 12 and 13 of your meeting materials. This is  
2 what we call the .805(c) report, which is a report that  
3 the Board provides to the Council to let them know  
4 about the fisheries proposals from the last fisheries  
5 cycle and how the Board responded to the Council's  
6 recommendations. So I'll briefly share with you the  
7 proposals that the Board passed and concurred with the  
8 Council on and those that they did not.

9

10 On Fishery Proposal 21-01 which  
11 eliminated Federal regulations that described precisely  
12 when and where the subsistence fishery will close  
13 around commercial openings on the Kuskokwim River, the  
14 Board agreed with the Council and adopted that  
15 proposal.

16

17 The Board also adopted FP21-03 which  
18 clarified that drift gillnets are legal gear in the  
19 Kuskokwim River tributary.

20

21 (Teleconference interference -  
22 participants not muted)

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: So these were two  
25 recommendations supported by the Council that the Board  
26 agreed with.

27

28 The Board also eliminated the fishery  
29 closure under Fishery Closure 21-06 which was closed to  
30 the harvest of all fish in the Toklat River drainage by  
31 Federally-qualified subsistence users from August 15th  
32 to May 15th. So the Board agreed with the Council's  
33 recommendation to eliminate that fishery closure.

34

35 The Board also agreed with the Council  
36 when it rejected FP21-02 which would have reduced the  
37 required distance between setnets in Kuskokwim River  
38 tributaries from 150 feet to 75 feet. If you recall  
39 the Council was concerned about this crowding and  
40 getting nets jammed up together and so the Council  
41 recommended rejecting this proposal and the Board  
42 concurred and also rejected FP21-02.

43

44 There were two fishery closure reviews,  
45 one of the most important one to the Western Interior  
46 Council was regarding Fisheries Proposal -- I lost my  
47 page here.

48

49 (Teleconference interference -

50

0058

1 participants not muted - on hold)

2

3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Was the fisheries  
5 proposal for the Jim Creek drainage, along the Dalton  
6 Highway. The Western Interior recommended eliminating  
7 that closure and also amending or modifying the  
8 regulations to allow rod and reel only and an Arctic  
9 Grayling harvest and possession of 10 per day. Because  
10 this closure review was presented as maintaining or  
11 eliminating the closure, the Board determined it was  
12 going to maintain the closure but encouraged the  
13 Council to submit a temporary special action or a  
14 fisheries proposal in the future where an amendment to  
15 open up and limit Arctic Grayling harvest and  
16 possession of 10 per day could be included. So because  
17 there was an amendment the Board was not comfortable  
18 with opening up this fishery because the closure review  
19 at that time was to maintain or eliminate the closure.

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The same issue occurred for the Nome  
Creek issue of Fisheries Closure Review 21-07. The  
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Council deferred  
this closure to the Eastern Interior Council because it  
affected more people in their region but, again,  
because the Eastern Interior offered an amendment to  
this closure, the Board supported maintaining the  
closure and, again, encourages the Eastern Interior  
Council to submit a temporary special action or a  
fisheries proposal to open up the Nome Creek area and  
propose an amendment.

So this is the .805(c) report, again,  
on Page 12 of your meeting. And if you want to get  
more information about what the Board did. Are there  
any questions.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is when  
is the next closure review for the Jim River drainage,  
is that a two year cycle, three year cycle?

MS. DEATHERAGE: It's a two year cycle.  
Is Cory Graham on the phone.

MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, this is  
Cory.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the next.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: Cory, could you

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1 share.....

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....time the closure review for the Jim River will come up will be next year and when is the call -- when is the Council going to be addressing this, the fall of 2022?

MR. GRAHAM: I believe the closure reviews are reviewed every other cycle, but because what happened during the last Board meeting we can discuss moving it up to this cycle.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I would -- as a Council member I would prefer to have that issue, since they batted it back to our court, I would prefer to see that closure review come up in the next cycle instead of jumping a cycle, and we could also make a proposal -- the Board is asking for a proposal as a separate entity and the EIRAC made the same mistake -- same kind of mistake on the Jim River itself.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. The next fisheries cycle will start with proposals at your winter meeting coming up here in February/March timeframe. So that will be when the proposals could be addressed, you could submit a proposal for the Jim River, for example, and the analysis will be done next summer, and then the Council will deliberate on the analysis and the proposals in the fall. But, again, this whole process for the fisheries cycle will start up at your next meeting next coming winter. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, when is the call for proposals, so it would be.....

MR. KRON: We do not have dates yet, but normally, again, with your winter meeting it will be in that timeframe, but I do not have dates for you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, not a problem. Okay, thanks, Tom. And so.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And a reminder that while the closure reviews are not

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1 looked at every cycle, you can certainly put in a  
2 proposal to open the river.

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4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

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6 MS. DEATHERAGE: So the next.....

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8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....I would like to  
9 poll the Council to see if the Jim River closure review  
10 should be put no the next closure review cycle, not  
11 skipping one, but this next cycle coming up so that we  
12 can discuss this sooner or later. How does the Council  
13 feel about that, any oppositions to that, Council  
14 members.

15  
16 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I have no  
17 opposition. I think that's a good direction.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Don.

20  
21 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is Jenny.  
22 I don't have any opposition either. Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,  
25 Jenny. So OSM, the Western Interior Council's  
26 basically requesting that the closure review move to  
27 the next cycle, and to make a proposal for the Jim  
28 River under the fisheries cycle that's coming up. So  
29 thanks so much, Karen. And then that was the.....

30  
31 (Teleconference interference -  
32 participants not muted - on hold)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....805(c) report  
35 and then the Board's FY2020 annual report reply, Karen.

36  
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38 This is on Page 17 of your meeting book. There were  
39 three issues that the Council brought up on its last  
40 annual report for Fiscal Year 2020.

41  
42 The mean high water mark definition  
43 issue was outlined. And the Board's response was that,  
44 unfortunately they do not have the authority to modify  
45 the ordinary high water mark for Federal public lands  
46 in Alaska. And that basically they recommended the  
47 Council work with local law enforcement officers for  
48 further discussion of this issue during your next  
49 Council meeting. I know that we had law enforcement  
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1 officers weigh in on this but there is an advisory to  
2 hunters to determine the ordinary high water mark by  
3 digging through the snow and checking for the presence  
4 of vegetation. It is one method to assist the hunters  
5 and perhaps you could talk with law enforcement at the  
6 next meeting to see if there's other methods that would  
7 help.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this is the  
10 next meeting. And when the moose is standing on a  
11 willow bar above the mean high water mark but it's  
12 obscured by snow the vegetation matter and terracing  
13 and all those definitions -- what we were trying to get  
14 was basically if the moose has got little willows by  
15 its feet in the snow it's legal, if it's not, it's not.  
16 So somebody's got an idea of what's legal or not. The  
17 response of going over there and chasing the moose away  
18 to go dig in the snow to find out if there's vegetation  
19 there, that's a completely ridiculous statement.

20  
21 (Teleconference interference -  
22 participants not muted)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we would like to  
25 have further discussion on this issue because we have  
26 constituents or subsistence users that need to know  
27 what's legal for the winter hunt. That's what this  
28 Council's talking about. This was batting it back off  
29 into left field. We need to get back on what the issue  
30 is and how to address the issue. That's what this  
31 Council wants to have. So enforcement can think about  
32 that, these comments that I'm making right now. So  
33 we're going to move forward with coming up with  
34 something to address the issue of the winter hunt. The  
35 Federal Subsistence Board doesn't want to do it, they  
36 batted it into the court of the enforcement. Well,  
37 enforcement's response of digging in the snow is  
38 ridiculous. Brandon should have known better than that  
39 one. So go ahead, Karen. That would be my response to  
40 that.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
43 The next issue was the Council membership. And as many  
44 of you know there's been delays in the appointments as  
45 well as appointments that were not made last year until  
46 very late in the year. The Board responded to this  
47 that, you know, a lot of this is out of our control,  
48 but one of the issues that the Board would like to  
49 share with the Council and we can talk about this later  
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1 with respect to Council nominations, is we do -- we are  
2 asking for the Council's help to generate more  
3 applicants for Council membership. We've not had a lot  
4 of applicants for the Western Interior Council so  
5 that's one way that we can help with appointments. The  
6 other issue is the Council put in a request to update  
7 the Council charter that would allow incumbents to  
8 continue to serve until appointments are made. And so  
9 we're hopeful that that will be included in the new  
10 charter for the Council. But in the meantime, the best  
11 thing that the Council can do to help the organization  
12 fill seats and fill vacancies is to help generate more  
13 applicants from the region.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My response  
16 would.....

17  
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: And then the third  
19 issue -- oh, go ahead, sorry.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My response to that  
22 is that OSM needs to, if a Council members is not  
23 appointed, you know, they were not selected on the  
24 priority list, but they made a submission for  
25 nomination, they should be, A, told that they were  
26 rejected or the reason, what happened with their  
27 application. A lot of people put in, they have no idea  
28 what happened, so they need a response. If they made  
29 an application they need to -- went through the review  
30 process, they called you up, asked you what your -- how  
31 long you've been here, all this stuff, if they did that  
32 then they need to be responded to, no, you were not  
33 selected because there were other people that were  
34 picked before you, but please resubmit. Ask the person  
35 to resubmit if they're eligible for resubmission. And  
36 the OSM has to be more proactive with this issue, they  
37 have to respond to the nominees. You know, Darrell,  
38 calls me up, he doesn't know what happened with his  
39 application, how do I know what happened to his  
40 application, OSM needs to be more proactive in getting  
41 back to the nominees that have gone through the process  
42 and were not selected. So that's one of my comments on  
43 that issue. We can beat the bushes on Facebook and  
44 things but if they're not responded to they get  
45 discouraged and they don't want to resubmit. So that's  
46 been kind of an issue so I just wanted to throw that  
47 out there.

48  
49 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
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1 Katya Wessels.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Katya.

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MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just would like to address a few things what you said. You know, the process, the whole Council RAC appointment process is a very lengthy process. It takes up to 16 months from the time that we open the season for applications and nominations and by the time the Council members get appointed, if they get appointed on time in December, it takes 16 months. So we are not -- you know, after -- so the whole way the process works, I'm just going to go over this process really quickly.

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After the applications are submitted, we compile the InterAgency nominations panel that consist of the representatives from the five Federal agencies that are members of the Board. These representatives interview the applicants and they also interview the references for these applicants. After that the nomination panels get together and provide information -- each member provides information on the applicants that they interviewed and their references to each other. Then a report is compiled on these nominations will work and also applicants receive rating and ranking in five categories that were established by the Federal Subsistence Board. Then the recommendations from the nominations panel go to the InterAgency Staff Committee that reviews these recommendations and forwards their recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board. Then during the executive session, usually in August of each year, the Federal Subsistence Board reviews InterAgency Staff Committee recommendations and forms their recommendations to the Secretary of Interior and Agriculture. After that the OSM compiles the packet with these recommendations and those recommendations are sent to the Secretaries and to the Department of Interior. After that we have no control of what happens with these recommendations, what process they go through, they do some type of vetting. We've never been privy of the information of how this vetting is done and what is the basis for this vetting. So most of the time my experience was that actually the Secretaries followed the recommendations of the Federal Subsistence Board with a few exceptions. You know, we have now new Secretary of Interior and Agriculture, so

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1 we have really high hopes that this whole application  
2 process will go very well and will be on time and, you  
3 know, that we will receive the appointments in  
4 December. This is what our hopes and belief is.

5  
6 So usually after we receive the  
7 appointment letters and the applicants who were not  
8 appointed, OSM follows up with a letter. There is a  
9 letter that we prepare saying that, you know, thank you  
10 for your application, you know, your application was  
11 reviewed, but you were not selected, but we encourage  
12 you to apply, just like what you've been asking. It's  
13 just sometimes this process is so lengthy that it's  
14 very discouraging to the public because they apply and  
15 then it seems like, you know, a million years pass  
16 before they actually receive some kind of reply back,  
17 either an appointment letter or a letter informing them  
18 that they were not appointed, or a letter informing  
19 them that they were not appointed but they were  
20 selected as an alternate. And as you know, you have  
21 now this language in your charters that says that  
22 you're allowed alternates for the situations when a  
23 Council member, you know, resigns, moves out of the  
24 region, or passes away, that if you have somebody on  
25 your alternate list, that person can step in and serve  
26 as a member of the Council for that year.

27  
28 So that's all I have for now and I'd be  
29 happy to answer any questions.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for  
34 clarifying that. But, yeah, once the selection list  
35 comes out and there's a nominee that's not selected,  
36 the letter of explanation should be sent sooner than  
37 later. That should be almost immediately upon receipt  
38 of who the selections were, the non-selections should  
39 immediately get the letter so that they know sooner  
40 than later. So appreciate all those clarifications  
41 there, Katya.

42  
43 No. 3, there, Karen.

44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
46 Chair. Members of the Council. The third issue was  
47 Bureau of Land Management guide use permitting process.  
48 And the Bureau of Land Management provided a lengthy  
49 response so I'm not going to go through all the  
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1 processes that they shared about the issuance of  
2 commercial guide permits. But certainly if there are  
3 any questions you can either discuss it now or bring it  
4 up when then BLM does their report later in the meeting  
5 tomorrow.

6

7 So that's it for me, thank you, Mr.  
8 Chair and members of the Council.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Karen.  
11 Yeah, I was -- the BLM's response evades the issue that  
12 Henri Bisson, Regional Director, promised that if the  
13 State's guide use area selection process failed that  
14 they would implement, like the sister agencies,  
15 National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, a  
16 guide selection and use permitting system much  
17 different than the State -- the BLM is basically using  
18 the State system with an unlimited number of guides  
19 eligible to hunt in a guide use area with then allowing  
20 each one of those many myriad of guides use levels of  
21 hunt clients and also of numbers of take. This issue  
22 needs -- if they're not going to do what they said  
23 they're going to do this Council needs to review how  
24 the BLM is -- they need to go into a public process --  
25 they've basically issued all these allocations 10 years  
26 ago and haven't changed anything. Well, the population  
27 of sheep is extremely low and cannot tolerate the use  
28 levels that were previously implemented. The BLM has  
29 not asked this Council, are these numbers -- they've  
30 given us the numbers but they didn't tell us about this  
31 process of where we can actually work with the public  
32 -- there's been no public meetings here on these guide  
33 use other than 10 years ago. We need to reduce the  
34 number of allocation of hunters and the number of  
35 animal takes. This populations of animals are in  
36 extremely low status right now. They cannot tolerate  
37 the allocations that BLM is currently allocating under  
38 the SRPs, special recreational permits.

39

40 So this is an issue. We need to talk  
41 about this issue tomorrow with BLM, and head's up to  
42 BLM, Tim and various people at BLM, we need to discuss  
43 this issue further.

44

45 So that was the response from the  
46 Federal Subsistence Board batting it into BLM's corner.  
47 BLM has a response. And so I appreciate the Federal  
48 Subsistence Board for reviewing those concerns. This,  
49 Council, under .805 of ANILCA setting up the Councils,  
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1 any issue that affects subsistence can be discussed by  
2 the Councils. So that's very clear in the statutory  
3 language. These are issues that affect subsistence  
4 uses and so I appreciate the Federal Subsistence Board  
5 reviewing those concerns that this Council had.

6  
7 So thank you, Karen.

8  
9 So we're at new business would you say,  
10 Karen.

11  
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, and I  
13 do have an announcement regarding public testimony and  
14 written public comments at the Chair's discretion.  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen,  
18 give that announcement.

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 The first thing I would like to do is thank everybody  
22 for muting your phones and not putting us on hold.  
23 There's very few interruptions and background noise, we  
24 really appreciate that, it helps the meeting go  
25 smoother and it ensures that everybody is heard.

26  
27 I'm going to make another announcement  
28 about the opportunity for public and tribes to provide  
29 oral and written testimony and comments. As I said  
30 earlier at the beginning of each day there is an  
31 opportunity to provide testimony on non-agenda items.  
32 So the Council Chair will announce that again tomorrow  
33 and we do appreciate the folks that shared earlier  
34 today.

35  
36 There is also opportunity to provide  
37 oral comments on the wildlife proposals and closure  
38 reviews during or after an analyst presents proposal  
39 analysis. The order of receiving the comments is  
40 outlined on Page 25 of your meeting materials. The  
41 Council Chair will call for this public oral testimony.

42  
43 There is also an opportunity to submit  
44 written public comments on these proposals. If you  
45 have a written comment please email it to  
46 subsistence@fws.gov. So that's subsistence@fws.gov.  
47 That's FishWildlifeService.gov. Please clearly indicate  
48 the number of the proposal or closure review you are  
49 commenting on in the title of the email. The comments  
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1 need to be emailed prior to the proposal you are  
2 commenting on is presented to the Council. And if you  
3 emailed your written public comment to your Council  
4 Coordinator prior to the meeting, please resubmit it to  
5 subsistence@fws.gov today. If there are less than 10  
6 written comments received, we will read those into the  
7 record, if more than 10 written comments are received  
8 they will be tallied and the result will be presented  
9 to the Council prior to their deliberation.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So reviewing what  
14 you just said, the public is -- when the proposals come  
15 out the public is able to comment all the way until  
16 this meeting by written comment or you're referring to  
17 some dates where they have to resubmit. Say that  
18 again.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. So I apologize,  
21 Mr. Chair. Sometimes written public comments will be  
22 sent to the Council Coordinator and because we are  
23 facilitating the meeting we're asking that they be sent  
24 directly to the Office of Subsistence Management at the  
25 subsistence@fws.gov email and they will be tallied and  
26 distributed to be read into the record. The written  
27 public comments can only be received prior to the  
28 proposal being outlined by the analyst. And so they  
29 must be received prior to that time.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Does that make sense?

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That does make sense  
36 now.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Obviously we need to  
39 know if there's any comments prior to the Council  
40 deliberating on that proposal. If we receive comments  
41 about a proposal that's already been deliberated on, if  
42 we receive those comments tomorrow they'll be moot. So  
43 we have received a few public comments, written  
44 comments recently so this system is in place and people  
45 are utilizing it but, again, they need to get those  
46 written comments in before the analysis is completed,  
47 before, during or after an analyst presents an  
48 analysis. We have to have those comments in prior to  
49 the Council deliberating on the proposal.

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So they also  
4 can make public testimony during the deliberation of  
5 the proposal, correct?

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, it's No. 6 on the  
8 presentation procedure for proposals and closure  
9 reviews, on Page 25 of the meeting book. No. 6 the  
10 Chair will call for public testimony so at that time  
11 the public is welcome to do oral public testimony.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. My question  
14 revolves around maximizing the public's ability to  
15 comment on the proposal, so thank you, thanks for  
16 clarifying that.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Right. Which is why  
19 we are accepting written public comments prior to  
20 deliberation, this is kind of a thing that is  
21 relatively new, the process is new so we ask for your  
22 patience. But, again, we did receive public -- written  
23 public comments for a few of the proposals the Council  
24 will deliberate on today som so far the system is  
25 working.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that written  
30 comment website, Fish and Wildlife Service subsistence  
31 is in the proposal book, I don't have it before me, so  
32 the public.....

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: The written public  
35 comments at this time need to be directly mailed to  
36 subsistence@fws.gov.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or at least they  
39 need to be aware that they're going to have to make  
40 oral comment. I feel that the tribal councils should  
41 be made aware that they're -- that after -- the mail is  
42 abysmal these days with the postal changes and  
43 especially in some of these villages, so I feel that  
44 the public should be aware that they may need to make a  
45 comment orally during the deliberation at this -- or  
46 during this meeting. I don't think that sending  
47 something in by mail is actually going to work  
48 during.....

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's by email, Mr.  
2 Chair. I apologize, it's by email.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, by email.

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: And we do have  
7 individuals at the office who are monitoring that  
8 email.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

11  
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: So if a written public  
13 comment does come in prior to the deliberation of the  
14 proposal we will receive it and we will read it into  
15 the record. Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, that's where  
18 I'm going. So thanks so much, Karen. I want to make  
19 that clear for the public so that they have the ability  
20 to comment on these proposals.

21  
22 So we're at wildlife proposals and  
23 closure reviews. And so this is the OSM wildlife  
24 anthropology, and is somebody there from OSM to give  
25 this presentation.

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 We did invite several Fish and Game and Federal  
29 agencies to present any relevant information they  
30 thought would be helpful to the Council for their  
31 deliberation prior to the presentation of the proposal.  
32 So I'd like to ask if Rick Merizon is on the phone from  
33 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

34  
35 MR. MERIZON: Yes, this is Rick, I'm  
36 online.

37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's super.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you so much,  
43 Rick. And Rick's going to be presenting an update on  
44 the Alaska hare situation so that the Council will have  
45 the information it needs prior to deliberation on these  
46 two proposals that will establish season harvest limit  
47 for Alaska hare in multiple units.

48  
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,  
2 Rick, with your presentation.

3  
4                   MR. MERIZON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
5 Members of the Council. I also just want to extend my  
6 gratitude for being flexible and accommodating my  
7 schedule and allowing me to jump in here early on in  
8 your proposal deliberation so thank you.

9  
10                   I'm happy to provide an update on what  
11 we've been doing as far as monitoring and studying  
12 Alaska hare and then I can briefly, if the Council  
13 chooses, I can briefly go through the details of the  
14 two Alaska hare proposals.

15  
16                   So just a quick update on Alaska hare.  
17 So back in 2017 the Alaska Department of Fish and  
18 Game, Statewide Small Game Program and other colleagues  
19 across the state began trying to reach out to local  
20 rural residents throughout Western Alaska where Alaska  
21 hare, also known as jackrabbits or tundra hares, these  
22 are the big rabbits, not the little snowshoe hares, we  
23 were trying to reach out to local rural residents to  
24 understand more about Alaska hares. We, as an agency,  
25 didn't have a strong understanding about biology and  
26 population status of that specie so we were trying to  
27 reach out to locals and learn more about them, learn  
28 about what folks had been seeing, if they had been  
29 harvesting animals and that effort went through the  
30 winter of 2017/2018, and we learned a great deal from  
31 many local rural residents throughout Western Alaska  
32 from Kotzebue all the way down to the Alaska Peninsula.

33  
34                   In 2018 we also initiated a large scale  
35 research project on Alaska hares that the study area  
36 was essentially the entire range of the species in  
37 Western Alaska. The two primary objectives of that  
38 research were to develop -- test and develop a long-  
39 term population monitoring technique because at that  
40 point Fish and Game did not have the understanding of  
41 the best techniques to monitor that species on an  
42 annual basis long-term. So we wanted to develop a  
43 technique that would allow us to do that. Secondly, the  
44 other second objective of that research project was to  
45 test different capture techniques and try to find a  
46 technique that allowed us to actually capture several  
47 individual hares and place radio collars on those hares  
48 so that we could learn more about movement and  
49 mortality. And we've been successful on both of those  
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1 fronts.

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(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

MR. MERIZON: We've now had three years of field research and we've conducted extensive, many, many days, weeks, over the last three years throughout the species range, doing both population monitoring and developing that technique and then also capturing and radio collaring Alaska hares.

We've now successfully collared numerous individuals throughout its range. And we've also been able to, as I said, test and evaluate the long-term population monitoring technique and preliminary data suggests that Alaska hares, as many folks may have suspected and as we were concerned, Alaska hares to exist on the landscape at very, very low density. So we felt that it was appropriate to begin addressing whether current management strategies were appropriate for the harvest management of these species.

And so on the State side, Alaska Department of Fish and Game submitted, along with several Advisory Committees on the State Board of Game side, submitted proposals in various game management units beginning in 2018 and again in 2020 to create a season date, bag limit and salvage requirement for Alaska hares throughout its range. So we submitted these proposals, WP22-39 and WP22-45 to effectively mirror the regulations on the State side simply because of what we're learning about the species, we felt that it was appropriate to sort of dial back the, essentially unlimited harvest potential, of that species in various parts of the state.

So that's a fairly quick thumbnail sketch update on Alaska hares and what we've been doing to try to understand more about the species. I'm happy to go through the details of each individual proposal if the Council would like that, otherwise I'm happy to answer any questions if I can.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do Council members have questions for Rick about this presentation. And I think we'll get your comments when we review the proposal, Rick.

0072

1 MR. MERIZON: Okay.

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MR. MERIZON: Okay.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is, is it thought that the Alaska hare population was much higher previously and it's now in a declined state, is that what your traditional knowledge has found?

MR. MERIZON: Yes, through the Chair. What we discovered in numerous discussions with rural residents over that winter is that folks who had been living out in Western Alaska for 40, 50 years recalled seeing much, much more abundant jackrabbit, Alaska hare populations in the 1970s and '80s and depending on where you are in the state it seems like somewhere between 1980 and 1990 the population started to decline and it continued declining to fairly low levels that we're seeing now. So, yes, the belief was that the population was, you know, 40 years ago, much more abundant than it is now. Sadly, we didn't have any population monitoring protocols in place or techniques in place then so we can't quantify the degree of decline or, you know, in absolute terms. It's more, you know, just hearing from rural residents and their recollections of what they observed in the past. But clearly the common theme across almost every conversation we had was that Alaska hares have declined and in some cases, declined fairly significantly.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I fished over by Goodnews -- herring fishing by Goodnews Bay, there was Alaska hare droppings over the beaches there from the wind, they rely on those windblown coastal areas for their food. As climate change reigns on the tundra, would that be one of the drivers, is that what people are talking about, is this an indicative issue of icing events?

MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair, that's a very good question. And we don't have the data or the information to be able to answer that effectively. As with many problems we believe there's likely numerous contributing factors. One of them could be undulating populations of particularly red fox out in Western Alaska that could be preying on young Alaska hares when they're potentially more vulnerable. Certainly climate change could be having an impact but, again, to what degree climate change is impacting it's hard to say for sure. But that's certainly a possibility.

0073

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So any other  
2 questions from the Council for Rick on this.

3  
4                   (No comments)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll go to the  
7 deliberation of these two proposals. The first one is  
8 WP22-39, and who's making the presentation on these.

9  
10                  MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
11 Holman. I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of  
12 Subsistence Management and I'll be doing the  
13 presentations for these.

14  
15                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go right  
16 ahead, Kendra.

17  
18                  MS. HOLMAN: So I will be presenting a  
19 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 22-39  
20 submitted by ADF&G starting on Page 26 of your meeting  
21 books.

22  
23                  The proponent requests to create a  
24 specific harvest regulation for Alaska hare in Unit 9  
25 and Unit 17 stating that the once abundant Alaska hare  
26 in Unit 9 and 17 are now at a very low density and has  
27 a patchy distribution throughout the Bristol Bay and  
28 the Alaska Peninsula. The Alaska hare is sometimes  
29 called a jackrabbit, tundra hare or Arctic hare. The  
30 Alaska hare is called the tundra hare in Federal  
31 regulations, but Alaska hare appears to be the dominant  
32 term in contemporary usage including State regulations.

33  
34                  The State hare -- the Alaska hare is a  
35 different species than the snowshoe hare despite being  
36 lumped together in Federal regulations.

37  
38                  So the Board of Game adopted a proposal  
39 in 2019 establishing specific State harvest regulation  
40 for Alaska hare in Unit 9 from November 1st to January  
41 31st and limiting the harvest to one hare per day and a  
42 max of four per season. ADF&G has also submitted  
43 Proposal 24 to the Board of Game in January -- for the  
44 Board of Game January 2022 meeting to include Unit 17  
45 with an identical Alaska hare management structure in  
46 Unit 9. ADF&G has also submitted Wildlife Proposal  
47 WP22-45 to create specific harvest regulations for the  
48 Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and 23.

49  
50

1                   The Alaska hares are among the most  
2 poorly understood game species in Alaska. Anecdotally  
3 abundance is well below historic levels throughout the  
4 range of the species. The last known eruptive  
5 population on the Peninsula occurred in the winter of  
6 1953 to 1954. The Alaska Peninsula and the Becharof  
7 National Wildlife Refuge rates the Alaska hare as the  
8 Refuge No. 3 prioritization resource of concern as an  
9 ecologically, significant, endemic species vulnerable  
10 to the influx [sic] of climate change. In 2018 ADF&G  
11 initiated a multi-year study to evaluate movement and  
12 mortality as well as long-term capture techniques.

13  
14                   Little is known about the harvest of  
15 the Alaska hare. Household surveys indicate that it is  
16 harvested throughout the communities of Western and  
17 Southwestern Alaska. Numbers can be found on Table 1,  
18 which is on Page 32 of your meeting book.

19  
20                   If this proposal is adopted the Alaska  
21 hare season will be reduced throughout -- reduced  
22 although hunters will still have the opportunity to  
23 harvest hares during the winter when they're out  
24 engaging in other subsistence or recreational  
25 activities.

26  
27                   (Teleconference interference -  
28 participants not muted)

29  
30                   MS. HOLMAN: The change in daily and  
31 overall harvest limits may be effective in reducing  
32 harvest which could translate into an improvement in  
33 the conservation status of these populations. Any  
34 positive effect these changes have on the Alaska hare  
35 population will benefit subsistence users in the long-  
36 term despite the immediate reduction in subsistence  
37 opportunity.

38  
39                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
40 support Proposal WP22-39 with modifications to modify  
41 the definition of hare in the Federal regulations to  
42 include Alaska hare.

43  
44                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
45 Council. I'd be happy to address any questions.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Just one  
48 comment, somebody has -- is unmuted and is doing  
49 dishes, walking around, if you want to mute your phone  
50

0075

1 if you're not speaking because you're overwhelming the  
2 speaker that's actually testifying. So I just wanted  
3 to say that.

4  
5 Any Council comments or questions on  
6 Proposal WP-39, Alaska hare proposal for Game  
7 Management Units 9 and 17.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No questions on  
12 that. So tribal consultation report is Orville, or  
13 who's doing those ANCSA reports.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Was there any tribal  
18 consultation comments.

19  
20 (Teleconference interference -  
21 participants not muted)

22  
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
24 this is Karen Deatherage. If Orville or Tom are not  
25 available I can share with you that there were no  
26 comments on WP22-39 or 45 from any tribes or ANCSA  
27 Corporations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So ADF&G  
30 comments, go ahead, Rick, if you were going to make  
31 further comments.

32  
33 MR. MERIZON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
34 guess at this point I don't have really many other  
35 comments on WP22-39.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any Federal  
38 comments, Refuge comments.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Park Service.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other tribal  
47 comments. Any tribes on the phone that would like to  
48 speak to this.

49  
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0076

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Regional  
4 Advisory Council comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there,  
9 Alissa.

10

11 MS. ROGERS: Hi, I'm here.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did your Council  
14 have any comments on these hare proposals, or have you  
15 met yet?

16

17 MS. ROGERS: Yeah, we did meet, Mr.  
18 Chair. Through the Chair. We did meet and we kind of  
19 broke out the proposal into separate recommendations so  
20 instead of having it as one we ended up having to break  
21 it out into a couple of them. There was discussion on  
22 the length of time, the opening timeframe to be changed  
23 and also the bag limit to be changed just due to the  
24 fact that there's not enough hare out there along with  
25 not enough hare to even have any research conducted on  
26 them.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you reduced the  
31 recommended bag limit of four per year, one per day, or  
32 you eliminated it?

33

34 MS. ROGERS: Well, I'm going to have to  
35 go back to Eva and see what we actually came up for  
36 those because there was discussion of reducing it --  
37 reducing the limit, one of which I had proposed as one  
38 per day, two per season, and leaving the dates but they  
39 wanted to reduce those dates on that timeframe as well.  
40 So let me follow-up with Eva and I can get that  
41 information back to you later on, but as far as right  
42 now that's as much as I know.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And did.....

47

48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.

49

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0077

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa Grediagin  
4 for the record. And, Alissa, correct me if I'm wrong,  
5 but I'm pretty sure you mean 22-45, which applied to  
6 Unit 18, versus 22-39 which is for Units 9 and 17.

7

8 MS. ROGERS: That is correct. Thank  
9 you for the correction. Mr. Chair, thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
12 Thanks, Lisa. And was there any comments from Bristol  
13 Bay Regional Advisory Council on this proposal, WP22-  
14 39, have they met yet.

15

16 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
17 Holman. They haven't met yet.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that's  
20 part of our checklist.

21

22 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, and Mr. Chair,  
23 Lisa, again. The Kodiak/Aleutians Council considered  
24 this proposal since it's, you know, for all of Unit 9,  
25 and they opposed the proposal because of a lack of  
26 biological information. And they had also considered  
27 this last cycle when the Board opposed a restriction on  
28 the Alaska hare season and nothing's really changed  
29 since that season. And the subsistence harvest  
30 surveys, while limited, indicate that users in their  
31 region are utilizing Alaska hare. So, again, the  
32 Kodiak/Aleutian Council opposed the proposal.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So was there  
35 Advisory Committee comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Subsistence Resource  
40 Commission, the Lake Clark Subsistence Resource  
41 Commission would have possibly deliberated this.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none,  
46 summary of written comments. Were there written  
47 comments, Karen.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0078

1 I believe Kendra Holman's going to provide that  
2 information. Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

5

6 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, at this time  
7 there have been no written comments received.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.  
10 So public testimony, is there anybody on the phone that  
11 would like to make public testimony.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Regional Council  
16 recommendation, motion and adoption. How does the  
17 Council want to deal with this proposal, WP22-39. This  
18 is in Unit 9 and 17, Bristol Bay has not met on this  
19 proposal, and Kodiak/Aleutians is in opposition to  
20 that. So how does the Council -- the Chair will  
21 entertain a motion to adopt the proposal for  
22 discussion. Does anybody care to make a motion to  
23 adopt.

24

25 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, Mr. Chair.  
26 I'll make a motion.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Jenny motions  
29 to adopt for discussion. Do we have a second.

30

31 MR. SIMON: Second. This is Pollock.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock seconds.  
34 Discussion. This is not that close to our region. I  
35 would prefer to, personally defer this Proposal WP22-39  
36 to the Councils that would be affected by the proposal  
37 in Units 9 and 17. So is the Council in agreement with  
38 a deferral.

39

40 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is Jenny.  
41 Oh, am I on?

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, you are.

44

45 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. Yes, I agree with  
46 you.

47

48 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, this is Don. I  
49 would agree to defer to region.

50

0079

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MS. PELKOLA: Am I on mute or -- am I

4 on mute?

5

6 MR. HONEA: No, I hear you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we hear you.

9

10 MS. PELKOLA: Oh.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

13

14 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is

15 Kevin.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kevin, go ahead.

18

19 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, I agree,  
20 deferring to in-region before we take it up. That's  
21 all, thanks.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So at this  
24 time -- what's the procedure here, we made a motion to  
25 adopt, we want to defer, the procedure would be what,  
26 Karen?

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 I would just vote to defer.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. The  
32 Chair will entertain a motion to defer Proposal WP22-39  
33 to the regions affected in Units 9 and 17. Do we have  
34 a motion to that effect.

35

36 MR. HONEA: I would make that motion,  
37 this is Don.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

40

41 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya  
46 Wessels.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Katya.

49

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0080

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: I was going to weigh  
2 in.

3  
4 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I'm sorry, you  
5 know, you had the motion on the floor to support the  
6 proposal.....

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

9  
10 MS. WESSELS: .....and it was seconded.  
11 So the maker of the motion either needs to withdraw his  
12 motion with the agreement of the second, or you need to  
13 vote on that motion and then you could make another  
14 motion to defer.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

17  
18 MS. WESSELS: Sorry. It's just a  
19 procedural thing. I'm sorry to interrupt.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you for your  
22 clarification. So going back to the first motion, I  
23 intend to vote against the adoption of WP22-39 with the  
24 intention to make a further motion for deferral. Those  
25 in favor of adopting Proposal WP22-39 signify by saying  
26 aye.

27  
28 (No aye votes)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
31 sign.

32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So now a  
36 motion for deferral. So we had a motion from, was it  
37 Don and Pollock?

38  
39 (Pause)

40  
41 REPORTER: Yes.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So a  
44 motion.....

45  
46 MR. HONEA: Yes.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....for deferral,  
49 further discussion on deferral.

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0081

1 MR. HONEA: Question.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Discussion would be that this affects those Regional Councils, Bristol Bay and Kodiak/Aleutians, in Units 9 and 17, and so they can deal with this issue. That would be the comment that's going to be before the Federal Subsistence Board. Any further comments.

MR. HONEA: Question.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of deferral -- question's called, those in favor of deferral of WP22-39 signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And did we get Rebecca Wilmarth back on here.

MS. WILMARTH: I'm on. Sorry, I'm having long distance issues.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right, sorry about that. Just wanted to make sure that you're there and count your vote. And so WP22-45, which is basically the same proposal except for different game management units, how does the Council want to deal with that, do you want to defer that one also or do you want to deliberate it.

MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is Jenny. I would also like to defer that.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Motion to defer Proposal WP22-45. Do we have a second.

MR. HONEA: Second.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don. Further discussion.

(No comments)

MR. SIMON: Question.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called. Those in favor of deferral of WP22-45 signify by saying aye.

0082

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So justification for  
4 that is the same as our previous reason for deferral,  
5 to the regions affected by this proposal. The Alaska  
6 hare population probably really does need help. My  
7 personal opinion is that the Western Arctic Caribou  
8 Herd declined by nearly 50 percent or less because of  
9 icing events, it would appear that icing events would  
10 also affect the Alaska hare population. That's just my  
11 opinion.

12

13

So having completed those two  
14 proposals, regional proposals, so do we have time to do  
15 one here, Karen.

16

17

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 This is Karen Deatherage. I might recommend that you go  
19 ahead and take lunch. The reason why is because  
20 Pollock Simon's materials are supposed to arrive by  
21 Wright Air by 1:15 today and this way he'll get an  
22 opportunity to go pick that up and so I might recommend  
23 that -- if it's not too long, we can try to do the next  
24 proposal, but otherwise I would go ahead and break for  
25 lunch and return. I'm not sure how far he is from the  
26 airport. Pollock, are you there?

27

28

MR. SIMON: Yes, I'm here.

29

30

MS. DEATHERAGE: How long does it take  
31 you to get to the airport?

32

33

MR. SIMON: Five minutes.

34

35

MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, okay. Then maybe  
36 we should do another proposal, Mr. Chair, and that way  
37 it will push it out to give him time to go pick it up  
38 at 1:15 with a little wiggle room in case the plane is  
39 late. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The plane leaves at  
42 1:15, so.....

43

44

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you to BLM.  
45 Thank you so much to BLM for making this happen.

46

47

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, thanks so much  
48 BLM.

49

50

0083

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yep, thanks, Erin.

2

3 MS. JULIANUS: Hey, Karen, this is

4 Erin.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, did it leave

7 or.....

8

9 MS. JULIANUS: The plan that -- the  
10 plan is departing at 1:15 so it's not going to get  
11 there until, you know, earliest 3:00 o'clock.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, gotcha.

14

15 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sorry, I misread the  
18 text. Okay, so, Mr. Chair, it's at your discretion as  
19 to when you would like to call lunch. Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it would behoove  
22 us to -- because we're going to be waiting for that  
23 proposal book -- to address one more proposal before we  
24 break for lunch, which would be WP22-46, and that would  
25 be National Park Service, Marcy Okada or Will Deacy to  
26 present, and that's on Page 47 of the proposal book.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 This is Karen Deatherage. I spoke with Marcy and  
30 they're available to ask questions, they are not going  
31 to be presenting any specific information but they are  
32 available to answer any questions that the Council may  
33 have regarding WP22-46. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, okay, and who,  
36 at OSM, is going to make the presentation.

37

38 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
39 Holman. I'll be doing the presentation.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Okay, go  
42 ahead, Kendra.

43

44 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
45 Board. I'm a Wildlife Bio -- Kendra Holman, the  
46 Wildlife Biologist with Office of Subsistence  
47 Management. I'm presenting the Wildlife Proposal WP22-  
48 46 submitted by Gates of the Arctic National Park  
49 Subsistence Resource Commission requesting a brown bear

50

1 harvest limit for that portion of Unit 24B within Gates  
2 of the Arctic National Park be increased from one bear  
3 to two bears. This proposal begins on Page 47 of your  
4 meeting book.

5  
6 The proponent submitted this proposal  
7 because residents of Anaktuvuk Pass have observed brown  
8 bear populations growing and believe that the harvest  
9 to be far below sustainable -- the sustainable yield.  
10 The Commission states that this proposal would afford  
11 Anaktuvuk Pass residents hunting brown bears additional  
12 harvest opportunity. In 2020 the Alaska Board of Game  
13 adopted Proposal 72 at its March 2020 meeting to  
14 increase the brown bear harvest limit to two brown  
15 bears in Unit 24B under State regulation. The  
16 Commission also submitted Wildlife Proposal WP22-56 to  
17 increase the brown bear harvest two bears in Unit 26A,  
18 the portion within Gates of the Arctic National Park.

19  
20 Using extrapolated data from similar  
21 habitats in units, the estimated brown bear population  
22 for the northern portion of Unit 24 and southern  
23 portion of Unit 24 are 450 bears and 180 to 320 bears  
24 respectively. Gates of the Arctic National Park has an  
25 estimated density -- density of 33.4 bears per 1,000  
26 kilometer squared [sic]. The units brown bear  
27 population is thought to be stable or slowly increasing  
28 however reproductive output within Gates of the Arctic  
29 is among the lowest in Alaska. Limited food resource  
30 and a short growing season are likely contributing  
31 factors to this pattern. The three year mean reported  
32 harvest is 15 bears, including 14 bears harvested on  
33 average in the northern portion of the unit, and one  
34 bear in the southern portion. 51 percent of the  
35 harvest is by Alaska residents. The total estimated  
36 harvest has consistently been less than two percent of  
37 the estimated bear population per year. This harvest  
38 rate is well below the State's management objective and  
39 the sustainable harvest rate is estimated to be five to  
40 six percent of the estimated bear population per year  
41 or 39 to 56 bears per year can be sustained for all of  
42 Unit 24.

43  
44 If adopted, the proposal would align  
45 Federal regulations within Gates of the Arctic National  
46 Park with State harvest limits which would simplify  
47 regulations and lead to less confusion for users in  
48 Unit 24B. Current harvest rates are well below the  
49 State recommended sustainable harvest for Unit 24.  
50

0085

1 Alaska residents can already harvest two bears within  
2 Unit 24B under State regulations. Adoption of this  
3 proposal is not expected to have a substantial impact  
4 on the current harvest levels and should have minimal  
5 impacts on the brown bear population given the low  
6 levels of harvest in the area and would increase  
7 harvest opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence  
8 users.

9  
10 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
11 support WP22-46.

12  
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
14 Board. I will be happy to field any questions at this  
15 time.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kendra. Any  
18 Council questions on the proposal as presented.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Were there any  
23 tribal comments, Karen.

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 There were no tribal comments or ANCSA Corporation  
27 comments on WP22-46.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have  
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff on the call to  
31 address this particular proposal, WP22-46.

32  
33 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is  
34 Ben Mulligan from the Department of Fish and Game. I  
35 can at least give you our preliminary position on it.  
36 I'm not sure if -- we got dueling meetings so I'm not  
37 sure if I've got Staff but I can at least give you  
38 that.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

41  
42 MR. MULLIGAN: For the record, the  
43 Department supports the proposal to align State and  
44 Federal regulations. You know, as far as the  
45 population and discussing it with Staff, we do not have  
46 any biological concerns with the brown bear harvest in  
47 Unit 24B and based on the harvest history, you know,  
48 increasing this bag limit will not jeopardize that  
49 harvest in that population.

50

0086

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Ben.  
4 And National Park Service, Federal comments, Marcy or  
5 Will.

6

7 MS. OKADA: Hi, Mr. Chair. Council  
8 members. The National Park Service doesn't have any  
9 comments at this time.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Marcy.  
12 Were there any tribal comments from Anaktuvuk Pass, do  
13 you know, Karen.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 I do not have a record of any comments from Anaktuvuk  
17 Pass tribe. Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is anybody on  
20 the phone from the tribe.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Regional Advisory  
25 Council comments, this is the -- did North Slope  
26 address this proposal, Regional Advisory Council.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
29 the Northwest Arctic Council has not yet met.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: North Slope Regional  
32 Advisory Council.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry, the North  
35 Slope Regional Advisory Council has not yet met either.  
36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.  
39 Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't know of any  
44 Committees, I'm not sure if the North Slope Advisory  
45 Committee.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any

50

0087

1 comments on that. The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence  
2 Resource Commission, this is their proposal. I'm the  
3 Vice Chair of the Subsistence Resource Commission.  
4 When we met in Anaktuvuk Pass in April of 2019 there  
5 was people in Anaktuvuk who were having a hardship  
6 trying to get caribou, caribou were not migrating  
7 through there and there was -- they were commenting on  
8 more and more brown bears, they requested -- the people  
9 in Anaktuvuk requested an increase in the bear limit  
10 because there's specific individuals that actually  
11 harvest for the community and so they felt that  
12 individuals should be able to harvest more bear so that  
13 they could pass out the meat, which occurred this year.  
14 There was people in Anaktuvuk Pass that were harvesting  
15 brown bear when they virtually had no caribou and they  
16 were having a fairly hard time with meat. Not until  
17 last week did they actually even get any caribou to any  
18 degree at all. So we submitted this proposal for the  
19 Hard Park. It's for the Park itself and that's why we  
20 submitted this proposal. So that would be the  
21 Subsistence Resource Commission comment.

22  
23 Summary of written and public comments,  
24 Karen.

25  
26 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
27 Holman.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Kendra.

30  
31 MS. HOLMAN: So there were three  
32 written public comments all opposed and those can be  
33 found on Page 55 of your meeting book.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

36  
37 (Pause)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the first one I  
40 read is from Lucy Beach citing the low density bear  
41 population and they strongly oppose. Jim Kowalsky, the  
42 Chair of the Alaskans for Wildlife is also opposed  
43 because of the low density bear population. And Bill  
44 Sherwonit is also opposed for basically the same  
45 reasons. And he's stating his use of the area is from  
46 the 1970s and '80s and the bear populations were, you  
47 know, they're a valued resource for viewers.

48  
49 My comment on those is that the bear  
50

0088

1 population within the south slope of the Brooks Range  
2 has actually increased since the Park was established  
3 because it is a Park and there's no -- there used to be  
4 a lot of guide camps up into the John River and North  
5 Fork of the Koyukuk and the bear harvest was  
6 exceptionally high from sporthunters. The bear  
7 population is now fully recovered and is actually  
8 fairly high within the Park unit, high for this  
9 habitat, and there's dispersal, and so you get young  
10 bears moving out into other areas. So it's common that  
11 people around Anaktuvuk Pass see brown bears routinely  
12 around the village so the perception that this  
13 population can't sustain that, the Department of Fish  
14 and Game calculation is that it can and it's a -- the  
15 last two years brown bears have been a vital  
16 subsistence resource for people in Anaktuvuk Pass who  
17 needed that meat when the caribou weren't there. So if  
18 the caribou continue to come back this brown bear  
19 harvest is actually going to go way down again because  
20 caribou are preferred over brown bears, but if you have  
21 nothing brown bears is better than nothing.

22  
23 So those comments are logged into the  
24 record. I comment in that these -- a lot of those  
25 comments refer back into the '70s and '80s when --  
26 before the Park establishment and the bear population  
27 was actually fairly low, it was actually on a draw  
28 permit in the '80s in the Central Brooks -- in Unit 24  
29 there was only 20 brown bear draw permits. So this  
30 bear population has distinctly recovered since then.  
31 So that would be my comments on those letters.

32  
33 Regional Council recommendation --  
34 public testimony, do we have anybody on the phone to  
35 comment on this proposal.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear anybody.  
40 Regional Council recommendation and motion. The Chair  
41 will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal WP22-46. Do  
42 we have a motion to that affect.

43  
44 MS. PELKOLA: So moved, this is Jenny.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny moves. We got  
47 a second.

48  
49 MR. WHITWORTH: Second. This is Kevin.

50

0089

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kevin seconds. Any  
2 further discussion on this Proposal WP22-46 to align  
3 with the State bag limit of two brown bears in Unit  
4 24B.

5  
6                   (No comments)

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a  
9 question.

10  
11                  MS. PELKOLA: Question.

12  
13                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called by  
14 Jenny. So those in favor -- let's do a roll call on  
15 this one, Karen.

16  
17                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 I was just getting the roster.

19  
20                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

21  
22                  MS. DEATHERAGE: So Rebecca Wilmarth.

23  
24                  MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

25  
26                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Donald Honea, Jr.

27  
28                  MR. SIMON: No.

29  
30                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Don, that's a no vote  
31 from you?

32  
33  
34                  (No comments)

35  
36                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Don, are you on the  
37 phone, Don Honea?

38  
39                  (No comments)

40  
41                  MS. DEATHERAGE: All right, move on to  
42 Pollock Simon, Sr.

43  
44                  MR. SIMON: No.

45  
46                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, that's Pollock,  
47 and Pollock is entering a no vote.

48  
49                  Kevin Whitworth.

50

0090

1 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes. Karen, can you  
2 repeat that two votes ago, who was that, did somebody  
3 say no, is that two no's now, I'm confused.

4  
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think -- no, I think  
6 that was Pollock Simon saying no twice. I'm not sure  
7 if Don Honea's on the phone.

8  
9 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay.

10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don, are you on the  
12 phone?

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don, press star, six  
17 to unmute yourself if you're on the phone.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: So he may have left,  
22 let's move on.

23  
24 Arnold Demoski is not present.

25  
26 Tim Gervais, has Tim been able to call  
27 in.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Jenny Pelkola.

32  
33 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Goodwin Semaken.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin, are you with  
40 us?

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's four yes and

49  
50

0091

1 one no, Mr. Chair. I do not have a vote from Goodwin  
2 Semaken or from Don Honea, Jr. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, their  
5 phones might have dropped out or went dead or  
6 something. So at this point it's probably good to go  
7 to lunch wouldn't you say, Karen.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, that's  
10 at your discretion if you'd like. Just let people know  
11 when you would like them to return, thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So is the Council  
14 good with one hour, until 1:30 back online.

15

16 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is Jenny.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

19

20 MS. PELKOLA: I won't be back after  
21 lunch.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Are you going  
24 to be off the rest of the day then?

25

26 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. You're  
29 in travel status right now?

30

31 MS. PELKOLA: Yes. Medical.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Okay, well,  
34 thanks for being on here this morning, Jenny, and safe  
35 travels.

36

37 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hope to hear you on  
40 tomorrow at some point.

41

42 MS. PELKOLA: Tomorrow afternoon,  
43 probably, maybe.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, so we're  
46 going to go to break for one hour, we'll be back online  
47 at 1:30 and so we got quite a bit of agenda to go  
48 through here.

49

50

0092

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: I will be contacting  
6 Don Honea and Goodwin to let them know when to return  
7 so that we can have a quorum. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah,  
10 appreciate that. Okay, see you in a little bit, okay,  
11 bye.

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (On record)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Karen.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, yes, we do  
20 have a quorum.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: With the individuals  
25 on the phone. And with your permission I'd like to  
26 make a couple housekeeping announcements again, thank  
27 you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go right  
30 ahead, Karen.

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: First, again, I want  
33 to thank everybody for your patience on the  
34 teleconference today, we know it's challenging,  
35 particularly for our elders and we appreciate it.  
36 Secondly, could you please mute your phone when you're  
37 not speaking, it's really important not to have the  
38 interruptions. You can either use the mute button on  
39 your cell phone or press star, six on your land line,  
40 and the star is located to the left of the zero on your  
41 phone to mute yourself, and star, six unmute yourself  
42 when you want to speak. And I also want to make an  
43 announcement, again -- oh, and, please do not put us on  
44 hold because we won't be able to get off and we'll have  
45 to listen to that music.

46

47 I'd like to make an announcement about  
48 public testimony opportunities again. At the beginning  
49 of each day there will be an opportunity to provide

50

0093

1 testimony on non-agenda items. So the Chair will call  
2 that again tomorrow.

3  
4 There's also an opportunity to provide  
5 oral comments on the wildlife proposals and closure  
6 reviews during or after an analyst presents proposal  
7 analysis. The order of receiving the comments is  
8 outlined on Page 25 of your meeting materials. And the  
9 Council Chair will call for this public oral testimony.

10  
11 There is also an opportunity to submit  
12 written public comments on the proposals. If you have  
13 a written comment please email it to  
14 subsistence@fws.gov. That's FishWildlifeService.gov.  
15 Please clearly indicate the number of the proposal or  
16 closure review you are commenting on in the title of  
17 the email. The comments need to be emailed prior to  
18 the proposal you are commenting on is presented to the  
19 Council. If you emailed your written public comment to  
20 your Council Coordinator prior to the meeting, please  
21 resubmit it to subsistence@fws.gov now.

22  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Karen.  
26 And when I talked to Pollock at the lunch break he was  
27 reconsidering his vote on Proposal WP22-46. Would you  
28 like to make a motion for vote reconsideration Pollock.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there  
33 Pollock.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He was there a  
38 minute ago. Hello, Pollock.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're still muted  
43 if you can hear me.

44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Simon if you  
46 are muted, you can press star, six on your landline to  
47 unmute yourself to speak. Thank you.

48  
49 (No comments)

50

0094

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

2

3 MR. SIMON: Can you hear me?

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I can hear you  
6 now. So would you like to make a motion for  
7 reconsideration of Proposal WP22-46 the brown bear  
8 proposal for Unit 24B.

9

10 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I voted no earlier  
11 and I want to change my vote to yes vote.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So you make a  
14 motion for a vote reconsideration.

15

16 MR. SIMON: Yes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have a  
19 second.

20

21 MR. HONEA: Second, this is Don.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second by Don. So  
24 Pollock wanted to reconsider his vote, any further  
25 discussion.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a  
30 question.

31

32 MR. HONEA: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
35 Those in favor of Proposal WP22-46, you want to call  
36 the roll, Karen.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 Rebecca Wilmarth.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea, Jr.

45

46 MR. HONEA: Did you mention me?

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Don. We're.....

49

50

0095

1 MR. HONEA: Oh, yes -- I'm sorry, I  
2 didn't catch -- yes.

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: No worries.

5  
6 Pollock Simon, Sr.

7  
8 MR. SIMON: Yes.

9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

11  
12 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

15  
16 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

17  
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Jack Reakoff.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

21  
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Motion passes  
23 unanimately, thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,  
26 Karen. And thanks for bringing that up Pollock. So  
27 crossover proposals and closure reviews. This is WP22-  
28 41, delegated authority for caribou in Unit 9, 17, 18  
29 and 19 found on Page 58 of our book -- when you get  
30 your book -- so who is giving this presentation, Karen.

31  
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, that would  
33 be Kendra Holman from OSM. Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there,  
36 Kendra.

37  
38 MS. HOLMAN: I am here, Mr. Chair and  
39 I'm ready.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead and  
42 make the presentation.

43  
44 MS. HOLMAN: Hi, Mr. Chair. Members of  
45 the Council. This is Kendra Holman and I'm a Wildlife  
46 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
47 The issue being addressed here is Wildlife Proposal  
48 WP22-41. It was submitted by Togiak National Wildlife  
49 Refuge and the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and  
50

1 can be found on Page 58 of your meeting books.

2

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This proposal requests that the Federal in-season manager be delegated authority to open and close seasons, announce harvest limits, and set sex ratios for caribou -- or -- in all or portions of Units 9A, 9B, 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A, and 19B via delegation of authority letter, which can be found as Appendix 1 on Page 81 of your meeting books.

The proponent states that the summer 2019 and 2020 population estimate for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd was 13,500 caribou which represents a 50 percent decline from the previous five years and is well below the State's minimum population objective of 30,000 caribou. The proponents notes that 2019/2020 Federal and State seasons were shortened due to conservation concerns. The 2020/2021 season was also shortened providing for a bulls only harvest in August and September while the rest of the season remained closed. This request will help conserve and recover the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and provide flexibility needed to make harvest management decisions in a timely manner. The proponent recognize that his request -- this request will reduce harvest opportunity in the short run, but that conserving the Mulchatna Caribou Herd now will increase harvest opportunity in the future. The proponent also states that the harvest of other resources such as moose may increase in response to this proposal.

As a result of the dramatic population increase the Mulchatna Caribou Herd experienced in the 1990s harvest regulations were liberalized throughout the range of the herd. By 1997 both State and Federal seasons in portions of Units 19, 9 and 17 extended from fall through spring with liberal harvest limits and few restrictions. The population declined from 2004 to 2014 during which timethe State and Federal regulations for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd became increasingly restrictive, including shortening seasons, reducing harvest limits, elimination -- eliminating non-resident seasons, and requiring the RC503 registration permit. From 2015 to 2018 the Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board began liberalizing Mulchatna Caribou Herd regulations. In 2019 ADF&G decreased the harvest limit of the RC508 caribou registration permit hunt, this was followed by the Federal Subsistence Board approving a special

1 action request to decrease the harvest limit for the  
2 2019/2020 regulatory year. This includes closing Units  
3 18, 19A and 19B caribou hunting except by Federally-  
4 qualified subsistence users and a harvest limit of only  
5 one bull and delegating authority to Togiak National  
6 Wildlife Refuge Manager to open and close seasons  
7 throughout the herd range. This request was approved  
8 due to serious conservation concerns for the Mulchatna  
9 Caribou Herd and support from the affected Regional  
10 Advisory Councils and local users. In 2020 ADF&G began  
11 liberalizing regulations by announcing a bulls only  
12 across the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, the  
13 RC503 hunt, the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager  
14 announced an identical Federal hunt for 2020/2021  
15 season. The Board of Game received several proposals  
16 concerning the Mulchatna Caribou Herd during the  
17 Central and Southwest calls for proposals. This --  
18 they will consider proposed changes in Units 9 and 17  
19 at the January 2022 meeting rescheduled from January  
20 2021 due to Covid. Proposed changes for Units 18 and  
21 19 will be addressed at the Western Arctic, Western  
22 region and Interior and Eastern Arctic region meetings  
23 respectively.

24  
25 The population size and distribution of  
26 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd has changed dramatically  
27 over the past 40 years. The current range of the  
28 Mulchatna Caribou Herd is depicted in Figure 1 on Page  
29 64 of your meeting books. The herd preliminary [sic]  
30 occurs in two distinct populations, an Eastern segment  
31 and a Western segment with separate calving and  
32 seasonal areas. Based on radio collared animals mixing  
33 between these two sub populations is low. The herd  
34 peaked at 200,000 caribou in 1996 declining steadily to  
35 18,000 caribou in 2013. Between 2014 and 2016 the herd  
36 stabilized around 28,000 caribou. Then most recently  
37 in 2019 population estimates indicated that the herd  
38 declined to 13,500 caribou which is well below the  
39 State's minimum population objective of 30,000 caribou.  
40 The Western segments population has declined since  
41 2012, while the Eastern segment's population increased  
42 between 2014 and 2016 and then declined back to 2012  
43 levels in 2019. Population numbers can be found on  
44 Figure 4 on Page 74 of your meeting books.

45  
46 The bull/cow ratios in the Mulchatna  
47 Caribou Herd have been depressed since 2001. Calf/cow  
48 ratios have also been low and below State objectives.  
49 While ratios have improved in recent years, they're  
50

0098

1 still below the State management objective of 35 bulls  
2 for ever 100 cows and continue to be a conservation  
3 concern. While the cause of the decline is unknown,  
4 decreasing range quality, predation, particularly by  
5 brown bears on the calving grounds, icing events, deep  
6 snows, and harvest pressure may have all contributed to  
7 the decline. Given the recent substantial decline of  
8 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd population conservation  
9 measures are warranted.

10

11                   Reported harvest -- caribou harvest has  
12 declined in correlation with the caribou population  
13 from almost 4,000 caribou in 2000 to 28 caribou in the  
14 2020/2021 season. Reported harvest numbers can be  
15 found in Figure 5 on Page 76 of your meeting book and  
16 Table 2 also on Page 76 of your meeting book.  
17 Household harvest surveys as well as law enforcement  
18 information and observations indicate actual harvest is  
19 much higher than reported harvest, although the  
20 magnitude of unreported harvest is unknown. While this  
21 change may decrease harvest opportunity for Federally-  
22 qualified subsistence users in the short-term, it may  
23 also help conserve the Mulchatna Caribou Herd to ensure  
24 further harvest opportunities. If this proposal is  
25 approved, the Federal in-season manager would be  
26 delegated authority to open and close seasons, announce  
27 harvest limits, and set sex ratios across the range of  
28 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. The conservation benefits  
29 of adopting WP22-41 are uncertain. Delegating  
30 authority to an in-season manager provide management  
31 flexibility which is critical in responding to changes  
32 in herd condition in a timely manner.

33

34                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
35 support Wildlife Proposal WP22-41.

36

37                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
38 Council. I'll be happy to address any questions.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Kendra, that  
41 was a great presentation. Any questions on the  
42 proposal outline by Council members.

43

44                   MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
45 Don.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

48

49                   MR. HONEA: I had a question for

50

0099

1 Kendra. I'm a little confused about this. I mean  
2 finding out most of this is on the Togiak National  
3 Wildlife Refuge so I guess the history of this being  
4 able to delegate authority has been going back and  
5 forth with ADF&G and the Refuge, I mean because I  
6 thought -- I thought that all the Refuges was open to  
7 whatever the Refuge deemed necessary to -- for the  
8 wildlife populations so I don't know the history. I  
9 guess we're asking -- I guess this proposal is asking  
10 to give it back to the seasonal manager and I -- I  
11 don't see anything wrong with it. I mean is this about  
12 -- just about being able to manage that Refuge -- or I  
13 mean the population?

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that a question  
16 for Kendra?

17

18 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Well, yeah, yeah, I  
19 guess I -- the question I reiterate again, I'm kind of  
20 confused on this. I mean I mentioned that I always  
21 thought that the Refuges, that those decisions to  
22 restrict or to open or anything was left to the  
23 managers and so I guess looking back on this was it up  
24 to ADF&G to make those decisions.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I could explain this  
27 for you there, Don.

28

29 MR. HONEA: Thank you, sure.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In our meeting in  
32 McGrath in 2019, we found out that the herd had  
33 declined down to 13,500, we grilled Aaron Moses on the  
34 phone about the amount of caribou being killed in the  
35 winter hunt, it was substantiated that -- with the  
36 Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council that there was  
37 indeed lots of harvest in the winter hunt that was not  
38 be counted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This  
39 Council and the YKDelta Council made a special action  
40 request to restrict the harvest of caribou during the  
41 winter season, concerns for the population, the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board developed an in-season manager and  
43 they delegated that authority to the Togiak National  
44 Wildlife.

45

46 MR. HONEA: Yeah, okay.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then it's been  
49 basically a delegation -- what this proposal is asking

50

0100

1 for is basically more of a permanent fix instead of a  
2 special action request that keeps coming back up. This  
3 is more of a permanent fix until this herd stabilizes.  
4 So it's necessary for the in-season manager to have  
5 these authorities to be able to stay within harvestable  
6 surpluses of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. Does that  
7 explain it a little clearer?

8

9 MR. HONEA: Yeah, it sure does. And I,  
10 for one, I'm just throwing my support behind it.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
13 Any other Council questions for Kendra.

14

15 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
16 Kevin.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

19

20 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, I had a similar  
21 question to Don's, just wondering -- I don't know the  
22 history as well so looking for a little history lesson  
23 here, who had the delegation of authority before this,  
24 if there was, and now the delegation of authority is  
25 for all of the caribou range and I think the old  
26 delegation of authority was, correct me if I'm wrong,  
27 was for a different -- was for less -- not the entire  
28 range, but it was for less -- but, anyway, if OSM Staff  
29 could help me figure out what was it before and how has  
30 it changed now.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If OSM would like to  
33 address that or I could.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can address that  
38 Kevin. Basically there was seasons and bag limits set  
39 by game management units and subunits within the range  
40 of the -- or correction, the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and  
41 when the herd fell down to such low levels they decided  
42 to put it -- the Federal Subsistence Board decided to  
43 put it under one manager to assess real time what the  
44 herd is doing and what kind of harvest it could  
45 sustain, and the in-season manager has been working  
46 closely with the State after that time, which was in  
47 November of 2019 when they set the delegated authority.  
48 Previous to that it was seasons and bag limits  
49 published in the Handy Dandy. Does that address your  
50

0101

1 question?

2

3

4 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
5 Chair. And so the only concern I have -- I am going to  
6 support this proposal. The only concern I would have  
7 had is for the residents of Lime Village, they have a  
8 unique harvest system in that village for moose and  
9 caribou and stuff like that. So I'm glad to see in the  
10 delegation of authority letter that this delegation  
11 does not include the Lime Village residents. People  
12 here in McGrath from Lime Village -- actually I talked  
13 to them just a couple weeks ago, and they had asked me  
14 if Lime Village was excluded, so I'm glad they brought  
15 that up with me. I do -- am concerned, you know, the  
16 range is such a huge range, it goes up into 19B, 19A,  
17 that herd has come up to McGrath before in the early  
18 1990s, I seen them up here, but Dillingham's a long  
19 ways away and for that manager to manage that herd all  
20 the way up into 19 zone can be very challenging, it's  
21 just a long ways. But just encourage that manager to  
22 work with the tribes and the local people as much as he  
23 can up in the upper Kuskokwim.

23

24

That's all, thanks.

25

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thanks  
for those comments. And so we're going to go back to  
our Council member questions for Kendra on the  
presentation. So was there any tribal consultations,  
Kendra, was there any comments from tribes or ANCSA.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Hello, Mr. Chair, this  
is Karen Deatherage.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen, go ahead.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
There were no comments received during tribal  
consultation or ANCSA Corporation consultation on WP22-  
41. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So do I ask  
you for those comments, Karen, or do I ask the  
presenter?

MS. DEATHERAGE: You can ask me, Mr.  
Chair, thank you. And, thank you for your patience.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Alaska

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1 Department of Fish and Game comments. Are you on there  
2 Ben, or Todd.

3

4 MR. RINALDI: Mr. Chairperson, this is  
5 Todd Rinaldi, I'm the Regional Management Coordinator  
6 with the Division of Wildlife Conservation and I can  
7 speak to this wildlife proposal.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please do.

10

11 MR. RINALDI: Okay. So ADF&G does  
12 support giving the Federal in-season management  
13 authority to Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and the  
14 flexibility that's needed to manage the Mulchatna  
15 Caribou Herd by allowing them to open and close the  
16 season, announce harvest limits, and set restrictions.  
17 As we've discussed before, Togiak has been an excellent  
18 conservation and professional partner in research and  
19 monitoring and education when it comes to the Mulchatna  
20 Caribou Herd and, obviously, they share the same  
21 longstanding common goal of conserving the Mulchatna  
22 Caribou Herd throughout its range.

23

24 And I guess I'd just like to clarify  
25 something that I just heard a few seconds ago and I'm  
26 hoping, you know, something maybe I misheard. But, you  
27 know, the delegation of authority as I understand it  
28 only applies to Federal lands. So unless there are  
29 Federal lands in the Lime Village area, the area would  
30 be managed by State authority.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for  
33 that clarification. And I don't have my regulation  
34 book to see what lands those are. Maybe OSM could  
35 delineate for us what the lands around Lime Village  
36 lands are, whether they're State or Federal lands, I  
37 think there's some BLM lands in that area mainly.  
38 And.....

39

40 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
41 Kevin.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

44

45 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, you're right.  
46 Below the village of Lime Village there is BLM lands  
47 and above, that's the river, below and above, but most  
48 of it around the village it is State of Alaska or  
49 tribal lands. That's all, thanks.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for  
2 that clarification Kevin. And so the State supports  
3 the proposal, any further State comments, Todd.

4  
5 MR. RINALDI: No, I -- I do have some  
6 other information I'd like to share with you all but  
7 will save that for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd  
8 conservation plan discussion later. Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right,  
11 appreciate that. So we're at the Federal comments, are  
12 there Federal comments from Togiak or YKDelta Federal  
13 Wildlife Refuge, or Park Service or other Federal  
14 comments.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So hearing none,  
19 tribal comments. Is there anybody on the phone from  
20 one of the tribes that would like to speak to this  
21 proposal, WP22-41 delegation of authority for Mulchatna  
22 Caribou.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have someone  
27 there.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I guess not. So  
32 other Regional Advisory Councils. Alissa, are.....

33  
34 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....you still on --  
37 Alissa Rogers was on the phone earlier.

38  
39 MS. ROGERS: Hi, Jack. Thank you, Mr.  
40 Chair, I'm here, Alissa Rogers.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Did you have  
43 comments on this proposal.

44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
46 Karen Deatherage. Yes, Alissa -- Alissa, I do have the  
47 recommendations from the YKDelta Council if you'd like  
48 me to share those with Western Interior.

49  
50

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1 MS. ROGERS: Yeah, that'd be great.  
2 And if I have any additional details to add to it  
3 after, I'll let you know. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: That sounds like a  
8 wonderful plan, thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead and read  
11 those in, Karen.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. The YKDelta  
14 Regional Advisory Council supports WP22-41. Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any questions  
17 or additional comments, Alissa.

18  
19 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
20 Through the Chair. We supported it as in-season  
21 Federal manager has the authority to open and close  
22 seasons, announcing harvest and the sex restrictions.  
23 Pretty much we were talking about how there's four to  
24 five different managers that have to sign off on a  
25 document, or in regards to opening or closing any  
26 seasons in any unit and this would actually reduce this  
27 that to having only one signature instead of having to  
28 go through different four different signatures to get  
29 approval so that we can take timely action on any  
30 emergency order or any type of order in regards to the  
31 caribou.

32  
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, thanks for that  
36 clarification. Appreciate that.

37  
38 So is there -- Bristol Bay hasn't met  
39 yet so we don't know what their recommendation would  
40 be.

41  
42 So Advisory Committees, are there any  
43 Advisory Committee comments do you know of, Karen.

44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 I'm not aware of any Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
47 comments on this proposal. Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Subsistence Resource

50

0105

1 Commission comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there anybody  
6 here on the National Park Service to fill in that gap,  
7 or make a comment one way or another for the  
8 Subsistence Resource Commissions, that'd be Lake Clark.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, apparently not.  
13 Summary of written comments, were there any written  
14 comments, Karen.

15

16 MR. RINALDI: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
17 with OSM. There were no written comments received.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, great, thanks,  
20 Kendra. Do we have any public testimony, is there  
21 anybody on the phone that would like to speak to this  
22 proposal.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, okay, Regional  
27 Council recommendation. The Chair will entertain a  
28 motion to adopt Proposal WP22-41 delegated authority  
29 for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. Do we have a motion to  
30 that effect.

31

32 MR. HONEA: I so move, this is Don.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Don.

35

36 MR. WHITWORTH: Second. This is Kevin.

37

38 MR. SEMAKEN: Second.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Kevin.

41 Discussion.

42

43 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. Under  
44 discussion, a gentleman was asking about delegation of  
45 duties or something a couple speakers back. Actually  
46 what I was -- my intention was for if this was like the  
47 Federal managers in say the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko have  
48 that ability to be able to make those decisions and so  
49 I thought well, hey, why can't it, you know, maybe  
50

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1 that's why OSM supported this, but that should be a  
2 given for each one of our Refuges, I would think, and  
3 that was mainly -- mainly I was thinking well they  
4 ought to be able to make those decisions on their  
5 particular Refuge. So that's where I'm coming from.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for  
10 those comments Don. Any other comments or discussion  
11 on the proposal.

12

13

(No comments)

14

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I support the  
17 proposal.....

18

19

20 MR. MOOS: Excuse me, Jack -- Mr.  
21 Chair.

22

23

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go right ahead.

24

25

26 MR. MOOS: Hey, Mr. Chair, this is  
27 Kenton Moos, the Refuge Manager for Togiak National  
28 Wildlife Refuge and in-season manager. I just wanted to  
29 let you guys know I am here if you have any questions  
30 for me. I apologize for not speaking up earlier, I  
31 just got on the phone here, but I am here if you have  
32 any questions for me. Thanks.

33

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does anybody  
36 got any questions for Kenton, who is the in-season  
37 manger for -- that's had delegated authority, the  
38 permanent designation for Togiak Refuge, does anybody  
39 got any questions for Kenton.

40

41

(No comments)

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You should know him  
45 from Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko also.

46

47

48 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Kenton this is Don.  
49 Hey, I'm just trying to give you back your powers to  
50 be.

51

52

(Laughter)

53

54

MR. MOOS: Thanks, Don.

55

56

0107

1 MR. HONEA: Okay, to explain that,  
2 Kenton. I always thought that, you know, when you were  
3 our Refuge Manager over here that it was a given for  
4 you guys to make those decisions on our -- on any  
5 particular thing there so I'm kind of reinforcing that  
6 and that's just it.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for  
9 that support. Go ahead Kenton.

10

11 MR. MOOS: Yeah, I was just going to  
12 say thanks for that Don. And just to clarify a little  
13 bit, I think it was stated, but the primary role of the  
14 in-season manager is to represent all the Federal  
15 managers within the area, both BLM, the National Park  
16 Service as well as the Fish and Wildlife Service. So  
17 it's a role that -- I'm basically the representative  
18 for all the managers that have Federal jurisdiction  
19 within that area, the Mulchatna Caribou Herd range. So  
20 I hope that's clear. That's basically the role of this  
21 and that's what we're asking for, it's for the ease of  
22 management decisions and going forward and working with  
23 the State, you know, Alaska Department of Fish and  
24 Game. It's real easy for us to work together and then  
25 I disseminate the information down to the other  
26 managers and other Federal managers so they have the  
27 information as well.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,  
30 Kenton. At one point Kevin was, you know, discussing  
31 the Lime Village harvest ability in the Federal lands,  
32 are you in conference, Kenton, with the Lime Village  
33 tribe at all.

34

35 MR. MOOS: To be quite honest with you,  
36 here recently I have not been, you know, we have had  
37 conversations about this. I do need to talk with them.  
38 The one thing, though, that is happening with the herd  
39 size being so small we're not seeing the caribou moving  
40 up that way but essentially that could be problematic  
41 in that we're trying to maintain -- I mean this is a  
42 conservation concern. So any harvest of these caribou  
43 could be problematic towards the recovery of the herd.  
44 So our hope is that folks will understand that, you  
45 know, this is a conservation -- these are conservation  
46 measures and what we're trying to do is recover this  
47 herd and recover it as soon as possible, as fast as  
48 possible, and that means that, you know, harvest and  
49 any type of take right now can be problematic towards  
50

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1 the recovery of the herd.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that  
4 clarification, appreciate that. Any other Council  
5 comments or questions regarding the proposal.

6

7 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair, this is Pollock.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

10

11 MR. SIMON: Hey, Jack, can you hear me?

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you fine,  
14 go ahead.

15

16 MR. SIMON: Okay. I don't have a  
17 Council book so I would ask what way -- what does a yes  
18 vote mean and what does a no vote mean, can you give me  
19 an explanation.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Could you say that  
22 again, I missed it.

23

24 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I don't have the  
25 proposal book so which way do we vote, yes or no, what  
26 does a yes vote mean?

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, voting  
29 yes will basically allow the in-season manager, Kenton  
30 Moos, to conserve the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, it's  
31 gotten to the point where it needs tender loving care  
32 so I'm going to vote in favor of the proposal, I'm  
33 voting yes for the proposal because we need this  
34 conservation, a more concise conservation with the  
35 State working with one in-season manager on this  
36 conservation. So that's what a yes vote would be. I'm  
37 in favor of the proposal.

38

39 MR. SIMON: Okay, thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any further  
42 comments or questions.

43

44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is  
45 Lisa.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Lisa.

48

49 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks. Sorry, I

50

0109

1 was on mute earlier, but I was trying to jump in to  
2 provide some clarity around the Lime Village issue.  
3 And Lime Village has its own regulations for caribou in  
4 Unit 19. There's a lot of regulatory history  
5 surrounding the reasons behind that. But basically  
6 WP22-41 and the delegation of authority would not  
7 affect caribou harvest by Lime Village. And if there  
8 is any attention to affect the caribou harvest by Lime  
9 Village that would require a whole 'nother proposal so  
10 I just wanted to clarify that issue of Lime Village.  
11 Thanks.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate  
14 that clarification, Lisa. But it appears that the herd  
15 is not going around Lime Village lately with its  
16 restricted status, the smaller the herd, the less they  
17 migrate. Just kind of a given. So have we discussed  
18 the proposal enough, Council members.

19

20 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, this is Don. I  
21 believe we're ready for a vote.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You call the  
24 question.

25

26 MR. SIMON: Question.

27

28 MR. HONEA: I call for the question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called,  
31 those in favor of WP22-41 delegated authority for  
32 caribou in Units 9, 17, and 19, those in favor of the  
33 proposal signify by saying aye -- you want to call the  
34 roll Karen.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 Rebecca Wilmarth.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca are you on the  
43 phone with us?

44

45 MS. WILMARTH: I am. Yes is my vote.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Rebecca.

48

49 Don Honea, Jr.

50

0110

1 MR. HONEA: Yes.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon.....

4

5 MR. SIMON: Yes.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....and this would be  
8 for delegation of authority -- okay, thank you,  
9 Pollock.

10

11 Kevin Whitworth.

12

13 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

20

21 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Motion  
24 passes unanimously. And I believe I have the  
25 justification on record, thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Okay, thanks  
28 so much. The next proposal up is WP22-42 on Page 85,  
29 and Kendra are you doing this one also.

30

31 MS. HOLMAN: I am doing this one as  
32 well, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go right  
35 ahead.

36

37 MS. HOLMAN: You get to hear a lot of  
38 me over most of these here.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

41

42 MS. HOLMAN: So for the record this  
43 Kendra Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the  
44 OSM. I will be presenting a summary of the analysis for  
45 Wildlife Proposal WP22-42 requesting to increase the  
46 harvest limit for the moose from two to three in Unit  
47 18 remainder, which starts on Page 85 of your meeting  
48 book.

49

50

0111

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

12  
13                   In 2005 the Board of Game increased the  
14 fall season 21 days and increased the winter season 10  
15 days in response to the rapid growth of the lower  
16 Yukon moose population. In 2009 the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board approved a special action increasing  
18 the harvest limit from one to two moose per regulatory  
19 year with one allowed in the fall and one in the  
20 winter. The Board of Game extended the winter season  
21 to February 28th adjusting the unit boundaries. In  
22 2010 the Federal Subsistence Board increased harvest  
23 limit to two moose per regulatory year extended the  
24 winter season -- oh, I apologize I read that one  
25 already -- in 2012 the Federal Subsistence Board  
26 adopted a proposal to combine the fall and winter hunts  
27 into one season from August 1st to March 31st with a  
28 harvest limit of two moose and stipulation that  
29 antlered bull harvest was limited to only between  
30 August 1st and September 30th. In 2014 the Federal  
31 Subsistence Board adopted a proposal with modification  
32 that adjusted unit boundaries and establishing a single  
33 Yukon drainage hunt area and modified the bull harvest  
34 stipulations stating bulls could not be harvested from  
35 October 1st to November 30th, Unit 18 remainder harvest  
36 limit was two moose. The Federal Subsistence Board  
37 extended the season to April 30th in 2018. In 2020 the  
38 Board of Game extended the winter season to April 30th  
39 stating concerns that the Paimiut area had surpassed  
40 carrying capacity. In 2021 Wildlife Special Action 21-  
41 02 was approved by the Federal Subsistence Board  
42 increasing the harvest limit for moose in Unit 18 to  
43 three moose for the remainder of the 2020/2021 season.

44  
45                   Moose began to migrate into the Yukon  
46 Kuskokwim Delta during the mid- to late 1940s and have  
47 become an important subsistence resource for locals.  
48 Much of the region supports only low, to very low  
49 density moose populations, however, productive habitat  
50

0112

1 does not exist along river corridors and approximately  
2 -- with approximately 4,500 square miles and 3,500  
3 square miles of suitable habitat -- moose habitat  
4 occurring along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers  
5 respectively. The Yukon River moose population  
6 currently occupies most of the available riparian  
7 habitat at a moderate to high density and has a high  
8 half production and yearling recruitment and the  
9 population is growing. The population composition  
10 surveys were conducted in five core areas -- in five  
11 survey areas in Unit 18 shown in Figure 2 on Page 93 of  
12 your meeting book. The most recent survey was done in  
13 February/March of 2021. The lowest Yukon -- the lower  
14 Yukon was estimated a population a little over 12,000  
15 with a density of 6.89 moose per square mile. The  
16 Paimiut/Andreafsky units were conducted together with  
17 an estimated population of around 4,800 and 6,900  
18 respectively and a combined density of the two survey  
19 units of 3.68 moose per square mile.

20

21 ADF&Gs harvest record for the general  
22 moose in Unit 18 only includes Unit 18 remainder as the  
23 moose harvest in the other areas of hunt -- Unit 18 are  
24 by registration permit. Over the past 10 years the  
25 largest portion of the harvest has been by Alaska  
26 residents, see Figure 4 on Page 85 of your meeting  
27 book. Total reported harvest has increased roughly 26  
28 percent from 2010 to 2019, while the number of hunters  
29 has stayed relatively the same in the past 10 years,  
30 the success rate for those hunters has increased from  
31 52 percent to 73 percent.

32

33 The moose population in the Unit 18  
34 remainder hunt area far exceeds management objectives  
35 and is believed to exceed the habitat carrying  
36 capacity. Approval of this proposal would provide  
37 additional opportunity for Federally-qualified  
38 subsistence users. Increasing the harvest limit from  
39 two to three moose may help limit the growth of the  
40 moose population. Furthermore, the expanded harvest  
41 limit might promote further sharing of moose throughout  
42 the Yukon Kuskokwim region and support subsistence  
43 families in need.

44

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

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
49 Council, I will be happy to answer any questions.

50

0113

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kendra. Any  
2 questions for Kendra on the biological report and  
3 presentation.

4  
5                   (No comments)

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you discuss  
8 predator factors like are brown bears and wolves  
9 increasing with this population?

10  
11                   (No comments)

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kendra?

14  
15                   MS. HOLMAN: I can, give me just a  
16 second, Mr. Chair.

17  
18                   (Pause)

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any other Council  
21 members have questions for Kendra.

22  
23                   MR. HONEA: Yeah, Jack, Mr. Chair, this  
24 is Don.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

27  
28                   MR. HONEA: Yeah, I just had a question  
29 for Kendra here. Historically, I think, some of these,  
30 Unit 18 was going up the river further up so this is  
31 quite a change here. So I guess they even have a  
32 winter hunt, I guess, I mean according to the  
33 discussion on here, if this is not -- if this doesn't  
34 go through it's going to pose a problem -- it says if  
35 this moose population is not reduced it's at the risk  
36 of crashing due to over browsing. And I don't really  
37 know, I mean just, you know, it's -- our moose  
38 population around here is kind of stable, if not kind  
39 of low, and so it's pretty surprising, I'm just -- I  
40 guess -- I guess I would be in favor of it because I  
41 mean if they have that much moose down there, more  
42 power to them, I mean we -- we don't have that kind of  
43 a luxury here. That's just my comment.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Kendra are  
46 you there?

47  
48                   MS. HOLMAN: I'm here, Mr. Chair. So  
49 I'm not sure if ADF&G is on to help answer this  
50

0114

1 question. I know part of coming up with the carrying  
2 capacity has -- they've measured the browse and how  
3 much the moose is browsing.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

6

7 MS. HOLMAN: And the perce -- and  
8 they've been able to base -- they did some work in the  
9 last couple years, I'm not sure of the exact dates. I  
10 know if they're here they could answer this a little  
11 bit better.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Sorry, I  
14 threw you a curve ball there, but I was.....

15

16 MS. HOLMAN: No, no, I -- I just know  
17 -- I know they have done some work with looking for --  
18 looking at the browse and the percentage of browse and  
19 determined that it was around 30 percent if I'm  
20 correct, which is the high end for the population  
21 numbers and carrying capacity.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

24

25 MS. HOLMAN: I'm hoping ADF&G can  
26 respond and possibly straighten that out and answer  
27 that a little better.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

30

31 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is  
32 Lisa.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Lisa, go  
35 ahead.

36

37 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I can just add to  
38 that. I don't think predation was explicitly addressed  
39 in the analysis. But my recollection for that Yukon  
40 Delta River area is there are not bears present there,  
41 in general. I know when I've been doing bird surveys  
42 on the Yukon Delta area we didn't even have to put our  
43 food in a bear can because there just weren't bears in  
44 that area. And I don't think there are a whole lot of  
45 wolves in that area either, it's not great habitat.  
46 But, yeah, as Kendra said, perhaps ADF&G or other  
47 Refuge Staff might have more specific information  
48 regarding that.

49

50

0115

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I mean the  
2 browse utilization and clarification of that -- so it  
3 may be that there's fairly significant harvest of  
4 wolves also that would be in that area. That kind of  
5 generally answers my question about the bear population  
6 of almost non-existent.

7

8                   So we're going to go to -- unless  
9 there's other Council questions, we'll go to the tribal  
10 comments. Karen.

11

12                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments for  
14 WP22-42. Thank you.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so we're  
17 at Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

18

19                   MR. MULLIGAN: Mr. Chair, this is Ben  
20 Mulligan from the Department of Fish and Game. We  
21 couldn't have our area biologist, there were conflicts  
22 -- I'm going to tell you just from the comments from  
23 our analysis of the proposal, you know, our area  
24 biologist says -- I mean there's roughly 24,000 moose  
25 in that hunt area and during (indiscernible - cutting  
26 out) we don't have any conservation concerns with  
27 upping the bag limit and as already has been discussed,  
28 getting a handle on this population would be beneficial  
29 in the long-term.

30

31                   Thank you.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So you're  
34 supportive of this proposal?

35

36                   MR. MULLIGAN: Yes, Sir.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'm getting  
39 quite an echo off the phone.

40

41                   REPORTER: Okay, hold on a second, so  
42 this is Tina, Salena, so folks if everybody could take  
43 a second and look at your phone and make sure you're on  
44 mute. When we have too many open lines we start to get  
45 feedback because some people, you know, are just  
46 talking on an open line. So if everybody could mute  
47 your phone, star, six, or use your mute button and  
48 hopefully we can cut down on some of that echo.

49

50

0116

1 Go ahead, Jack.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,  
4 Salena. So ADF&G is supportive of that. Do we have  
5 Federal comments from Yukon Delta Refuge, anybody on --  
6 other Federal managers.

7

8 MR. MOSES: Hey, Jack, this is Aaron.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Aaron, go  
11 ahead.

12

13

MR. MOSES: Yeah, we support this  
14 proposal. That's all I have to say about it, because  
15 it does increase -- it does give the ability to  
16 residents to get more moose and to share moose so we  
17 support this proposal.

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. Do  
20 you have any tribal comments, do you know Aaron, from  
21 your area on this, support, or comments on the  
22 proposal.

23

24

(No comments)

25

26

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Apparently none.  
27 Advisory Regional Council, YKDelta, did they take this  
28 proposal up, Karen.

29

30

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council  
32 supports WP22-42. And if Alissa wants to weigh in on  
33 why they did then that's great, thank you.

34

35

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Alissa, you got  
36 comments.

37

38

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 Through the Chair, Alissa Rogers. Comments are to  
40 continue subsistence uses and increase opportunity for  
41 sharing moose throughout the YKDelta region to ensure  
42 long-term sustainability which is currently too high to  
43 be supported by the local environment. One of -- an  
44 additional suggestion to this was that we wanted to get  
45 sporthunters to target more cows and calves, which will  
46 help reduce the reproduction rate.

47

48

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50

0117

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Alissa. Any  
2 other public comments on this proposal -- oh, summary  
3 of written public comments, were there written  
4 comments, Karen.

5

6                   MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra.  
7 There were no written comments received.

8

9                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right,  
10 thank you. And so.....

11

12                   MR. CHASE: Mr. Chair.

13

14                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

15

16                   MR. CHASE: This is Ken Chase.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Ken, go ahead.

19

20                   MR. CHASE: I guess I'll be speaking  
21 kind of like I'm the Chairman of the GASH Advisory  
22 Committee which is 21E, and we border on to 18 on the  
23 south and D, to the north.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

26

27                   MR. CHASE: And I'd like to just make  
28 the notification that about 20 years ago and 11 years  
29 ago we had some really bad flooding north of us on the  
30 21D below Galena and it wiped out a lot of the moose  
31 population, calves, the cows, everything, for 20 years  
32 that area was very depressed for moose and it still  
33 hasn't recovered much to this day. And it's happened  
34 slightly -- in there 21E, so my caution there is -- I  
35 support the proposal -- I support the take of moose if  
36 it's abundant, however, it's not only because of the  
37 lack of browse or the human take, the flooding  
38 conditions are not being taken in -- if there's a year  
39 down in that area that floods and if it happens to get  
40 real bad that moose population is going to be cut way  
41 down. So I just use a little word of caution there on  
42 the taking of too many moose without any kind of  
43 protection to close it if they have to, an emergency  
44 closure.

45

46                   So thank you.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Ken.  
49 I think that if an event like that actually happened

50

0118

1 then there's special action requests -- the managers  
2 could make special action request to go to restrictions  
3 if that were to happen. But there is a mechanism to do  
4 that, to respond to an Act of God, or a weather event  
5 like you're discussing.

6  
7 So any other public testimony.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Regional Council  
12 recommendation, motion to adopt.

13  
14 MR. HONEA: I make that motion.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Don makes a  
17 motion. Do we have a second.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second,  
22 is anybody going to second this motion to adopt  
23 Proposal WP22-42.

24  
25 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
26 Kevin.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kevin.

29  
30 MR. WHITWORTH: Before we make that  
31 motion could I ask a question, just curious here.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

34  
35 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, the question is  
36 maybe for OSM or Fish and Game, on Page 95, Figure 3,  
37 the three survey units lower Yukon, Andreafsky and  
38 Paimiut, it looks to me that Paimiut, correct me if I'm  
39 wrong, but Paimiut may be stabling off, I mean it's  
40 still very high density up in that area, I'm just  
41 curious what Fish and Game or OSM's analysis is there,  
42 that maybe the Paimiut survey area is stabling off, or  
43 what's going on there. If I could just get that,  
44 that's all. Thanks.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there an answer  
47 to that question regarding Paimiut population  
48 stabilizing. Kendra or Alaska Department of Fish and  
49 Game.

50

0119

1 MR. MULLIGAN: Mr. Chair, I apologize.  
2 We don't have anybody online who's capable of answering  
3 that question at this time.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.

6  
7 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this  
8 is Kevin.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

11  
12 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, I just wanted to  
13 ask that because we've been just making a blanket  
14 statement that Unit 18 and that area in the Yukon is  
15 just increasing, which could be questionable. But I do  
16 think that the density is high enough for an increase  
17 from two to three. So back to Don's motion, I'll  
18 second it, if it's okay, if I could do that now.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we have a  
21 motion to adopt, a second from Kevin. You got a  
22 comment there, Karen, was that you?

23  
24 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa, and sorry  
25 I didn't mean to jump in on anyone's toes but I can  
26 address Kevin's question if you'd like.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

29  
30 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, so I think Kevin  
31 you were referring to Figure 3 in the analysis, and  
32 that graph, and as you mentioned, regardless it's still  
33 an extremely high moose density for the area whether or  
34 not it's stabilizing or not. And I do see -- you know,  
35 I'm trying to remember all the details of this  
36 analysis, but I do see that the Andrafsky and Paimiut  
37 density estimates were combined in 2021 so if you look  
38 at the last density estimate for 2012 where the  
39 Andrafsky density is quite a bit lower than the  
40 Paimiut density and then look at 2021 those areas were  
41 combined and so it's not a perfect explanation but you  
42 could maybe average those density estimates in 2012 to  
43 kind of think, well, okay if the Paimiut estimate from  
44 2012 is being combined with the other survey area where  
45 moose density is lower, it would stand to reason that  
46 it might be a lower density than before but either way,  
47 as you stated, it's still an extremely high moose  
48 density.

49  
50

0120

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And also if you look  
2 at Table 2 Paimiut survey, they got really good  
3 bull/cow ratios, actually fairly high calf/cow ratios,  
4 the lower Yukon at 25 bulls per 100 cows and 81 calves  
5 per 100 cows, 25 is below the management objective but  
6 the winter hunt proposal is to close on October 1, as  
7 Alissa was saying to push hunters towards of cows, more  
8 cow harvest, to retain that bull component. So I'm  
9 comfortable with that aspect of this proposal, the  
10 biological component.

11

12                   Any other comments or discussion of the  
13 proposal that's on the floor.

14

15                   MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
16 Don.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

19

20                   MR. HONEA: Yeah, I have -- I'm not  
21 really supporting this proposal but their numbers are  
22 so high -- you know I hear what Ken Chase is saying  
23 about the moose population down here and I also think  
24 back about what happened in the Tanana Flats there when  
25 they had a cow and a calf open season for them and the  
26 repercussions we're feeling from that, even today, the  
27 people that live in that area. That's -- but I'm just  
28 thinking about the numbers that they have to deal with  
29 down there and I certainly would support this because  
30 they're asking for three moose, instead of two,  
31 whatever, but I would not support -- deliberately  
32 support the cow and the calf, the taking of that. I  
33 just wanted to mention that.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Don.  
36 One aspect of this population down there, basically  
37 it's not like the Interior, it goes into more or less  
38 tundra with brush along the rivers for the majority of  
39 that Unit 18 and what happened on the North Slope, with  
40 the Colville River, which is a similar tundra habitat  
41 with willows along the river, the moose browsed so  
42 heavily that the population took a significant decline,  
43 from 1975 the population started to go downhill, the  
44 browse was over utilized and the population got so low  
45 there were actually closures. So it's actually,  
46 without predation -- so that's why I'm asking about  
47 predation, the predators, but it doesn't sound like  
48 there's any predation, so the humans are the  
49 restriction on this population and it isn't just  
50

0121

1 necessary to restrict the population otherwise it's  
2 going to crash big time and then there's going to be  
3 long closures. That's what actually happened on the  
4 Colville River and there's still not that great of a  
5 population, you know, 35, 40 years later on the  
6 Colville, the moose population has not -- the browse  
7 has never come back to the point where the -- like hare  
8 populations there also, there's other food competitors  
9 with moose. So I'm supportive of this proposal at this  
10 time. There's special action request abilities to  
11 restrict the hunting pressure but at this time the  
12 humans are the predators, nothing like Interior Alaska  
13 where we got bears and wolves and lots of different,  
14 two species of bears, they don't even have bears so I'm  
15 supportive of the proposal because of the biological  
16 parameters of the browsing rate at over 30 percent and  
17 what actually -- if you look at what happened on the  
18 North Slope, that's really likely happened with this  
19 population.

20

21 Further discussion.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.

28 Those in favor of the proposal, you want to call the  
29 roll, Karen.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Certainly, Mr. Chair,  
32 thank you. Rebecca Wilmarth, are you on the phone  
33 Rebecca.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: If you are, you can  
38 unmute your phone to vote.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll move on to Don  
43 Honea.

44

45 MR. HONEA: Yes.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Don.

48

49 Pollock Simon.

50

0122

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock, are you with  
4 us, this is to support increasing moose harvest limit  
5 in Unit 18.

6

7 MR. SIMON: This is Pollock, I voted  
8 yes.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Pollock.

11

12 Kevin Whitworth.

13

14 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Kevin.

17

18 Jack Reakoff.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

23

24 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is that you Goodwin?

27

28 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes, can you hear me?

29

Yes.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, barely, but, yes,  
32 thank you Goodwin.

33

34 (Teleconference interference -  
35 participants not muted)

36

37 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, that's five yes,  
40 unanimous votes, thank you the motion passes.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So  
43 moving down to the next proposals, WP22-43/44 delegated  
44 authority to establish harvest limits, extend fall  
45 season, establish winter season for moose in Unit 18,  
46 Kendra.

47

48 (Teleconference interference -  
49 participants not muted)

50

0123

1                   REPORTER: Okay, hang on a second,  
2 Jack, before we go on. This is Tina.....

3  
4                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,  
5 Salena.

6  
7                   REPORTER: .....or Salena. I'm going  
8 to go ahead and go in and mute all of the lines to see  
9 if we can get rid of some of the echo and then, Kendra,  
10 if you're starting you will need to unmute your phone  
11 to begin after I do that, and you will also Jack, so if  
12 you could give me just a seconds here to do that we'll  
13 see if we can get rid of some of the echo.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

16  
17                   MR. HONEA: So, Tina, you're going to  
18 mute all of us?

19  
20                   REPORTER: I am. There's a lot of.....

21  
22                   MR. HONEA: Okay.

23  
24                   REPORTER: So when you need to talk  
25 again, Don, you need to star, six, or unmute your phone  
26 to talk again.

27  
28                   MR. HONEA: All right, thank you.

29  
30                   REPORTER: Okay. All right, thanks,  
31 give me a couple seconds here.

32  
33                   (Pause)

34  
35                   REPORTER: So I did put it on silent  
36 mode, and we can start with, Jack, if you could unmute  
37 your phone line now, and then I think you were going to  
38 have Kendra start and she will need to unmute her phone  
39 line and let's see if helps at all. Okay, go ahead.

40  
41                   (No comments)

42  
43                   REPORTER: Am I still connected?

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So can you hear me  
46 now, Salena.

47  
48                   REPORTER: Yes, I can.

49  
50

0124

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Are you  
2 there, Kendra, star six. I had to do it twice.

3  
4 (Pause)

5  
6 REPORTER: Kendra, can you star, six  
7 your phone.

8  
9 MS. HOLMAN: Can you hear me?

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

12  
13 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. All right. So, Mr.  
14 Chair. Members of the Council. This is Kendra Holman,  
15 Wildlife Biologist with the OSM. I will be presenting  
16 a summary of the combined analysis for Wildlife  
17 Proposals WP22-43 requesting delegated authority to the  
18 Federal in-season manager to increase moose harvest  
19 quota in Zone 1 of the Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18  
20 if the water levels are too low to access Zone 2, and  
21 Wildlife Proposal WP22-44, requesting that the fall  
22 moose season in the Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18 be  
23 extended from September 1st through the 30th to  
24 September 1st through October 15th, and that a may be  
25 announced season be established from December 1st to  
26 January 31st with a harvest limit of one antlered bull  
27 by Federal registration permit. This proposal begins  
28 on Page 98 of your meeting books.

29  
30 So WP22-43 the proponent states from  
31 discussions with the Kwethluk residents that the water  
32 levels in the Kuskokwim River tributaries have been too  
33 low in recent years to successfully access Zone 2 and  
34 hunt moose. Low winter snow pack and hot dry summers  
35 in recent years have increasingly made access to Zone 2  
36 by prop boat more challenging. When access to Zone 2  
37 is prohibited due to low water levels providing for  
38 other subsistence opportunity is imperative.

39  
40 WP22-44 the proponent states that the  
41 average moose harvest since 2017 for the RM615 hunt  
42 within Zone 2 has been 78 moose, which is below the  
43 quota of 110 moose. The proponent further states that  
44 extending the season in Zone 2, which is predominately  
45 Federal public lands will allow for additional hunting  
46 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users  
47 and the announcement of a may be announced season would  
48 allow harvest of any remaining fall quota.

49  
50

1 Federal public lands in the Kuskokwim  
2 hunt area have been closed to non-Federally-qualified  
3 users since 1991. Between 199 -- between 2004 and 2008  
4 the Federal Subsistence Board and State Board of Game  
5 enacted a harvest moratorium to promote the growth of  
6 the Unit 18 moose population. Since 2009 moose harvest  
7 in the Kuskokwim hunt area have been managed by quotas.  
8 In 2017 ADF&G and the Yukon Delta Refuge began managing  
9 the hunt area in two zones. That map can be found as  
10 Figure 1 on Page 105 of your meeting book. Zone 1 is  
11 primarily non-Federal lands and quotas are set by  
12 ADF&G. Users can easily access Zone 1 by boat along  
13 the mainstem of the Kuskokwim River and quotas are  
14 quickly met. Zone 2 is primarily Federal lands and the  
15 Yukon Delta Refuge sets the quotas. Zone 2 is much  
16 more difficult to access and quotas are not usually  
17 met. For regulatory year 2020/2021 emergency wildlife  
18 special request WSA20-05 extended the season seven  
19 days. The Alaska Board of Game extended the State  
20 season in Zone 2 until October 15th at their January  
21 2020 meeting through adoption of Proposal 7, as  
22 amended. The extended closure date of October 15th was  
23 recently updated and enacted for the 2021/2022 season.  
24 So, again, the State season in Zone 2 now closes on  
25 October 15th. Wildlife Special Action, WSA21-03 was  
26 approved by the Board in August 2021 which extended the  
27 fall moose season to October 15 in Zone 2 aligning the  
28 2021/2022 season with current State regulations.

29  
30 During the 1990s moose densities in the  
31 Kuskokwim River drainage were low and hunting pressure  
32 limited growth of the population. The 2004 to 2008  
33 moratorium was effective in establishing a harvestable  
34 populations and since then the moose population has  
35 continued to grow. Currently ADF&Gs estimates 4,000  
36 moose in the Kuskokwim hunt area which exceeds the  
37 population objective which is 2,000 moose. Bull/cow  
38 ratios are high, 42 bulls per 100 cows in 2020 as calf  
39 cow ratios -- as are calf/cow ratios indicated in the  
40 growing moose population, 40 calves per 100 cows in  
41 fall of 2020 with a twinning rate of 43 percent between  
42 2015 and 2019. Since 2011 reported harvest have  
43 averaged 183 moose per year although harvest has  
44 increased as the moose population and, therefore,  
45 harvest quotas have been increased. Federally-  
46 qualified subsistence users account for 95 percent of  
47 the moose harvest and their demand far exceeds  
48 availability. Since 2009 an average of 1,450 hunters  
49 obtained permits with only a 10 percent success rate.  
50

1 As previously mentioned ADF&G and the Yukon Delta  
2 Refuge cooperatively manage the Kuskokwim hunt areas in  
3 two zones. Prior to adopting a fixed season quotas in  
4 Zone 1 were quickly met and seasons closed early by  
5 State emergency order. Under the fixed Zone 1 was open  
6 for 11 days in 2020 and will be open nine days in 2021.  
7 However, since 2017 average harvest in Zone 2 has only  
8 been 78 moose, which is well below the quota of 110  
9 moose. Harvest from 2019 to 2020 when the season was  
10 extended seven days had a harvest increase of 20  
11 percent with 90 moose harvested in 2020. This could be  
12 an indication that the season extension that was  
13 effective for 2020. Zone 2 consists of tributaries to  
14 the Kuskokwim Rivers and requires specialized boats to  
15 access as well as longer travel times and more fuel.  
16 The unmet quota in Zone 2 is likely a function of  
17 difficulties in accessing, rather than lack of need for  
18 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 the low bull/cow ratios in Zone 1 indicate no  
26 surplus bulls are available for harvest. However, if  
27 the Federal manager did increase the harvest quota in  
28 Zone 1 it would only apply to Federal public lands  
29 which are very limited in Zone 1. Conservations [sic]  
30 exist for proposal WP22-43. The may be announced  
31 winter season provides an alternative approach to  
32 increasing subsistence harvest opportunity if water  
33 levels are too low to access Zone 2 during the fall  
34 hunt while not creating conservation concerns.

35  
36 If WP22-44 is adopted the moose season  
37 in the Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18 would be extended  
38 15 days closing October 15 instead of September 30th,  
39 and a winter season would be announced if the fall  
40 harvest quota is not met. This would increase hunting  
41 opportunities for Federally-qualified subsistence users  
42 and would increase total moose harvest in this area.  
43 If water levels are too low in the fall to access Zone  
44 2, a winter season could be announced providing easier  
45 access via snowmachine which would also address the  
46 concerns expressed in WP22-43. Alternatively, if the  
47 harvest quota is met in the fall, the Yukon Delta  
48 National Wildlife Refuge manager would not announce a  
49 winter season.  
50

0127

1                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
2 oppose Proposal WP22-43 and support Proposal WP22-44  
3 with the modification to clarify the regulatory  
4 language and to delegate authority to the Yukon Delta  
5 National Wildlife Refuge manager to announce the winter  
6 season via delegation of authority letter.

7

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

10

11                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kendra. Do  
12 have Council members have questions on the  
13 presentation, it's fairly complex.

14

15                   (No comments)

16

17                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

18

19                   REPORTER: Okay, and, Jack.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Salena.

22

23                   REPORTER: So Council members also  
24 remember if you do have a question, or you do want to  
25 speak you will have to star, six your phone. Okay.

26

27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Council members  
28 push star six to make a comment.

29

30                   (No comments)

31

32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments on the  
33 presentation.

34

35                   (No comments)

36

37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not hearing any  
38 Council members but Karen, are you there.

39

40                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, can you  
41 hear me?

42

43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you.

44

45                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 We might want to check in with a couple just to see if  
47 they were able to unmute themselves. Don Honea, are  
48 you on the phone?

49

50

0128

1 (No comments)

2

3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Please remember to  
5 star six, the star is next to the zero on your phone  
6 pad, on the left side, and press number six to unmute  
7 yourself. How about Kevin Whitworth, Kevin, are you on  
8 the phone?

8

9

MR. WHITWORTH: Yes, can you hear me?

10

11

MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, great, thank you.

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we can hear  
you.

15

16

17

MR. WHITWORTH: I had to push unmute  
twice and then it worked, first time it didn't.

18

19

20

21

22

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I had to push  
it twice also. Council members if you're trying to  
push star, six, and if it doesn't work, push it again,  
I had to push it twice myself.

23

24

25

So did you have any questions or  
comments on the presentation Kevin.

26

27

28

29

MR. WHITWORTH: No, not at this time,  
I'm curious what U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has to  
say, Yukon Delta Refuge.

30

31

32

33

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
Council members, are you there, Don, did you push star,  
six, twice.

34

35

36

(No comments)

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He said his phone  
might die also. Pollock, are you there?

40

41

(No comments)

42

43

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Goodwin.

44

45

MR. SEMAKEN: Yes, Goodwin's here.

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any  
questions. I'm just making sure that the Council  
members are on the phone after that blackout. So do  
you have any questions Goodwin?

0129

1 MR. SEMAKEN: No.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And, Rebecca  
4 Wilmarth, are you there?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you can hear me  
9 Rebecca you got to push star, six, and then star, six  
10 again if it doesn't work.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't have her.  
15 So what's your suggestion Karen.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: (Indiscernible -  
18 breaking up)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're breaking up  
21 really bad, Karen, if that's you.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Can you hear me?

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you now.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. What I propose  
28 that we go ahead and (indiscernible - breaking up)  
29 through the remaining processes and then when you get  
30 to a motion from the Council then we'll check in with  
31 everybody to be sure that their comments are heard, and  
32 their discussion.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so were  
37 there any tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments on  
41 WP22-43 or 44. Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The Alaska  
44 Department of Fish and Game comments.

45

46 MR. MULLIGAN: Mr. Chair, Ben Mulligan  
47 here.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead, Ben.

50

0130

1 MR. MULLIGAN: For these two sets of  
2 proposals, I don't have any new information in our  
3 analysis that I've gotten from Staff that you didn't  
4 already hear from OSM at the moment. So our position  
5 on 43 is to oppose that proposal, given what you've  
6 heard and what we know of the harvest levels for Zone 1  
7 and then to 44, we do support the extension of the  
8 season in Zone 2 to October 15th because that aligns  
9 State and Federal regulations and as yourself are well  
10 aware, we prefer to have those aligned to reduce user  
11 confusion. We are wary of any winter season, but given  
12 that the Refuge managers work well with our area  
13 biologist we know that a season won't be set that will  
14 bring about a conservation concern in this area.

15  
16 Thank you, Sir.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And I was  
19 unclear about the winter hunt opportunity, was that for  
20 bull only winter hunt, or is that for one moose, very  
21 limited season, or have you heard any discussion on  
22 what the parameters are of that, Kendra, or Ben, I'm  
23 unclear about that winter hunt aspect.

24  
25 MR. MULLIGAN: Mr. Chair, I'm just --  
26 this is Ben again, sorry. I'm just looking at the  
27 language that I've got, it says a may be announced  
28 season from December 1st to January 31st for an  
29 antlered bull by Federal registration permit is what  
30 I've got.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

33  
34 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
35 Kendra.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

38  
39 MS. HOLMAN: My information is just  
40 that it continues -- would be just to meet that quota,  
41 whatever was previously set so it would be as -- it  
42 would not be an additional to the original quota, it  
43 would just give the opportunity to actually meet the  
44 quota.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right,  
47 thanks for that clarification, appreciate that.  
48 Federal comments, do we have Yukon Delta Refuge Staff,  
49 Aaron, are you going to discuss this one.

50

0131

1 MR. MOSES: Yes, Mr. Chair, can you hear  
2 me?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I can, go  
5 ahead.

6  
7 MR. MOSES: Oh, yeah, we were the ones  
8 that authored WP22-44 and at this point our quotas have  
9 been stagnant at 110 but we did do a minimum count this  
10 last fall and our minimum count was higher than an  
11 estimated population count that we did a couple years  
12 earlier. So once we get more data from our biologist  
13 and working with Fish and Game doing moose counts  
14 around hereon the Kuskokwim, we may see in the future  
15 that our quota might be going higher. We're going to  
16 try to do some of those this fall, those population  
17 counts, but if our population counts are higher and our  
18 quotas do go up, this will just be another tool in our  
19 pocket that we would be allowed to give Federally-  
20 qualified subsistence users the opportunity to hunt  
21 closer to home in Zone 2.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

24  
25 MR. MOSES: The reason we added the  
26 season to be announced is so that we could have extra  
27 tools in our pocket for later use if possible. Thank  
28 you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I understand. So  
31 all right.....

32  
33 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
34 Kevin.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

37  
38 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, I'd like to ask  
39 Aaron a question, Fish and Wildlife Service. Sorry if  
40 I missed it but I was just wondering what Fish and  
41 Wildlife, in your guys opinion, what you guys think of  
42 the Proposal WP22-43, did you guys take up that  
43 proposal at all?

44  
45 MR. MOSES: No, we didn't but we have  
46 the same as the OSM conclusion.

47  
48 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay, thanks.

49  
50

0132

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, yeah, the  
2 mainstem, Zone 1 meeting their quotas rapidly and then  
3 with the really low bull/cow ratio of 25, that's a  
4 concern, so when we did antlerless moose hunt, by  
5 December 15 60 percent of the moose have lost antler  
6 according to Glenn Stout with ADF&G in Fairbanks. So  
7 that's a consideration for the Refuge, to look at those  
8 calculations, if the moose are dropping antler there's  
9 going to be less bulls, and if you want to take some  
10 bulls and especially younger bulls you might think  
11 about when you initiate that antlerless moose hunt to  
12 meet your quotas but not heavily harvest those large  
13 breeder bulls that are -- on the 1st of December there  
14 still would be a lot of those, by the 10th of December  
15 a lot of those larger bulls have lost antler. Just  
16 part of the discussion on this proposal, WP22-44.

17  
18                   Any other questions for the Federal  
19 manager, Aaron Moses is speaking for them right now,  
20 Council members.

21  
22                   (No comments)

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any.  
25 Were there any tribal comments, Kendra.

26  
27                   MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, I believe Karen  
28 has that information.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

31  
32                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, we did  
33 discuss already the tribal and ANCSA Corporation  
34 comments, there were none. This is an opportunity for  
35 any tribes to speak up that were not involved in the  
36 consultation.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

39  
40                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have anybody  
43 on the phone with tribal comments on these proposals.

44  
45                   (No comments)

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any.  
48 Other Regional Advisory Councils, what did YKDelta  
49 Refuge do, Karen.

50

0133

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 The YKDelta Regional Advisory Council opposed Proposal  
3 43 and supported Proposal 44. Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As modified?

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a  
10 modification.

11  
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 I did not get that information. I could defer to the  
14 Wildlife folks to see if they have additional  
15 information. The only information I received was that  
16 they supported it for Zone 2.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Which is WP22-44.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Public.....

23  
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: I can get that  
25 information for you, thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Public testimony.  
28 That would be Alissa Rogers, are you still on the  
29 phone?

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you're on the  
34 phone you got to push star, six twice. It's kind of  
35 stuck for some reason.

36  
37 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, can you hear me  
38 now?

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you now.

41  
42 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
43 RAC, we had to take this up in the discussion because  
44 they kept getting mushed together so it was easier to  
45 take them up as WP22-43 and then take up another vote  
46 for WP22-44. We had opposed 43. The vote was  
47 unanimous to oppose 22-43 due to conservation concerns,  
48 mostly that the State lands and the very short  
49 timeframe in Zone 1 gets their quota filled. Now for  
50

0134

1 Zone 2 we also had supported unanimously to separate  
2 both moose populations often doesn't meet the harvest  
3 goals need -- which are difficult to reach in this area  
4 in the upper reaches of the tributary rivers.  
5 Extending the season may allow for easier access when  
6 water levels rise and cooler temps for hunting. The  
7 winter may be announced winter season will help to get  
8 subsistence moose if the fall hunt quota is not met.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen, thank  
19 you. I did receive an answer, the YKDelta Council  
20 supported WP22-44 as written>

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, as written.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So was that  
27 an omission on their part or was that the way they made  
28 the motion?

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 According to the Council Coordinator it was because the  
32 issue became very complicated and so they just wanted  
33 to address it as written.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right, so  
36 we know what they did. So any other Advisory Council  
37 comments on this proposal, probably not.

38

39 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chairman, this is Ken.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead, Ken.

42

43 MR. CHASE: Yeah, nothing other than  
44 thank you for clarifying the bull horn situation in  
45 December, that was on my mind, but thank you for  
46 bringing that up.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We had a Unit 24B  
49 proposal on winter hunts and antlered bulls and it was

50

0135

1 a calculation of Glenn Stout, who's a really good moose  
2 biologist, to come up with by December 15 60 percent of  
3 the bulls have lost antlers, so I just wanted to just  
4 throw that out there for people to think about when  
5 they're calculating when to have -- initiate an  
6 antlered harvest, especially you just don't want to  
7 kill every bull. So thank you.

8

9 Any other comments from Fish and Game  
10 Advisory Committees or Subsistence Resource  
11 Commissions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any written  
16 testimony, Karen, or Kendra.

17

18 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra.  
19 There was no written public comment.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I think  
22 we're at Regional Council recommendation, a motion to  
23 adopt.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, public  
26 testimony, thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I had public  
29 testimony, is there any other public testimony.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any public on the  
34 phone, if you're on mute you got to push star, six  
35 twice, star, six, star, six.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So like the YKDelta  
40 did, I think it would be best to break these two  
41 proposals apart. The Proposal WP22-43 was opposed by  
42 the OSM and the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge so we can  
43 either take it up and vote it down, which I feel  
44 confident in doing that because it sends a statement to  
45 the Federal Subsistence Board. So the Chair will  
46 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal WP22-43 with my  
47 intention of opposition. Do we have a motion to adopt.

48

49 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is

50

0136

1 Kevin. I make a motion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Kevin. Do we  
4 have a second.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there,  
9 Rebecca.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. WHITWORTH: I think we're still  
14 having phone issues, people are having a hard time  
15 getting off mute. This is Kevin.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I heard her awhile  
18 ago, this is down in her zone. So do we have a second  
19 on that.

20

21 MR. HONEA: Second.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.  
24 Any further discussion, I intend to oppose Proposal  
25 WP22-43 because of conservation concerns and the  
26 bull/cow ratio is exceedingly low and the population in  
27 Zone 1 can't support any additional harvest beyond its  
28 current quota. Any other comments on the proposal.

29

30 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
35 Don. So are we going with the OSM's conclusion to --  
36 I've been trying to get on this, but this thing really  
37 screwed me up, I had to call me back in all over again  
38 and so I've been off for about 45 minutes or whatever,  
39 so what is your motion, to oppose this and support.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The motion is on the  
42 floor for Proposal WP22-43 on Page 114 of your book and  
43 OSM opposed that proposal, and even the YKDelta  
44 Regional Council who submitted the proposal opposed the  
45 proposal because it has too much risk for the moose  
46 population. So I intend to stay with OSM and stay with  
47 YKDelta Regional Council in opposing the proposal.

48

49 MR. HONEA: Okay. Are you looking for

50

0137

1 a second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You seconded it.

4 Kevin motioned, you seconded as far as I can tell.

5

6 MR. HONEA: Okay. Okay, I call for the  
7 question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
10 Those in favor of Proposal WP22-43, Karen, do you want  
11 to call.....

12

13 MR. SIMON: Question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen, you want to  
16 call the roll.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank  
19 you. Rebecca Wilmarth, are you on the phone.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea, Jr.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Opposed.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Opposed, thank you.

28

29 Pollock Simon, Sr.

30

31 MR. SIMON: Oppose.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Pollock.

34

35 Kevin Whitworth.

36

37 MR. WHITWORTH: Oppose.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Kevin.

40

41 Jack Reakoff.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oppose.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Goodwin Semaken.

46

47 MR. SEMAKEN: Oppose.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Goodwin.

50

0138

1 Motion fails, thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Coming to the  
4 other proposal which OSM supported and YKDelta also  
5 supported as written, WP22-44, we need a motion to  
6 adopt.

7

8 MR. WHITWORTH: So moved.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Kevin. Do  
11 we have a second.

12

13 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thanks,  
16 Pollock. I support the Proposal WP22-44 and I'm going  
17 to go with as written because it's in line with the  
18 YKDelta. So that's.....

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
21 Karen, can you repeat what you said. And if Don's on  
22 the phone, it may be your phone that's causing the  
23 echo, if you could put us on mute, either mute on your  
24 cell phone, or star, six on your landline. Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the motion  
27 is to adopt the proposal as written. And any further  
28 discussion on the Proposal WP22-44.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MR. SIMON: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
35 You want to -- to adopt Proposal WP22-44, do you want  
36 to call the roll, Karen.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair.  
39 Rebecca Wilmarth.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea, Jr.

44

45 MR. HONEA: Yes.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon, Sr.

48

49 MR. SIMON: Yes.

50

0139

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

2

3 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Goodwin Semaken.

10

11 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 I'd like to confirm that the Council unanimously

15 supports WP22-44 as written.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18

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

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So on my agenda  
22 here, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Western  
23 Arctic Caribou Herd update, are we at that point,  
24 Karen.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 I'm going to check and see if Mr. Alex Hanson is on the  
28 phone, he's with ADF&G and he was going to do an  
29 update on the herd prior to the Council's deliberation  
30 on these proposals. While Mr. Hanson is updating the  
31 Council, I want to ask everybody again to please put us  
32 on mute by star, six, or by muting your cell phone,  
33 thank you. Alex, are you on the phone?

34

35 MR. HANSON: Yeah, can you hear me,  
36 Karen.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, thank you so  
39 much.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Alex.

42

43 MR. HANSON: All right, through the  
44 Chair. This is Alex Hanson, Alaska Department of Fish  
45 and Game in Kotzebue, I work with the Western Arctic  
46 Herd. So by way of brief updates I'll kind of walk you  
47 through what's going on with the Western Arctic Herd.

48

49 Okay, so beginning with abundance, the

50

0140

1 last census that we completed was 2019, we're currently  
2 counting the population for the 2021 census, we shot  
3 that this summer but we don't have a number quite yet.  
4 We're getting close to that. The last number that we  
5 got was 244,000. And kind of a historical timeline on  
6 that is we began counting the population in the early  
7 '70s, populations slumped in the mid-70s down to about  
8 75-ish-thousand animals, and it grew to the peak in  
9 2003 of about 490,000 caribou. After that time it  
10 eventually declined and bottomed out in 2016. In 2016  
11 the population was 201,000. 2017 we shot a census and  
12 detected the population at 259,000. There was no  
13 census in 2018. And then back to 2019 was 244,000. So  
14 that's the most recent estimate that we have. The IM  
15 objective is at 200,000 so we're above that by a little  
16 bit, but not by a whole lot.

17  
18 Adult survival has been of concern  
19 lately. As we were bottoming out on this population  
20 decline in 2015/2016 we started to see increased adult  
21 survival. It was fairly low for quite some time, you  
22 know, in the heart of this decline. That turned  
23 around, our survival rates went up quite a bit, we were  
24 looking at 85-ish on survival, which is very good, and  
25 then it started to come down again. So beginning about  
26 '17, '18, '19 our average adult female survival was  
27 about 73 percent, which is lower than we'd like to see.  
28 Typically we might expect to see growth at survival  
29 rates of 80 percent or higher.

30  
31 The other survey that we look at is  
32 short yearling recruitment and this has been pretty  
33 steady for the past few years, have had some higher  
34 years, about 23 to 100, 22 to 100, 21 to 100, going  
35 back to 2016, 2017 and 2018. In the past three years  
36 it's been about 18, 17, about average, so last year  
37 2021 conducted in the spring 17 calves to 100 adults  
38 and so that's average and we're fairly comfortable with  
39 that.

40  
41 Another survey we look at following the  
42 short yearling survival is parturition or calving and  
43 this is conducted on the calving grounds, of course.  
44 So early June we're up there on the calving grounds and  
45 we had pretty good survival rates -- or, sorry, calving  
46 rates in 2017, 2018 and 2019, about 80 percent or a  
47 little bit higher. Last couple years have been down a  
48 little bit, 2020 was 67, '21 was 68; these are still  
49 within averages and not cause for serious concern,  
50

0141

1 about average 68 percent.

2

3

4 I will mention that distribution has  
5 been a very hot topic here with the Western Arctic  
6 Caribou Herd. Since about 2018 we've been seeing fewer  
7 and fewer caribou moving on to the Seward Peninsula and  
8 the Nulato Hills or basically crossing the Kobuk River  
9 and heading south. And that's caused some -- certainly  
10 some concerns and hardships for folks who have  
11 traditionally relied on those caribou on the river  
12 crossing the Kobuk for harvest. It's also been  
13 challenging for us in our collaring project. For 30-  
14 plus years we've collared from boats doing water  
15 capture methods to put those collar out, however, in  
16 the past four years, five years now we haven't had  
17 success on the Kobuk, we didn't even attempt it this  
18 year. We had one successful year and that was 2019,  
19 but the rest of the years were unsuccessful. So we've  
20 made a transition to helicopter captures using net gun  
21 methodology and that's been pretty successful. We did  
22 that in 2019, it takes place in the spring and then  
23 last year we deployed about 54 collars in April using  
24 net guns. This year, however, the caribou, as caribou  
25 seem to do, are kind of throwing us a curve ball. They  
26 are moving across the Kobuk as we speak. They kind of  
27 got hemmed in by the ice, I believe, but some made it  
28 through before the ice really started flowing, and  
29 we're starting to see a lot of caribou coming out of  
30 the mountains. In the past few years they wintered  
31 Central Brooks Range and on the North Slope, but now  
32 most everything's moving down. So if you ever think  
33 you know what a caribou's going to be doing, you're  
34 probably about to be surprised, I find.

34

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I guess another thing that I might  
mention is the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working  
Group which meets in December each year comes up with a  
management level and that's a decision, you know, based  
on input from agencies and other folks. And currently  
the Western Arctic Caribou Herd management level from  
the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group 2020 is  
conservative declining, and basically what that means  
is that our calf recruitment is at or below 15 calves  
to 100, and as I mentioned it's 17 so there's a little  
bit of grey area there. And our adult cow survival is  
below 80 percent. And we've been below 80 percent for  
a number of years now, well, four years, so that has  
caused some concern and kind of a mixed message. Good  
recruitment, low survival, and kind of a little bit of

0142

1 confusion there, biologically speaking. But along with  
2 that recommendation, what they recommend is a voluntary  
3 reduction in calf harvest, which is something that  
4 you're going to talk about momentarily, and I guess  
5 I'll touch on that briefly. But calf harvest in 23 and  
6 22 and 26A has been largely incidental in recent years.  
7 Historically I think it was more important from what I  
8 understand. But typically what we're seeing is calf  
9 harvest is -- folks are not generally targeting calves  
10 hence the reason for moving towards this proposal that  
11 we're going to talk about in a moment.

12

13                   Restriction on non-resident bull  
14 harvest is also a prescription, which has taken place.  
15 There used to be a two bag bull limit for non-  
16 residents, currently there is one. Our non-resident  
17 take in Unit 23 is between 300 and 350 roughly, so  
18 pretty minimal and certainly below any areas of  
19 concern.

20

21                   So currently our harvest is something  
22 that we really need to get a handle on, understanding  
23 the resident harvest. We estimate that the resident  
24 harvest is kind of in the ball park of 12,000 but we  
25 don't feel super comfortable with that number, you  
26 know, it's hard to understand exactly what's going on  
27 out there because we don't have a super good reporting  
28 system at the moment. That being said, we do have a  
29 reporting system, the RC907, and RC800 would be --  
30 RC800 for Unit 22, RC907 for Unit 23 and 26A. Been  
31 working for years -- a few years now, since 2017 to  
32 increase participation in that program so that we can  
33 assess harvest better. Currently I estimate that our  
34 reported harvest is kind of on the order of about 10  
35 percent of total harvest. So that's a big effort that  
36 we're working on, trying to get more participation in  
37 our harvest reporting through the permit system.

38

39                   Currently our ANS, or I guess our ANS  
40 is 8,000 and 12,000 and as I mentioned that harvest  
41 estimate is about 12,000. If we're looking at -- we  
42 kind of model our harvest rate as being acceptable at 6  
43 percent and currently as we stand our harvest is below  
44 harvestable surplus so we're in an okay area. However,  
45 we want to understand harvest a little bit better in  
46 case this population should continue to decline or dip  
47 below 200,000, that would certainly cause some concern.

48

49                   So as I mentioned, kind of some mixed

50

0143

1 signs between calf recruitment and adult cow survival,  
2 but overall fairly comfortable with the health and  
3 direction that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is  
4 going. Our biggest concern at this point -- my biggest  
5 concern is trying to improve understanding harvest from  
6 local users, from residents of the state.

7

8 And with that I'd be happy to entertain  
9 any questions and hopefully I didn't go too fast and  
10 gloss over anything important.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, are you on  
15 the phone?

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Maybe you're still  
20 trying to star, six.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I inadvertently  
23 unmute myself, sorry about that. Any questions from  
24 the Council members on Alex's presentation.

25

26 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

29

30 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I had a question.  
31 Hey, thank you, Alex, I don't have any reliable numbers  
32 to go by but you mentioned the number 240,000 and I  
33 don't have anything to compare that with, is that a --  
34 are you comfortable with that being -- I don't know if  
35 that's high or low, so is that a number you're  
36 comfortable with?

37

38 MR. HANSON: Through the Chair. Don,  
39 that's a good question. Yeah, I think, on order of  
40 250,000 that's a lot of caribou, right, however, we're  
41 talking about a historical area of about 157,000 square  
42 miles, so it's a huge area. So I guess I would say  
43 we're fairly comfortable at this point. I would get  
44 nervous if we start dipping below 200,000. It's  
45 probable that, you know, when the population was near  
46 500,000 it was too high because at that point it began  
47 to come down. So that is my thought on that, that  
48 we're fairly comfortable, I wouldn't mind to see a  
49 little additional growth but we'll wait and see what  
50

0144

1 happens.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Sure, appreciate that.

4 Thank you. No further questions, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Don.

7 Other questions.

8

9 MR. SIMON: Question, this is Pollock.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

12

13 MR. SIMON: My question is when was the  
14 last count on the caribou herd 244,000, was that the  
15 last one or was there additional counts, that's my  
16 question, Mr. Chair.

17

18 MR. SIMON: Yes, through the Chair,

19 Pollock.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

22

23 MR. HANSON: Sorry. Through the Chair  
24 to Pollock. Yeah, the last count was actually completed  
25 this summer but we haven't finalized the number, we're  
26 still finishing up the count on that. So we'll have  
27 that out soon, we'll definitely have that for the  
28 working group meeting coming up. As you mentioned the  
29 last official count that we've completed was 2019, so  
30 that was 244,000.

31

32 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock. I  
35 have a few questions, I would like the Council to ask  
36 their questions first, any other questions.

37

38 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is

39 Kevin.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

42

43 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, thanks for your  
44 presentation there. Just curious about the harvest  
45 reporting and collection of harvest data there in that  
46 area. Do you guys still do household surveys, or is  
47 that part of your guys' effort to try to collect  
48 harvest information through any of the harvest  
49 household surveys.

50

0145

1 MR. HANSON: Yeah, that's a great  
2 question. Through the Chair. So, yeah, we're working  
3 with Subsistence Division for community household  
4 harvest surveys. This past year they completed surveys  
5 on Kobuk, Noatak, Deering and Shishmaref, upcoming will  
6 be Golovin, Selawik, Shungnak and White Mountain. And  
7 we work with them -- we're trying to evaluate the  
8 effectiveness of our permit with them as well and their  
9 data is obviously very good, very extensive and the  
10 problem that we run into is -- you know, they only have  
11 enough money to survey, you know, three to four  
12 communities each year, they've been doing about four  
13 lately, and kind of getting the picture is what we're  
14 working at. So we actually use their harvest data to  
15 input into a model that we make our best estimate of  
16 harvest. So their data is very useful, however, trying  
17 to get that permit out there, we can get the real  
18 information from the hunters and it's real-time and  
19 very valuable, that's what we're really striving to  
20 get.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another question,  
23 Kevin.

24  
25 MR. WHITWORTH: No, that's it, thank  
26 you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
29 Council questions.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I have a couple  
34 questions here. The caribou have been migrating late  
35 as you know, and when they get past basically the 10th  
36 of October the bulls are in full on rut, so everybody  
37 shifts to harvesting cows or young bulls. Do you  
38 attribute this high mortality factor on adult cows to  
39 an unknown, if you only have a 10 percent idea of what  
40 the harvest is, are you getting an apportionment of the  
41 harvest that you do have, is it predominately cow  
42 harvest in winter hunt, or is that -- do you think that  
43 it's take that's actually doing that or what's your  
44 feeling on that question.

45  
46 MR. HANSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, that's an  
47 excellent question. So traditionally we felt like in  
48 Unit 23, and I'm talking about Unit 23 specifically,  
49 that cow/bull proportional harvest has been about 70  
50

0146

1 percent bulls, 30 percent cows. And with that 10  
2 percent we were able to flesh out, I believe it was  
3 2017, we saw a little bit of a shift from what we  
4 historically understood there. As you mentioned, later  
5 migration, later movement, bulls are in rut, as the  
6 caribou approach communities that harvest is shifted  
7 towards cows potentially or young bulls. I will note  
8 that there was a recent change at the last Board of  
9 Game that opened bulls year-round, so prior to that  
10 bulls were closed October 15th so young bulls weren't  
11 legally allowed for harvest. So we are able to detect  
12 some of that. And that's a good observation. Even  
13 with the limited amount of data the harvest reports  
14 that we do have do provide some good insights.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Then the other,  
17 there was a large component of caribou that came  
18 through Anaktuvuk Pass last week, are those Western  
19 Arctic caribou or are those Teshekpuk, they had a lot  
20 of caribou move through there, and are you showing a  
21 significant component still inside the Brooks Range and  
22 moving farther east to where they've traditionally  
23 been.

24

25 MR. HANSON: Yeah, that's a good  
26 observation. So looking at my crystal ball, which, you  
27 know, are the caribou collars out there, what we saw  
28 last week coming through Anaktuvuk was Central Arctic  
29 Caribou so most of the Western Arctic have already  
30 moved out of the range and are working their way  
31 through, you know, Kobuk Valley and then south of the  
32 Kobuk with some additional Western Arctic animals on  
33 the west coast.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

36

37 MR. HANSON: Last winter, however, we  
38 saw kind of a commingling of Teshekpuk and Western  
39 Arctic, Central Brooks Range, even down into the head  
40 of the Kobuk, Walker Lake region there.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, well, I'm  
43 surprised that Central Arctic, they must have stayed  
44 way west because we have not seen that kind of movement  
45 -- or the Central Arctic's moving now into the --  
46 across the Dalton Highway Corridor but a large  
47 component like that must have stayed way west. So with  
48 the six percent harvest rate with predominately cow  
49 harvest, do you adjust that harvest rate calculation  
50

0147

1 for mixed sex or predominately cow harvest, as you  
2 might show with these later migrations.

3

4 MR. HANSON: That's an excellent  
5 question. Six percent, we're just talking about mixed  
6 sex. So if we get into a situation where we are up  
7 against, you know, a real conservation concern with  
8 harvest and we need to -- I would suggest we would want  
9 to talk seriously for harvest quotas for sexes. So  
10 potentially we could look at, you know, one percent  
11 harvest of cows and a 15 percent harvest of bulls or  
12 something of that nature. You know certainly that  
13 would have to come through the public process but those  
14 conversations might become very important if the herd  
15 continued to go down and if it crossed that IM  
16 objective of 200,000.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Those are my  
19 preliminary questions and I appreciate the data you  
20 presented. I wrote all those numbers down. And I will  
21 try and get on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Work  
22 Group, so any further questions for Alex.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any final comments,  
27 Alex.

28

29 MR. HANSON: No final comments. I'll  
30 be on the call, you know, if you have further  
31 clarifying questions as we go through the proposals but  
32 I appreciate you letting me present and for the time.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thanks so  
37 much, appreciate your presentation.

38

39 MR. HANSON: Uh-huh.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So what do you want  
42 to do here, Karen, should we dive into these next  
43 proposals for WP22-47.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think -- thank you,  
46 Mr. Chair, if the Council's ready that's what I would  
47 recommend, we have a lot before us. So, thank you,  
48 very much.

49

50

0148

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we're  
2 going to Proposal WP22-47, allow caribou calf harvest  
3 in Unit 22 on Page 121 of your book. Kendra, are you  
4 making the presentation on this one?

5  
6                   MS. HOLMAN: I am, Mr. Chair.

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead.

9  
10                   MS. HOLMAN: All right. My name is  
11 Kendra Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with OSM.  
12 This is addressing Proposal 22-47 submitted by the  
13 Western Caribou -- Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working  
14 Group requests that calf harvest be permitted for  
15 caribou in Unit 22. And can be found on Page 121 of  
16 your meeting book.

17  
18                   The proponent states that the intent of  
19 this proposal is to allow for the harvest of orphaned  
20 calves and that this change would align Federal and  
21 State regulations.

22  
23                   In 2016 the Board of Game established  
24 the current registration permit hunt, RC800 for caribou  
25 in Unit 22 with a harvest limit of 20 caribou per year.  
26 Then in 2018 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted  
27 regulations to require a State registration permit for  
28 Federal users in Unit 22. In 2020 the Board of Game  
29 adopted a proposal to allow calf harvest in Units 22,  
30 23, and 26A. Also in 2020 the Federal Subsistence  
31 Board established a year-round bull season and allowed  
32 calf harvest in Unit 23.

33  
34                   Calf harvest was allowed to permit the  
35 taking of orphaned or injured calves. Caribou calves  
36 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd are typically born  
37 in May or June and weaned by October or November.  
38 Calves will usually stay with their mother for their  
39 first year of their life. If a calf is orphaned after  
40 they are weaned they have a much greater chance of  
41 survival than if they are orphaned before they are  
42 weaned. The current management level determined by the  
43 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, places the  
44 herd in the conservative declining category. Some  
45 harvest recommendations of this level include encourage  
46 involuntary reduction of calf harvest and not allowing  
47 cow harvested by non-residents. Factors leading to the  
48 declining population are not known for sure but is  
49 believed cow mortality and decreased calf recruitments  
50

0149

1 are factors.

2

3

4 Residents of Unit 22 on average account  
5 for 17 percent of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
6 harvest. From 2016 to 2019 reported RC800 harvest  
7 averaged 377 caribou per year, of which 74 percent were  
8 bulls and 26 were cows. It is unknown how many calves  
9 have been harvested as that is not a reportable  
10 category.

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The majority of the Unit 22 harvest occurs in the winter when the caribou inhabit the Seward Peninsula. If calf harvest is allowed, it may present a minimal conservation concern as most of the hunters do not specifically target calves, however, it would allow for harvest of orphaned calves who may otherwise die in winter.

One consideration for this justification is that it is difficult to tell if a calf is orphaned or not as caribou herds tend to be quite spread out, orphaned calves that stay with a herd are much more likely to live than a single calf on its own. Adoption of this proposal may result in wanton waste -- may reduce wanton waste. It has been mentioned at other RAC meetings that the rural residents have seen calves that have been shot and then left to lay in the fields. It is believed these were shot mistakingly by hunters who realized too late that they are illegal harvest and left it in the field rather than bringing back an illegal animal and face repercussions. This would also align Federal and State regulations. Currently Federal regulations are more restrictive than State regulations.

The OSM preliminary conclusion is to support Proposal WP22-47.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. I'll be happy to address questions.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks, Kendra. Any Council questions for Kendra on the proposal.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So don't hear any Tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments.

0150

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 This is Karen Deatherage. There were no tribal or  
3 ANCSA Corporation comments on WP22-47. Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Alaska  
6 Department of Fish and Game comments.

7  
8 MR. MULLIGAN: Mr. Chair, this is Ben  
9 Mulligan at the Department of Fish and Game. As I  
10 referenced on the previous proposal, you might  
11 remember, our consistent support when we see these  
12 proposals to align State and Federal regulations, so  
13 we'll be supporting this one.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ben. So are  
18 there any Federal comments.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Federal manager  
23 comments.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any tribal members  
28 on the phone that would like to speak to this.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Regional  
33 Advisory Council comments. Has Northwest Arctic or  
34 North Slope commented on the proposal.

35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 Neither of.....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seward Penn.

40  
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....those Councils  
42 have met yet. But the YKDelta supported this proposal.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Fish and Game  
45 Advisory Committees.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Subsistence Resource  
50

0151

1 Commissions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Written comments,  
6 Karen, or Kendra.

7

8 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra.  
9 There were no written comments for this proposal.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So public testimony.  
12 Do we have anybody on the phone that would like to  
13 testify to this proposal.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So don't hear any.  
18 Regional Council recommendation. The Chair will  
19 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal WP22-47 to allow  
20 the caribou calf harvest in Unit 22. Do we have a  
21 motion to that effect.

22

23 MR. HONEA: I so move. This is Don.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Don. Do we  
26 have a second.

27

28 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.  
31 Discussion by the Council on the proposal.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
34 Don. I guess you are part of the Western Arctic, I'm  
35 just trying to figure out -- I mean what is the intent  
36 of this?

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The intent was --  
39 there was a Board of Game proposal, it was recognized  
40 when they closed it to cow -- to calf harvest that when  
41 cows were shot there were orphaned calves that were  
42 going to die anyways. So then there was proposals to  
43 allow the harvest of calves, orphaned calves, which  
44 would be -- most people aren't targeting, they  
45 inadvertently have their mom shot and they could take  
46 those. So that's the objective the proposal, is to  
47 basically allow the harvest of calves that possibly  
48 could be orphaned and that would be wandering around  
49 and could basically be eaten by wolves or something.

50

0152

1 MR. HONEA: Okay. All right, thank  
2 you. That makes sense.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any other  
5 comments on the proposal.

6  
7 MR. SIMON: Call for the question.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
10 Those in favor of -- you want to call the roll there,  
11 Karen.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 Is Rebecca Wilmarth on the phone?

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay.

19  
20 Don Honea, Jr.

21  
22 MR. HONEA: Support.

23  
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Don.

25  
26 Pollock Simon, Sr.

27  
28 MR. SIMON: Support.

29  
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Pollock.

31  
32 Kevin Whitworth.

33  
34 MR. WHITWORTH: Support.

35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Kevin.

37  
38 Jack Reakoff.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Support.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Goodwin Semaken.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is Goodwin on the  
47 phone? Goodwin, if you're on the phone you need to  
48 unmute, star, six.

49  
50

0153

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: We need to get either  
4 Goodwin or Rebecca on the phone for a quorum.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Can we take a  
7 five minute break so you can make those calls for us  
8 Karen.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just stay on the  
13 line everybody.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (On record)

18

19 MR. SEMAKEN: Hello.

20

21 REPORTER: Is that you Goodwin?

22

23 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is that Goodwin?

26

27 REPORTER: I believe so.

28

29 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah. Yeah, this is  
30 Goodwin.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, good, I just tried  
35 to call you, Goodwin. And I did -- Rebecca is trying  
36 to get in on a different phone because she keeps  
37 getting cut off. Thank you.

38

39 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're voting,  
42 Goodwin, on this Proposal WP22-47.

43

44 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah. Yeah, I heard it  
45 but I couldn't get my -- I vote yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And then.....

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0154

1 The motion passes unanimously, WP22-47. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And if Rebecca gets  
4 on then we'll take her vote also on that one. Has she  
5 been able to listen to us, she just keeps getting  
6 totally cut off or what?

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9 I didn't get into detail, I was just trying to get her  
10 back on the phone as soon as possible. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.  
13 So that proposal passed unanimously with the Council  
14 members present. So the next proposal is WCR22-45  
15 closure to non-Federally-qualified users for caribou in  
16 Unit 23 on Page 145 and that would be, Kendra, are you  
17 doing this one also, Kendra.

18

19 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is  
20 Hannah Voorhees.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Hannah.

23

24 DR. VOORHEES: I'll be presenting  
25 WCR22-45.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

28

29 DR. VOORHEES: All right. Good  
30 afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. This  
31 is Hannah Voorhees and I'm an Anthropologist with OSM.  
32 I'll be presenting WCR22-45 and the analysis begins on  
33 Page 145 of your meeting materials.

34

35 First I'm going to provide you with a  
36 brief summary of the wildlife closure process. Section  
37 .815 of ANILCA allows the Federal Subsistence Board to  
38 restrict or close the taking of fish and wildlife by  
39 subsistence and non-subsistence users on Federal public  
40 lands when necessary for the conservation of healthy  
41 populations of fish and wildlife or to continue  
42 subsistence uses. The Board reviews wildlife closures  
43 every four years to determine if the justification for  
44 the closure is still consistent with the Federal  
45 Subsistence Board's closure policy. So every two years  
46 half of all the closure reviews will be reviewed -- or  
47 the closures will be reviewed, rather. Councils are  
48 asked to consider the OSM preliminary conclusion and  
49 make a recommendation to the Board.

50

0155

1                   WCR22-45 reviews a geographically  
2 targeted closure within Unit 23. This is a year-round  
3 closure, Federal public lands within a 10 mile  
4 corridor, five miles either side along the Noatak River  
5 from the western boundary of Noatak National Preserve  
6 up stream to the confluence of the Cutler River within  
7 the northern and southern boundaries of the Eli and  
8 Aggi River drainages, respectfully, and within the  
9 Squirrel River drainage are closed to caribou hunting  
10 except by Federally-qualified subsistence users hunting  
11 under these regulations.

12  
13                   There is a map of this area on Page 147  
14 of your meeting materials.

15  
16                   This closure was initiated in 2018 and  
17 has not been reviewed since.

18  
19                   Next, I'll give you a brief overview of  
20 the regulatory background.

21  
22                   In 2015 the Board approved a special  
23 action request from the Northwest Arctic Regional  
24 Advisory Council to close caribou hunting on Federal  
25 public lands in Unit 23 to non-Federally-qualified  
26 users for the 2016/2017 regulatory year. The Council  
27 submitted this request for conservation purposes but  
28 also because non-local hunting activities were  
29 negatively affecting subsistence. In 2017 the  
30 Northwest Arctic Council, again, submitted a temporary  
31 special action request to close caribou hunting on  
32 Federal public lands in Unit 23 for the 2017 to 2018  
33 regulatory year. The Board approved this request, with  
34 modification to close all Federal public lands within a  
35 targeted area in Unit 23. This resulted in the current  
36 closure which we are now reviewing. In 2018 the Board  
37 adopted WP18-46 which brought the targeted closure into  
38 permanent regulation. This was consistent with the  
39 recommendations of the Northwest Arctic and Seward Penn  
40 Councils as well as the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
41 Working Group. The Board viewed the targeted closure  
42 as a reasonable compromise to a complex problem. In  
43 June 2021 the Board deferred Wildlife Special Action  
44 WSA21-01 which requested closing Federal public lands  
45 in all of Unit 23 as well as 26A to caribou and moose  
46 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users from August  
47 1st to September 30th, 2021. This would have been an  
48 essentially an expansion of the targeted closure that  
49 we are now reviewing but would have only been limited  
50

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1 temporarily in -- so it would have only been closed for  
2 two months a year. The Northwest Arctic Council  
3 submitted that request due to concern over late  
4 migration of caribou through Unit 23, which has  
5 hindered the ability of subsistence users in the area  
6 to harvest caribou. The Board directed OSM to seek  
7 additional input on concerns from various parties and  
8 they will reconsider the request prior to the 2022  
9 hunting season. And I will be presenting on that topic  
10 later, but I thought it was kind of part of the  
11 regulatory history, so I wanted to share that with you  
12 now.

13

14 So in terms of biological background,  
15 beginning in 2003 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
16 declined from approximately 490,000 caribou to a little  
17 more than 200,000 caribou in 2016, although factors  
18 contributing to the 2003 to 2016 decline are not known  
19 with certainty, increased adult cow mortality and  
20 decreased calf recruitment and survival played a role.  
21 Alex has shared some of this information with you but  
22 I'll repeat it briefly.

23

24 In 2017 the herd increased to an  
25 estimated to 259,000 caribou, however, part of this  
26 increase might have been due to improved photo census  
27 technology. The 2019 population estimate was 244,000  
28 caribou and the results of the 2021 census are not yet  
29 available. Since 2013 the herd has been classified by  
30 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group as  
31 falling into a conservation management level.

32

33 In Unit 23 caribou have historically  
34 been available during fall migration but this has not  
35 reliably been the case in recent years. Caribou  
36 migration has occurred later in fall resulting in  
37 subsistence harvest also occurring later for some  
38 communities which, potentially, contributes to food and  
39 security.

40

41 In terms of effects of this closure to  
42 date. This closure does most directly affect Noatak.  
43 Of course you are reviewing this closure because  
44 communities in your region have customary and  
45 traditional use of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.  
46 The most recent subsistence survey of caribou harvest  
47 in Noatak dates to 2016 to 2017. There are no new data  
48 available that would allow for comparison of household  
49 caribou harvest before and after implementation of the  
50

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1 closure. However, testimony reflecting the success of  
2 the closure for Noatak has been given by Northwest  
3 Arctic Council members every year since the closure was  
4 implemented.

5

6 If this closure is lifted non-  
7 Federally-qualified users would be able to hunt caribou  
8 on Federal public lands along the Noatak River and  
9 within the Squirrel, Eli and Aggi River drainages.  
10 This could result in more user conflicts and interfere  
11 with caribou harvest by Federally-qualified users.

12

13 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
14 maintain the status quo with the following  
15 justification. The current closure is still necessary  
16 to continue subsistence uses of the Western Arctic  
17 Caribou Herd for Federally-qualified users specifically  
18 for Noatak residents. The underlying factor leading to  
19 the closure in 2018, user conflict, has persisted  
20 overall in Unit 23 but has been mitigated in the  
21 closure area. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
22 continues to be managed at the conservative declining  
23 level. Since the closure has been enacted user  
24 conflicts within the closure area have been reduced and  
25 the hunt experience and harvest success of Federally-  
26 qualified subsistence users have improved.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am happy to  
29 take any questions.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Hannah. And  
32 does anybody have questions on this closure review for  
33 the Noatak area as described on Page 147 in the map.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any  
38 questions from the Council. Were there any tribal  
39 comments or ANCSA Corporation comments, Karen.

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments on  
43 this proposal. Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Alaska  
46 Department of Fish and Game comments.

47

48 MR. MULLIGAN: Mr. Chair, this is Ben  
49 Mulligan with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

50

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1 As of right now we have yet to finalize our comments so  
2 I have nothing more to add at this time.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So then we  
5 have -- are there Federal land manager comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are there any tribal  
10 members on the phone that would like to speak to this  
11 proposal.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Regional  
16 Advisory Council comments, Karen.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 No, there are no other comments at this time for any of  
20 the Councils that have met. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Fish and  
23 Game Advisory Committees or Subsistence Resource  
24 Commissions.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Summary of written  
29 public comments, Karen, or Hannah.

30

31 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. Yeah, Mr.  
32 Chair, there was one written public comment received  
33 from Resident Hunters of Alaska. The group supports  
34 eliminating the closure because it excludes non-local  
35 residents of Alaska. They suggest eliminating access  
36 to non-resident hunters through the Board of Game  
37 process instead.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So any public  
40 testimony.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No public testimony  
45 on the phone. Regional Council recommendation. Is the  
46 Council inclined to deliberate this proposal further.  
47 This is quite a ways from our region and does not  
48 actually have a lot of effect on our Council. Because  
49 the caribou that get to our region come through the  
50

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1 upper Kobuk, this basically is for Noatak and the lower  
2 Kobuk, Kotzebue, Seward Peninsula. So I'm inclined to  
3 defer this to the region and let them deliberate this  
4 with the Federal Subsistence Board. What's the  
5 Council's feeling on this proposal.

6  
7 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
8 Don. I am of the same. I was -- I had thought that  
9 either you or Pollock were on something like this,  
10 maybe under the Western Arctic Herd, but toward  
11 Anaktuvuk or something so I mean if this is not  
12 directly affected to us then I would be of the same  
13 opinion, to defer to the region.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Pollock, what  
16 are your feelings, do you think we should defer to --  
17 it'd be Northwest Arctic, Seward Penn and the North  
18 Slope Regional Advisory Councils.

19  
20 MR. SIMON: Yes, I, too, would defer  
21 this to their area since it's kind of a long ways to  
22 us, although, it might affect us in some ways but not  
23 -- so I would defer it to their area.

24  
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The Chairman  
28 will entertain a motion to defer this Proposal WP22 --  
29 or correction, WCR22-45 for closure to non-Federally-  
30 qualified users for caribou in Unit 23 in the Noatak.  
31 We need a motion and a second to defer.

32  
33 MR. HONEA: I would make that motion to  
34 defer, Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don.

37  
38 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You want to  
41 call the roll, Karen.

42  
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 For WP -- WCR22-45 a motion to defer. Rebecca  
45 Wilmarth.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Are you back on the  
50

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1 phone Rebecca?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Don Honea, Jr.

6

7

MR. HONEA: Yes.

8

9

MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon, Sr.

10

11

MR. SIMON: Yes.

12

13

MS. DEATHERAGE: Was that you Rebecca?

14

15

(No comments)

16

17

MS. DEATHERAGE: No, okay.

18

19

Kevin Whitworth.

20

21

MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

22

23

MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

24

25

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

26

27

MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

28

29

MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

30

31

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Goodwin.

32

Thank you, Mr. Chair, the motion to defer WCR22-45

33

passes unanimously.

34

35

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Next proposal would be WCR22-07, and this is a Nushagak Peninsula for Unit 17, which is down in Bristol Bay near Dillingham, and I don't even particularly want to listen to the -- yeah, we have residents that have C&T in Unit 17 but that's far away on the coastal area and the likelihood of any of our people going there is slim to none. So the Chair will entertain a motion to defer and let the chips fall where they may.

44

45

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

46

47

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

48

49

MS. DEATHERAGE: In order to make a

50

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1 motion to defer you would have to go through the whole  
2 analysis. What you may do is query the Council to see  
3 if they would like to even have this proposal  
4 presented, and if they wish to remove it from the  
5 agenda the Council can vote to do that. Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So all right,  
8 should we remove this proposal from the agenda. I  
9 don't think it's worth our time.

10  
11 MR. HONEA: I would make that motion,  
12 Mr. Chair.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So a motion  
15 to remove WCR22-07, closure to non-Federally-qualified  
16 users for caribou in Unit 17 on the Nushagak Peninsula.  
17 Do we have a second to that.

18  
19 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second by Pollock.  
22 Any further discussion.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MR. HONEA: Question.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
29 Call the roll Karen.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen, are you  
34 there?

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think we lost her.

39  
40 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is --  
41 yeah, it sounds like -- this is Hannah Voorhees, it  
42 sounds like Karen got dropped.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

45  
46 DR. VOORHEES: I can do the roll call  
47 until she gets back on if you'd like or someone else  
48 can jump in.

49  
50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you would like to  
2 call the roll, do you have the roster before you?

3

4 DR. VOORHEES: I do. Forgive me if I  
5 say a name -- someone who's had to step away.

6

7 Jack Reakoff.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

10

11 DR. VOORHEES: Jenny Pelkola.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 DR. VOORHEES: Oh, she's not on.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

18

19 DR. VOORHEES: Tim Gervais.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's absent.

22

23 DR. VOORHEES: Yep. Goodwin.

24

25 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

26

27 DR. VOORHEES: Kevin Whitworth.

28

29 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

30

31 DR. VOORHEES: Rebecca Wilmarth.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 DR. VOORHEES: Arnold Demoski.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's absent.

38

39 DR. VOORHEES: Don Honea.

40

41 MR. HONEA: Honea, yes.

42

43 DR. VOORHEES: My apologies.

44

45 MR. HONEA: No problem.

46

47 DR. VOORHEES: And Pollock Simon.

48

49 MR. SIMON: Yes.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion carries  
2 unanimous to remove it from the agenda, basically to  
3 defer to the regions it affects. So are you back on  
4 the phone, Karen?

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, I am, Mr. Chair,  
7 thank you. I got cut off.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, so we did the  
10 roll vote there and it was unanimous. Moving on to  
11 statewide proposals, WP22-01, define participants and  
12 determine impacts in community harvest programs. And  
13 who's presenting on this one?

14  
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: That would be Pippa  
16 Kenner. Pippa, are you on the phone?

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: If you're on the phone  
21 you need to star, six or unmute yourself, Pippa.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You actually got to  
24 do it twice, Pippa, star, six.

25  
26 MS. KENNER: Can you hear me now?

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, we can hear you  
29 good now.

30  
31 MS. KENNER: Oh, okay, am I too loud?

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, you're not.

34  
35 MR. HONEA: No.

36  
37 MS. KENNER: Okay.

38  
39 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair, Pollock.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

42  
43 MR. SIMON: Yeah, Jack, I'm going to  
44 have to run to the post office for about 20 minutes  
45 here before the post office closes. I have to get my  
46 mail so I'm going to leave for a little while.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, we need  
49 your vote so.....

50

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1 MR. SIMON: Okay, I'll be back.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So go ahead  
4 and make the presentation, Pippa.

5

6 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
7 have a question for the Coordinator.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Pippa, thank you.  
12 Through the Chair.

13

14 MS. KENNER: Hi. Will Pollock still be  
15 able to act on this proposal if he hasn't heard the  
16 presentation, I'm just making sure?

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Mr. Chair,  
19 in response to Pippa's question my recommendation would  
20 be if Tom Kron is on the phone to move to Section B of  
21 the agenda, under new business, the annual report reply  
22 process revision, and then we can go into the annual  
23 report. And then afterwards -- if Pollock is not back,  
24 because it is important that he hears these proposals  
25 prior to voting on them, his vote is needed to  
26 establish quorum. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, understood.  
29 Tom, are you on the phone?

30

31 MR. KRON: Yes, Sir.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

34

35 MR. KRON: Okay. Annual report reply  
36 process review. During the Federal Subsistence Board  
37 process in August 2021, in their work session, the  
38 InterAgency Staff Committee briefed the Board on the  
39 annual report reply process and possible revisions to  
40 improve work load efficiency and response to the  
41 Regional Advisory Councils. The Board reviewed and  
42 discussed the annual report reply process and agreed to  
43 forward this topic on to the Councils for your review  
44 on the suggested revisions, including possible ideas  
45 that you would have.

46

47 As you're aware ANILCA, Section .805,  
48 authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual report  
49 containing information related to important subsistence  
50

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1 resource issues within each of the regions. These  
2 reports are invaluable as they provide the Board with a  
3 broad holistic picture of local resource conditions and  
4 the subsistence issues facing communities across rural  
5 Alaska. With this knowledge the Board can make  
6 informed decisions.

7

8 Historically the Board has strived to  
9 provide responses to every topic listed in annual  
10 reports regardless of its authority to address the  
11 issues raised and it is unclear whether Board responses  
12 on all annual report topics are helpful to the Councils  
13 while taking considerable Staff time to complete.

14

15 The Staff Committee has suggested  
16 process revisions to consider annual reports -- to  
17 consider annual reports to serve solely as a mechanism  
18 for informing the Board of local conditions and needs  
19 and proposed letter writing as a means of requesting  
20 Board responses to a topic of concern. Under this  
21 scenario, Councils could ask their Coordinators to  
22 write a letter to the Board if there is an annual  
23 report topic to which they are specifically requesting  
24 a response.

25

26 These suggested revisions are not  
27 intended to diminish the ability of the Councils to  
28 report to the Board and Councils will still receive  
29 responses from the Board, when requested. And these  
30 are only suggestions. You, the Council, may have other  
31 ideas about a more efficient and responsive annual  
32 report and reply process.

33

34 To that end, we are asking you to think  
35 about what you want the Board -- want from the Board in  
36 terms of replies as you develop and confirm your FY2021  
37 annual reports between the fall and winter meetings.  
38 Again, this is not an action item for this meeting but  
39 it's an opportunity for you to provide comments. We  
40 will take this up again when we meet in the winter 2022  
41 meeting.

42

43 Once, again, this is not an action  
44 item, not until your winter meeting.

45

46 Thank you. I am ready to take any  
47 questions.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tom. So we

50

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1 have new Council members on the phone and we reviewed  
2 our annual report from last year, the dialoguing of the  
3 Council with the Federal Subsistence Board has been  
4 sort of an integral part of this Council's process.  
5 Are there Council members who are clear on what the  
6 Office of Subsistence Management is requesting. My  
7 takeaway would be that OSM puts a lot into the response  
8 from the Federal Subsistence Board. Some of the issues  
9 can be -- actually have Board authority and some issues  
10 they may not. OSM and the Board could refer those  
11 comments back to the Councils -- or to the agency that  
12 would be in charge of those comments but there should  
13 be at least a paper trail that goes from the Councils  
14 to the Federal Subsistence Board, so they get a  
15 holistic picture of what the issues are, whether it be  
16 guiding areas on BLM lands, or whatever the issues, the  
17 Board has to be aware of all, any issue that affects  
18 subsistence under -- which is in the ANILCA enabling  
19 Legislation for these Councils, then there can be a  
20 response from the agency, the Board could go that's not  
21 within our authority, the agency has to respond. We've  
22 made -- we did get a response from the BLM on this  
23 issue of guide use areas but there needs to be a  
24 response back to the Councils. There has to be --  
25 whereas the mean high water mark in our last annual  
26 report, and the winter hunts, was not addressed;  
27 digging down in the snow is not an -- that's the  
28 Board's authority to delineate some recognizable  
29 feature for winter hunts and that's what we're asking  
30 for. So we're not -- that needs to be discussed with  
31 enforcement about an understanding.

32  
33 So these issues are important issues.  
34 They don't go into the annual report unless they are  
35 important. But the way they're responded to, I  
36 understand that OSM may not want to make a complete  
37 response for an agency or another entity.

38  
39 So we are going to take this back up in  
40 the spring meeting, Tom, is that your understanding,  
41 we're going to formulate comments for that.

42  
43 MR. KRON: Yeah, it would basically  
44 your February/March meeting in the winter of 2022, the  
45 next meeting.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the  
48 Council should be thinking how our comments, how we  
49 interact with the Federal Subsistence Board and what's  
50

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1 important to the Council and to the Board and how to  
2 get the issue highlighted to the various agency or  
3 entity, whether it be North Pacific Fisheries  
4 Management Council or State Department, or whoever it  
5 might be, because we have to work through the  
6 correspondence review process, and we have to work for  
7 -- we're an arm of the Federal Subsistence Board,  
8 that's why the annual report is integral to the  
9 Regional Councils working with the Federal Subsistence  
10 Board. So the Council members can think about that  
11 during -- before our next meeting that would be good,  
12 that's kind of an important issue.

13

14 MR. KRON: Understood.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Tom. I  
17 do appreciate OSM highlighting this issue to the  
18 workload that they have to put into it.

19

20 Comments.

21

22 MR. KRON: Your response is understood,  
23 thank you.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

28

29 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I had a question on  
30 that. Okay, so -- and thank you Tom for your  
31 presentation there. So we submit these things once a  
32 year and that's at our winter meeting; is that correct?

33

34 MR. KRON: Yes. Yes, Sir.

35

36 MR. HONEA: Okay. Well, I was thankful  
37 for OSM's take on this whole thing here this morning  
38 because that's a lot of stuff that, you know, just I  
39 took it for granted that OSM is not divulging some of  
40 this stuff to us in a timely manner and, yet, it may  
41 come out of Washington so, you know, anything we could  
42 find out from OSM or an explanation is what I'm saying  
43 is we're thankful for. So thank you.

44

45 MR. KRON: Yes. Just to provide a  
46 little bit of information here about the process.  
47 Again, each of the Councils, and this past year I think  
48 nine of the 10 Councils had annual reports, most of the  
49 Councils had anywhere from three to half dozen or more  
50

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1 items. Each of the Councils submit an annual report,  
2 the draft annual report replies are compiled by OSM  
3 Staff as well as Staff of Fish and Wildlife Service,  
4 Park Service, sometimes BLM, so a bunch of different  
5 agency folks work to draft these out and then the Board  
6 looks at the draft response -- well, first the Staff  
7 Committee looks at the draft responses and then the  
8 Board looks at the draft responses, and they decide if  
9 they want to make any changes.....

10

11 (Teleconference interference -  
12 participants not muted)

13

14 MR. KRON: .....before they vote to  
15 review them and approve them and then once that happens  
16 the letters are finalized from the Board Chair and go  
17 on to each of the Councils. And like I said there were  
18 nine of the Councils last time around that had annual  
19 reports and responses had to be developed on those.  
20 And as Jack mentioned you guys discussed this issue  
21 earlier today.

22

23 MR. HONEA: Yeah, exactly. And I  
24 appreciate that because I guess the process is it goes  
25 to the Federal Subsistence Board and, you know, it just  
26 -- it's just something to know, the protocol here, but  
27 I appreciate you explaining that.

28

29 MR. KRON: Yes, as Jack mentioned, the  
30 annual reports are items that are identified  
31 specifically in ANILCA, the founding language that  
32 created the Councils, so it's an important part of the  
33 process.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tom. Any  
38 other questions, or comments.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this will be an  
43 action item at our next meeting, something to think  
44 about. So Pollock did you come back from checking the  
45 mail?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. So Karen.

50

0169

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 I do want to ask folks to mute their phone, again,  
3 we're getting an echo, star, six, or push the mute  
4 button on your cell phone and that might help reduce  
5 the traffic.

6  
7 REPORTER: It will help.

8  
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: And, Mr. Chair, what  
10 we could do is go right into identifying issues for the  
11 Fiscal Year 2021 annual report. This is a reminder  
12 that these issues will be in draft form for the Council  
13 at their winter meeting where it can be finalized and  
14 with your permission I'll go ahead and read the section  
15 that Tom Kron just referenced in ANILCA about annual  
16 reports.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does the  
19 Council.....

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So does any Council  
24 member have topics that they would like the Federal  
25 Subsistence Board to be aware of for this region. I'm  
26 sure the Federal Subsistence Board is aware of the  
27 Yukon River salmon decline, the Kuskokwim River issues.  
28 They've had to deal with these so I don't think putting  
29 those into our annual report are something -- they're  
30 informational. There are other issues in the region so  
31 I could go through the Council members on the Kuskokwim  
32 River, what would be issues that you feel that would be  
33 important to the Kuskokwim River, Rebecca or Kevin.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I apologize  
36 for interrupting but it might be helpful, particularly  
37 for the new Council members if I read Section .805, the  
38 portion dealing with annual reports.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure, that's good,  
41 go ahead.

42  
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
44 Chair. Section .805(a)(3)(d) reads regarding annual  
45 reports; an identification of current and anticipated  
46 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations  
47 within the region; an evaluation of current and  
48 anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife  
49 populations within the region; a recommended strategy  
50

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1 for the management of fish and wildlife populations  
2 with the region to accommodate.....

3

4 (Teleconference interference -  
5 participants not muted)

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....subsistence uses  
8 and needs, and, four, recommendations concerning  
9 policies, standards, guidelines and regulations to  
10 implement the strategies. These reports typically are  
11 outside the regulatory process as far as the subject  
12 matter but you can certainly touch on the issues where  
13 the regulations would assist in your annual report.

14

15 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Karen.

18

19 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
20 Kevin.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

23

24 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
25 Chair. I'd feel more comfortable if one of the senior  
26 members like Don, or if Jenny was on, if they could  
27 present their issues first that way -- you know, I  
28 haven't heard these issues brought up before for the  
29 annual report, it's the first cycle for me. So I'd  
30 rather hold until Pollock or somebody else shares their  
31 concerns and then I can share mine.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead,  
38 Karen.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
41 Response to Member Whitworth. The other issue is as  
42 the meeting goes on the Council always has the  
43 opportunity to add topics to the annual report if they  
44 feel like, you know, they've had a discussion where  
45 they'd like to bring that topic to the attention of the  
46 Board so this is just the initial stage of the process.  
47 So after any of the agency discussions or the  
48 discussions about the fishing situations, if Council  
49 members would like to put information in the annual  
50

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1 report regarding any of those topics they'd be welcome  
2 to do so throughout the meeting.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
7 Kevin.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead,  
10 Kevin.

11

12 MR. WHITWORTH: Thank you, Karen, for  
13 that explanation. That's very helpful for me. I guess I  
14 can start with a few issues here on the Kuskokwim I  
15 would like to see and then I know I have a couple more  
16 that I wouldn't mind sharing a little bit later when  
17 the appropriate agenda items are up. And I don't --  
18 but the Yukon, Kuskokwim chinook salmon and chum  
19 salmon, multi-species perhaps, there's got to be more  
20 done to try to rebuild these two stocks on both the  
21 rivers so that folks can get what they need for  
22 subsistence use. Also there needs to be real effort in  
23 the Federal Government and State Government to help  
24 with this situation to try to help rebuild these two  
25 stocks, not just in-river, but also in the Bering Sea  
26 and Area M fisheries, you know, I'm not just talking  
27 U.S. Fish and Wildlife or DOI, but NOAA and the  
28 National Marine Fisheries Service and Council, there  
29 needs to be more effort to try to do a better job of  
30 working together and acknowledging that there is a  
31 crises in both these systems, in both the river systems  
32 and people aren't getting what they need and escapement  
33 goals aren't always all being met on both rivers.

34

35 So that's my number 1 concern.

36

37 But there is concern because we are  
38 having to target whitefish, and other fish species,  
39 like sheefish, that there is -- we just don't know, I  
40 know in the lower river, and the Yukon Delta River area  
41 there's been concern for whitefish, I think we need to  
42 do a better job of monitoring these species because we  
43 are targeting them with the chinook and chum collapse.

44

45 I'll just leave it at that for now.

46

47 Thanks.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, those are

50

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1 important issues for the Federal Subsistence Board to  
2 know that there is a shift in the harvest to make up  
3 for, not only other fisheries, but land mammals,  
4 like.....

5

6 (Teleconference interference -  
7 participants not muted)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....there's a  
10 taking of higher and higher use, and the need for the  
11 use of terrestrial animals because of the decline in  
12 the salmon stock. There's wider ramifications for the  
13 subsistence needs of our region.

14

15 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
16 Kevin, there's a lot of static going on, I could barely  
17 hear you, could you repeat that.

18

19 (Teleconference interference -  
20 participants not muted)

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Could we get people  
23 to mute their phones.....

24

25 MR. WHITWORTH: Hello.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....star, six,  
28 because there's just a phenomenal echo coming back now.  
29 Can you hear me better now?

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Am I echoing from this  
36 end, yes, I am I just heard me. Okay, yeah, thank you.  
37 Again, as many people as possible that can mute their  
38 phones we'd really appreciate it because hopefully it  
39 will cut down on the static and the issues. I think  
40 the heavy static Kevin Whitworth's hearing, he's off,  
41 so he's going to trying to get back in so.....

42

43 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who's this?

46

47 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don, I'm  
48 trying to mute my phone and this is -- this is getting  
49 crazy.

50

0173

1 REPORTER: So, Don, it's the.....

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hey, Don, this is  
4 Karen.

5

6 REPORTER: Go ahead, Karen.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.  
9 Are you on a cell phone or on a landline?

10

11 MR. HONEA: Yes, I'm on a cell phone.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. On your cell  
14 phone you should see a menu that has a mute button. Do  
15 you have a smartphone?

16

17 MR. HONEA: Ah, yeah, well, let me try  
18 another one.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, if you're using  
21 a flip phone you'll have to use star, six. I think he  
22 might have hung up to try another phone.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I don't  
25 hear as much echoing going on right now.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think it's coming  
28 from that direction from whatever phone that Don is  
29 using, and I know he has challenges with his phone  
30 system there. I would like to ask if Rebecca or  
31 Pollock are on the phone while we have an opportunity,  
32 though, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. Are you  
35 there Rebecca, have you been able to get back on?

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or Pollock, and  
40 Kevin, did you get back on?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I don't hear  
45 anybody now.

46

47 MR. SIMON: This is Pollock, I'm back  
48 on.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, you're back  
2 Pollock?

3  
4 MR. SIMON: Yes.

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Let's see if we can  
7 wait for Kevin to get back on.

8  
9 MR. SEMAKEN: Hello.

10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hello, is that Kevin?

12  
13 MR. SEMAKEN: It's Goodwin.

14  
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, great, great,  
16 Goodwin. Don Honea, are you back on?

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Pollock when you  
21 went off to check mail, we were discussing this annual  
22 report topics.

23  
24 MR. SIMON: Okay.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Identifying some  
27 annual report topics about what we include to the  
28 Federal Subsistence Board. So there's going to be some  
29 other things at our spring meeting, winter meeting, and  
30 so we'll be talking about the annual report then. And  
31 we were discussing -- Kevin Whitworth was discussing  
32 some issues for inclusion in the annual report about  
33 fisheries, certain topics about the salmon performances  
34 on the Kuskokwim and Yukon River, rebuilding the  
35 stocks. He dropped off, and we've not been able to get  
36 Rebecca on here at all to find out if she has anything.

37  
38 So.....

39  
40 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
41 Kevin. Can you hear us now?

42  
43 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, can you hear me?

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I can hear  
46 you.

47  
48 MR. WHITWORTH: I got cut off, my  
49 landline is not working at all and I'm on my cell phone  
50

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1 now.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

4

5

6

MR. WHITWORTH: But I got cut off after  
-- but I'm back on.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Well,  
you brought up some good issues there, Kevin, you know,  
about the performance of the salmon stocks and the  
effects on other species. And I was commenting on the  
whitefish and other freshwater stocks are taking,  
making up for the lack of salmon, but also terrestrial  
animals, moose is a primary -- and a lot of people are  
switching to moose harvest so that's putting a lot more  
demand on the moose population.

18

19

20

So these annual reports are important  
for this Federal Subsistence Board to realize what is  
going on within our region.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

So since we got Pollock back -- we can  
come back to the annual report -- since we got Pollock  
back now, we should have quorum again, so we're going  
to go through statewide Proposals 22-01 define  
participants and determine impacts in community harvest  
programs, and that was Pippa who was going to give us  
that. So Pollock had to be, you weren't going to be  
able to hear that presentation so is that where we  
should go now, Karen.

31

32

33

34

35

36

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
My question would be is whether or not Member Honea was  
able to get back on the phone. I think we need to  
confirm that to make sure we have a quorum. Thank you.

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you get back,  
Don.

40

41

(No comments)

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hello, Don.  
MR. HONEA: Yeah, okay, I'm ready.  
CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we  
got.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: Super.

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1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:   .....Goodwin, I  
2 think we're there, aren't we.

3  
4                   MS. KENNER:   Pippa's here.

5  
6                   MS. DEATHERAGE:   It sounds like it is  
7 so we can turn it over to Pippa Kenner now, thank you.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:   Okay.  Go ahead,  
10 Pippa.

11  
12                  MS. KENNER:   Okay.  Good afternoon, Mr.  
13 Chair and Members of the Council.  The analysis for  
14 Wildlife Proposal WP22-01 begins on Page 184 of your  
15 Council books that were sent to you and is also  
16 available at the Federal Subsistence Management Program  
17 web page, that's at [doi.gov/subsistence/regions](http://doi.gov/subsistence/regions), look  
18 for the Western Interior Alaska region meeting  
19 materials.

20  
21                  My name's Pippa Kenner and I'm an  
22 Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management  
23 in Anchorage.  Of course I usually come to the Western  
24 Interior Council meetings in person and, of course,  
25 couldn't this time, but I really look forward to seeing  
26 you and meeting your new members at hopefully your next  
27 meeting.

28  
29                  So Proposal WP22-01 was submitted by  
30 the Office of Subsistence of Management and it requests  
31 to clarify who is and who is not a participant in a  
32 community harvest system.  So before we move forward to  
33 that definition, first, let me just describe what these  
34 community harvest system in Federal regulations are.  
35 Community harvest systems generally allow hunters to  
36 harvest animals up to a community harvest limit.  
37 Individual harvest limits such as one moose do not  
38 apply to hunters in a community harvest system.  Each  
39 hunter may continue to harvest until the community  
40 harvest limit is met.

41  
42                  These regulations generally describe  
43 what animal species may be taken, where they may be  
44 taken and who may take them.  So the regulation  
45 describing community harvest systems and limit is split  
46 between Pages 187 and 188 in your Council book.  It  
47 says, an animal taken under Federal or State  
48 regulations by any member of a community with an  
49 established community harvest limit for that species  
50

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1 counts towards the community harvest limit for that  
2 species. An animal taken as part of the community  
3 harvest limit counts towards every community member's  
4 harvest limit for that species taken under Federal or  
5 State of Alaska regulations.

6  
7 So what this regulation doesn't say is  
8 that a person might not want to participate in their  
9 community harvest system for moose, for example. So  
10 the purpose of this proposed regulation is to clarify  
11 that a person can request a registration system where  
12 only people who register may participate in the  
13 community system.

14  
15 So this proposed regulation goes on to  
16 read: For the purposes of this provision, all residents  
17 of the community are deemed participants in the  
18 community harvest unless the Board approved framework  
19 requires registration as a prerequisite to harvest or  
20 receive any fish, wildlife, or shellfish pursuant to  
21 that community harvest, in which case only those who  
22 register are deemed participants in that community  
23 harvest.

24  
25 So just to let you know, there are two  
26 community harvest systems in regulations in your  
27 regions. One is for Lime Village for Unit 19 caribou  
28 and moose, and the other is for the community of  
29 Nikolai for Unit 19 sheep. But I must note that this  
30 proposed regulation will not affect these or any other  
31 existing community harvest systems in Federal  
32 regulations.

33  
34 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
35 support the proposal. We think subsistence users and  
36 others will find this revised regulation less confusing  
37 and easier to use.

38  
39 Now, before I finish, this Council is  
40 the third to act on this proposal. The proposal is a  
41 request to change a general regulation that affects all  
42 regions of the State and so we're asking all Regional  
43 Advisory Councils to act on this proposal. So the  
44 Kodiak/Aleutian and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Councils  
45 supported this proposal. The Southeast Alaska Council  
46 took no action, they kind of ran out of time. And the  
47 Southcentral Alaska Council is meeting, it's meeting is  
48 in session right now and they'll probably take it up  
49 tomorrow.

50

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1                   So that's the end of my presentation  
2 and I hope you have questions for me.

3

4                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pippa.  
5 Anybody have questions on this proposal.

6

7                   (Teleconference interference -  
8 participants not muted)

9

10                  MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

11

12                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

13

14                  MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. Pippa,  
15 I just had a question, is this -- the purpose of this  
16 is to make it easier for reporting things, or what --  
17 I'm really kind of confused as to the intent of this.

18

19                  MS. KENNER: Oh, that's a really good  
20 question. No, it isn't necessarily to make it easier  
21 to report, although that might help. We found that  
22 these regulations are unnecessarily restrictive and  
23 that there are situations, regulatory situations where  
24 somebody might not want to be part of their community  
25 harvest system. Currently, the way these regulations  
26 are written, if you're a resident of that community you  
27 don't have a choice, and this is to make sure people  
28 understand that people can request a registration  
29 system so that people can opt out.

30

31                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does that clarify  
32 that for you Don?

33

34                  MR. HONEA: Well, I guess my question  
35 was kind of lopsided there, not easier to report,  
36 because nobody likes to report, I guess my question  
37 was, easier to find out the actual numbers or something  
38 easier for OSM or whoever's doing this to get more  
39 accurate numbers; is that correct?

40

41                  MS. KENNER: Hey, thanks for the  
42 question, Don, this is Pippa again for the record. I  
43 think that might be true. One of the reasons why we  
44 want to do this is because the Ahtna Tribes, together  
45 through their InterTribal Resource Commission, have  
46 requested -- or they have a community harvest system in  
47 regulation and they asked for modifications and  
48 additions to it and they would like -- they have  
49 requested there be a registration system, and so we

50

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1 wanted to clarify in regulations that a community may  
2 do that.

3

4 MR. HONEA: Sure, okay, Pippa. I'm  
5 kind of understanding that now. I realize there must  
6 have been a purpose and, you know, the Ahtna has a  
7 whole different set of rules and everything to abide by  
8 and, you know, we just meet once a year and when I see  
9 this, you know, I just -- you know, I'm kind of  
10 confused, I hope I'm the only one confused by all these  
11 things, but, yeah, it's making sense. So thank you,  
12 and thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for  
15 those questions, Don, and I appreciate those questions.  
16 My question for you, Pippa, is like who would initiate  
17 -- unless the Board approves the framework requiring  
18 registration, who would initiate that, the Regional  
19 Councils, or members of the community that don't want  
20 to be registered as a participant, they don't want to  
21 be registered as part of the community, who initiates  
22 that so the Board.....

23

24 MS. KENNER: Well, I -- thank you for  
25 the question, this is Pippa for the record. Well,  
26 first of all the person who -- the person or group  
27 who's submitting the proposal can request it through  
28 the proposal process, which is one of the reasons why  
29 we wanted to put it in regulations so people can  
30 clearly see that that's an option. That would be the  
31 primary method. It would have to come through a  
32 proposal, though, yes.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So any other  
35 questions on the proposal. OSM, basically this is for  
36 community harvest limits and quotas, are the Council  
37 members clear on this.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any  
42 further questions on the proposal. So was there tribal  
43 consultation comments, Pippa or Karen.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments  
47 during consultation on WP22-01. There was a public  
48 member who asked for clarification regarding the option  
49 and the OSM Staff responded that this option would  
50

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1 broaden the regulation and provide people with more  
2 opportunity.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Karen.  
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments on this  
8 proposal.

9

10 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 This is Ben Mulligan. The Department has no comments  
12 on this proposal.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Federal  
15 comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any tribal members  
20 present on the phone to make comment on this Proposal  
21 WP22-01.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Advisory groups, the  
26 other Regional Councils, could you go over the Council  
27 recommendations again real quick, Pippa.

28

29 MS. KENNER: Oh, the other Councils,  
30 got it. Yes, thanks for the question, this is Pippa  
31 for the record. The Kodiak/Aleutian Council supported.  
32 The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council supported. The  
33 Southeast took no action primarily because they ran out  
34 of time.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Fish and Game  
37 Advisory Committees.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Subsistence Resource  
42 Commissions.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Summary of written  
47 public comments. Did we receive written comments.

48

49 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For

50

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1 the record this is Pippa Kenner. We did not receive  
2 any written comments on this proposal during the public  
3 comment period. Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
8 Karen Deatherage. We did receive comments via the  
9 method that I spoke to earlier, allowing individuals to  
10 send in comments prior to the meeting.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....and if you would  
15 give me a minute I would like to share that public  
16 comment. Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please.

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 The comment comes from Becky Schwanke, she is a  
22 resident of Glennallen. And her comment on WP22-01 is  
23 she would like to ask that the Council table these OSM  
24 proposals and defer to the proposer's request, which is  
25 in the form of WP22-36 to clarify their own requested  
26 regulations. And I do remind the Council that they are  
27 not deliberating on Proposal WP22-36 because it is not  
28 a crossover proposal or in their region. Thank you,  
29 Mr. Chair.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, this is a  
32 statewide proposal. And.....

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, it is.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So okay. Public  
37 testimony. Anybody from the public like to testify on  
38 this Proposal WP22-01.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none,  
43 Regional Council recommendation, motion to adopt.  
44 Could we have a motion to adopt.

45  
46 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who is that -- did  
49 somebody say something.  
50

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1 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, who is this?

4

5 MR. SIMON: Sorry, this is Jim Simon, I  
6 was wanting to give public testimony but you couldn't  
7 hear me.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay, all right,  
10 yep, I was asking for public testimony, go ahead, Jim.

11

12 MR. SIMON: Yeah, thank you. I'm a  
13 consultant with the Ahtna InterTribal Resource  
14 Commission at TCC and the Kuskokwim River InterTribal  
15 Fish Commission and I wanted to just comment on this  
16 proposal. The written comments that you heard. I  
17 think Becky is confused about the difference between  
18 this statewide proposal and the other proposal in the  
19 Ahtna region. They're really not related to one  
20 another.

21

22 This came to light because of the  
23 establishment of the Ahtna InterTribal Resource  
24 Commission administered community harvest system for  
25 the eight Ahtna villages and the non-Native Federally-  
26 qualified residents around them, to be able to have a  
27 community harvest quota where one hunter is not  
28 registered with that system is not limited to just  
29 taking one moose or one caribou, but can follow the  
30 customary and traditional use pattern where on average,  
31 across rural Alaska, 30 percent of the households  
32 within a community harvest 70 percent of the wild  
33 resources that that community depends on. But the  
34 concern because the Ahtna Tribe and the Alaska Native  
35 population is like less than a third of the total  
36 Federal qualified users in the Ahtna region, the  
37 tribes, through their commission, wanted to make sure  
38 that there was a separation, that people who didn't  
39 want to participate in this who lived in one of the  
40 eight communities didn't have to, and that they would  
41 be able to keep their individual Federal permit  
42 opportunities and individual bag limit. And so this  
43 proposal helps to ensure that those community harvest  
44 systems don't automatically affect people who may not  
45 want to participate in it.

46

47 And these comments also apply to the  
48 next Proposal WP22-02.

49

50

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1 Thank you. And I'm happy to answer any  
2 questions anyone may have.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jim,  
5 appreciate those comments. Does anybody have any  
6 questions for Jim.

7

8 MR. HONEA: Yeah, good afternoon, thank  
9 you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Simon, how are you, this is Don  
10 Honea and I just I guess whatever she was referring to  
11 to the other proposal, then you're saying it's kind of  
12 a moot point, but I think I would -- I would -- I guess  
13 what I was looking for was an explanation and you did  
14 pretty good there. I knew there had to be an intent  
15 for this coming from Ahtna. So I -- Mr. Chair, I don't  
16 have any opposition to this. I mean if it doesn't --  
17 even if we don't have any benefit, if it could benefit  
18 another region then I'm all for it and I appreciate  
19 that explanation, there, Jim.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks. So we  
22 are at a point of Council recommendation, a motion to  
23 adopt the Proposal WP22-01, do we have a motion.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, I make that  
26 motion.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don. Don  
29 motions, do we have a second.

30

31 MR. WHITWORTH: Second.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I didn't catch the  
34 name on who seconded.

35

36 MR. WHITWORTH: Second. This is Kevin.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,  
39 Kevin. So further discussion on the proposal. My  
40 comment would be that this proposal allows people to  
41 opt in or opt out of the community harvest systems,  
42 this would benefit all subsistence users statewide by  
43 having those mechanisms in place. I appreciate this  
44 proposal, the thought put into it and support the  
45 proposal. Any further discussion.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. SIMON: Question.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
2 You want to call the roll, Karen.

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
5 Chair. Rebecca Wilmarth, for adopting WP22-01.

6  
7 MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

8  
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, welcome, thank  
10 you, Rebecca.

11  
12 Don Honea.

13  
14 MR. HONEA: Yes.

15  
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon, Sr.

17  
18 MR. SIMON: Yes.

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Pollock.

21  
22 Kevin Whitworth.

23  
24 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

29  
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Goodwin Semaken.

31  
32 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very much,  
35 that's six yes, the motion passes unanimously. Thank  
36 you, Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So what do  
39 you want to do now, Karen, it's 5:00 o'clock, do you  
40 want to keep rolling or what.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, that's at  
43 the discretion of.....

44  
45 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
46 Kevin.

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....the Chair as well  
49 as the Council members. Thank you.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What's the  
2 discretion of the Council, would you like to  
3 continue.....

4  
5 (Teleconference interference -  
6 participants not muted - typing)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....with proposals  
9 for another proposal and then break for the evening.

10  
11 REPORTER: Whoever's typing, can you  
12 mute your phone please.

13  
14 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair.

15  
16 MR. HONEA: I think we've done enough  
17 damage for the day.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was getting two or  
22 three. There was a lady speaking, was that you Salena?

23  
24 REPORTER: Yes, it was. I just wanted  
25 to know whoever was typing if they could just mute  
26 their phone please, it's overriding the speaker.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. So it  
29 sounds like Council members want to break for the  
30 evening, Karen, so we can break but we have to be on  
31 the call sharp because we have a big day tomorrow and I  
32 don't want to go into 10:00 o'clock at night. So  
33 everybody has to be on the phone at 9:00 o'clock if we  
34 break right now.

35  
36 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

39  
40 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. I would  
41 appreciate it if Karen could see if we can't get a hold  
42 of Tim for some of the discussion on the fishing  
43 because he's really up on some of the fishing issues.  
44 If we can get him on tomorrow that'd be great.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. So, yeah,  
47 breaking now would give maybe Tim Gervais a chance to  
48 come in. So if it's agreeable, the Council will break  
49 tonight, right now, and we'll come back at 9:00 a.m.,  
50

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1 prompt, to begin business on schedule, not like at 9:30  
2 or something.

3

4 MR. HONEA: No, we are prompt.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, well, that's  
7 great.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll break for  
12 the evening and we'll come back at 9:00 a.m., in the  
13 morning, have a great evening.

14

15 MR. HONEA: All right, thank you.

16

17 MR. SIMON: Thank you.

18

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

20

21 MR. WHITWORTH: Thank you.

22

23 MR. SEMAKEN: Thank you.

24

25 MR. HONEA: All right, see you guys in  
26 the morning.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, have a  
29 great night, good-bye.

30

31 (Off record)

32

33 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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