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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE
October 14, 2021
9:05 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chair
Arnold Demoski
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 - 10/14/2021)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're calling the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council back to order. You want to call the roll, Karen, and give any announcements.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to go ahead and make announcements first if that's okay with you so that we can give folks some time to call in if they haven't called in already.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure, go right ahead.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. This is Karen Deatherage with the Office of Subsistence Management. I want to, first, thank everyone again for your patience with our teleconference meeting, other than some echo issues everyone did really well yesterday with muting, and if you need to speak that's great, but if you're not speaking we'd appreciate it if you could put your phone on mute. On the cell phone it's located on the menu with the speaker button and the keyboard button, and on your landline you just need to press, star, six. Yesterday some folks had to do that two times to get it to catch. So just keep trying to star, six to mute you phone, appreciate it again.

Secondly, I need to make an announcement about the Council meeting opportunities for public and written oral testimony and comments.

There will be several opportunities for these throughout the meeting. At the beginning of each day there is an opportunity to provide testimony on non-agenda items. The Council Chair will announce these opportunities.

Then there'll be an opportunity to provide oral comments on the wildlife proposals and closure reviews during or after an analyst presents proposal analysis. The order of receiving the comments is outlined on Page 25 of your meeting materials. The Council Chair will call for this public oral testimony.

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There is also an opportunity to submit written public comments on these proposals. If you have a written comment please email it to subsistence@fws.gov., and please clearly indicate the number of the proposal or closure review you are commenting on in the title of the email. These comments need to be emailed prior to the proposal you are commenting on is presented to the Council.

With that, Mr. Chair, I thank you, and if you would like I could do roll call.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

MS. DEATHERAGE:to help the Council establish quorum. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're getting a lot of background feed.

MS. DEATHERAGE: I want to remind everybody again to please mute your phone, push, star, six or press the mute button on your cell phone. Somebody's got a line open and I think we're hearing a lot of background and we're getting the echo again.

So let's go ahead, with your permission, Mr. Chair, I can do roll call so that the Council members can go ahead and mute themselves.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Rebecca Wilmarth.

MS. WILMARTH: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

MR. HONEA: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon, Sr.

MR. SIMON: Here.

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Welcome, Pollock.
2 Pollock, did you get your meeting materials?

3
4 MR. SIMON: No, there was no plane
5 yesterday.

6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, goodness, okay,
8 thank you.

9
10 MR. SIMON: Seems like there was a
11 plane this morning.

12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Well, keep us
14 posted and any questions please be sure to ask.

15
16 Kevin Whitworth.

17
18 MR. WHITWORTH: Here.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.

23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

25
26 MR. DEMOSKI: Here.

27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tim Gervais.

29
30 (No comments)

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

34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

40
41 MR. SEMAKEN: Here.

42
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, welcome all.
44 Mr. Chair, you do have a quorum. Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Karen.
47 Two members that are new to the Council, Arnold and
48 Rebecca, we took our Council member reports earlier in
49 the agenda, which was No. 9 on the agenda. The Council
50

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1 members give a briefing of -- you should give a
2 briefing of where you live, and then sort of conditions
3 or concerns that you might have for your area within
4 our region. So I'll have Rebecca and Arnold do that
5 right now because that's real important for each
6 Council member on the whole Council to understand what
7 your issues are for where you live.

8

9 So we'll start with Rebecca, could you
10 just give us a brief outline of the things I described.
11 Go ahead.

12

13 MS. WILMARTH: Okay, thank you, Mr.
14 Chair. Good morning everyone, this is Rebecca
15 Wilmarth. I live at Red Devil, kind of middle
16 Kuskokwim area. Issues here are always the closures
17 that we have with being in State fishing waters. A lot
18 of folks here don't necessarily agree with what happens
19 with the lower river and I know that sometimes that is
20 being managed by the Office of Subsistence and being
21 down there in Federal waters. So I would say that the
22 most common issue that I hear is that, you know, that
23 the State and the Feds work together to manage the
24 rolling closures because a lot of the times that we are
25 not allowed to fish up here and people are fishing in
26 the lower river and vice versa, so it's kind of an up
27 river versus down river issue.

28

29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted - on hold)

31

32 MS. WILMARTH: And just for everybody's
33 knowledge the population, the further you get up river
34 it decreases dramatically. So there's not nearly as
35 many people fishing up this way.

36

37 As far as hunting goes, I don't hear a
38 lot of issues on the hunting side of things, for the
39 game management.

40

41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted - on hold)

43

44 MS. WILMARTH: That's all I have, thank
45 you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, Karen, do you
2 want to address.....

3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: I hate to interrupt
5 but apparently there is somebody who has put us on hold
6 and Tina is going to contact the operator and have them
7 disconnected.

8

9 (Online with Operator)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So whoever's got
12 your phone on hold you can put it on mute, or star,
13 six, or whatever. So Arnold, do you want to give us a
14 rundown.

15

16 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah, so I don't have
17 much issues for our area. People are just -- I just
18 hear the issue about the fishing, there's not enough
19 fish to fish but just pretty upset with the way it's
20 managed and that's just the only issue I'm hearing.

21

22 Our wildlife in the area is good. Our
23 populations for the wildlife is good in our area. The
24 population in our area is pretty good, there's no
25 issues with nobody getting their moose -- well, I heard
26 they had a few concerns but I think that was more for
27 like (indiscernible) extra opener (indiscernible -
28 beeping overriding the speaker)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You might
31 want to get closer to the mic.

32

33 MR. DEMOSKI: We didn't need that extra
34 opening, everybody got their moose in the openings that
35 we had. We didn't need that extra hunt. It was a good
36 season.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So
39 glad to have you on the meeting this morning. Somebody
40 was on hold, your phone was still beeping on -- we got
41 a background beeping so whoever put us on hold, turn
42 that off and put us on mute, that'd be star, six, or to
43 mute on your cell phone. So okay we covered.....

44

45 (Pause - online with Operator)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
48 move back on to our agenda, which is WP22-02, that
49 should be an 02 in the book, so who's presenting this

50

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1 proposal.

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MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
4 Karen Deatherage. May ask that we allow for any quick
5 introductions for anybody who did not introduce
6 themselves yesterday who might be on the phone with us
7 this morning from tribes or agencies or the general
8 public. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead. Did
11 anybody call in this morning that wasn't on the call
12 yesterday that would like to introduce yourself.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You need to be a
little closer to your mic when you speak there, Frank,
we're getting like a fan background noise also off your

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1 phone. So anybody else on the call.

2

3 MS. MCMILLAN: Good morning. This is
4 Jennifer McMillan, the Ecologist for Central Yukon
5 Field Office for BLM.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Jenn.
8 Anyone else.

9

10 MS. KLEIN: Hi, this is Jill Klein.
11 I'm joining the call and just for an update I'm the
12 Regional Subsistence Coordinator now at Fish and
13 Wildlife Service. So good morning.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Jill.
16 And anyone else, go ahead. It sounds like somebody's
17 trying to speak but you're completely broken and
18 unreadable, get closer to your mic if you can.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can't hear you,
23 you're really static and broken.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, nope,
28 unreadable. Not sure about that one. What do you want
29 to do with that Karen.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 I was unable to hear anything but for the person trying
33 to introduce themselves, I would recommend that they
34 hang up and redial into the meeting. Thank you, Mr.
35 Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was getting a
38 little static of somebody trying to respond but whoever
39 was trying to respond, you're not readable, so redial,
40 call in -- log out and redial back in and you can
41 interject who you are at some point when we have a
42 slight break in the conversation. Anybody else on the
43 phone that didn't identify from yesterday.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, okay, we're
48 going back to the agenda, WP22-02. And who's making
49 the presentation.

50

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1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 This is Pippa, I'm on, can you hear me?

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can hear you
5 fine.

6
7 MS. KENNER: Great. Am I too loud?

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.

10

11 MS. KENNER: Okay, thank you. Well,
12 good afternoon, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council.
13 The analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-02 begins on
14 Page 202 of your Council books that were sent to you
15 and it is also available at the Federal Subsistence
16 Management Program web page at
17 doi.gov/subsistence/regions. Look for the Western
18 Interior Alaska region meeting materials.

19

20 So my name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an
21 Anthropologist of the Office of Subsistence Management
22 in Anchorage. I'm sorry. I've got lots of messages
23 popping up and I need to -- sorry about that, it was
24 just a little distracting.

25

26 Okay, so Proposal WP22-02 was submitted
27 by the Office of Subsistence Management and requests to
28 clarify designated hunting regulations that currently
29 prohibit the use of a designated hunter by a member of
30 a community operating under a community harvest system.

31

32 So earlier, yesterday afternoon we were
33 talking about community harvest systems and now we're
34 going to talk about our designated hunter system.

35

36 So our current designated hunter
37 regulation is on Page 204 of your Council book and it
38 states -- okay, I have to modify something, just a
39 minute please -- okay. Okay, they're telling me they
40 can hear me on the Eastern Interior meeting -- they
41 can't be.....

42

43 REPORTER: So Pippa, excuse me, Pippa.
44 Pippa.

45

46 MS. KENNER:on the -- they're
47 telling me they can hear me on the Eastern.....

48

49 REPORTER: Pippa.

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1 MS. KENNER: Yes.

2

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4 REPORTER: Okay, this is Tina. So if
5 you're monitoring both meetings, whatever you're line
6 you're monitoring the Eastern Interior meeting on, you
7 need to mute that line. Because, yes, Nathan, said he
8 can hear you in their meeting.

8

9 MS. KENNER: I'm not on the Eastern
10 Interior meeting.

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12 REPORTER: Right, you are because
13 they're listening to you right now. It may somebody
14 else who has two lines open.

16 MR. MASCHMANN: It's that there's
17 another participant listening to both meetings who's
18 not on mute.

20 REPORTER: Yes, there's somebody else
21 that's listening to both meetings and they're phone is
22 not muted. So I'm just telling you, Pippa, that, yes,
23 Nathan said you're coming in loud and clear in the
24 Eastern Interior meeting.

26 MS. KENNER: Okay. So they just
27 figured out -- okay, just let me give them a message
28 because they are very perplexed right now. So what's
29 happening is that somebody is listening to both
30 meetings and I'm coming through loud and clear, which
31 must be very disconcerting, I can understand.

33 Okay so I am.....

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Pippa.
36 This is Karen Deatherage. So whoever is listening to
37 both meetings, we want to repeat that you need to have
38 your phone on mute so that what is said at each meeting
39 is not overheard and disruptive. So thank you for
40 that. Please don't put us on hold. You star, six, to
41 mute or mute on your cell phone keypad. Thank you,
42 very much.

44 REPORTER: Okay, so unless your name is
45 Pippa Kenner or Jack Reakoff, everybody should be on
46 mute right now. Go ahead, Pippa.

48 MS. KENNER: Okay, I'm really sorry for
49 that, these meetings they get a little complicated for
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1 everybody sometimes.

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REPORTER: Yes.

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MS. KENNER: I'm going to back up a little bit, we're on Proposal WP22-02. It was submitted by us, OSM, and I'm going to read our current designated hunter regulation, which is on Page 204 of your Council book so that everybody can become familiar with what these regulations say.

It says: If you are a Federally-qualified subsistence user you may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take deer, moose and caribou on your behalf unless you are a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his or her possession at any one time. So that's the general regulation in our designated hunter system.

What we propose is to remove the language that says: unless you are a member of a community operating under a community harvest system.

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

So this is almost an administrative correction to the regulations. OSM preliminary conclusion is to support the Proposal WP22-02.

And, finally, this Council is the third to act on this proposal. Part of the proposal is to request a general regulation that affects all regions of the state. We are asking all Regional Advisory Councils to act on this proposal. The Kodiak/Aleutian and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Councils supported this proposal. And the Southeast Alaska Council took no action primarily because they ran out of time.

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1 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that's the end of
2 my presentation.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Pippa.
5 Any questions for Pippa on this Office of Subsistence
6 Management proposal, basically a housekeeping proposal.
7 Any questions.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So hearing none from
12 the Council members. Any tribal comments, ANCSA
13 comments, Karen.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments on
17 WP22-02. Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game comments on Proposal WP22-
21 02.

22

23 MR. MULLIGAN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
24 This is Ben Mulligan at the Department. ADF&G did not
25 take a position on this proposal as it viewed it as
26 internal housekeeping.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.
29 Any Federal comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tribal comments.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Advisory Committee
38 comments. Other -- we've heard the Regional Councils
39 two adopted, Kodiak and YKD.

40

41 MS. KENNER: That's correct.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Fish and
44 Game Advisory Committees or Subsistence Resource
45 Commissions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Written public

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1 testimony comments.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
4 received no written testimony for this proposal during
5 the public comment period. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does anybody on the
8 phone that would like to testify about this proposal.

9

10 MR. SIMON: Yes, Mr. Chair.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is that you
15 Jim, identify yourself.

16

17 MR. SIMON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Jim Simon. I'm a consultant with the Ahtna InterTribal
19 Resource Commission and Tanana Chiefs Conference and I
20 encourage the Council to support this housekeeping
21 proposal. In establishing the Ahtna InterTribal
22 Resource Commissions administered community harvest
23 system for moose and caribou in the Ahtna traditional
24 territory, it came to light at OSM that people who
25 chose not to participate in that Ahtna community
26 harvest system would not be able to utilize Federal
27 designated hunter permits and this proposal will help
28 to ensure that the community harvest systems do not
29 impact other community members who may not wish to
30 participate.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate
35 those comments.

36

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

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 This is Karen Deatherage. We did receive a public
44 written comment.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE:after the written
49 comment deadline from Becky Schwanke who resides in

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1 Glennallen. And she stated she would ask that these
2 OSM proposals be tabled, that was WP22-01 and WP22-02
3 and defer to the proposer's request under WP22-36 to
4 clarify their own requested regulation.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. She commented
9 on the previous proposal also. So.....

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, she did, that's
12 correct.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:Regional
15 Council recommendations. The Chair will entertain a
16 motion to adopt Proposal WP22-02.

17

18 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
19 Kevin. I make a motion to adopt this proposal.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kevin. Do
22 we have a second.

23

24 MS. WILMARTH: This is Rebecca, I'll
25 second it.

26

27 MR. DEMOSKI: This is Arnold, I second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Rebecca was in
30 there one second before you, Arnold, so Rebecca
31 seconded. And so Council discussion.

32

33 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this Kevin.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

36

37 MR. WHITWORTH: Not getting into the
38 details in this proposal but I just think it's a
39 housekeeping proposal, it makes a lot of sense.
40 Looking to support our neighbors in the Ahtna region,
41 so, yeah, I'll support this proposal as is, and the
42 recommendation from OSM.

43

44 That's all, thanks.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kevin. I
47 support the proposal in that it gives people to opt in
48 or opt out of the community hunt and is equitable for
49 the subsistence users statewide if these are

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1 implemented, so I support the proposal. Any other.....

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3 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

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5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

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7 MR. HONEA: Yeah, could you hear me

8

9 now?

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you now.

12

13 MR. HONEA: Okay. Hey, this is Don. I
14 concur with you guys, with Kevin and yourself and it
15 seems like this is mainly -- since this is already in
16 place in their particular region, they have a different
17 set of things than we do here in the Interior, but,
18 yeah, I would certainly support this. We may need
19 their vote in the future on something else.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this is a
24 statewide proposal, it would apply to.....

25

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

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:any hunts that
30 may -- you know, maybe a community wants a community
31 hunt in our region at some point, this would affect
32 that, this would actually affect this region
33 futuristically, possibly.

34

35 And so any further comments.

36

37 MR. DEMOSKI: This is Arnold. I don't
38 have any further comments, I just want to say I support
39 this proposal though. Thank you OSM for doing the work
40 on this.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Arnold,
43 appreciate that.

44

45 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
48 You want to call the roll, Karen.

49

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

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1 So the motion is to adopt WP22-02.

2

3 Rebecca Wilmarth.

4

5 MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

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7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

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9 MR. HONEA: Yes.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon.

12

13 MR. SIMON: Yes.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

16

17 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

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21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

24

25 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tim Gervais.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

36

37 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's seven yes and
40 the motion passes unanimously. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. So the
43 next proposal up is WP22-33 and who's presenting this
44 on Page.....

45

46 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
47 Holman, I'll be doing this.

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49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Kendra, go

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0204

1 right ahead.

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MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. This is Kendra Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. This proposal is Wildlife Proposal WP22-33 and was submitted by the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission and can be found on Page 220 of your meeting books.

The proposal requests the elimination of the sealing requirement for black bears in Units 11 and 12.

The proponent states that people living in remote locations need to drive to an Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices to have bears sealed. The extra salvage necessary to seal subsistence black bears in Units 11 and 12 is an undue hardship for subsistence users who are mainly in the meat.

Currently, Federal regulations are more stringent than State regulations, which only require harvest tickets and not sealing. Harvest ticket reports provide sufficient harvest information to monitor and protect black bear populations without sealing and there is not currently a conservation concern for black bears. Additionally, the proponent requests that the harvest ticket and sealing requirements be included.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted - screeching)

MS. HOLMAN: Is everyone still there?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm here.

MS. HOLMAN: Okay. I wanted to make sure I didn't get disconnected with that noise.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so people who are on the call, put your phone on -- star, six, or put on mute, and pay attention to what you're doing if you want to listen to our meeting.

So go ahead, Kendra.

1 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
2 additionally the proponent requested that harvest
3 ticket and sealing requirement be included in the Unit-
4 specific regulations instead of with the general
5 provisions for -- in the front of the regulation
6 booklet stating this would be clearer and easier for
7 subsistence user to understand as the current layout of
8 the Federal Subsistence Management Regulations Booklet
9 is confusing. This portion of the request is outside
10 the scope of the regulatory proposal, however, the
11 suggestion has been forwarded to the appropriate
12 reviewer.

13
14 Since 2008 all Alaskan resident hunters
15 must obtain a State harvest ticket and report their
16 hunting effort. In 2010 the State of Alaska
17 reclassified black bear as furbearing animals as well
18 as game animals. The Alaska Board of Game removed the
19 requirement for getting a bear hide or skull sealed for
20 Unit 11 in regulatory year 20 -- 2001 -- 2010 and 2012
21 and for Unit 12 in regulatory year 2010/2011 because
22 the requirement for both the harvest tickets and
23 sealing was determined to be redundant.

24
25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27
28 MS. HOLMAN: Sealing requirements for
29 black bear in Units 11 and 12 have not changed and the
30 Federal regulations since the inception of the program
31 in 1990 adopting then current State regulations. Under
32 existing Federal regulations the salvage of the hide
33 and edible meat is required when sealing is required,
34 hunters must additionally remove the skull from the
35 field.

36
37 Unit 11 has not had population surveys
38 conducted. Through field observations and harvest data
39 it is believed that the black bear populations are
40 abundant within areas of suitable habitat. The
41 National Park Service biologist estimated that there
42 are 100 to 200 black bears per 1,000 kilometers squared
43 around McCarthy area in 2001. Unit 12 has not had
44 population surveys conducted. Through limited radio
45 telemetry data the Unit 12 population was estimated to
46 be 700 to 1,000 bears in 2012. While current
47 biological data for black bears in these units is
48 lacking, there is no current conservation concern
49 regarding black bears in Units 11 or 12.
50

1 Unit 11 is primarily limited to
2 Federally-qualified subsistence users. The number of
3 black bears reported harvested fluctuates yearly from 8
4 to 31 annually between 1998 to 2012. These numbers can
5 be found on Figure 1 on Page 225 of your meeting book.
6 Unit 12 has historically low human use of black bears
7 despite liberal hunting regulations. The number of
8 black bears harvested fluctuates each year between 23
9 to 68 annually from 1995 and 2017. These numbers can
10 also be found on Figure 2 on Page 226 of your meeting
11 book.

12
13 The proposal, if adopted, would remove
14 the requirement for Federally-qualified subsistence
15 users to have the skull and/or skin of a black bear
16 sealed in Units 11 and 12. The process of harvesting
17 black bears for Federally-qualified subsistence users
18 would be simplified by removing this unnecessary
19 requirement. The State removed this requirement over
20 10 years ago requiring -- resulting in Federal
21 regulations being more restrictive which is contrary to
22 the rural subsistence priority mandate by ANILCA.
23 While Federally-qualified subsistence users can hunt
24 under State regulations in parts of the units, they
25 cannot in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park where
26 only State subsistence regulations apply.

27
28 If this proposal is adopted the State
29 and Federal regulations for sealing would align with
30 each other reducing the regulatory complexity and user
31 confusion.

32
33 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
34 support Proposal WP22-33.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
37 Council. I'd be happy to address any questions.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the reason this
40 is on our agenda for black bears.....

41
42 (Teleconference interference -
43 participants not muted)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:is because we
46 have a customary and traditional use determination in
47 those game management units, apparently? I don't have
48 the reg book in front of me. All Alaskan rural
49 subsistence users would have an eligibility if there is
50

0207

1 no customary and traditional use determination. So I
2 would assume that's why we're here.

3

4 So I support the proposal, though.

5

6 We're going to move down this list
7 here. Tribes and ANCSA Corporations, Karen.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments on
11 WP22-33.

12

13 And, again, I'd like to remind folks to
14 put us on mute. I know I sound like a broken record
15 but we are getting some background noise so please put
16 us on mute if you are not speaking. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And somebody's
19 pounding nails, so that would be you, so mute your
20 phone.

21

22 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

23

24 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chairman, Ben
25 Mulligan here again. ADF&G supports this proposal as
26 it does align Federal and State sealing requirements --
27 or removing the sealing requirements for black bears in
28 these GMUs. The information acquired during the
29 sealing process has been deemed not critical by the
30 Board of Game for the management of black bears in 11
31 and 12 and a harvest ticket is still required which
32 does capture some basic harvest information. And just
33 a quick, FYI, not all sealing needs to take place at an
34 ADF&G office. We do have certified sealing officers in
35 other locations and I would encourage folks to reach
36 out to their local ADF&G office to find out what those
37 alternatives are.

38

39 Thank you, Sir.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for
42 that clarification Ben. So the Federal comments.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tribal comments.
47 Any tribe on the phone want to speak to this.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0208

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Regional
2 Advisory Council comments, or positions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None. Subsistence
7 Resource Commission. This was the Wrangell-St. Elias
8 Subsistence Resource Commission proposal, apparently
9 they endorse their proposal.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Written comments.
14 Any written comments on this Kendra.

15
16 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, no, there were
17 no written comments.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any.....

20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: I apologize for the
26 interruption, we do have an additional written public
27 comment that was received just prior to the meeting.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: The public written
32 comment comes from Becky Schwanke who is a resident of
33 Glennallen. Becky writes: I support the request to
34 eliminate black bear sealing for Units 11 and 12. The
35 black bear harvest reporting system is adequate to get
36 necessary biological data for this abundant local
37 species.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
42 that comment. And so Regional Council recommendation.
43 The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal
44 WP22-33. Do we have a motion to that effect.

45
46 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
47 Kevin. I'll make the motion to adopt WP22-33.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Kevin.
50

0209

1 Do we have.....

2

3 MS. WILMARTH: This is Rebecca, I'll
4 second.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:a second --
7 Rebecca seconds. So any further discussion.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The biological
12 parameters of the black bear population in the Game
13 Management Units 11 and 12 are adequate to support
14 harvest with the current regulatory process would be
15 the comments that the Council will submit to the
16 Federal Subsistence Board. You want to call the -- any
17 further comments by the Council members.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do we got a
22 question.

23

24 MR. SIMON: Question.

25

26 MR. DEMOSKI: Question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
29 You want to call the roll, Karen.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 For adoption of WP22-33.

33

34 Rebecca Wilmarth.

35

36 MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

39

40 MR. HONEA: Yes.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon.

43

44 MR. SIMON: Yes.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

47

48 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

49

50

0210

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

6

7 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

10

11 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

12

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

14 WP22-33 passes unanimously. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Karen.

17 So the next proposal before us is WP22-40 and is that
18 you, Kendra, again.

19

20 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is

21 Kevin.

22

23 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is Lisa

24 -- oh.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Lisa.

27

28 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks, Mr.

29 Chair. I am presenting this proposal but Kevin had
30 started if you wanted to address that first.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to know who
33 was presenting. Go ahead Kevin.

34

35 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, sorry about that.

36 Just wondering, you know, this is my first meeting so
37 excuse my ignorance here. But I was wondering if Karen
38 could change her order once in awhile for the voting
39 just so it's not always Rebecca or some -- not --
40 nothing against the order but just to change it up a
41 little bit just so it's not -- I don't know if that's
42 what we'd usually do in the past, so please just tell
43 me if it's not a good suggestion. That's all, thank
44 you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, that's usually
47 the way it would go but we don't usually do
48 teleconferences every year so -- usually when we vote
49 in person we -- it's yea and nay and everybody can see
50

0211

1 each other. So go ahead, Lisa, do you want to present
2 the proposal.

3

4 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
5 Chair. Can you hear me okay?

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can hear you great.

8

9 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. Hello, Mr.
10 Chair. Members of the Council. For the record my name
11 is Lisa Grediagin, I'm the Wildlife Division Supervisor
12 with OSM. And apologies, but I'm actually the backup
13 presenter for this proposal so I'll do my best
14 addressing any questions. So I'll be presenting the
15 analysis for WP22-40 which begins on Page 229 of your
16 Council book.

17

18 Proposal WP22-40 submitted by the
19 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
20 requests that Federally-qualified subsistence users be
21 allowed to use a snowmachine to position wolves and
22 wolverines for harvest on Federal public lands in Units
23 9B, 9C, 17B and 17C provided the animals are not shot
24 from a moving snowmachine.

25

26 The proponent states that the use of
27 snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines is a
28 traditional practice in rural areas. And the proposed
29 regulation will mirror Federal regulations in Unit 23.
30 The proponent continues, in April 2020, the Federal
31 Subsistence Board addressed Proposal WP20-26 to
32 position wolves and wolverine on Bureau of Land
33 Management managed lands in Units 17B and C. The Board
34 deferred the proposal to a working group of the Council
35 and Federal Staff and State Staff to develop and
36 recommend language to define positioning of animals for
37 the Board to consider. This proposal replaces deferred
38 Proposal WP22-26.

39

40 In 2020 the Council submitted Proposals
41 WP20-26 and WP20-27. Proposal WP20-26 requested that
42 Federally-qualified subsistence users be allowed to use
43 a snowmachine to position wolves and wolverines for
44 harvest on BLM managed lands only in Units 9B, 9C, 17B
45 and 17C and Proposal WP20-27, also submitted by the
46 Bristol Bay Council, requested a unit-specific
47 regulation for Unit 17 allowing use of a snowmachine to
48 assist in the taking of a caribou and allowing caribou
49 to be shot from a stationary snowmachine using the
50

0212

1 language adopted by the Board of Game in February 2018.

2

3

That regulatory language read:

4

5

6 In Unit 17 a snowmachine may be used to
7 assist in the taking of a caribou and caribou may be
8 shot from a stationary snowmachine. Assist in the
9 taking of a caribou means a snowmachine may be used to
10 approach within 300 yards of a caribou at speeds under
11 15 miles per hour in a manner that does not involve
12 repeated approaches or that causes a caribou to run. A
13 snowmachine may not be used to contact an animal or to
14 pursue a fleeing caribou.

14

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During the April 2020 Board meeting,
the Board took up Proposal WP20-27, the Board then
considered Proposal WP20-26, the Board deferred
Proposal WP20-26 and suggested further consideration of
the proposal by the Council working group to; 1, expand
the analysis to include all Federal lands in Units 9B,
9C, 17B and 17C; 2, identify specific language that may
reduce complexity between State and Federal
regulations, and, 3, anticipate and address regulatory
conflicts between proposed regulatory language and
agency-specific regulations.

The local State Advisory Committee
submitted Proposal 23 to the Board of Game for
consideration at their January 2022 meeting. Proposal
23 requests allowing the use of a snowmachine to
position wolves or wolverines for harvest in Unit 17
and that they may be shot from a stationary
snowmachine. The Nushagak AC states Proposal 23 seeks
to eliminate current conflicts between regulatory
prohibitions and common local hunting practices and
that this opportunity is already available to users in
Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

Following direction from the Federal
Subsistence Board, a working group formed to develop
recommendations for deferred Proposal WP20-26. The
working group met several times via teleconference
between July 2020 and May 2021. At the February 2021
Bristol Bay Council meeting, the working group reported
to the Council they were in agreement to expand the
analysis to include all Federal public lands in Units
9B, 9C, 17B and 17C. Subsequently this proposal was
submitted for the 2022 regulatory cycle.

0213

1 However, after submitting this proposal
2 the working group met again in May and agreed to
3 further clarify the term, position, using the same
4 regulatory language as proposed in WP20-27.

5

6 When Proposal 20-26 was proposed, it
7 requested changes to regulations on BLM lands only in
8 Units 9 and 17. BLM lands only occur in subunits 9B,
9 9C, 17B and 17C. When the proponent submitted Proposal
10 WP22-40 the request was expanded to include all Federal
11 public lands in the same subunits before. An
12 alternative to consider is that leaving out Unit 17A
13 was an oversight and the proposed regulatory changes
14 should take place on all Federal public lands in Units
15 9B, 9C and all of Unit 17. The Council may want to
16 further consider this alternative.

17

18 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
19 support Proposal WP22-40 with modification, to utilize
20 the same regulatory language as Proposal WP20-27 and to
21 include all Federal public lands in Unit 17.

22

23 Hunters using snowmachines to position
24 wolves and wolverines is a traditional practice in the
25 Bristol Bay area. As the means for travel, access and
26 harvest continue to change over time, hunters persist
27 in using traditionally methods purposefully meant to
28 alter the behavior of wildlife in order to position and
29 for harvest because these methods are efficient.
30 Additionally, the Board adopted a similar regulation in
31 Unit 23 in recognition of the snowmachine as a
32 customary and traditional harvest method. The proposed
33 regulation change might increase opportunity through an
34 enhanced method for the harvest of wolverine and could
35 result in more harvest. Impacts to wolverine
36 populations are unknown at this time and are difficult
37 to track.

38

39 Finally, the proposed modification
40 should align with similar regulations for the hunting
41 of caribou on Federal public lands in all of Unit 17 as
42 well as comply with agency-specific regulations.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes
45 my presentation and I'd be happy to field any
46 questions.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on
49 Lisa's presentation, which was very thorough, thanks,
50

0214

1 Lisa.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council questions.

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Lisa.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council questions.

This Council addressed this a couple three years ago and now it's been re -- the work group has worked this language out a little clearer for the Federal Subsistence Board. So I don't hear any Council questions on the proposal. Any tribe or ANCSA Corporation comments.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this is Karen Deatherage. There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments received on WP22-40. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Karen. Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chair, Ben Mulligan. ADF&G supports the proposal. As you heard from Lisa the efforts going on on our end as well and it seems like -- and the work of the working group, so, yeah, we'll support this when it comes up in April.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. And Federal comments, any agency comments.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any tribal comments from anybody on the phone.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Regional Advisory Council comments. Has any Council made a recommendation on this?

MS. GREDIAGIN: No, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Advisory Committee comments, they're part of the process, these Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All affected

0215

1 committees were involved in this, I assume.

2

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

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Alissa.

6

7 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
8 just recently had gotten a new Advisory Committee
9 Coordinator out here in the Western region and our
10 Bethel Advisory Committee has not met yet. Thank you,
11 Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate
14 that information. Subsistence Resource Commissions.
15 Did Lake Clark comment on this, have they met, any NPS
16 people on the phone.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Apparently not.
21 Summary of written public comments. Do you have any
22 Karen, or Lisa?

23

24 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, my apologies,
25 just a moment, Mr. Chair. I don't believe there -- yes,
26 correct, yeah, there are no written public comments.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And no new
29 ones have come in, Karen? Are you there, Karen?

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, yes, I am, Mr.
32 Chair. No written public comments have been received
33 prior to the meeting for WP22-40. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any public
36 testimony. Anybody on the phone want to comment on
37 this proposal.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Regional Advisory
42 Council recommendation. I feel that the modified
43 language that OSM, in their conclusion to support WP22-
44 40 with a modification and the modification is on Page
45 42 and 43 of our meeting books is the refined language
46 that the Federal Subsistence Board was looking for and
47 I support that refined language. The Chair will
48 entertain a motion to adopt WP22-40 with modification,
49 do we have a motion to that effect.

50

0216

1 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, can you hear
2 me, this is Jenny.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. Oh,
5 Jenny, yeah, go ahead.

6
7 MS. PELKOLA: I'll make that motion.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate
10 that Jenny. Do we have a second.

11
12 MR. DEMOSKI: I second, this is Arnold.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,
15 Arnold. Discussion. Council members may be confused
16 why we're discussing Unit 17 and 9, that's because we
17 have people in Unit 19 that actually have customary and
18 traditional use over on that side so this proposal
19 would affect some our people of our region, you know,
20 like down in the lower Kuskokwim area especially. So
21 any further discussion on the proposal.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any. I
26 support the proposal because of the refined language
27 that was brought out by the work group and this seems
28 to be equitable through both regulatory systems so
29 that's the reason why I'm supporting the proposal. So
30 any further comments.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got a question.

35
36 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
39 You want to call the roll Karen.

40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Let's start with Jenny Pelkola.

43
44 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Jenny,
47 welcome back.

48
49 How about Goodwin Semaken.

50

0217

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin, are you still
4 on the phone with us?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll come back to

9 Goodwin.

10

11 Arnold Demoski.

12

13 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

16

17 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon.

24

25 MR. SIMON: Yes.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

36

37 MR. HONEA: Yes.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Let's go back to

40 Goodwin Semaken, are you on the phone?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

45

46 (No comments)

47

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

49 WP22-40 passes with a vote of six members unanimously.

50

0218

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Karen. So the
4 next proposal is WP22-50 increase harvest limits to no
5 limit for trapping beaver in Unit 23, and who's
6 presenting this.

7

8 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra,
9 I'll be doing this one.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,
12 Kendra.

13

14 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair. Members of the
15 Board. This is Kendra Holman and I will be proposing
16 [sic] Wildlife Proposal WP22-50 submitted by the
17 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
18 requesting the beaver harvest limit be changed from 50
19 and 30 beavers in Unit 23, Kobuk and the Selawik River
20 drainage and Unit 23 remainder respectfully to no
21 harvest limit to both trapping areas. This proposal
22 starts on Page 248 of your meeting book.

23

24 The proposal -- the proponent states
25 that the proposed changes would align Federal beaver
26 trapping regulations with the more liberal State
27 regulations as well as provide increased harvest
28 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users.

29

30 There has been a general trend to
31 liberalize trapping and hunting regulations in Unit 23.
32 In 1999, the Alaska Board of Game adopted the year-
33 round hunting season for beaver in Unit 23 with no
34 harvest limit or sealing requirement. In addition, the
35 trapping season was extended to year-round with no
36 harvest limit and no sealing requirement. In 2007 the
37 Board adopted Proposal WP07-51 requesting a hunting
38 season for beaver in Unit 23 with no closed season and
39 no harvest limit. Arctic landscapes are in transition
40 due to changes in climate, increased warmth in the
41 summers and longer growing seasons are contributing to
42 increased tundra productivity and shrub dominated
43 vegetation. Beavers have increasingly moved into the
44 tundra areas during the past 20 years. Beaver numbers
45 remain high in Unit 23 particularly in the Selawik and
46 Kobuk River drainages where beavers have fully occupied
47 high quality habitat and now widely occur in marginal
48 areas as well.

49

50

0219

1 Current harvest data is limited because
2 few folks have sealed pelts since ADF&G made beaver
3 sealing requirements voluntary in Unit 23 in 2000. The
4 most recent community harvest surveys in the community
5 subsistence information system is 2014 and that data
6 suggests that beaver harvesting varies greatly by year
7 and community as seen in both Figure 1 and Table 1 on
8 Page 252 of your meeting book.

9
10 If this proposal is adopted the beaver
11 harvest limit would be changed from 50 and 30 beaver
12 per season in Unit 23, Kobuk, and Selawik and the Unit
13 23 remainder respectfully to no harvest limit in both
14 trap areas. No impacts to the beaver population or user
15 groups are expected as Federally-qualified subsistence
16 users can already trap an unlimited number of beavers
17 on most Federal lands under the more liberal State
18 regulations. Additionally, adoption of the proposal
19 would align Federal and State regulations reducing the
20 regulatory complexity for users.

21
22 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
23 support WP22-50 with modifications to combine Unit 23
24 trap areas.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
27 Board. I'll be happy to field any questions.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kendra. Any
30 questions on the proposal by the Council.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pretty
35 straightforward. Tribal and ANCSA Corporation
36 comments. Karen.

37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments on
40 WP22-50. Thanks.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Alaska Department of
43 Fish and Game comments.

44
45 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chair, Ben
46 Mulligan. The Department supports aligning State and
47 Federal regulations to reduce user confusion.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ben.

50

0220

1 Federal comments, or tribal comments, anybody on the
2 phone care to comment on this proposal.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Regional
7 Advisory Council positions. This is a Northwest Arctic
8 Regional Advisory Council proposal, apparently they
9 support it.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fish and Game
14 Advisory Committee comments, or Subsistence Resource
15 Commission comments. There's Kobuk Valley,
16 Krusenstern, Gates of the Arctic.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Summary of
21 written and public comments, Kendra or.....

22

23 MS. HOLMAN: No written comments.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:Karen.

26

27 MS. HOLMAN:Mr. Chair.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 There are no additional written public comments
31 received after the comment deadline. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Public
34 testimony. Any person on the phone care to comment on
35 this Proposal WP22-50.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none,
40 Council recommendation. I support this proposal. The
41 Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the Proposal
42 WP22-50 with modification as outlined in OSM's
43 preliminary conclusion on Page -- no, wait a minute I'm
44 on the wrong page, on Page 248.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do we have a
49 motion to adopt.

50

0221

1 MR. DEMOSKI: This is Arnold, I'll make
2 that a motion to adopt WP22-50 with the modification.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
5 that Arnold. Do we have a second.

6
7 MR. WHITWORTH: Second. This is Kevin.

8
9 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock seconds. So
12 comments on the proposal.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will comment on
17 the proposal. I was on the Kobuk River probably 20
18 years ago and there were guys from Kobuk Village way up
19 the river harvesting beaver in the fall because there
20 were no caribou and so beaver are widely used, and
21 before the caribou migrations come, and the beaver
22 population is really high. So within the Western
23 Interior region beaver are used predominately for food
24 source and so that would be my comment. Any further
25 comments.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do we got a call
30 for question.

31
32 MR. SIMON: Question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called,
35 you want to call the roll, Karen.

36
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. To
38 adopt WP22-50. Kevin Whitworth.

39
40 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don, are you on the
47 phone?

48
49 MR. HONEA: Yes.

50

0222

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll come back to him
2 -- oh, is that Don?

3
4 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Yes.

5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right, super,
7 thank you. Rebecca Wilmarth.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: We must have lost
12 Rebecca or she's having trouble muting and unmuting
13 again, I'll come back.

14
15 Pollock Simon.

16
17 MR. SIMON: Yes.

18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Pollock.

20
21 Jenny Pelkola.

22
23 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

26
27 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, welcome back,
30 Goodwin.

31
32 Arnold Demoski.

33
34 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

35
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's seven yes, so
41 the motion passes unanimously. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Karen.
44 The next proposal is WP22-53, establish season and
45 harvest limit for Arctic fox in Unit 25, and who's
46 presenting on this one.

47
48 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra,
49 I'll be doing this one.

50

0223

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kendra, go ahead.

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MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. This is Kendra Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. I will be presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-53 submitted by Mr. Korth of Fort Yukon requesting the establishment of a trapping season for Arctic fox in Unit 25. It can be found on Page 255 of your meeting book.

The proponent states that Arctic foxes are trapped in Unit 25 and in some years they are trapped more than red, cross or silver foxes. The State currently has a Arctic fox trapping season in Unit 25 and the proponent would like a Federal season to be legalized as well since many are already incidentally caught in Unit 25 traps intended for other species. Currently there is no Federal subsistence trapping regulation for Arctic fox in Unit 25 and the State has an established season for Arctic fox in Unit 25 that started in 2004 and has not changed since 2006.

Population dynamics of the Arctic fox in Unit 25 are not documented, they are considered to have stable and sometimes abundant populations and their preferred habitat in the treeless coastal areas of Alaska from the Aleutian Islands north to Point Barrow and east to the Canadian border. Young transient Arctic foxes have been known to cross the Brooks Range outside of their home range in Unit 25 and other adjacent units in search of prey. There are no reported Arctic fox harvest prior to the 53 reported in the 2018/2019 trapping season, however, reported harvest numbers may not reflect actual harvest since the sealing of Arctic fox is not required and incidental take of red fox traps is likely. The Alaska trapper report estimates the presence of Arctic fox is scarce in Unit 25 and other units south of the Brooks Range.

If this proposal is adopted no impacts of Arctic fox populations or user groups is expected as Federally-qualified subsistence users can already trap an unlimited number of Arctic fox on all Federal lands in Unit 25 under State regulations.

Unit 25 is not within the primary range and habitat of the Arctic fox and any Arctic fox

0224

1 harvest in this unit are likely transient individuals.

2

3

4 Adoption of this proposal would align
5 Federal and State trapping regulations, reduce the
6 regulatory complexity for users and incidental take of
7 Arctic fox would become legal under Federal
8 regulations.

8

9 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
10 support WP22-53.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
13 Board. I would be happy to field any questions.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kendra. Any
16 questions on the proposal. Council member questions.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tribal and ANCSA
21 Corporation comments, Karen.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments on
25 WP22-53.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: ADF&G comments, Ben.

28

29 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chairman. ADF&G
30 supports the alignment of these State and Federal
31 trapping seasons and bag limits. You know as was
32 mentioned by OSM, you know, trappers could be trapping
33 under State regulations already but we understand the
34 confusion that the differing regulations provide for
35 folks so we support this proposal. Thank you, Sir.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Ben. Any
38 Federal comments.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tribal comments.
43 Anybody on the phone would care to comment on the
44 proposal.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Regional
49 Advisory Council comments. Eastern Interior's meeting

50

0225

1 right now but I doubt that they've got to this proposal
2 yet.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fish and Game
7 Advisory Committee comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: SRC comments,
12 there's no Parks over there.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Summary of written
17 and public comments, Kendra.

18

19 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, there were no
20 written comments on this proposal.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any late
23 comments, Karen.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 There were no written comments received after the
27 comment deadline for this proposal. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Public
30 testimony, any member of the public care to comment on
31 this proposal.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Regional Advisory
36 Council recommendation. The Chair will entertain a
37 motion to adopt WP22-53.

38

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

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kevin.

43

44 MR. WHITWORTH: I was just wanting to
45 ask a question of OSM regarding the -- before we adopt
46 this -- regarding the season. It says last day of
47 February, the State regs say February 28, just
48 wondering if there's going to be confusion here if we
49 should have it February 28th or the last day of
50

0226

1 February because I don't know when Leap Year comes into
2 it but there are times when February is longer than
3 February 28th. So just wondering if we should modify
4 that, that's all.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did OSM consider
7 that, Kendra, or is this as the proposal is written?

8

9 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, I'm the back up
10 on this so I don't know exactly how it was written.
11 That's something we can take note of and take a look
12 at.

13

14 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
15 is Lisa. And, yeah, that's how the proposal was
16 submitted. And to be honest with you, I remember an
17 ISC member bringing up that issue but I think OSM just
18 supported the proposal as written versus making a
19 modification.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. It's as the
22 proponent has written it so we should stay with that.
23 It's gone through the analysis like that, so is that
24 okay Kevin.

25

26 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes, I'll make the
27 motion to adopt 22-53.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have a
30 second.

31

32 MR. HONEA: Second, this is Don.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don.

35 Discussion.

36

37 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.....

38

39 MR. SIMON: Call for the question.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to make a
42 comment, go ahead, Don.

43

44 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'm sorry, I
45 interrupted somebody there. But I actually wanted to
46 state something about this because I think the numbers
47 we're talking about are actually probably very low and
48 in the proposal itself he says since many are already
49 incidentally caught anyway. I didn't realize that

50

0227

1 Arctic foxes went down that far into the, I guess, the
2 National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Yukon, but I have no
3 problem with this. And like I said, I think the catch
4 would be very low so I would support this.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I live in the
9 upper Koyukuk drainage and trap every year for decades,
10 I've caught Arctic fox at different times here, when
11 the Arctic fox population is really high on the coastal
12 plain, oddly enough around the Winter Solstice, mid-
13 December to mid-January, right before the breeding
14 season, I've caught one or two Arctic foxes that are
15 just moving from north to south. Many get by me, they
16 don't get caught. I've never seen one ever going the
17 opposite direction. Once they go down into the main
18 Interior they're inside the red fox population and they
19 -- I assume that they're killed down there and don't
20 ever come back. So these are just incidental harvest
21 to -- I've caught older Arctic fox with worn teeth,
22 I've got young ones, just random event, any foxes, and
23 they move out. And so incidentally when I was selling
24 carcasses to the National Park Service they were like,
25 oh, you're getting Arctic foxes and so then this
26 discussion of this actually opening seasons in other
27 units on the south slopes of the Brooks Range actually
28 (indiscernible - cuts out) that's sort of supplementary
29 to the proposal. I support the proposal.

30

31 Any further comments.

32

33 MR. MULLIGAN: Mr. Chairman, this is
34 Ben Mulligan, mind if I interject.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

37

38 MR. MULLIGAN: This is Ben Mulligan at
39 Fish and Game. I reached out to one of our area
40 biologists because you guys were discussing what to do
41 on those leap years and the State extends the season on
42 to the leap day when we have them. Just to let you
43 know. Thank you, Sir, I appreciate it.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good,
46 appreciate that. Other comment, did somebody else want
47 to comment also.

48

49 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah, Mr. Chair,

50

0228

1 this.....

2

3 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is.....

4

5 MR. DEMOSKI:is Arnold.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your phone's
8 breaking up, get closer to the mic, go ahead.

9

10 MR. DEMOSKI: Mr. Chair, this is
11 Arnold, could you hear me?

12

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

15

16 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay. No, yeah, I just
17 wanted to say aligning the State and Federal
18 regulations is a good thing and it prevents confusion
19 and so that's all I was going to say. I support this
20 proposal.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate
23 that comment. Any further comments.

24

25 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
26 Kevin.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

29

30 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, I just want to
31 say thanks to Ben for that clarification with the State
32 regs aligning with this end of February confusion that
33 I brought up. Thank you, Ben. That's all.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a
36 question.

37

38 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called by
41 Jenny. You want to call the roll, Karen.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 For adoption of WP22-53. Kevin Whitworth.

45

46 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon.

49

50

0229

1 MR. SIMON: Yes.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

4

5 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

8

9 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Goodwin, I

12 heard a yes.

13

14 Jenny Pelkola.

15

16 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

23

24 MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Don Honea.

27

28 MR. HONEA: Yes.

29

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

31 The vote passes eight to zero. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We've covered

34 the Federal proposals. Tom Kron gave us a real short

35 briefing on annual report reply process yesterday.

36 Should we cover that again, Karen, what's your feeling

37 on that, just a real short one.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I would

40 recommend that anybody who wasn't present to read

41 through the one page document in the meeting book and

42 just be prepared for the winter meeting, to have a more

43 thorough discussion on this issue. Thank you, Mr.

44 Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Highlight your book

47 Arnold on Page 259. And so we were identifying issues

48 for the 2021 annual report. Do you want to give a

49 briefing for our new members on what the annual report

50

0230

1 entails, Karen.

2

3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Through the Chair. Section .805(a)(3)(d) provides that
6 the Council can submit an annual report to the Federal
7 Subsistence Board, 1, identifying current and
8 anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife
9 populations within the region; 2, an evaluation of
10 current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and
11 wildlife populations within the region; 3, a
12 recommended strategy for the management of fish and
13 wildlife populations with the region to accommodate
14 such subsistence uses and needs; and, 4,
15 recommendations concerning policies, standards,
16 guidelines and regulations to implement the strategies.

16

17

18 So essentially the annual reports are
19 generally issues that the Council believes affect
20 subsistence but are not necessarily part of the
21 regulatory process and the Council submits these
22 reports every year. They are drafted at the fall
23 meeting and finalized at the winter meeting and
24 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board who replies
25 where requested.

25

26

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Karen.
30 So we were developing -- do you want to read off -- I
31 think we identified a couple things yesterday -- Karen.

31

32

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0231

1 would also like to remark that other fish species, like
2 whitefish, and sheefish, there needs to be more
3 monitoring because they are being targeted more due to
4 the chinook and chum salmon collapses. There's a shift
5 in harvest to make up for other fisheries, but also
6 land mammals. There's a higher need for terrestrial
7 animals like moose due to low salmon stocks. So this
8 all represents wider ramifications for the region.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Karen. Did
13 you have an inclusion to that Kevin.

14

15 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
16 Kevin. No, I thought that was a great summary of the
17 issue that I brought up. I was wondering -- yesterday
18 we had a discussion also with this topic that it could
19 be brought up, you know, throughout the meeting, issues
20 that we want to add to the annual report. I do have a
21 couple more that -- but I would like to hear agency
22 reports first before I bring up another couple issues
23 that I think should be in the annual report. If you
24 guys don't mind, I could wait until the end of the
25 meeting for that, or sometime later after agency
26 reports.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's totally fine.
29 So we can move this annual report call down to the end
30 of our agenda after the agency reports. You want to
31 make a note of that, Karen.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
34 so noted.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that will be
37 right at the end of 13, and agency reports. So one of
38 the issues cited was the Area M interception, that's an
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, another agency that
40 would need to be addressing that. I don't know what
41 the totals were, Kevin, but Area M caught a lot of chum
42 salmon this summer. What were those numbers, like a
43 million chum salmon?

44

45 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
46 is Kevin. Are you asking for those numbers?

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

49

50

0232

1 MR. WHITWORTH: I don't have them in
2 front of me.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, it's around
5 985,000 chum salmon were caught in the Area M fishery,
6 the South Alaska Peninsula fishery. The Yukon
7 Kuskokwim went through the worst chum salmon returns
8 and there needs to be discussion with the Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game in this issue that we're
10 highlighting to the Federal Subsistence Board, that
11 there needs to be more refined management regarding in
12 -- not in-system harvest, but basically intercept
13 harvest. That's another issue that needs to be
14 addressed besides the ground fishery.

15
16 So the Department of Fish and Game
17 needs to be highlighted as another agency that needs to
18 have conferencing with managers on that particular
19 issue. That was a really high harvest this year on a
20 really low return year, even if it's only 45 percent of
21 Alaska stocks and the rest are Asian stocks, that was a
22 significant number of chum salmon.

23
24 So put that on there Karen, for agency
25 consultation on management.

26
27 And so you got a couple other things
28 that you want to put on the list after the agency
29 reports. I'm going to have one after the Bureau of
30 Land Management report for dall sheep management and
31 guide use.

32
33 So at this time are there any other
34 annual report topics that any Council member would like
35 to highlight at this time, or you can highlight them
36 again after our agency reports.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So okay, we're at
41 Mulchatna Caribou Herd conservation strategy
42 discussion. Todd Rinaldi and Mark Burch, Alaska
43 Department of Fish and Game. Are you on the phone,
44 Todd.

45
46 MR. RINALDI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

49
50

0233

1 MR. RINALDI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 This is Todd Rinaldi with the Department of Fish and
3 Game, can you hear me okay?

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you hear great,
6 go right ahead.

7
8 MR. RINALDI: Good. So for the record
9 my name is Todd Rinaldi, I'm the Regional Management
10 Coordinator for Region 4, which includes Game
11 Management Units 17 and 9, and we're also the primary
12 managers for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd which is
13 managed out of Region 4, and Unit 17, the Dillingham
14 office.

15
16 Thank you for providing this
17 opportunity so I can provide an update to you all on
18 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and our ongoing efforts to
19 conserve the herd. We currently have a Mulchatna
20 Caribou InterAgency Management Group that I'll talk a
21 little bit more about but it's comprised of Staff from
22 not only Department of Wildlife Conservation but U.S.
23 Fish and Wildlife Service as well. So I'm going to
24 take a few minutes and give an overview on the range
25 and history. We probably won't go too much in the
26 history because I think you are all pretty familiar
27 with the history, talk about the population objective
28 status, what we're doing, monitoring and management-
29 wise and as far as research goes and then our pitch to
30 get your thoughts and to help get folks in your
31 communities involved.

32
33 So as you already know the herd has
34 ranged widely over the years and obviously those areas
35 include northern areas of 19A and areas of 18 and 19B
36 and areas as far south as 9A and maybe into 9C. And,
37 you know, and those periods were the periods of the
38 highest population periods. The herd has thought to
39 have peaked in the 1860s and then had a slower decline
40 into the 1960s and then as most of us are aware the
41 herd peaked again in the mid-90s and has since been
42 declining. But those peaks are likely the time when
43 the range was maximized at approximately 40,000 square
44 miles. Now that the herd is much more retracted, as
45 you know, and movements are far more minimal, there are
46 two primary groups in the east in 17 and another
47 primary group in the west in 18, and then there's some
48 satellite groups that we keep track of off Quinhagak
49 and near Iliamna.
50

1 So the population objective for
2 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, as we've discussed in the past
3 is 30,000 to 80,000 and that is IM, that is an
4 intensive management objective. The population peaked,
5 as we just mentioned, in the late '90s and has been
6 declining since then. We're under the impression that
7 we had information over the last few years that the
8 herd was recovering and working its way up towards the
9 minimum of the population objective of 30,000, but,
10 since we've been able to get some additional accurate
11 photo synthesis in 2019, 2020, 2021, and we've noticed
12 a decline, and the population is half of the minimum
13 objective. So in 2019 and 2020 we had two different
14 surveys that estimated the population at pretty much
15 13,500. That estimate in 2020 was a little bit more
16 precise statistically and then we completed another
17 survey this summer in 2021 and the population is still
18 essentially at the same level of 12,850.

19
20 The composition information, we
21 currently have Staff out in the Mulchatna conducting a
22 composition survey on the Mulchatna as well as the
23 Nushagak. The 2020 calf to cow ratio was 36 which is
24 above the calf to cow objective of 30 calves to cows.
25 And the 2020 bull to cow ratio was above -- which was
26 above 42 and, you know, some additional flights that we
27 took after the comp flights last year actually
28 suggested that there might be higher ratios for both
29 categories and a significant -- a significant bulk of
30 the herd coming up as small and medium bulls and we've
31 seen how that adds to population growth and we're
32 expecting that to take place in a few years. So
33 there's a lot of signs that the population is doing
34 okay. But it's unclear as to where it's going to level
35 out and ultimately what portion of the range they're
36 going to be using, which I'm sure is on everyone's
37 mind.

38
39 So much of the estimate (ph), the
40 monitoring and management that we've been doing on the
41 herd we've been conducting with our partners at Togiak
42 National Wildlife Refuge. As I mentioned they monitor
43 population and composition. The composition survey is
44 going on currently. We also monitor productivity,
45 movement of the herd and the Department -- the State
46 has a same-day airborne predation control program in a
47 10,000 square mile area in Unit 17 and a portion of
48 Unit 19 and that is a program that allows for the take
49 of wolves by permitted members of the public. That is
50

0235

1 not an agency removal program.

2

3

4 And then also we have, as I mentioned
5 earlier, this presentation has come out of the
6 Mulchatna Caribou Herd InterAgency Management Group
7 which is comprised of biologists, subsistence
8 specialists and education specialists from Fish and
9 Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We currently
10 are in the stages of information sharing and conducting
11 and wanting to expand outreach. One of the efforts of
12 that -- I'm hoping that some of the folks listening
13 today received information through the mail. We've had
14 multiple mailings through the range of the Mulchatna
15 Caribou Herd providing informational materials on the
16 current status and we also released a Caribou Trails
17 newsletter to some of them and I'm hoping you all
18 received -- if you haven't received that or would like
19 to get copies, they are available on our website, but I
20 can also make them available to any points of contact
21 if they want to contact me after this.

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22 We also -- another critical piece of
23 this picture here is household survey data, which is
24 conducted not only by Fish and Game Subsistence Staff
25 but also federal Subsistence Staff, and I think there
26 were plans to do some household surveys in the range of
27 the Mulchatna coming up but I am uncertain as to where
28 that is at considering there was no hunt for the
29 Mulchatna this year and Covid is still inhibiting Staff
30 and people's ability to move around and congregate in
31 most of these areas. So that is an important piece and
32 we encourage you to share your information during those
33 household surveys with Staff. It gives us a far better
34 understanding of the Mulchatna than we would have
35 otherwise.

37 There's also a research component and
38 the research component's been going on for a number of
39 years. It was looking at predation and mortality
40 previously and now it's focused more on body condition,
41 diet, disease, and the genetics of the herd. As you
42 may recall, I think the last time I spoke with you all,
43 research monitoring efforts for the Mulchatna Caribou
44 had a higher than expected prevalence of antibodies to
45 a bacteria called brucella, when it's compared to other
46 herds and this indicates exposure and likely incidents
47 to the disease known as brucellosis and we've produced
48 a pretty widespread information campaign to make sure
49 we get that information out to folks in the range of

0236

1 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. And, again, I don't have
2 any additional information on -- well, I guess I do,
3 yes, so there were this year -- our research Staff,
4 there were signs of brucellosis were noted during calf
5 captures in the parturition survey and then a few
6 calves were sent in for testing but it doesn't look
7 like the field observations relative to previous years
8 has increased. So -- and we have not got those results
9 from the lab so standby for that.

10

11 And then, finally, you know, as we
12 continue to do our jobs and attempting to -- and moving
13 forward and conserving the herd, we want to know what
14 the public thinks, we want to know what the RACs think,
15 we want to know what the users of the resource think
16 on, not only the current management of the Mulchatna
17 Herd, but also how can we get the word out about the
18 importance of conserving the Mulchatna Caribou Herd at
19 this time. The feedback and the opportunities that
20 we've had to speak at RACs and AC meetings and other
21 remote community functions has been positive and we
22 seem like we have the support from -- wide support from
23 the communities but we'd like to hear from as many
24 individuals and organizations as possible. There's a
25 couple of ways of doing that. Obviously one is through
26 these Regional Advisory Councils. We're in the second
27 day of the Western Interior but there will be
28 additional opportunities to make your positions heard
29 at the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council that comes
30 up at the end of this month. So in addition to the
31 Regional Advisory Councils, there's also -- you can
32 also submit comments, or general comments or comments
33 on proposals to the Alaska Board of Game, through
34 written comment or oral testimony and the deadline for
35 the Board of Game written comments is January 7th of
36 2022. We're pretty optimistic that the Board of Game
37 is going to happen and it will probably be some kind of
38 hybrid type of situation but that meeting is January
39 21st through the 28th and is currently scheduled for
40 Wasilla. And, of course, we'd love to hear your
41 opinions one on one so if you want to contact us and
42 ask us questions or share your thoughts, there's Staff
43 in the Bethel office and Staff in the McGrath office,
44 Staff in the King Salmon office, and, unfortunately we
45 don't have an AB in the Dillingham office again so we
46 are about to advertise for a Dillingham area biologist.
47 I will be acting in capacity of the area biologist
48 during that vacancy. We still have a lot of work
49 that's ongoing and that's going to be picked up by
50

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1 other Staff with agency assistance so we'll still be
2 able to move forward on all the S&I (ph) and research
3 that we need to do to understand the Mulchatna Caribou
4 Herd.

5

6 So thank you for your time and I'll
7 accept, answer any questions now.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do Council members
10 have questions for Todd on his presentation.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Comments on
15 management from the Council.

16

17 MR. HONEA: Hello.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hello, go ahead.

20

21 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair,
22 this is Don. I had a question for Todd. I realize
23 that Western Interior, I believe, goes either to lower
24 Kalskag or at least Aniak because we had reps from
25 Aniak before. But just looking at the Mulchatna
26 Caribou Herd range, and a lot of these, Lime Village,
27 Stony, they all have a customary and traditional use
28 determination, like in the past, I mean I know this is
29 the big concern for us even though we kind of
30 borderline here, but how -- the villages that are in
31 the Western Interior, are they taking advantage -- or I
32 mean are they still able to harvest a caribou and what
33 are the numbers coming in? Is it -- do they just
34 concentrate in a certain area. I guess what I'm
35 looking at is how dependent are people, like in Red
36 Devil, Sleetmute, Lime Village and those areas, how
37 dependent are they on the numbers and are they stable.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MR. RINALDI: Yes, thank you. Through
42 the Chair. Great question. Yeah, that 39,000 almost
43 40,000 square mile range is pretty broad and we do have
44 some question about what the herd was doing, if it was
45 doing anything, north of the Yukon there. You know
46 there was a herd that seemingly got absorbed by the
47 Mulchatna during its largest phase there recently. But
48 I think unless folks from Unit 19A and 19B, so the Lime
49 Village and south and Aniak area, I don't think they're

50

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1 having opportunity to take Mulchatna Herd. I do
2 understand that there are some caribou opportunities in
3 19A but I don't think, unless someone finds a
4 straggler, I think the harvest in 19B is low to non-
5 existent, unless someone is taking a trip into 17 to
6 harvest a caribou in the fall. As you know that permit
7 is the same permit for the whole range, it's the
8 registration caribou permit 503 and that addresses the
9 whole range so that would be the same permit that
10 everyone would use. But I don't think there's any
11 animals in 19A. And there's certainly no other animals
12 on the other side of the Yukon that are associated with
13 the Mulchatna right now.

14

15 MR. HONEA: Okay, thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions or
18 comments from the Council members.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comments would
23 be, as a Western Interior Regional Council member for
24 nearly 30 years, I was very concerned about the high
25 harvest of bulls back in the '90s and the component --
26 the composition declined to one large bull per 100 cows
27 with 14 bulls at one point, predominately one bulls.
28 And everybody here that hunts caribou in the Arctic
29 knows that those, what's referred to as, pagnets,
30 they're large breeding bulls, young bulls are rejected
31 by cows, we don't shoot large bulls when they're in rut
32 because they're breeding cows, and young bulls -- you
33 can take young bulls because they're basically not
34 really breeding, the cows reject those. The history of
35 this herd, there's trails that go up the Kuskokwim
36 Mountains all the way to Ruby, so they're etched into
37 the ground, that's the historical movements of the
38 north/south movements of large herds over 100 years
39 ago. All the gold rush communities were harvesting
40 caribou, they were selling caribou meat for 33 cents a
41 pound. We have no historical data on this herd, the
42 range of this herd. In the '90s it went all the way to
43 McGrath when it started to get up to 200,000. My
44 concern is that we maintain -- so you want to comment
45 on management, maintain large bull component for
46 breeding structure. What happened in the '90s it's
47 blatant apparent that there was a reproductive failure
48 with the lack of bulls in the population.

49

50

0239

1 My comment is to maintain, not just
2 overall bulls, not baby bulls and young bulls, overall
3 you got to have a breeding component. And in Norway,
4 and Sweden and Scandinavia, they don't even breed a
5 reindeer bull until it's 8 years of age, that's a
6 breeding bull. So basically the ecology of the caribou
7 is quite a bit different than moose, caribou don't have
8 twins, moose have twins, and so these -- this herd
9 needs some tender loving care. Those are really high
10 calf production levels. Brucellosis doesn't seem to be
11 the issue. Winter take seems to be the -- and large
12 harvest of caribou in the winter would account for
13 those mortalities. Brown bear predation is a major
14 calf mortality but winter mortalities would be
15 predominately wolf predation and when they get out on
16 to the Unit 18, on those open plains they're fairly
17 easy to target by snowmachine hunting. The eastern
18 component of the Mulchatna declined -- showed a
19 reduction but that's in conjunction with the dall sheep
20 populations in Unit 19C. That's the rain event that
21 decimated the sheep population also seemed to highly
22 affect the caribou population. So winter range
23 assessment is necessary in the management of this
24 caribou herd. You can't sit in your office in
25 Anchorage and decide what's happening on the range
26 because there's considerably different conditions that
27 affect grazing animals. Deep depth of snow, late
28 winters going into the -- after the end of April, and
29 icing events.

30
31 So those would be my comments to
32 rebuild the bull component, maintain the bull component
33 as we go into recovery and keep the season closed until
34 we get this population turned around.

35
36 Thank you. Appreciate your work that
37 you're doing.

38
39 Any other comments from the Council
40 members.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's the
45 conservation strategy discussion. So we're down to E,
46 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, OSM.

47
48 MR. GRAHAM: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is
49 Cory Graham with OSM.

50

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

3
4 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair. Members of the
5 Council. For the record my name is Cory Graham, I am a
6 Fisheries Biologist for the Office of Subsistence
7 Management in Anchorage. I am accompanied by Hannah
8 Voorhees who is an Anthropologist for OSM.

9
10 I'm here today to present you with a
11 brief overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
12 Program and its accomplishments to date. I'll give a
13 short overview of the Monitoring Program, briefly
14 describe the funding process, give an overview of your
15 region and finish by requesting Council comments on any
16 of the projects submitted for the Yukon and Kuskokwim
17 region. This is not an action item. There is no
18 motion necessary for this process. And you can find
19 these materials -- or these materials start on Page 262
20 of your Council book.

21
22 The mission of the Monitoring Program
23 is to identify and provide information needed to
24 sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands
25 for rural Alaskans through a Multi-Disciplinary
26 collaborative program.

27
28 The Office of Subsistence Management
29 administers the Monitoring Program and funds research
30 and monitoring projects that are strategically
31 important to the Federal Subsistence Management
32 Program. The Monitoring Program also supports
33 collaboration and cooperation among Federal agencies,
34 the State of Alaska, and Alaska Native and rural
35 organizations.

36
37 I'll now describe how the Monitoring
38 Program's funding process works.

39
40 The program is divided into six
41 regions, which are listed on Page 265 of your Council
42 books. These regions correspond with Federal
43 subsistence fisheries areas and generally hold stock,
44 harvest and community issues in common. Some regions
45 have multiple Councils, such as the Kuskokwim region,
46 which has both the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and Western
47 Interior Councils. During the first step of the
48 funding process the Regional Advisory Councils with
49 support from OSM Staff and Federal and State fisheries
50

1 and land managers ensure the Monitoring Program focuses
2 on the highest priority subsistence fisheries
3 information needs for the region. Councils ensure
4 issues of local concern and knowledge gaps related to
5 subsistence fisheries are identified for priority
6 information needs development. And these information
7 needs influence and guide the rest of the funding
8 requests. Ideally, principal investigators will work
9 closely with the Councils in order to develop strong
10 proposals that are responsive to those needs. The
11 Office of Subsistence Management provides technical
12 assistance as needed.

13
14 The second step in the funding process
15 is requesting new project proposals, which the program
16 does every two years. Submissions must be complete, on
17 time, address the five criteria outlined in the notice
18 of funding opportunity in order to be competitive. The
19 five criteria are: strategic priority, technical and
20 scientific merit, investigator ability and resources,
21 partnership and capacity building and cost benefit of
22 the project. A more detailed description of the
23 criteria can be found on Page 267 of your Council
24 books. Once submitted, the Technical Review Committee
25 then evaluates and scores each project proposal
26 package. The Technical Review Committee is a committee
27 of senior technical experts brought together to
28 evaluate project proposals and ensure the Monitoring
29 Program is maintaining consistency with its mission.
30 It is the responsibility of the Technical Review
31 Committee to develop the strongest possible draft
32 Monitoring Program for all regions across the state.

33
34 Once a Draft Monitoring Program is
35 developed it's brought before the Regional Advisory
36 Councils for their input and comments. This is where
37 we are in the current cycle and we'll come back to this
38 in a moment.

39
40 Additional comments on the Draft
41 Monitoring Program will be provided by the InterAgency
42 Staff Committee. These, along with comments developed
43 by the Councils are all provided to the Federal
44 Subsistence Board. The Board takes into consideration
45 comments and concerns generated by the process and
46 endorses the Monitoring Plan. Final approval of the
47 Monitoring Plan is made by the Assistant Regional
48 Director of OSM.

49
50

1 Now that I've discussed how the
2 Monitoring Program works, I'll provide an overview of
3 the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions. For the Kuskokwim
4 region you can find the figures I'm about to reference
5 on Page 271 of your Council books.

6
7 Since 2000 the Office of Subsistence
8 Management has funded 102 projects costing
9 approximately \$28 million in the Kuskokwim region. As
10 you can see from Figure 2 on Page 271 the project leads
11 have been predominately the State of Alaska in this
12 region. Because partnerships are important for the
13 Monitoring Program most of these projects also included
14 other agencies and Alaska rural organizations as
15 research partners.

16
17 For the 2022 cycle, there is an
18 anticipated \$2.25 million available for new projects
19 statewide. The available funding amount for 2022 is
20 budgeted for each projects first year, not the total
21 project request and this is subject to the final budget
22 determined by the Assistant Regional Director of OSM.

23
24 For the Kuskokwim region there were a
25 total of eight projects submitted during the current
26 cycle. The projects are listed in numerical order by
27 project number on Page 273. Justifications for each of
28 the proposed projects by the Technical Review Committee
29 can be found on Page 274 and projects executive
30 summaries which were submitted by the primary
31 investigators start on Page 280.

32
33 In the Yukon region 126 projects have
34 been undertaken for approximately 25 million in funding
35 since the beginning of the Monitoring Program. You can
36 see from Figure 2 on Page 295 that project leads have
37 been predominately Department of Interior agencies.

38
39 Again, for 2022 there's an anticipated
40 2.25 million available for new projects statewide. For
41 the Yukon region there were seven projects submitted
42 during the current cycle. The projects are listed in
43 numerical order by project number on Page 297.
44 Technical Review Committee justifications begin on Page
45 298, and project executive summaries start on Page 304.

46
47 That wraps up the overview of the
48 Kuskokwim and Yukon regions.

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1 As a reminder, today, we are asking for
2 your comments on any of the proposed projects in the
3 Yukon and Kuskokwim regions. Again, there is no action
4 needed for today. We want to ensure is that selected
5 projects have the greatest chance at successfully
6 answering the Councils priority information needs as
7 possible. And we also want to know if the Council has
8 any specific concerns about a project based on the
9 provided materials.

10

11 That concludes my presentation and will
12 take your comments on proposed projects in the
13 Kuskokwim region first and the Yukon region second. As
14 a reminder the projects for the Kuskokwim region can be
15 found on Page 273 of your Council materials, Technical
16 Review Committee justifications start on Page 274 and
17 project executive summaries can be found on Page 280.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Cory.
22 Council members, questions or comments regarding this
23 Fisheries Monitoring Program funding.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

28

29 MR. HONEA: Yeah, is that -- is his
30 name Cory?

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Well, I guess he said he
35 wanted to talk about the Kuskokwim River fishery
36 projects first so maybe I'll hold my question until we
37 have an open discussion.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to discuss
40 Yukon, you can.

41

42 MR. HONEA: Okay. Cory, I appreciate
43 that and I appreciate the Fisheries Monitoring Program
44 because over the years it's -- I believe it's
45 benefitted all of us in ways of employing people
46 whether it's on the Kusko or on the Yukon. My question
47 here is, you know, whether you work with local tribals
48 like Tanana Chiefs Conference, or whether you've worked
49 with tribes. I'm just concerned about -- you know we
50

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1 have some of the things are kind of getting redundant
2 and I would like to know if there is any -- or how do
3 we go about doing studies or applying for something
4 like the disappearance of our chinook, more so on the
5 Yukon than anything because, you know, there are people
6 putting in nets right now and doggone ice is running.
7 And so I was just -- I really deem that important, I
8 was just wondering if there was somehow a way to be
9 able to apply for a grant or go through TCC. I realize
10 you guys are OSM but I was just wondering how do we
11 break into be able to apply for something like that
12 that's a real concern for us.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. That
17 was -- any other questions -- or Cory, you got a
18 response.

19

20 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. Thank
21 you for your comments. I think part of the response
22 would be to make sure whatever information you think
23 needs to be -- whatever information is needed for each
24 of the regions, to include those when we develop
25 priority information needs, which will happen -- we'll
26 call for a working group, or volunteers for a working
27 group at your next meeting and priority information
28 need development will occur in the summer or the fall.

29

30 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

31

32 MR. GRAHAM: You're welcome.

33

34 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
35 Kevin.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

38

39 MR. WHITWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 And, Cory, thank you for that overview, lots of
41 information you went through. I have a few questions
42 -- I've got several questions but I'm just going to try
43 to sum it up in a couple questions, or a few questions.

44

45 Just wondering if you could tell me who
46 is on that Technical Review Committee and the agencies
47 they represent. I'll start there, I do have more
48 follow up questions, Mr. Chair, thanks.

49

50

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1 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, this is
2 Cory again. The Technical Review Committee, as I said
3 it's an advisory group that specializes in fisheries
4 biology, anthropology and statistics. It typically
5 includes representatives from all five Federal agencies
6 of the Federal Subsistence Board and it also typically
7 includes three ADF&G scientists, one that represents
8 the Division of Subsistence, Commercial Fisheries and
9 Sportfish. And then the Office of Subsistence
10 Management, Fisheries and Anthropology leads are the
11 co-Chairs of the Committee.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Other
14 questions, Kevin.

15
16 MR. WHITWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
17 this is Kevin again.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

20
21 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, the process that
22 this program goes through to fund these projects with
23 the TRC scoring the projects, you know, there isn't any
24 representation on that TRC for Native and other rural
25 organizations, or local people, local residents. They
26 have a lot of power through that TRC. And it's just --
27 I think it's unfair, you know, Don brought it up, how
28 do we tap into this, rural communities, tribal
29 organizations. I mean you could see it here on the
30 Kuskokwim a lot of the funding is going to ADF&G like
31 Cory said. Statewide, you could see it there on the
32 figure a lot of the funding is going to agencies or
33 ADF&G and not getting out to the rural communities even
34 though there is a capacity building component. It's
35 not fair the way it's been run.

36
37 I do have other questions but I'm going
38 to hold off on questions. But more comments, I'll just
39 keep making comments about the program.

40
41 I do think that -- I'm not going to
42 make a comment on the proposals, just the program
43 itself. I do think this is an issue we should bring up
44 in our annual report. This program needs to be
45 revised, prioritize research and monitoring projects by
46 local tribes, TCC, you know, like Don says, or AVCP, we
47 need more of a say in this program. There needs to be
48 more tribal consultation before the TRC is able to
49 speak on these proposals. It's just a -- there's lots
50

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1 of layers within this program that goes against tribal
2 consultation, tribal input and the funding getting out
3 to rural places. There is funding that does get out
4 there but it's very little. And anyways I think it's
5 -- I can elaborate more but I'm going to leave it at
6 that Mr. Chair. I think it is a subject that needs to
7 be in our annual report and when we do draft the annual
8 report, I think that we should put this in there.

9

10 That's all, thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Make that
13 notation, Karen, composition of the.....

14

15 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: So noted, Mr. Chair.

20

21 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, real
22 quickly. I'd just like to concur with what Kevin just
23 said and I think that's very important and a good
24 subject for our annual report. I would like to see
25 more tribal consultation, I would like to see more
26 input directly from the people affected. Like I
27 mentioned, some of these fishery monitoring things are
28 redundant and they've been going on a long time and
29 exactly why, I don't believe that it's funneling down
30 to give us any kind of economic opportunities.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Don.
35 Any other Council comments.

36

37 MR. WHITWORTH: This is Kevin again.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

40

41 MR. WHITWORTH: You know, I mean it's
42 in ANILCA, Section .812 here in the background
43 information on Page 262, it even says in there
44 cooperation with Native and other rural organizations,
45 knowledge of local residents, engaging in subsistence
46 should be part of this program. When -- I mean it's
47 spelled out in ANILCA very clear but Cory's
48 presentation also makes it clear that these projects
49 are basically funding the Alaska Department of Fish and
50

0247

1 Game and Department of Interior, not to pick on any
2 Fish and Wildlife Service, DOI program, but it is
3 funding their program when it should -- those programs,
4 the Federal government, State government should be
5 running their research with base budgets, whether it's
6 Magnuson-Stevens, whatever their base funds come from,
7 Native organizations, rural organizations should have
8 more input into this program so that it's equal. It's
9 not -- we don't have a base budget, for instance, for
10 research not like the State or Federal government does.
11 Anyways I could ramble on about this program, I've been
12 involved with this program for a very long time and
13 I've worked with Fish and Wildlife Service as a Deputy
14 Refuge Manager here in Innoko and I wasn't part of the
15 TRC but I reviewed program proposals and stuff like
16 that. So anyway, I think this Program does need to get
17 some attention, that's all.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll hold my
20 comments on this program for now.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And I
23 appreciate those comments, they're very valid comments
24 and so our annual report can highlight those, how the
25 program is designed and formulated to make these
26 decisions and so I do feel that there should be a
27 tribal entity in the TRC. There has to be some kind of
28 meaningful involvement in the Fisheries Resource
29 Monitoring Program decisionmaking process also. So the
30 Councils, they have a decisionmaking progress, but
31 there needs to be a tribal entity also, so we can talk
32 about that further in our annual report formulation.

33
34 So does anybody have comments on Page
35 -- you're asking for comments, Cory, Kuskokwim River.

36
37 MR. GRAHAM: Yes, Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I do feel the
40 Takotna weir is a very important project, to know what
41 the escapements are into the upper Kuskokwim River for
42 salmon run and abundance and timing, composition of the
43 escapement, quality of the escapement is a very
44 important thing to know in the upper drainage with the
45 amount of salmon that we have.

46
47 You know the Kuskokwim River broad
48 whitefish subsistence harvest and spawning abundance is
49 also a very important issue as we're talking about how
50

0248

1 the shift to other species is.

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The George River weir is a very important thing.

Bethel subsistence surveys, those harvested amounts are very important information. So I do feel that these post-season salmon harvest surveys, local traditional knowledge of salmon and harvest. I'm not sure that that's priority because we have a lot of people involved in traditional knowledge and we've gathered this information. I'd go along with Don on that one. That's sort of a more or less redundancy, you know, we know how people use the fish, we know what they do, we've done these surveys for many, many years now. That's a huge appropriation and I feel that could be -- what the actual harvest, in-season harvests are very important for the managers, to know what is taken on each opening, that's an important issue.

And there's these other natural indicators for salmon in the upper Kuskokwim, water temperature and spawning habitat and stream monitoring, which I know more of that is being implemented.

And so community based harvest monitoring network for the Kuskokwim River chinook salmon is an important project, to know what each community on the whole Kuskokwim River is actually getting. Like Rebecca's saying, she fishes in a completely different area, and we got to know what all of the people in the Kuskokwim River are harvesting to get an idea of what subsistence needs are being met and so forth.

Any further comments from the Council on the Kuskokwim River projects found on Page 273.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any disagreement with what I was discussion.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any. Did you want to move to the Yukon Cory.

MR. GRAHAM: Yes, Mr. Chair. The Yukon

0249

1 projects can be found on Page 297.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 297, all right. So
4 any comments on these Yukon projects from the Council.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any Council
9 members want to comment.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you want to
14 comment on the Yukon River projects, Don, you were
15 saying you were.

16

17 MR. HONEA: Yeah, well, just one
18 comment, if anybody from the TCC fisheries is -- I
19 think it would be a great time to try to apply to work
20 in conjunction with these, I mean if they were
21 available. I mean I don't really know, you know, as a
22 tribe how to really jump into one of these projects.
23 Like I said I mean some of them are kind of redundant
24 and some of them have been around a long time. I just
25 -- the projects that I'm thinking of is maybe like the
26 Yukon River non-salmon subsistence survey and that goes
27 for -- well, I mean salmon survey and that's about it,
28 Mr. Chair. Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Don.
31 I'll comment on this list here.

32

33 These weir projects are necessary, it's
34 really important to know what kind of smolt out
35 migration of chinook that we have, and prey species
36 assessment in the lower Yukon -- it should be a prey
37 species assessment and predator assessment also. Lots
38 of people talk about the numbers of pike increasing on
39 the Yukon River drainage and how the number of pike is
40 actually having a big impact on some of the smolt out
41 migration so we need to get a more realistic outlook of
42 what the out migration chinook salmon smolt are. I
43 consider that a priority information need.

44

45 The coho salmon genetic baseline data,
46 that's an important need also.

47

48 And the use of humpback whitefish and
49 non-salmon fisheries, traditional knowledge and

50

0250

1 biological sampling in the upper Koyukuk, there's a lot
2 of sheefish, whitefish that are used, as Pollock can
3 attest to on the Koyukuk River. And I feel it's also
4 -- again, going back to our request and our
5 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board, that
6 the non-salmon subsistence harvest of whitefish and
7 other species should be reflected as shifting towards
8 those, hopefully it would be towards pike, because
9 those are a major predator of salmon smolt, out
10 migrating smolt and the in-system smolt fry.

11

12 So any other comments from the Council
13 on Yukon River, or the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
14 Program, in general.

15

16 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, this is Don
17 again.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

20

21 MR. HONEA: Hello?

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I don't know when I'm
26 off mute or on or off, but, yeah, you bring up an
27 interesting thing there. I remember years ago, if you
28 remember the meeting we had in Holy Cross, our RAC
29 meeting there and that was one of the big problems in
30 the Innoko was pike being invasive and I've heard this
31 on the Koyukuk River concerns and stuff like that. so
32 I would like to kind of reinforce that and for that to
33 be a study because I believe they are getting invasive
34 and if it's not on the Koyukuk, it's -- they're
35 affecting us here.

36

37 So that's just my thoughts, thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, when I was a
40 kid we lived at Galena and people put nets in all the
41 sloughs in the spring and fall and they caught a lot of
42 pike and people had dog teams and people were feeding
43 them to dogs but now with few dog teams around people
44 are targeting predominately salmon for dog feed, or
45 fishing in system for -- for chums and whitefish and
46 sheefish in the main stem of the Yukon, but I don't
47 think people are targeting the pike nearly enough and
48 dog mushers should really shift towards fishing for
49 those pikes a lot harder because they are real good dog
50

0251

1 feed, they're really fat this time of the year, in the
2 fall, and they're really a major predator for salmon
3 smolt. So I feel that there needs to be -- I hear pike
4 are invasive, well, they just through consistent
5 harvest pike numbers were more at lower numbers when I
6 was a kid and now are like at big numbers, there's lots
7 of pike around.

8

9 Any other comments from the Council
10 from the Council on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
11 Program.

12

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

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

16

17 MR. SIMON: Yeah, just concerns about
18 catching the sheefish and whitefish right now, there's
19 plenty of them on the Koyukuk River. We depend on them
20 because there's no salmon. But people's biggest -- and
21 there's concern here that we want to make sure that we
22 don't take too much sheefish and whitefish because
23 there's no salmon and what if this sheefish and
24 whitefish population declines too, that'll be more
25 problems, so that's a concern of the elders around this
26 area.

27

28 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate those
31 comments, Pollock. I do feel that it's important to
32 monitor those harvest of the non-salmon species because
33 we don't want to start affecting those also.

34

35 So any other comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think we've
40 covered this issue fairly well. So we'll ask -- did
41 somebody else want to make a comment.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the fall 2021
46 Council.....

47

48 MR. SEMAKEN: Hello.

49

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0252

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, who's this?

MR. SEMAKEN: It's Goodwin, Kaltag.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Goodwin, yes, go right ahead. You were kind of breaking up, get closer to your mic. Go ahead.

MR. SEMAKEN: How's that?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a lot better.

MR. SEMAKEN: Could you hear me?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you. When you were kind of talk before I was just getting like one syllable, you got to get close to that mic. Go ahead.

MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah. Back in the '80s I think they were doing (Indiscernible) and what was that the Bering Sea Fisheries Association, were doing some monitoring on the Kaltag stream here, and we did some counting but this last year there was some more fish, but we have a good spot here and there's no monitoring that's done in these creeks anymore, like there's one here in Kaltag and there's another one down there at Threemile and in the springtime you could see those smolts at the mouth and that's where you can catch -- you can go out there and fish and catch sheefish but I was getting at if those are fish that are going down that are hatched already and is there a way to kind of get the genetics off of them or are they too small because I seen hundreds of them back there, right above Kaltag in the springtime before the ice goes out.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's actually an excellent idea taking a genetic sample of the smolt out migration to get apportionment of where they actually coming from in the various -- I took genetic samples from the Koyukuk River, they've got genetic sampling throughout the whole Koyukuk drainage, it's not super definitive but to get a good idea of where those are smolt are actually coming from and which ones are more productive than others. That's a good discussion point, thanks, Goodwin.

MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah.

0253

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any further.....

2

3 MR. CHASE: Hello, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. CHASE: This is Ken Chase.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ken. Get
10 closer to your mic you're breaking up.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You still there, we
15 don't hear you. I heard you for a second.

16

17 REPORTER: Ken, are you online still.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there,
20 Ken?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: His phone died or he
25 dropped out or something. If you can hear me call back
26 in and get my attention if you wanted to make a
27 comment.

28

29 Any other comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to move
34 into this fall 2021 Council application nomination open
35 season, Karen.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 I just wanted to quickly read a statement on the open
39 season and a couple comments.

40

41 First and foremost, I do want to thank
42 on behalf of OSM, the Council, all the Council members
43 for your service, and on behalf of the user groups that
44 you represent. I would like to particularly welcome
45 our new Council members Rebecca Wilmarth, and Kevin
46 Whitworth and Arnold Demoski, it's great to have
47 Kuskokwim representation, and also from the village of
48 Nulato. So thank you. Your knowledge and experience
49 is of great value to the Federal Subsistence Management
50

0254

1 Program.

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3

We are going through.....

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5

6

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

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12

MS. DEATHERAGE:some difficult
times during the pandemic -- sorry if somebody could
mute their phone that would be great, we can hear you
on the other end here.

13

14

15

16

17

18

REPORTER: Okay, hold on, Karen before
you go on. Everybody take a minute and check your
phone and put it on mute, please, star, six, or your
mute button. We have a background conversation going
on and I can't hear the speaker to record.

19

20

21

MS. DEATHERAGE: Sounds like problem
solved, thank you. Thank you, Tina.

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

We are currently going through some
difficult times during this pandemic but at the same
time we are constantly working to have robust Councils
with full memberships. And we are looking to you, the
Council members, for help because you are our are
connection to the communities that you represent.

29

30

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37

The 2022 Council application period was
opened on September 17th. We are encouraging you to
help us to spread the word about it in the region's
communities and recruit new applicants throughout your
region. You know the people in your region and you can
also share the firsthand experience of what it means to
serve on the Council, what is involved and how much
time it takes.

38

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You can also nominate the candidates
if someone is interested in applying but is having a
hard time, for example, filling out an application.
The applications are available on our website, and
there's a fillable copy that will be posted soon. We
also plan on mailing a number of application packets to
current Council members when we receive them from the
printer so you can hand them out to interested persons
or organizations and tribes. We mail around 2,000
copies of the application packet to various addresses
around the state.

0255

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: If someone needs a
5 faxed copy, we can do that as well. We really are
6 hoping to have a good number of qualified applicants
7 applying this year. We expect to have, you know,
8 timely appointments in December this year from the
9 applicants from last year and for next year. And we
10 also have alternates available now so it's more
11 important than ever that we get more applicants than
12 the open seats on a Council so that we can have some
13 good candidates to serve as alternates in case of
14 somebody leaving the Council or moving out of region,
15 or passing.

16

17 We would really appreciate your help
18 with recruitment this year.

19

20 I do want to note that the Western
21 Interior Council has put in its charter its goal of
22 having multiple areas throughout the region
23 represented. Right now, all, but the GASH area, which
24 is Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross are
25 represented by a member on the Council. So I know that
26 Ken Chase and others were working to try to promote
27 participation from some folks in the GASH area to
28 apply, we'd like to see that continue, and anything
29 that the Council members can do to help, or the tribes
30 would be greatly appreciated.

31

32 So thank you very much. If anybody has
33 any questions about this process and applications I'd
34 be happy to answer them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So would it be a
37 conflict of interest for Ken Chase to put an
38 application in since he lives up there in the GASH.

39

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

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 I'd have to specifically ask that question of our
46 person that handles this program because I'm not really
47 sure at this time. Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Send him an

50

0256

1 application. We need to get somebody from that GASH
2 area that wants to be on the phone or wants to go to
3 meetings and will be able to speak. We used to have
4 Jimmy and Robert Walker on the Council and they were
5 very important members of this Council but both dropped
6 off at the same time so we need to get somebody from
7 the GASH area to be on this Council. But I don't have
8 anybody other than -- I mean Ken's always trying to
9 talk to us on the phone here but he's an RIT so the
10 question is, is that a conflict of interest if he puts
11 an application in, but he's a resident there. So I
12 feel that he should be able to participate, or at least
13 go through the analysis.

14
15 So any comments from the Council on --
16 we have -- I was trying to get an applicant in last
17 spring, we have applicants in the hopper, do you have
18 any idea how many applicants we ended with this round,
19 Karen, coming up in December.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there
24 Karen?

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 If you give me a moment I will look that up and share
28 that with the Council when I get that information.
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I think we
32 covered that one. So we're moving on down the agenda
33 to update and guided discussion on Wildlife Special
34 Action Request WSA21-01, which was deferred. Hannah,
35 are you on the phone.

36
37 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, Mr. Chair. And
38 good morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. My
39 name is Hannah Voorhees, I'm an Anthropologist with the
40 Office of Subsistence Management. And my Wildlife
41 Biologist colleague Kendra Holman is also on the call
42 today. And I'm here to give you an update on Special
43 Action Request WSA21-01 and if you would like, to seek
44 feedback from you on this proposed closure and discuss
45 the next steps for this request. This is not an action
46 item. Relevant materials begin on Page 318 of your
47 meeting materials.

48
49 I do understand that this Council may
50

0257

1 not want to spend much time on this item but I wanted
2 to let you know that the Board has asked for feedback
3 from all affected Councils, and as I mentioned
4 yesterday this Council -- the region that this Council
5 represents does include communities with customary and
6 traditional use of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd in
7 Unit 23 so that's why it's being presented to you
8 today.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

11

12 DR. VOORHEES: So the Special Action
13 Request WSA21-01 was submitted by the Northwest Arctic
14 Regional Advisory Council in February this year and it
15 requested closure of Federal public lands in Units 23,
16 26A to caribou and moose hunting by non-Federally-
17 qualified users from August 1st to September 30th,
18 2021. The proposal was also supported by the North
19 Slope Council. And this did not come before your
20 Council because of the timeline of the special action
21 requests.

22

23 So because this is the first time it's
24 coming before your Council I can read the original
25 proposal or just summarize it. So I'll go ahead and
26 summarize it unless there's a request to read the
27 entire proposal.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead and give
30 the summary.

31

32 DR. VOORHEES: Okay. The Northwest
33 Arctic Council expressed concern about the late
34 migration of caribou through Unit 23. The caribou
35 migration has been delayed in recent years. The
36 effects that transporters and non-local hunters may be
37 having on caribou migration is of particular concern to
38 the Council. They hope that the closure would reduce
39 activity and traffic creating an easier path for
40 migrating caribou. The rationale for the closure
41 request for moose was declining population.

42

43 Following submission of this request,
44 OSM held a public hearing, opened a written public
45 comment period and held two tribal and ANCSA
46 Corporation consultations.

47

48 The original OSM conclusion was to
49 support WSA21-01 with modification to only close moose
50

0258

1 hunting to non-Federally-qualified users in Unit 23
2 from August 1st to September 30th, 2021.

3
4 In June 2021 the Board met to decide
5 this request but deferred it until 2022. In the
6 meantime the Board requested that OSM Staff seek
7 additional input on concerns related to caribou from
8 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, Federal
9 land managing agencies, local Fish and Game Advisory
10 Committees, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
11 Regional Advisory Councils, such as the Western
12 Interior, commercial guides and transporters and
13 subsistence users in the area. The Board also asked
14 OSM Staff to include comparisons of moose harvest by
15 survey area within Unit 23 in their analysis.

16
17 WSA21-01 is on the agenda as an
18 informational and discussion item for Seward Peninsula
19 Regional Advisory Council as well as this Council and
20 it will also go back before Northwest Arctic Regional
21 Advisory Council and North Slope RAC for discussion,
22 and this item is also on the agenda for the Western
23 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group in December.

24
25 Additional public meetings on the
26 deferred closure will be held in November and December,
27 although those dates are yet to be determined and OSM
28 is working to coordinate these hearings with local
29 scheduling preferences. There will also be outreach to
30 the Advisory Committees.

31
32 After OSM compiles feedback from all
33 these groups, updates will be made to include this
34 information in a revised analysis, which will then come
35 before this Council at your winter 2022 meeting. The
36 Council can make its final formal recommendation at
37 that time. The Board will take action on this request
38 in 2022.

39
40 Before I move on is there any
41 questions.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions from
44 the Council.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none,
49 continue.

50

0259

1 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. So at this
2 meeting we would like to seek the Council's feedback on
3 the proposed closure or you can also defer to the
4 Northwest Arctic and North Slope regions.

5
6 Are there any initial comments or
7 feedback on the requested closure. I am happy to
8 request the request as well, or a summary of it, where
9 it would occur and in what month.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Council members
12 have comments on the closure in Unit 23 and 26A.

13
14 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

17
18 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I -- my only question
19 was, is this an action item, are we going to vote on
20 this?

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. They're just
23 asking for comments on this closure.

24
25 MR. HONEA: All right, thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so because this
28 -- my comment would be, because this is out of our
29 region and it's basically revolving around low numbers
30 of moose, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is a caribou
31 herd, it kind of goes where it wants, when there is a
32 lot of transporters affecting the migration a few years
33 ago, that was an issue. Those caribou, last year,
34 spent a heck of a lot of time inside the Gates of the
35 Arctic Park and they didn't even go to the south. This
36 year according to Alex Hanson they're moving across the
37 Kobuk River right now. So I don't feel that I want to
38 get involved in those Council's business over there,
39 they can go before the Federal Subsistence Board with a
40 position, but I would prefer to defer to region.

41
42 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, I am of the same
43 opinion, I would defer to region. I don't know who
44 we're talking to, Kendra here, but I thought this was
45 something that was brought up a couple years back and
46 on the books, I mean I don't know the history. But I
47 would state the same opinion as you.

48
49 Thank you.

50

0260

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
2 comments from the Council.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hannah just wanted
7 -- they're taking comments at this time from Council
8 members.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't hear
13 anymore. Update on Wildlife Special Action Request
14 WSA21-03, Kendra.

15
16 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra.
17 So this is not an action item as well, it's not in your
18 books. I was just going to give you a quick update.

19
20 So Temporary Wildlife Special Action
21 Request WSA21-03 was submitted by the Yukon Delta
22 National Wildlife Refuge, request the fall moose season
23 on the Yukon -- on the Kuskokwim -- I'm sorry, the
24 Kuskokwim hunt area, Unit 18, be extended from
25 September 1st through the 30th to September 1st through
26 October 15th for the 2021/22 regulatory year. The
27 Board has already met on this and approved this action
28 so this season was extended for the 2021/2022
29 regulatory year. And these -- these dates do fall in
30 line with the WP22-44 that the Board had voted to
31 adopt.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that's
34 just an update.

35
36 MS. HOLMAN: Just an update. If you
37 have any questions.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Was that for Zone 1
40 and Zone 2, or just Zone 2?

41
42 MS. HOLMAN: Zone 2.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zone 2. Thanks for
45 that clarification. So any questions or comments on
46 that, Council members.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

0261

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, thanks
2 for those updates ladies. And so we're -- we needed to
3 address some Board of Game proposals, we penciled this
4 in at this time. Karen are you there.

5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I
7 wanted to know if you wanted to either call a break or
8 call lunch before we go into this, it will take some
9 time. So I wanted to leave that up to the Council's
10 discretion.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So if we're
15 going to take -- delve into these Board of Game
16 proposals, is it agreeable with the Council to take our
17 lunch break now and come back at 12:45, one hour,
18 because we got a lot of agency reports and a lot of
19 other stuff to go through after the Board of Game
20 proposals, so we need to come back on at 12:45. Is
21 that agreeable to the Council.

22
23 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

24
25 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
26 Kevin.

27
28 MR. HONEA: Yes, Sir.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

31
32 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, just a question,
33 Karen, or Mr. Chair, how long do you think the Board of
34 Game proposals will take?

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We reviewed a lot of
37 these proposals at our past meeting and Karen has our
38 notes on these, basically some of these proposals
39 affect our region but need to be -- they deferred a lot
40 of these and they're proposals that need to have
41 comments for the upcoming Board of Game meeting for
42 2022 here, and I'm not exactly sure. You got a feeling
43 on how long that's going to take, Karen.

44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Given that we do not have to go through the proposal
47 process that we do for the Federal Subsistence Board,
48 barring any invite for public testimony, I think it'll
49 go rather quickly. There are one, two, three, four,
50

0262

1 five, six, seven, eight, nine proposals to review for
2 potential comments. And two of those proposals the
3 Council may decide not to comment on, but the bulk of
4 them deal with the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and the
5 Dalton Highway Corridor issues, which are both -- the
6 Council is very familiar with and so I don't think
7 those will take long. I would say at most an hour if
8 we can flow through them quickly, or less.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Karen.
13 So at this time we'll take a break for lunch and come
14 back online at 12:45, sharp, because it's 11:45 right
15 now. So is that agreeable to the Council members.

16

17 MR. HONEA: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Other Council
20 members, any problem with that.

21

22 MR. SIMON: It's okay with me.

23

24 MR. WHITWORTH: Sounds good.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we'll see you
27 back here in one hour.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's about 12:45,
34 46, I'm going to call the meeting back to order and
35 what Council members are on the phone.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have any
40 Council members on the phone.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hey, there, this is
45 Karen, we're looking for any Western Interior Council
46 members, have you joined us on the phone yet? Thank
47 you.

48

49 MS. PELKOLA: Karen, this is Jenny, I'm

50

0263

1 on.

2

3

MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, there, Jenny.

4

5

REPORTER: Hi Jenny.

6

7

MS. PELKOLA: Hi Tina. Karen, I have a
8 flu shot at 2:00 o'clock so I'll have to leave a little
9 bit before then and I may rejoin after.

10

11

MS. DEATHERAGE: That sounds great,
12 Jenny. Appreciate you joining after, there's a lot of
13 stuff still on the agenda so it'd be great to have you
14 on board.

15

16

MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

17

18

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks.

19

20

MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

21

22

MR. WHITWORTH: Hello, this is Kevin,

23

I'm on.

24

25

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kevin.

26

27

MS. DEATHERAGE: Any other Council
28 members join us. We've got Kevin, Jenny and Jack on
29 the phone so far?

30

31

(No comments)

32

33

MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca are you on, or
34 Don, or Pollock, Arnold, Goodwin?

35

36

(No comments)

37

38

MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm pretty sure that
39 Tim Gervais is still out on the boat so I would not
40 anticipate his participation. I hope I'm wrong but I
41 haven't heard anything from him.

42

43

(Pause)

44

45

MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock, have you
46 joined us?

47

48

(No comments)

49

50

0264

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don, you on the phone,
2 or Rebecca?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin. Arnold.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: We're going to need a
11 quorum for the Board of Game proposal comments. Thank
12 you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we need to
15 have the Council back.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We used to hear like
20 a bleeping noise if somebody got on and off, so, that
21 was kind of helpful. Any other Council members join
22 the call, Jenny, Kevin and I are here.

23
24 MS. PELKOLA: Jack, this is Jenny.
25 Right before we broke for lunch my phone just made a
26 whole bunch of crackling sound and it just went off so
27 I didn't hear whatever happened at the end.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we were just
30 breaking for lunch.

31
32 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We didn't really do
35 much else, we were talking about breaking for one hour.

36
37 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

38
39 MR. SIMON: Pollock's back on.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Pollock, thank
42 you. And Don or Rebecca, Goodwin, Arnold.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we can't move
49 forward without the Council being back.

50

0265

1 MR. HONEA: Hey, could you hear me?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could hear you
4 now, Don. Thank you.

5

6 MR. HONEA: Okay, great.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Goodwin or
9 Rebecca.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So somebody's
17 banging some stuff around, is that you Don?

18

19 MR. HONEA: No.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

22

23 MR. HONEA: Why do you always think
24 it's me.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 REPORTER: Because you're not muted
29 Don.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. HONEA: I'm just a patsy for it,
34 ugh.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. HONEA: Hey, Jack.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

41

42 MR. HONEA: I'm going to comment here.
43 It's too hard for me to go back and forth, I switched
44 phones here, so bear with me, I mean I'm not making any
45 noise but I'm not also not on mute.

46

47 REPORTER: We know.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

0266

1 MR. HONEA: All right, is that okay
2 with you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's fine, yeah,
5 as long as you -- yes, we really need you on the call.

6
7 MS. PELKOLA: Jack, this is Jenny, my
8 phone cut out again so it'll probably be cutting out
9 again, I don't know, I might have to recall.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Oh, gee.

12
13 So Goodwin or Rebecca, are you there.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got Pollock, Don,
18 Jenny, Kevin and me. How many do we need Karen?

19
20 MR. HONEA: You got five.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we need five?

23
24 MR. HONEA: Yeah, we have five.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: We have one, two,
29 three, four, five out of nine, yes.

30
31 MR. HONEA: That's five, that's quorum.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, so we're going
34 to start moving forward. So would you give us an
35 overview of the State proposal packet you printed out
36 here, Karen.

37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 First I'd like to remind everybody on the phone to
40 please mute your phones when you're not speaking, star,
41 six. The star is located to left of the zero on your
42 phone for your landlines, and then the mute button on
43 your smartphone is on the smartphone menu where you
44 have the speaker and keypad. So please mute your
45 phones and please, please do not put us on hold. I
46 know there's some folks that are bopping back and forth
47 between the Eastern Interior and Western Interior
48 meeting, but please just put us on mute and that'll
49 work, you don't need to put us on hold. So thanks for
50

0267

1 that.

2

3

4 I want to help the Council right now
5 navigate through the paperwork that we sent as a
6 supplemental for the Board of Game proposals and this
7 was in a blue folder sent to you separated by blue
8 sheets of paper. And so I want to direct your
9 attention to the first document which is the Alaska
10 Board of Game tentative meeting date, so folks can let
11 me know if you have that document in your hand, Pollock
12 you don't have your meeting materials, unfortunately,
13 but I'll go ahead and make sure you're aware of the
14 information I'm going to reference.

14

15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participants not muted - screeching)

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: We may have lost
19 somebody there.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: So does everybody have
24 this first document that has dates on it, meeting
25 dates.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I got that,
28 tentative meeting dates, it was a single leaf paper.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Right.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. So I
35 just wanted to point out there are two comment deadline
36 dates, one January 7th and one February 18th, 2022,
37 which is why the Council is addressing these proposals
38 now so that we have enough time to get these comments
39 in prior to both of those meetings. So that's the only
40 purpose for this, is just to let you guys know about
41 the comment deadline dates as well as the dates of the
42 meeting if you wanted to weigh in on those meetings.

43

44 The second document that I want you to
45 refer to, the top of the document says, Mr. Ted
46 Spraker, Chairman, Page 5.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have that.

49

50

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: It is basically a copy
2 of one page of the letter of comments that the Council
3 submitted to the Board of Game at their 2020 meeting
4 for multiple proposals. But the two comments that were
5 relevant to what we're going to be covering today were
6 for Proposal 63 and 64 regarding the Dalton Highway
7 Corridor Management Area. And so I wanted you to have
8 these comments on hand because my suspicion is you will
9 be wanting to submit similar comments, perhaps with a
10 few amendments, but certainly similar comments as you
11 did before when -- because those proposals are now back
12 in front of the Board of Game for reconsideration.
13 They were deferred.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do they have a
16 different number, or did they maintain those numbers
17 6.....

18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: No, they do have a
20 different number, Mr. Chair, they're 172 and 173 on the
21 agenda under statewide proposals but I'll go through
22 that later and we can refer back to this page, I just
23 want to make sure everybody has it available to them.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: So it's Page 5, at the
28 top right-hand corner it says Page 5 and Mr. Ted
29 Spraker is the beginning of the page and it'll have
30 Proposal 63 and 64 listed on it. Proposal 64 comments
31 continue on to the back of that page.

32
33 And then last, but not least, is a
34 portion of the Alaska Board of Game 2020/2021 proposed
35 changes to regulations. And what I want you to do is
36 go ahead leaf through the beginning portions which were
37 just provided for information and go to Page 25 of that
38 little book where you'll see Proposal 19 and that's
39 where we're going to start today.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

42
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: On Proposal 19, Page
44 25 at the bottom of that page it says Central and
45 Southwest region proposals.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: So I'd like to make
50

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1 sure that everybody that is on the phone with the
2 Council has this information in front of them for
3 reference as we go through these proposals.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So does everybody
6 have -- I know Pollock doesn't have it, but does
7 everybody else have their packet that shows Proposal 19
8 on Page 25 of the green Alaska Board of Game packet
9 that Karen sent out?

10

11 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, I can't
12 find mine.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, it was a
15 separate package.

16

17 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, it was.....

20

21 MR. HONEA: This is Don.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE:a sent with the
24 meeting book but it was in a folder as an -- a separate
25 package to the meeting book.

26

27 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, I probably.....

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: But it was sent with
30 the meeting book.

31

32 MS. PELKOLA:got it, but.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So somebody had a
35 comment.

36

37 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. I can't
38 find mine either, it's going to take like 10 minutes
39 for me to look through, if you want to.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Pollock doesn't
42 have it, so we'll just quickly read the proposal.

43

44 MR. HONEA: Please.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's.....

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 I was intending to do that anyway just for the benefit

50

0270

1 of Pollock.

2

3

4 we'll.....

5

6

7

8

9

10 Karen.

11

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, then

MS. DEATHERAGE: So let's go ahead and
move forward with your permission.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead,
Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
The first proposal is Proposal 19 and the proposal
reads, which is also on the agenda, establish new
population and harvest objectives for the Mulchatna
Caribou Herd in Units 9, 17, 18 and 19 as follows: And
for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, it looked like the
previous population and harvest objectives were 30 to
80,000 animals with 2,400 to 8,000 harvest objectives.
This proposal was put forth by the Togiak National
Wildlife Refuge. And here's what they would like to
say. The multiple revisions and objectives over time
have been a sensible approach to a management of a
changing resource. We are requesting that the Board of
Game review the intensive management population and
harvest objectives with the goal of adjusting
objectives to an ecologically sustainable level. We
recommend this review include careful consideration of
habitat quality, which almost certainly has changed in
response to caribou grazing reducing population
potential.

So what the Refuge is asking is for the
Board of Game to determine a new population and harvest
objective for this herd. There are no numbers but
they're asking the Board of Game to approve that.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Karen.
So this -- they're basically requesting a population
objective of 25,000.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

MS. DEATHERAGE: I think what they're
asking is for the Board to actually come up with that

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1 population objective, but also they're strongly
2 recommending that there be careful consideration of
3 habitat quality when addressing that. So I don't see
4 where the Togiak Refuge is actually requesting a
5 particular population objective, they're just asking
6 the Board to change the current population and harvest
7 objectives.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, I
10 would prefer the herd to be rebuilt to the objective of
11 30 to 80,000. The herd achieved 200,000 and it is my
12 opinion, and I'm an opinionated person about this
13 stuff, that the herd endured too much harvest of the
14 bull component and crashed basically through
15 reproductive failure. The population objective of 30
16 to 80,000 is way within the realm of this herd's
17 performance previously. And I feel that this should be
18 the objective, is to maintain this herd, because it
19 stays within its -- once it gets below a certain level
20 then they have a harder and harder time sustaining
21 against spring calf predation. There's Golden eagles,
22 wolverine, wolves, and bears that eat caribou calves.
23 And so I'm not really inclined to endorse this
24 proposal.

25

26 Do we have Togiak Refuge on the phone,
27 is there someone from the Refuge that was going to
28 speak to this proposal since this is a Togiak Refuge
29 proposal.

30

31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted)

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 We're asking if Kenton Moos or maybe Aaron Moses can
36 speak to this if Aaron's familiar with the proposal.
37 Otherwise there may not be anybody online at this time
38 speaking to this proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: And keep in mind, Mr.
43 Chair, that this -- that the Council does not have
44 to.....

45

46 (Teleconference interference -
47 participants not muted - dogs barking)

48

49 REPORTER: Okay, so wait a minute, hold

50

0272

1 on.

2

3

4

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Somebody's dog is barking like a lot.....

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

REPORTER: Wait a minute. Hey, hey, Karen, hold on a minute. So whoever has the dog barking in the background, please, could you mute your phone because I'm not picking up who's talking on the transcript, it is overpowering the recording. So I would appreciate it if you could mute, and I understand that muting is a challenge but it's star, six, or the mute button on your phone.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Salena.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Karen, go ahead.

MS. DEATHERAGE: I would like to make a comment that the Council does not have to comment on these proposals, this is an option for them if they choose. As you and I discussed over email, these were proposals that may be of interest to the Council but they are not required to comment on these. And so if they choose not to as a Council, then that's certainly acceptable.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm actually inclined to oppose this proposal. I feel that just reducing the population objective is not an unrealistic number of 30,000 to 80,000 for that herd. That herd inhabits a phenomenally large Southwestern Alaska region. And the larger the herd, the more it wants to migrate, it gets into our region, so it's a disadvantage to restrict this herd to a small population number where it stays in the Mulchatna headwaters and in the Togiak Refuge and the Tikchik Lakes Country. I feel that it's more important to build this herd back up to its previous population performances in excess of 200,000, pre-contact, before the Gold Rush, before the caribou herd was wiped out, originally.

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1 So I'm personally in favor of opposing
2 this proposal.

3
4 So how does the Council feel about
5 taking up the proposal and my intention is to oppose
6 the proposal.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How many Council
11 members do we have left, did we lose somebody -- did we
12 lose people?

13
14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted)

16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Whoever has their
18 phone line open could you please mute. We're hearing a
19 conversation. Thank you. Female voices.

20
21 REPORTER: Hello. So I do have
22 multiple conversations going on in the background, this
23 is the recorder, and they're also coming in on the
24 Eastern Interior meeting at the same time. So unless
25 you're talking right now, to the Council, please mute
26 your phone.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

29
30 MR. SEMAKEN: Hello. Hello.

31
32 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
33 Kevin.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kevin, go ahead.

36
37 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, I agree with your
38 assessment, we should leave the population objective at
39 30 to 80,000. Even though Togiak's not looking to
40 change or -- they're just bringing it up as something
41 to be looked at, most likely the Board of Game is
42 probably going to lower that objective, they probably
43 won't increase it. So it should just be the way it is.
44 Yep, that's all, thanks.

45
46 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah, hey.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would like
49 to.....
50

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1 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah, hey, Jack, this is
2 Arnold could you hear me?

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I could hear you
5 now, Arnold, go ahead.

6
7 MR. DEMOSKI: I'm having connectivity
8 issues here but I agree with your assessment. I was
9 trying to speak earlier but my phone keeps cutting out
10 and I having to keep call back in. But I heard your
11 assessment and I agree with your assessment.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we should
14 take Proposal 19 up. So the Chair will entertain a
15 motion to adopt Proposal 19, State Proposal 19 to
16 adjust -- requesting an adjustment to the Mulchatna
17 Caribou Herd population objective and harvest
18 objective.....

19
20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and it's my
24 intention of voting it down. So would somebody like to
25 make a motion.

26
27 MR. HONEA: I make that motion. This
28 is Don.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don.

31
32 MR. DEMOSKI: Second it, this is
33 Arnold.

34
35 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion by Don,
38 second by Pollock. Discussion on the proposal. The
39 performance of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd has shown
40 that it can achieve much higher objectives than the 30
41 to 80,000 and maintaining proper harvest parameters
42 will maintain the herd so it migrates in a wider
43 area.....

44
45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:within the
49 south -- the Bristol Bay, Southwest, and the Western
50

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1 Interior regions. So we oppose this proposal on the
2 basis that this current population objective is way
3 within the performance of this herd previously. That
4 would be the justification.

5

6 Any further discussion on the proposal.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we got a
11 question.

12

13 MR. SIMON: Question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called by
16 Pollock. You want to call the roll, Karen.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 For commenting on Proposal 19 there's a motion on the
20 floor to approve establishing new population and
21 harvest objectives for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd in
22 Units 9, 17, 18 and 19.

23

24 Kevin Whitworth.

25

26 MR. WHITWORTH: Can you say that again,
27 sorry, I was reading something. Sorry Karen.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Right now there is a
30 motion on the floor to send comments approving
31 establishing new population and harvest objectives for
32 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd in Units 9, 17, 18 and 19.

33

34 MR. WHITWORTH: No.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

37

38 Jenny Pelkola.

39

40 MS. PELKOLA: No.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is Goodwin Semaken on
43 the phone?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

48

49 MR. SEMAKEN: Hello.

50

0276

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, is that Goodwin?

2

3 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: How would you like to
6 vote on this proposal, a yes vote approves it, a no
7 vote opposes it. Right now we have two no votes.

8

9 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, I finally got
10 connected too with a different phone -- between -- yes,
11 moving it up because at one time we did see caribou
12 over here on the Yukon from that herd, that was back in
13 the '80s. Probably a yes vote on that one.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: So Member Demoski
16 [sic], I think you said that you would like to see this
17 population objective moved up, there is a sense that
18 the Board of Game would actually move it down and so
19 opposing this proposal would maintain it at the 30 to
20 80,000 herd level that it currently is at. So the
21 question is, would you like the Board of Game to lower
22 the current population objective or would you like the
23 Board of Game to sustain the population objective at
24 the higher numbers?

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Are you still with us
29 Arnold?

30

31 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes, I'm having
32 connectivity, you keep breaking up. I want to vote no
33 on the proposal though.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,
36 Arnold.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Arnold.

39

40 Pollock Simon.

41

42 MR. SIMON: No.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

45

46 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, before I say yes
47 or no here, I'm kind of confused about what saying a
48 yes is, would it be making the number higher?

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.

2

3 MR. HONEA: The objective number?

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, the request is
6 to reduce the harvest objective and population
7 objective. We -- I prefer -- my personal opinion is to
8 maintain the current harvest objective and population
9 objectives.

10

11 MR. HONEA: Okay, that being said, no.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank.....

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:you.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Don.

20

21 Rebecca Wilmarth.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca, are you on
26 the phone with us?

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: How about Goodwin
31 Semaken.

32

33 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes, could you hear me?

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.

36

37 MR. SEMAKEN: Hello.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, how would you
40 like to -- how would you like to vote on comments for
41 this proposal No. 19.

42

43 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, well, I finally
44 heard -- well, I've been having trouble with this
45 phone, but yeah I'll be voting no on there with the
46 rest.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you very
49 much Goodwin. So there's six nos. The motion fails,
50

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1 or the motion doesn't fail, but the comments will
2 oppose Proposal 19 on behalf of the Council. Thank
3 you, Mr. Chair.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.
6 Proposal 20 is to make a Tier II hunt for the Mulchatna
7 Caribou Herd, you want to cover that real quick, Karen.

8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Proposal 20 was submitted by the Alaska Department of
11 Fish and Game. And the proposal.....

12
13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15
16 REPORTER: Okay, so.....

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: I keep hearing a child
19 so if somebody could mute their phone that would be
20 helpful.

21
22 REPORTER: It would be very helpful,
23 thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That sounded like
26 it, go ahead, Karen.

27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, again.
29 Proposal 20 would establish a Tier II hunting season
30 and bag limit for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and the
31 details following are with a different structure as
32 well as different seasons. And this is a proposal by
33 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And they're
34 also asking to change the hunt season to exclude
35 harvest during the rut so that animals can breed
36 without additional pressure exerted on the herd by
37 hunters, and, two, standardizing the season across most
38 of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd range to reduce hunter
39 confusion and encourage reporting.

40
41 So establishing a Tier II permit and
42 excluding harvest of animals during the rut, maintain
43 breeding stock, and then also to standardize the season
44 to reduce hunter confusion and encourage reporting.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that
49 proposal it would change -- a Tier II hunt is basically
50

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1 a resident of Alaska State hunt, there'd be no non-
2 resident harvest.....

3

4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted)

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:under the Tier
8 II system. So does the Council want to take up
9 Proposal 20. This would allow, if there's any future
10 hunting that it would go under a Tier II type
11 structure, and also the Federal Subsistence Board would
12 probably follow with a Federal Subsistence hunt
13 following similar guidelines. The Chair will entertain
14 a motion to adopt Proposal 20 for discussion.

15

16 REPORTER: So whoever's listening to
17 the Eastern Interior meeting right now, could you
18 please mute your phone, it's coming into the Western
19 meeting, and on to this recording. We will not be able
20 to transcribe this meeting with dual meetings coming
21 through. So if you're tuning into this meeting, please
22 mute.

23

24 MR. HONEA: I'll make that motion.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,
27 Salena. Motion by Don. And do we have.....

28

29 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second by Pollock.
32 Discussion on the proposal. I feel that.....

33

34 MR. HONEA: Okay, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. Go right
37 ahead, Don.

38

39 MR. HONEA: Yeah, okay, thank you, Mr.
40 Chair. I'm sorry to interrupt you. But I just thought
41 that the Tier II was in times of low numbers and stuff
42 so I -- I'd like to hear your take on that, thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, this caribou
45 herd is in closure right now, the Mulchatna Caribou
46 Herd is closed. And if there is hunting -- if the herd
47 performance comes up to where they feel that there
48 could be hunting it should be on a Tier II and Federal
49 subsistence priority, there should be no sporthunting,
50

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1 no non-resident hunting of the herd until it recovers
2 to the point where that can be relaxed. So this is
3 futuristic, basically setting out a Tier II process for
4 if the herd was to recover and build back we would move
5 into, instill certain protections for the herd, with a
6 priority towards residents of Alaska and the Federal
7 Subsistence Board would also sort of mirror that.

8

9 I'm in favor of Proposal 20.

10

11 MR. HONEA: Okay, so then Mr. Chair
12 you're saying it's more of a safety precaution and we
13 should support it.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It'll be a safety
16 precaution. It would move away from a -- the previous
17 hunt was a registration hunt, the RC503, it would move
18 away from that permit which allowed unlimited numbers
19 of applicants.

20

21 MR. HONEA: Okay. Mr. Chair, I
22 appreciate that comment. I mean I could see that the
23 numbers aren't really high and this is something to
24 really consider. Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments from
27 the Council.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a
32 question on State Proposal 20.

33

34 MR. SIMON: Question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called,
37 you want to call the roll, Karen.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 To send comments to the Board of Game to approve
41 Proposal 20 establishing a Tier II subsistence hunting
42 season and bag limit for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.
43 And if you also recall, this would also change the hunt
44 season to exclude harvest during the rut so that
45 animals that breed can be maintained and also
46 standardize the season across most of the range to
47 reduce hunter confusion and encourage reporting.

48

49 So with that in mind I'll call roll. A

50

0281

1 yes vote would tell the Board of Game that the Council
2 approves this proposal, a no vote would tell the Board
3 of Game that the Council opposes this proposal.

4

5 So let's start with Pollock Simon.

6

7 MR. SIMON: Yes.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

10

11 MR. HONEA: Yes.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

14

15 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

18

19 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think I heard a
22 weird yes. Arnold, could you repeat your vote if that
23 was you.

24

25 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, gotcha.

28

29 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes. Okay.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

32

33 Jenny Pelkola.

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca, have you been
42 able to get on the phone yet?

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: How about Goodwin
47 Semaken, are you still with us.

48

49 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

50

0282

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, thank you so
2 much. Mr. Chair, the motion passes to approve Proposal
3 20 with a 6-0 vote.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you're counting
6 me?

7
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, my goodness --
9 well, actually -- I did not, sorry. So it's a 7-0
10 vote, right, how do you vote, yes, I'm assuming based
11 on your testimony.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Also Proposal
14 19, I was assuming you were counting me because of my
15 testimony but I was also -- I would vote yes for 19
16 also.

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you so much.
19 Sorry. You should see my roster sheet, it's pretty
20 crazy with playing musical Council members for their
21 votes. So please accept my apologies and I'll go ahead
22 and include you on this vote as well. Thank you. So
23 it's a 7-0 vote approving the Proposal No. 20.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Next
26 proposal, 21. You want to outline that, Karen.

27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: One minute, Mr. Chair,
29 thank you.

30
31 (Pause)

32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Proposal 21 can be found on Page 27 of your meeting
35 materials of the supplemental, if you have it. Is to
36 establish a second predation program for Mulchatna
37 Caribou Herd on Federal lands in Game Management Units
38 17 and 18. The proposal came from the Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game. It does need to be noted
40 that this proposal requires concurrence from the
41 Department of Interior for implementation on Federal
42 lands, and that the Board does approve -- anticipates
43 this approval prior to the Board of Game meeting in
44 January of 2021.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 2022.

47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry, it says
49 2021 on the paperwork so you are correct it's 2022. I
50

0283

1 did add that comment and I'm not sure, so there may be
2 some Federal representatives who could speak to this
3 but I know that, in general, the Federal government is
4 required, in most cases, to enact an environmental
5 assessment of any major action taken on Federal lands
6 and those can be time consuming, and so at this point
7 I'm not sure when the Department of Fish and Game
8 anticipated approval, prior to the Board of Game
9 meeting in January of 2022. But I just wanted to let
10 the Council know that there is a process at the Federal
11 level. Thank you, very much, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Would the
14 Council like to take up this proposal, it's an
15 intensive management proposal to establish another
16 management -- encompass another area -- and this would
17 be the area to the west of -- the Mulchatna's broken
18 into two components now, east and west, I think this
19 encompasses that portion also. So the Chair will
20 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 21 for discussion.

21

22 MR. SIMON: So moved.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.

25

26 MR. DEMOSKI: Second.

27

28 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is

29 Kevin.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

32

33 MR. WHITWORTH: I think there was a
34 second there so I think we're in discussion now for
35 this proposal. I'd be hesitant to support this without
36 hearing from Boyd or Kenton.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I didn't --

39 Kevin.....

40

41 MR. WHITWORTH: Can you hear me?

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Standby one second.
44 I didn't catch who that second was and we need that for
45 the record.

46

47 REPORTER: It was Arnold.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Was that you Arnold?

50

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1 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes, that was Arnold.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Arnold as a
4 second. Thanks, Salena. Go ahead, Kevin.

5

6 MR. WHITWORTH: Thanks. Yeah, I'd like
7 to hear from the Federal managers, Boyd or Kenton
8 there, at Unit 17 or 18 before we take this up. And
9 Karen has a point there is a Federal process for -- on
10 Federal lands, this proposal should have come to the
11 Federal Subsistence Board I would think. So I'm going
12 to not vote, or abstain from voting on this one until I
13 can get more clarification on it. That's all, thanks.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there, Boyd,
16 can you discuss this issue? He was on earlier.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Since we don't have
21 anybody to clarify the Federal management regime, can
22 we table this, Karen, until we get somebody for this?

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
25 you certainly can. I will see if somebody from the
26 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge or the Yukon Delta
27 National Wildlife Refuge might be able to speak to
28 this. I do want to clarify that any -- that any kind
29 of proposal or any kind of move to send this to the
30 Federal Subsistence Board as a proposal would not be
31 accepted by the Board because of its policy so any
32 request by the Council for any Federal agency to
33 implement a predation control program would go
34 specifically to the land manager in that area, so it
35 would go specifically to Togiak or Yukon Delta Refuge
36 managers. I just want to clarify that, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Could we table this,
39 do we need a vote to table until it's clarified?

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair,
42 yes, a vote to table pending a representative from the
43 Fish and Wildlife Service and then if there is no
44 representative available and the Council wishes to take
45 no action then they'll have to withdraw the motion.
46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So a motion
49 needs to be made to table.

50

0285

1 MR. HONEA: I make that motion. This
2 is Don.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, motion to
5 table. Got a second.

6
7 MR. WHITWORTH: Second, Kevin.

8
9 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Then go ahead
12 and call the roll, Karen, to table.

13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Rebecca Wilmarth.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

20
21 MR. HONEA: Yes.

22
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon.

24
25 MR. SIMON: Yes.

26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

28
29 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

36
37 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.

40
41 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

42
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Goodwin Semaken.

44
45 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very much.

48 The Council's voted to table this, a vote of 7-0.
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0286

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The next proposal is
2 in regards to the Nushagak Peninsula Herd. I don't
3 feel this Council should even address that, that's
4 Proposal 22. That's a herd outside of our region, it
5 never comes through our region. Proposal 23. You want
6 to give the overview of that one, Karen.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 Proposal 22 -- I'm sorry 23, which is located on Page
10 29 of the materials, if you have those in front of you.
11 Proposes to allow the use of snowmachine to position
12 wolf or wolverine for harvest in Unit 17 as follows: A
13 snowmachine may be used to position a wolf or wolverine
14 for harvest and a wolf or wolverine may be shot from a
15 stationary snowmachine in Units 17, 18, 22, 23 and 26A.
16 This would add Unit 17 to the list of other already
17 approved areas. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And this is
20 the same redundant proposal that we reviewed this
21 morning on the Federal proposals.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's basically the
26 same thing, because it was inclusive of all of Unit --
27 and that proposal actually included parts of Unit 9,
28 and that was Proposal 22-40 and it was amended.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: The proposal was
31 amended by OSM. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. So the Chair
34 will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 23 -- State
35 Proposal 23, to allow positioning of wolf and wolverine
36 in Unit 17 by snowmobile. Do we have a motion to
37 adopt.

38

39 MR. SIMON: So moved by Pollock.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock moved.

42

43 MR. DEMOSKI: Second by Arnold.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second by Arnold.
46 So the Council reviewed this same type of proposal this
47 morning. I'm in favor of the proposal. Any further
48 comments.

49

50

0287

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a
4 question then.

5

6 MR. DEMOSKI: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was you,
9 Arnold.

10

11 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right,
14 you want to call the roll there, Karen.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank
17 you. For Proposal No. 23 to allow for the use of
18 snowmachine to position wolf or wolverine for harvest
19 in Unit 17. I'll call the roll here.

20

21 Jenny Pelkola.

22

23 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

26

27 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

30

31 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

38

39 MR. HONEA: Yes.

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon.

42

43 MR. SIMON: Yes.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

46

47 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Jack Reakoff.

50

0288

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

2

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

4 That would be a vote of 7-0 to approve Proposal 23.

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 24 revolves
8 around salvage of Alaska hare and we deferred this type
9 of proposal back to region, this is a State proposal so
10 we should skip Proposal 24. The next proposal that's
11 in this meeting packet is description of game
12 management units, Proposal 71, do you.....

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think what I would
19 like to request, if possible, is that we move into
20 Proposal 201, this was a supplemental proposal.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: And because it has to
25 do with the Mulchatna Controlled Use Area, it's to
26 allow motorized vehicles for hunting moose and caribou
27 in the upper Mulchatna Controlled Use area of Unit 17B.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, yeah, we'll
30 skip over that one, so we're at 172?

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, I'm going to go
33 ahead and cross this one out, thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Proposal.....

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: So give me one minute.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Proposal 171 would be
42 the next one on the list. Proposal 171 requests to
43 divide Unit 19A into two subunits. The Division of
44 Game Management Unit 19A into 19A west, to remain 19A
45 and 19 east to become 19E. This came about because the
46 residents in the area purportedly have very different
47 views on moose management and it was proposed by the
48 Stony/Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Thank
49 you, Mr. Chair.

50

0289

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So would you like to
2 deal with that Kevin.

3
4 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I
5 would really like to get Rebecca's input on this. I'm
6 not familiar with that Advisory Council all that much.
7 I'm on the McGrath Advisory Council but we didn't take
8 this up so I'd like to hear Rebecca make comments on
9 this. Hopefully she's on.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She's not been on
12 since before lunch. So.....

13
14 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, then I think the
15 conversation there, maybe there's fighting going on
16 within that Advisory Council or something but they're
17 divided on this issue it sounds like. I don't -- I
18 would abstain from voting on this, I just don't know
19 much about that reasoning for it and really I'd defer
20 to Josh Pierce here in McGrath, ADF&G, would like to
21 get his input too. So maybe just defer to what Fish
22 and Game wants to do. I don't know, I would skip it.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, let's just
25 skip it. We don't have enough input, we don't even
26 have the Council member from that area to even discuss
27 this one. So moving down to Proposal 172, Karen.

28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Proposal 172. This proposal would clarify the legal
31 use of highway vehicles, snowmachines, and offroad
32 vehicles in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management area
33 for hunting and trapping. It would also clarify the
34 use of firearms and transport of furbearers and
35 trapping bait when trapping in the Dalton Highway
36 Corridor Management area. And this proposal was put
37 forth by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This
38 proposal was before the Council at their March 2020
39 meeting, the Council provided extensive comments which
40 can be found on that Page 5, Ted Spraker document, and
41 under Proposal 64. Again, Chairman Reakoff actually
42 did an excellent job of providing distinct comments
43 that the Council adopted at that meeting. And so the
44 proposal could be to adopt similar comments or add to,
45 or remove portions of those comments.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I will read the
50

0290

1 comments that -- we deliberated this proposal at the
2 March 2020 meeting in Fairbanks, I think it was the
3 second day, on the 3rd of March, and so Proposal 64 has
4 been renumbered to Proposal 72. The comments that we
5 made for this proposal, was that the Council voted to
6 support -- unanimously support this proposal with
7 modification.

8

9

10 The Council comments are, and I'll read
11 them for the record: The sole purpose of the described
12 area in Alaska Statutes was to protect big game
13 populations. The Council supports the premise of the
14 proposal to clarify the parameters of the Dalton
15 Highway Corridor Management Area and believes that the
16 Board of Game is the best management body to address
17 enforcement and other issues brought forth by law
18 officers and the public. The Council voted to amend
19 Proposal, and we'll change that to 172, by replacing
20 language with the following, which are also discussed
21 and submitted by the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee.

21

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1. Clarification to allow snowmachine
use in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area for
both access to trap lines and to transport of legally
defined big game bait. Licensed trapping is a very
important management tool to harvest furbearers under
trapping regulations. Travel to and from homes within
or outside the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area
by licensed trappers should not be impeded. Firearms
take free-ranging furbearers has always been allowed in
the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area under a
trapping license and should continue. Restricting
trappers ability to take predators would be detrimental
to big game populations and could cause the reduction
of opportunity for subsistence and other users.

2. Clarification to allow residents
north of the Yukon River to travel to their homes from
the Dalton Highway. Residents of Wiseman, Coldfoot,
Stevens Village, Anaktuvuk Pass, Allakaket, Alatna,
Bettles, Evansville, and Nuiqsut should be permitted to
travel from the Dalton Highway to their homes with
legally taken big game. Access by residents using
licensed tire vehicles should -- and it should say --
be allowed on a year-round -- on year-round, or winter
roads to these villages in order to transport game,
game parts, hunters or hunting gear as defined in
regulation. Specifically, residents should have access
to oil field roads to Nuiqsut and winter roads to

0291

1 Stevens Village, Anaktuvuk Pass, Bettles, Evansville,
2 Allakaket and Alatna and the year-round road to
3 property and businesses in Wiseman.

4
5 3. Clarification to allow licensed
6 highway vehicles to transport hunters, game, game parts
7 and gear within one mile of the Dalton Highway, the
8 current one-quarter mile restriction does not allow
9 subsistence and other hunters to access boat launching
10 sites in the Koyukuk Sag River drainages that have side
11 road access outside the quarter mile limit. Some
12 hunters are currently accessing legal boat launch sites
13 up to 18 river miles from logical access. The Council
14 does not support additional clarifying language within
15 the original proposal, namely the five bullet points on
16 Page 75 and 76 of the Board of Game proposal book. And
17 so we have to clarify those bullet points, Karen, in
18 the past proposal, which was Proposal 64. There.....

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Which -- I'm sorry,
21 what are you referring to?

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have to get the
24 five bullet points from Proposal 64 in the old book,
25 this is in reference to those five bullet points.
26 These comments will revolve around those five bullet
27 points.

28
29 There is insufficient information
30 provided as to what the clarifying language would be
31 and the impacts of any such language to subsistence
32 uses within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management
33 Area. The Council requests the Board of Game to defer
34 action on this proposal and return to the Fish and Game
35 Advisory Committees and Subsistence Regional Advisory
36 Councils with a proposal for comment that contains
37 specific language that would clarify the legal uses of
38 the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.

39
40 Finally, the Council wishes to convey
41 its support for any clarifying language via Proposal --
42 now Proposal 172 -- based upon the Alaska Statute
43 protection of big game primarily, but also other fish
44 and wildlife resources. The Council's concern is for
45 the Federally-qualified subsistence users who reside in
46 or near the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area
47 whose homes and subsistence harvest is critical to
48 their lifeway, as well as non-Federally-qualified users
49 who are protected under ANILCA, Title VIII, Section
50

0292

1 .815. Further, any actions or clarifying language
2 proposed by the Board of Game under this proposal
3 should not be interpreted as taking away the rights
4 afforded to subsistence users under Alaska Native
5 Claims Settlement Act and/or the Alaska National
6 Interest Lands Conservation Act.

7
8 End of comment.

9
10 So those comments are to be included in
11 the record on our comment on Proposal, now numbered
12 172, to include the five bullet points which are
13 referenced in this comment, Karen.

14
15 So the Council at this point can adopt
16 our previous language and comment on this proposal
17 since the Board deferred it and now they're taking it
18 back up again, we need to be back on record with the
19 same comment. Does that make sense to the Council.
20 Comments at this point.

21
22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any
26 commen.....

27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 This is Karen. I might suggest calling for a motion to
34 approve sending similar comments because the comments
35 both approve and oppose portions of this proposal, so I
36 would just make the motion to forward the previous
37 comments, with needed amendments. Thank you, Mr.
38 Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. So the Chair
41 will entertain a motion for State Proposal 172 to
42 transmit those comments that I just read into the
43 record which are our previous comments that we made in
44 March of 2020 to the Alaska Board of Game. The Chair
45 will entertain a motion to adopt those comments to be
46 transmitted for Proposal 172. Do we have a motion.

47
48 MR. SIMON: So moved by Pollock.

49
50

0293

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Second. Don.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.

6 Any further discussion.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a

11 question.

12

13 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.

16 Call roll Karen.

17

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

19 To approve the motion for Proposal 172.

20

21 Don Honea.

22

23 MR. HONEA: Yes.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon.

26

27 MR. SIMON: Yes.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny may have left to
34 go get her flu shot. Jenny are you on the phone?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Goodwin

39 Semaken.

40

41 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Goodwin.

44

45 Arnold Demoski.

46

47 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Arnold.

50

0294

1 Jack Reakoff.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

6

7 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: And, Rebecca Wilmarth,
10 are you on the phone?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's 6-0, six in
15 favor. Thank you, Mr. Chair. For Proposal 172 to
16 transmit previous comments on this proposal for the
17 Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area. Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the next proposal
20 is 173, which is a Fairbanks Advisory Committee
21 Proposal to completely repeal the Dalton Highway
22 Corridor Management Area which is five miles on each
23 side of the road, north of the Yukon River, which is
24 how we control the amount of hunting pressure off of a
25 road in an Arctic environment, sub-Arctic environment.
26 So the Council previously voted to oppose Proposal, at
27 the time was numbered 1 -- or correction -- Proposal
28 63, we opposed the proposal -- Proposal 173, I'm
29 distinctly opposed to this because it would basically
30 revert to mayhem here. The road is open to the public
31 right now and it would go -- the public would go wild.
32 If you know anything about the Steese Highway in August
33 in the caribou hunt, that's what we would see here, it
34 would be absolute mayhem. So that was the intention of
35 the proposal is to throw this area wide open but we
36 don't want to go there so the Chair will entertain a
37 motion to adopt Proposal 173 with my intention to
38 oppose the proposal.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. SIMON: So moved by Pollock.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pollock.

45

46 MR. WHITWORTH: Second. Kevin.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Kevin.
49 Any further discussion.

50

0295

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
6 Deatherage, you are motioning to oppose this proposal
7 173, may I ask if this motion also includes to
8 retransmit the proposal comments that were done under
9 63 at the March 2020 Council meeting. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
13 clarification. Yes. And the comments that we wrote,
14 and I'll read those into the record -- thank you for
15 that clarification. Thank you for pointing that out.

16

17 Council comments at the time was to
18 oppose the proposal. The Council comments were:

19

20 The Council strongly believes that the
21 Alaska Board of Game Dalton Highway Corridor Management
22 Area regulation is the most effective way to ensure
23 enforcement of game management. Hunters and others
24 rely on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
25 regulations versus broad State statutes as a more
26 reliable way to understand activities permitted in the
27 Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area. Law
28 enforcement can also enforce the Board of Game
29 regulations for illegal activities. The Board of Game
30 is tasked with game management within the statutorily
31 delineated game management units comprising the Dalton
32 Highway Corridor Management Area.

33

34 So that was our comment then which will
35 be incorporated into our new comment on Proposal 173.

36

37 Any further discussion.

38

39 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

42

43 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. I guess
44 my comment is, if it's anything like the open season
45 that they had in August or whatever, up on the Steese,
46 it was a -- it's a nightmare, and if we brought that
47 same concept over to the Pipeline Corridor it would be
48 a mess. So I'm all for -- so I'm a little confused on
49 the voting on this, is it yes or no?

50

0296

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're voting -- the
2 proposal is 173 and I'm voting no for the Proposal 173
3 and the Council comments for our justification.

4
5 MR. HONEA: Sure, okay, thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks Don
8 for that clarification.

9
10 MR. HONEA: Yep.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
13 comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MR. SIMON: Question.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called,
20 you want to call the roll Karen.

21
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 We'll start with Goodwin Semaken.

25
26 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin.

29
30 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin, I want to
33 clarify to make sure that you understand that the
34 motion is to adopt repealing the Dalton Highway
35 Corridor Management Area and that the comments that the
36 Council will include with its motion will actually
37 oppose repealing the Dalton Highway Corridor Management
38 Area. I just want to make sure you're clear of that
39 before you vote. Thank you, through the Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
42 clarification. So you understand the vote, Goodwin. I
43 am opposed to repeal of the Dalton Highway Corridor,
44 I'm opposing the Proposal 173, so is -- but with that
45 understanding, what's your vote.

46
47 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes, my vote would be no
48 on this one.

49
50

0297

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Goodwin.

4 And thanks for your patience with this, it's rather
5 confusing.

6

7 Is Jenny Pelkola back on the phone with
8 us.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. How about Kevin

13 Whitworth.

14

15 MR. WHITWORTH: Oppose. No.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

22

23 MR. HONEA: No.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon.

26

27 MR. SIMON: No.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

34

35 MR. DEMOSKI: No.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think that's a no
38 from Arnold so that's 6-0 oppose with Council comments
39 from the March 2020 meeting as justification. Thank
40 you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And that
43 completes our Board of Game proposals. And so now
44 we're going to go to agency reports and there'll be a
45 15 minute time limit. And so you'll be the timekeeper
46 there Karen. Tribal governments, Native organizations
47 and non-governmental organizations. Tanana Chief
48 Conference, TCC, do you have comments or a
49 presentation. Do we have TCC on the phone.
50

0298

1 MR. STEVENS: Yes, Sir, Mr. Chairman,
2 can you hear me?

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you
5 great.

6
7 MR. STEVENS: All right. All right.
8 Thank you, very much. I'm hopeful somewhere out there
9 in the phone world is my colleagues, Brooke Woods,
10 Bruce Irvine, Deborah Lind and a couple others out
11 there. Several of us are going to join here and cover
12 a broad range of things.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I recognize your
15 voice but do you want to introduce yourself.

16
17 MR. STEVENS: Oh, I'm sorry, yes. Mr.
18 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Ben
19 Stevens. I am Koyukon Athabascan from Stevens Village.
20 Stevens Village is on the Yukon River north of
21 Fairbanks. I grew up there, raised by my grandma,
22 grandpas, trained by my uncles in the ways of our
23 people, and since then I have been carrying on those
24 traditions. I spent most of every summer of my life in
25 the fish camp harvesting fish for up to five, six,
26 seven families sometimes. My education is in business
27 and my training is in hospital and health care
28 administration. I've currently spent the last couple
29 of decades helping tribal folks develop tribal resource
30 management programs, and I'll be available later if you
31 have specific questions, I need to be respectful of
32 time.

33
34 Mr. Chairman. In terms of the
35 organizational report that we have regarding the Tanana
36 Chiefs Conference is that we have been -- we have been
37 working very hard over the past six months to a year
38 trying desperately trying to connect up with our folks
39 out there in the villages, on the ground out there in
40 rural Alaska. We've been listening to concerns that
41 are start to rattle us because we're not having any
42 type of respite in terms of how fast these concerns are
43 coming at us or what we can do about it. We've been
44 talking about representation at forums such as this,
45 which is very difficult, as we all know, we're looking
46 at representation at forums such as the North Pacific
47 Fisheries Management Council all in an attempt to
48 protect our way of life. But recently at the Tanana
49 Chiefs Conference we underwent a reorganization and a
50

0299

1 lot of you may remember the Yukon River InterTribal
2 Fish Commission and the Hunting and Fishing Task Force,
3 well, what we did is the reorganization created an
4 umbrella entity that draws in both those entities
5 underneath it. Combining those two huge efforts is --
6 it's our hope that we improve our advocacy efforts, our
7 communication and public outreach and allows us to be
8 more responsive to the people when they call us on the
9 phone and say, hey, this is our situation, you know,
10 what are we looking at.

11

12 So we're constantly going through the
13 painful process of improving our system to help our
14 folks advocate for themselves. So that was the
15 strategic planning process that we went through and
16 I'll be brief.

17

18 Part of what we're looking at also is
19 basically developing the tribal capacity and the
20 capability to do resource management, a combination of
21 Western Science and the Traditional Knowledge that was
22 given to us by our ancestors.

23

24 Down those lines we're looking at
25 bringing on a Wildlife Biologist, we're going to be
26 searching out a Tribal Programs Coordinator here pretty
27 soon to cover and spread our wings a little bit
28 further.

29

30 Yesterday we heard some folks from
31 ADF&G talking about the challenges of quality data,
32 they're trying very hard, a bunch of professionals
33 trying very hard to make policy and regulatory regimes
34 without having good quality data, it's a challenge, so
35 hat's off to them if they can do that they're amazing.
36 But what we're trying to do is we're trying to develop
37 that data management system to where we, as tribal
38 folks, out there on the ground, will be able to collect
39 and manage solid harvest data and help, I think, the
40 State and the Federal managers develop quality policies
41 and regulations based upon that quality data. So we're
42 making progress and we're heading in that direction.

43

44 I think with the addition of some of
45 our contracted professionals and our team, I think
46 we're going to dig a little bit deeper into some of the
47 issues doing analysis. I think providing a third
48 perspective, sometimes to these issues, I think, could
49 be an illuminating factor.

50

0300

1 I mentioned harvest data collection,
2 we're aiming to collect and maintain data about what
3 our people harvest across the region and that's going
4 to probably involve a lot of localized resource
5 management capabilities. Down those lines we're also
6 looking to further enhance our assessment program.
7 We're going to hear a little while down the agenda, the
8 TCC Fisheries Report, I believe it's on Page 264 of the
9 Eastern RAC agenda, but I'm not too sure if it's on the
10 Western. We're also going to hear a little bit about
11 maybe Gisasa, but some of our big plans involve a mid
12 river sonar project. Currently we've got a huge gap
13 between the Pilot Station sonar and the Eagle sonar and
14 I think across the board, the State, the Feds, the
15 tribes, they all are looking for an assessment tool
16 somewhere in the middle part of the river.

17
18 So with that I'm just going to hush
19 from there and hand it over to Bruce because I did take
20 more time than I was supposed to. I apologize to the
21 Council and my colleagues. Bruce, are you on.

22
23 MR. IRVINE: Thank you, Ben. Can you
24 guys hear me?

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

27
28 MR. IRVINE: Okay, thank you, Chair and
29 Council members. This is Bruce Irvine. I'd like to
30 just echo Ben and reiterate that the Fish Commission
31 and the Hunting Fishing Task Force are in the process
32 of being integrated into the Tribal Resource
33 Stewardship Program through ongoing strategic planning
34 and reorganization.

35
36 Currently the plan is to have Brooke
37 Wood lead the efforts in the Yukon InterTribal Fish
38 Commission and myself, Bruce, to lead the efforts in
39 the Hunting Fishing Task Force. We also team up with
40 TCC's Deborah Lind and she's a great help with the
41 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and we
42 offer any assistance to support their effort. Deborah
43 and TCC's Migratory Bird Management Council is also
44 going through a strategic planning process to ensure
45 adequate regional representatives involvement in the
46 co-managing the spring and summer subsistence migratory
47 bird hunting and eggging opportunities.

48
49 The Tribal Resources Stewardship
50

0301

1 Program is researching, contacting ADF&G and FSB
2 officials and looking for ways to extend the moose
3 hunting season for tribes that are having a poor fall
4 season harvesting moose. It is important that we
5 continue to advocate for more opportunities for our
6 rural Alaskans because they're facing uncertain (ph)
7 times and food security, especially in light of no
8 salmon fishing opportunities throughout the Yukon River
9 and diminishing opportunities for alternative
10 resources. We have already reached out to ADF&G to
11 request an extended moose season this fall and we would
12 also like to continue to work with ADF&G and the
13 Federal Subsistence Board and the Office of Subsistence
14 Management to ensure that such opportunities are
15 available next hunting season given the likelihood of
16 ongoing conservation concerns for all of our salmon
17 species.

18
19 The Tribal Resource Stewardship Program
20 is currently updating our website as well and we want
21 to make sure to include information on the Hunting and
22 Fishing and Gathering Task Force, the Yukon River
23 InterTribal Fish Commission, climate change and the
24 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.

25
26 Lastly, in September the Hunting and
27 Fishing Task Force teamed up with TCC's Realty and
28 Legal Departments to advocate and support our upper
29 Tanana tribes and their customary and traditional use
30 lands of the Taylor Highway that are being selected in
31 the (indiscernible - breaking up) decision. This was a
32 topic that was brought up by our Tanacross tribal
33 members at the upper Tanana subregional meeting. TCC
34 met the deadline for the public comments and submitted
35 a letter.

36
37 So I just want to say thank you again
38 for letting me report and I'm going to go ahead and
39 pass it over to my colleague, Brooke Wood.

40
41 MS. WOOD: Thank you, Bruce. Can you
42 hear me okay?

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Brooke,
45 you're loud and clear.

46
47 MS. WOOD: So the Tribal Resource
48 Stewardship Program received and partnered with several
49 organizations for a competitive NASA (ph)* grant to do
50

0302

1 freshwater river ice monitoring. The project is called
2 Fresh Eyes on Ice and the hope is to expand existing
3 freshwater ice monitoring efforts that's culturally
4 responsive. We partnered with UAF, the National
5 Weather Service River Watch, NASA globe learning and
6 observations and NASA Go.

7
8 Currently we are looking for tribal
9 members to submit photo observations of freeze-up,
10 winter open water areas and spring break up. There are
11 three ways to submit photos. One, is to upload to the
12 internet which is Fresh Eyes on Ice.org. Download the
13 Globe Observers App, and you could also post photos on
14 the Facebook page. Just Google, search Fresh Eyes on
15 Ice. Feel free to call me, my work cell is (907) 347-
16 0387.

17
18 Specifically for the Fish Commission in
19 the spring of 2021 the Yukon River InterTribal Fish
20 Commission selected -- actually elected an Executive
21 Council and through the fishing season we met weekly
22 throughout the dismal 2021 fishing season. The Fish
23 Commission continues to expand its capacity and
24 involvement as tribal partners in the Yukon River
25 Salmon Management and decisionmaking. When we met, our
26 meetings primarily were gathering local fishing reports
27 and making management recommendations to both the State
28 and the Federal managers. The Tribal Resource
29 Stewardship Staff and Kuskokwim Fish Commission
30 recently met with the North Pacific Fisheries
31 Management Council voting member and ADF&G Commissioner
32 Doug Vincent-Lang on both the Commission's request for
33 the October 2021 North Pacific Fisheries Management
34 meeting. We requested emergency action to the Council
35 to limit chinook bycatch. Currently there is no chum
36 bycatch so those were our main request from both the
37 Kuskokwim and the Yukon River InterTribal Fish
38 Commissions and we had roughly 26 testifiers which was
39 greatly appreciated. The other thing we asked the
40 Council is to support the amendment to Magnuson-Stevens
41 Act to add two Alaska Native tribal seats to the North
42 Pacific. And another important thing that we did was
43 we wanted the North Pacific to better utilize the
44 NOAA's tribal consultation. Commissioner Doug Vincent-
45 Lang was very cordial and respectful during our
46 consultation with both him and voting member Rachel
47 Baker (ph), however the State of Alaska may be
48 reluctant to support zero bycatch without additional
49 information about how that action might affect other
50

0303

1 resources.

2

3

4 We are currently in final stages for
5 our post-season meetings. We would also like to host a
6 salmon summit and we have outreach efforts with our
7 tribes prior to our meetings to better prepare for
8 another poor run. The Fish Commission partnered with
9 YRDFA and we recently completed a mentor advocacy
10 series in preparation for the North Pacific Fisheries
11 Management Council. Currently we are (indiscernible -
12 muffled) the North Pacific Fisheries Council process.
13 The Council will be taking action on the request for
14 the bycatch for 2022 and there is still time to sign up
15 for testimony.

16

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The other thing I wanted to briefly mention is that we have established a strong working partnership with YRDFA, YDFDA and AVCP on the 2020 and 2021 Federal Fisheries Disaster Declaration.

And with that I will end my presentation, thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Brooke. Do Council members have questions for the TCC presentations.

MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'd like to thank Ben, and Bruce and Brooke for their presentations. I realize -- I mean I think it's really important that we have somebody in these positions who are out there on the land and fishing and knowing the disaster it's caused us so I just appreciate each one of them. I am looking forward to whatever the ADF&G, their report, or whatever, as to what exactly we can do and I appreciate the Task Force and what they're doing. I guess the fish that we had got was maybe three or four fish from the tribe and that's -- I just think that's small compensation for the loss of all our fish throughout this summer. So if there was anything that you guys could do in maybe getting us a little more -- you know, a little better quality fish, maybe a little more of it or something. I mean I think three or four fish, you know, what will that last, a couple weeks.

0304

1 But I'd just like to thank you guys for
2 your presentation and especially for your hard work.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Other
7 Council members comments or questions.

8
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11
12 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair, this is Pollock.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

15
16 MR. SIMON: I'd like to thank the TCC
17 for the presentation. We lost the fish but the moose
18 -- we need to restock the wild stock of fish that --
19 that's what we're used to. I know I pulled the fish
20 from the river out there, that tastes better for than
21 if I get a fish from someplace else. The key is for
22 everybody to work together and try to restock the wild
23 salmon. And the agencies and the peoples along up and
24 down the river always work together and with some hard
25 work maybe the fish would come back.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock,
30 appreciate that. Any other comments or questions.

31
32 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
33 Kevin.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin. Go
36 ahead.

37
38 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay, thanks. Thanks
39 Brooke, Bruce and Ben for your presentation, really
40 appreciate it. TCC, you know, it's a huge region and I
41 applaud you guys reaching out to all the villages, you
42 know, upper Kuskokwim, GASH, Koyukuk, Nowitna all the
43 way up to the border, near Eagle, it's a huge area and
44 reaching out to all those tribes, it's a tall task and
45 with your new organization I really applaud you guys
46 and doing a good job.

47
48 I would like to hear a little bit more
49 about your assessment projects, Gisasa, mid river
50

0305

1 sonar. Is there other projects you guys are working on
2 to assess the king and chum run?

3

4 MS. LIND: This is Deborah Lind.

5

6 MR. STEVENS: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
7 Chairman. I realize that the Henshaw Weir project that
8 Kevin is referring to is not on your agenda and for
9 that we apologize. If it's even remotely possible, Mr.
10 Chairman, if we could give Deborah Lind a couple three
11 minutes to give an overview of that Henshaw project, I
12 think that you and the Council will be impressed with
13 some of the capacity building that's going on here.
14 So, Mr. Chairman, can I beg you a few minutes to hear
15 that overview, just a few minutes.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen, so we're at
18 how long on this one?

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 It would be definitely my consideration to allow for
22 this. TCC has been doing some amazing work.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: With that in mind, I'd
27 also like to recognize TCC for their help this past
28 fishing season to distribute Bristol Bay salmon to a
29 lot of the villages along the Yukon River and Kuskokwim
30 to help folks out as a result of the disastrous fishing
31 season. So I think anything that TCC has to say about
32 fish should be honored and they should be given the
33 time to do so.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's fine. So go
38 ahead and give us a rundown on Henshaw. Deborah.

39

40 MS. LIND: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
41 Yes, this is Deborah Lind with Tanana Chiefs Tribal
42 Resource Stewardship Program. I'm speaking on behalf
43 of Brian McKenna with our Fisheries Department. With
44 the two RACs going on at the same time we're having to
45 split our time. But I will give his report that he
46 gave to me but I will cut it in half just for your
47 time.

48

49 The main things that I want to cover is

50

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1 that we have two projects funded through the OSM
2 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. The first is
3 the Henshaw weir project. We installed the weir this
4 season and it ran from June 28th through July 29th. A
5 flash flood occurred on July 29th and ended the weir
6 counts a few days early and the Henshaw crew had to
7 evacuate to higher grounds. It only was a loss of four
8 days of counting. We had originally planned to stop on
9 August 7th. The weir counts for Henshaw were as
10 follows: A total of 130 chinook salmon with a historic
11 average count of 157 and a total of 3,729 chum salmon
12 with a historic count of 140,000, which is only a 2.6
13 historical average that passed through Henshaw weir.
14 Those escapements were recorded the lowest for the
15 history of the 20 year project. The water level in
16 Henshaw Creek remained too high to remove the weir
17 until late September. Steven Bergman from Allakaket
18 was extremely helpful as he made numerous trips to the
19 weir site to check and make sure water levels were what
20 they were while Gladis Bergman took images to report on
21 what the water levels were throughout August and
22 September. On September 21st the water levels were
23 finally low enough that we mobilized a field crew to
24 return to the weir, however, the day after the arrival
25 to the weir river ice was forming on the Koyukuk River
26 so the crew had to abandon the weir and retreat to
27 Allakaket. Some sections of the weir were safely
28 removed and stored for winter but a portion of the weir
29 will remain in the creek over the winter. Fish passage
30 has not been blocked and we plan to make sure that the
31 site is visited after break up next spring.

32
33 There was another project I will
34 quickly talk about and that is the traditional
35 knowledge of anadromous fish in the Yukon Flats. Brian
36 McKenna and Nate Cathcart from ADF&G conducted a
37 fishery survey, electrofishing and minnow trapping
38 through -- for rearing juvenile chinook and coho
39 salmon. Four tributaries were surveyed and coho salmon
40 -- juvenile coho salmon were observed only in the
41 Kevinjik Creek drainage, also known as the Nee'inlii
42 Creek, as documented by traditional knowledge. These
43 observations will result in nominations to the
44 Anadromous Waters Catalog to help protect those
45 important juveniles.

46
47 And there was one last survey that was
48 conducted by Tanana Chiefs. It as a drone survey
49 counting red salmon and it ends the last week of July
50

0307

1 and the survey counted 210 reds, which is compared to a
2 drone survey in 2018 that counted 828 reds and 2019 the
3 drone survey counted 556, a significant decline in
4 chinook salmon reds in the salmon -- in the Salcha
5 River.

6
7 This concludes my report.

8
9 Thank you for taking -- for allowing us
10 this time.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. So any
13 other comments or questions, Council members.

14
15 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, am I on?

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

18
19 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah, I just want to
20 thank the TCC and Ben, Brooke, Bruce and Deborah for
21 their presentation. I am familiar with the work that
22 they are doing and I know it's a lot of work and for
23 them to be doing all this work I just wanted to show my
24 appreciation and I just thank them for their time today
25 and calling in and, yes, that's all I wanted to say.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.
30 And so any other comments.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
35 your presentations, Ben, Bruce, Brooke and Deb. Thanks
36 for all the great work you're doing with TCC.

37
38 MR. SEMAKEN: This is Goodwin Semaken,
39 could I ask them a question?

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go right
42 ahead, Goodwin, I didn't hear you there.

43
44 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah. There's a mine
45 over here at the Illinois Creek and are there fish
46 swimming up there too, that's a long creek to be
47 monitoring, or is it monitored? That's my question, I
48 wonder.

49
50

0308

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So does TCC
2 have a monitoring program for Illinois Creek.

3
4 MR. STEVENS: Mr. Chairman, Ben Stevens
5 here. If I may I'll take that. Mr. Semaken, the Task
6 Force and the Fish Commission don't necessarily delve
7 too deeply into mining issues, that would lean more
8 over into maybe some efforts that the NCR group is
9 working on, the Natural and Cultural Resources group.
10 They are doing things such as permitting applications,
11 they're commenting in that regard. You guys up there
12 probably are dealing with the Central Yukon BLM
13 planning effort. Those are the things that those folks
14 are involved in. And so what I'm going to do as soon
15 as I get off this teleconference here I'm going to
16 shoot an email over to Bob Sattler who, I know, is very
17 good at this kind of stuff, and will light that torch.
18 I can't promise you everything by tomorrow but since
19 now it's on my radar we'll take it and run and see what
20 we can do and we will get back to you.

21
22 MR. SEMAKEN: Oh, great, yeah. Because
23 it's been on my mind, I worked over there years ago and
24 those fish swim up there in October so I was just --
25 it's been there just about, what, 30, 40 years and it's
26 still going and no monitoring.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. STEVENS: Yes, Sir. And if I may,
31 what creek was that again?

32
33 MR. SEMAKEN: Illinois Creek. It's
34 right off of -- it runs into the Mud River and then the
35 Mud River goes into Innoko I think.

36
37 MR. STEVENS: Okay, thank you very
38 much.

39
40 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We need to
43 move along now, so thanks so much TCC. We have TCC
44 InterTribal Fish Commission on the agenda here, was
45 that covered with the discussion on the Task Force
46 combination to the Tribal Resource Stewardship.

47
48 MS. WOOD: It was, yes.

49
50

0309

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

2

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

4 I would direct that question to Brooke Wood to see if
5 she has any additional information to share about the
6 Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission. Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Brooke.

9

10 MS. WOOD: My presentation is
11 completed, thank you so much for asking.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I had two
14 points on my agenda here. So Yukon River Drainage
15 Fisheries Association is up next, thanks so much TCC.
16 And so is Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association on
17 the line.

18

19 MS. FITKA: Yes, good afternoon, this
20 is Serena Fitka, can you hear me?

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can hear you
23 fine, go right ahead.

24

25 MS. FITKA: Well, thank you, Mr.
26 Chairman and Council members for giving us the
27 opportunity to present to the Western Interior Regional
28 Advisory Council. I am pleased to represent the Yukon
29 River Drainage Fisheries Association, my name is Serena
30 Fitka, Executive Director of the Yukon River Drainage
31 Fisheries Association. I'd like to bring your
32 attention to our report in the meeting booklet on Page
33 406 and in your supplemental material.

34

35 We would like to provide you with an
36 update on our activities and key accomplishments since
37 we last met. We'd like to provide a correction in our
38 report about our vacancies on our Board. We currently
39 have three seats vacant. District Y1-Alternate 2.
40 District 2, Alternate 1. District 2, Y2, Alternate 2.
41 Any nominations for these seats can be submitted to
42 myself or Catherine.

43

44 Our Board meet in April of 2021 in
45 Fairbanks where we began our meeting with our first
46 annual river blessing. We felt the need to incorporate
47 our traditional values into our meeting setting. We
48 had a moment of silence for Andrew Firmin from Fort
49 Yukon who served on the YRDFA for the past 10 years.

50

0310

1 Andrew's family joined us and we presented Andrew's
2 award of service to them. Andrew will be greatly be
3 missed on our Board and we send our condolences to the
4 family. We also presented awards to our Board members
5 who have served on the Board for 5-plus years, 10-plus
6 years and 15-plus years. The YRDFA Board passes six
7 resolutions, which are highlighted in the booklet.

8
9 We will be having the EBoard meeting
10 October 26th and 27th in Anchorage. At this meeting we
11 will be discussing Area M and the ACR that was
12 submitted by Gail Vik and Virgil Umphenour requesting a
13 test fishery in Area M to assess the genetic origins of
14 king, chum, coho and pink through False Pass. Since
15 their ACR did not make the work session, that is being
16 held later this month, the issue is on the Board of
17 Fish's radar and we are encouraging support letters to
18 the Board of Fisheries. We did submit our support
19 letter to the Board of Fisheries for the ACR that was
20 submitted by Gail Vik and Virgil Umphenour. YRDFA
21 EBoard will also begin the process of Board of Fish
22 proposals for the Yukon River that are due in April of
23 2022.

24
25 Our Yukon River salmon summer preseason
26 preparation meeting was held a bit differently due to
27 Covid19 and the inability to gather in large masses.
28 Prior to the meeting we held district meetings to
29 provide more opportunity for fishers to voice their
30 concerns and provide input to managers for the upcoming
31 season. For the 2022 preseason meeting we are planning
32 to host it in person in Anchorage in March. We have
33 begun the planning process and, again, we'll be doing
34 things a bit differently so please keep your eyes out
35 for our announcement.

36
37 Our Yukon River Advocacy Series in
38 partnership with Tanana Chiefs Conferences focused on
39 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and
40 Board of Fisheries. It is also in your supplemental
41 report. We held a very successful series and prepared
42 for testimony to the Council on the 6th of October. We
43 had between 25 to 35 participants during each session.
44 We had Legislative Staff from Senator Sullivan's and
45 Murkowski's offices participating along with other
46 organization representatives from the Alaska Federation
47 of Natives, First Alaskans Institutes and Doyon
48 Limited. We'll be looking to apply for adequate
49 funding to make this a year long project and
50

0311

1 highlighting other areas of management such as Board of
2 Fisheries, ADF&G, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
3 Alaska River -- Yukon River Panel, Pacific Salmon
4 Commission, Yukon River Salmon Agreement and, et
5 cetera. We received a lot of positive feedback on the
6 series. YR DFA did submit a letter to the North Pacific
7 Fishery Management Council requesting the following:
8 Zero bycatch in the Bering Sea; provide a letter to the
9 National Marine Fisheries Service supporting funding
10 for disaster declaration, and ensure Alaska Native
11 tribes have a meaningful voice in management.

12

13 I also gave testimony to the Council on
14 October 6th which is available on our website and our
15 Facebook page. I will be giving another testimony
16 tomorrow, October 15th (indiscernible).

17

18 And update on the fisheries disaster
19 updates for 2020 and 2021. The U.S. Department of
20 Commerce received letters from the Governor requesting
21 a fisheries disaster for the Yukon River for 2020 and
22 2021 fishing season. We have now turned our focus on
23 urging the Secretary of Commerce to approve those
24 disasters. I received an update from Senator Sullivan
25 and Murkowski's offices that they, too, are urging the
26 Secretary to move forward with the disaster
27 declarations. We have been working with the Yukon
28 Delta Fisheries Development Association, Yukon River
29 InterTribal Fish Commission, Alaska Association of
30 Village Council Presidents and Tanana Chiefs Conference
31 to develop our tasks for the U.S. Delegation. We are
32 hoping to plan a trip with all the organizations,
33 hopefully in January or February 02 2022. We have also
34 discussed preparing for next year's fishing season,
35 which does include funding to purchase quality fish for
36 our people. I will be traveling with the Yukon Delta
37 Fisheries Development Association next week to D.C., to
38 initiate conversations on the Yukon River fishing
39 issue.

40

41 The State of Alaska coordinated fish
42 donations with Kwik'Pak Fisheries in Emmonak and Tanana
43 Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks to distribute to their
44 respective communities they serve throughout the
45 summer.

46

47 In Partnership with the Yukon Salmon
48 Subcommittee and the Yukon River InterTribal Fish
49 Commission we jointly submitted a funding proposal in

50

0312

1 hopes to have a salmon summit in November of 2022 in
2 Alaska.

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I will now hand it over to Catherine to give the remainder of the report and stay on for any questions or comments after hers.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead, Catherine.

MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay, hi, good afternoon Mr. Chair and Council members. Can you hear me?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go right ahead, loud and clear.

MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to update you on our projects. For the record, my name is Catherine Moncrieff and I am YR DFA's Staff Anthropologist. I'm going to provide an update on four of our projects and the first two are funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

The first one is the in-season subsistence salmon survey. This project hires a local person in 10 communities along the Yukon River from Alakanuk to Eagle to survey fishers for six weeks about their observations, experiences and harvest during the chinook salmon season. The surveyors report the results weekly and also share them on the YR DFA in-season teleconferences. A post-season summary of this program was included in your supplemental materials. Some highlights from this report include that we were able to safely hold an in-person training this year for our surveyors as opposed to the virtual one required in 2020. And we were also able to fully hire for all 10 positions with all 10 local hires being rehired for 100 percent retention. Challenges this year included surveyors reporting greater difficulty than usual surveying fishers with was understandable with our current conditions and restricted fishing. Eight of the 10 surveyors were able to conduct their final interview survey which included a series of questions aimed at summarizing the season. Through these final interviews we learned that none of the fishers in the participating communities reported meeting their needs

0313

1 and most reported that fishing was worse in 2021 than
2 2020. Some fishers were very appreciative of the
3 managers efforts to protect the salmon run and some
4 fishers reportedly did not have the allowable gear, a
5 four inch net, for fishing this year. Concerns
6 included food security for people, dog food for this
7 winter and a general concern for the fishery. Finally,
8 an evaluation was conducted with both the surveyors and
9 the managers which helps us see what we do well and
10 areas we can work to improve.

11

12 The next project, local and traditional
13 knowledge of anadromous fish in the Yukon Flats with an
14 emphasis on the Draanjik drainage is a project that
15 YRDFA has been partnering with the communities of
16 Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon and Venetie and the Tanana
17 Chiefs Conference to update the anadromous waters
18 catalog. Now, Deborah just gave you a really great
19 report from my partner, Brian McKenna, on this project
20 so I'll just add to that that they have some additional
21 coho field work planned for later this month and once
22 completed, we will be finalizing our reports, sharing
23 them with the communities and making nominations to the
24 anadromous waters catalog. This project will be
25 wrapping up early in 2022.

26

27 Some other projects that may be of
28 interest are the local and traditional knowledge of
29 anadromous fish in select drainages of the Tanana and
30 Yukon Rivers 2021 to 2022. This project is funded by
31 the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund and is a partnership
32 between YRDFA and the Alaska Department of Fish and
33 Game. Our role in this project is to lead the local
34 and traditional knowledge interviews in Tanana, Manley
35 Hot Springs and Nenana. During the lull in the
36 pandemic this summer, I was able to safely travel to
37 all three study communities with one of our Fish and
38 Game partners to conduct the interviews. We learned a
39 lot through the 20 interviews we conducted and we will
40 be using this information in preparation for the
41 biological on the ground field work scheduled for next
42 summer. We appreciate the welcome we received in each
43 community and their assistance in collecting this
44 important information.

45

46 And, finally, our project, They Told Us
47 There'd Come a Time, Conserving Fish, Preserving
48 Tradition on the Yukon River, a catalog of elders
49 warnings. This project funded by the North Pacific
50

50

0314

1 Research Board also made some progress this summer.
2 Our research team, made up of myself and some rock
3 stars from the TCC Emerging Leaders Program met at the
4 University of Alaska, Rasmusson Library, Alaska and
5 Polar Regions Collections and Archives and began our
6 work digging through the already documented interviews
7 and recordings of Yukon River elders. We will continue
8 this archival work through the rest of this year and
9 into next year. In 2022 we will move to interviewing
10 today's elders to learn more from them about their
11 knowledge and observations of salmon.

12

13 Updates on other YRDFA projects and
14 programs are included in your materials and we would be
15 happy to answer any questions about our report or
16 projects. Thank you for the opportunity to provide
17 this report.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Catherine
20 and Serena. Does any Council members have comments or
21 questions from Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
22 Association.

23

24 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

27

28 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is posed to
29 Serena, hey, it was good to see you at our culture camp
30 this summer. I had a question here, you know, for
31 years and years I have heard of the Area M or whatever
32 it is and I just couldn't believe the amount of fish
33 that was taken as bycatch or whatever as opposed to the
34 bycatch numbers out in the Bering Sea. So I'm just
35 wondering, you know, if there's any kind of headway
36 here this summer, what are we looking for next year, is
37 there any consultation with anybody that's going to
38 make a difference and the Area M, I believe, probably
39 is ADF&G stuff. Is there any bright spots in meeting
40 like in Washington, D.C., with Young or whoever, I'm
41 just trying to find -- actually I'm interested in the
42 Area M thing and if there was a history kind of a thing
43 on there I'd like to be added, or maybe I could go to
44 the YRDFA website to learn about it.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, for the
49 comments Don. Go ahead.....

50

0315

1 MS. FITKA: Yes, through the Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

4

5 MS. FITKA: Through the Chair, this is
6 Serena Fitka with YRDFA. It was great to see you too,
7 Don, in Ruby. I had a great time with all the
8 community members there and the young kids, it was a
9 lot of fun, thanks for having me.

10

11 In regards to Area M. This summer,
12 Virgil is very adamant about keeping track of chum
13 harvest and I know one of the things he highlighted as
14 of August 20th there was a chum harvest of -- it looks
15 like 1.6 million -- well, I want to say in the average
16 -- 10 year average but I definitely share the
17 information and the ACR with you, it is public. And
18 unfortunately the Board of Fisheries did not put that
19 in their -- they're not going to be discussing it at
20 their work session at the end of the month, however --
21 and the reason for that is because they see that the
22 Board of Fish cannot obligate any funds to -- for the
23 test fishery. So with that said, YRDFA submitted a
24 letter of support in regards to their ACR just to show
25 that there is support and hopefully it will come up
26 during the Yukon/AYK cycle. We are going to bring this
27 to the Delegation as well as part of our issues that
28 the Yukon River is facing along with North Pacific
29 Fisheries bycatch and other issues that the Yukon River
30 is facing. We will definitely bring to the U.S.
31 Delegation.

32

33 Does that answer your question, Don.

34

35 MR. HONEA: Serena, I appreciate that.
36 Yes. That -- exactly. I mean, you know, for years and
37 years we've been attending meetings either with TCC or
38 YRDFA and, you know, there's so many variables in this
39 doggone thing that for awhile there, you know, that
40 Area M, you know, I've heard about it maybe 10, 15, 20
41 years ago but it's been kind of quiet and then it's
42 really shocking the number of bycatch or whatever. So
43 I was really interested in that .

44

45 I appreciate your response. Exactly
46 you answered my question, thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Don.
49 Any other Council questions.

50

0316

1 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
2 Kevin.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

5
6 MR. WHITWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 And thank you Serena and Catherine for your report.
8 Looking at your report on Page 406 at the bottom of
9 that first page you have a list of resolutions that
10 either failed or passed. I'm curious about 2021-03,
11 escapement goals for one full life cycle. It's just
12 the title of the resolution but I'd like to know a
13 little bit more about that resolution, if you don't
14 mind, just give a brief summary or maybe you can just
15 share it with me later with email.

16
17 That's all. Thank you, Serena.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kevin.

20
21 MS. FITKA: Through the Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

24
25 MS. FITKA: This is Serena Fitka again
26 with YRDFA. We can also send all the resolutions in
27 full detail and for your information that resolution
28 2021-03 states: Whereas the Yukon River Drainage
29 Fisheries Association works on behalf of subsistence
30 and commercial fishing families within the Alaskan and
31 Yukon River drainage who depend on wild salmon for
32 subsistence and commercial fisheries;

33
34 And, whereas, chinook salmon runs have
35 been very low in recent years;

36
37 Whereas, although there has been
38 conservation measures we have not met escapement goals
39 for the past two years;

40
41 And, therefore, be it resolved, YRDFA
42 would like to see Yukon River salmon managed that they
43 meet escapement goals for one full life cycle.

44
45 And copies were sent to the U.S.
46 Delegation and to Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan and
47 Representative Don Young, Alaska Commissioner of Fish
48 and Game, and Board of Fisheries, National Marine
49 Fisheries Service Science Center, and that's it.

50

0317

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So
2 any other questions or comments for Yukon River
3 Drainage Fisheries Association.

4
5 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair, this is Pollock.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,
8 Pollock.

9
10 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I just want to make a
11 comment for Serena and Catherine, they made a good
12 presentation. My concern and other elder's concern
13 here is that the bycatch in the high seas fishing -- a
14 few years ago when we were allowed to setnet for king
15 salmon I caught 30, I think, that summer and I said
16 kind of funny I thought I was catching too much, more
17 than other peoples then I learned that they threw
18 30,000 fish back in the ocean so -- but I was concerned
19 for other peoples. If we could get -- like this summer
20 there was no fish, we were not allowed to fish with
21 four inch and if we could -- if the villages up and
22 down Yukon River, Koyukuk River could get some of the
23 bycatch, fine, but that's not the answer. So it was a
24 good presentation, Serena, thank you. Bye.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,
27 Pollock. So we need to be moving down the agenda, we
28 got a lot of presentations. Thanks so much, Serena and
29 Catherine, appreciate all the work that YRDFA's doing
30 for the Yukon River drainage. Kuskokwim InterTribal
31 Fish Commission, and who's making the presentation on
32 that one.

33
34 MS. PELTOLA: This is Mary Peltola, Mr.
35 Chairman.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mary, yes, go right
38 ahead.

39
40 MS. PELTOLA: All right. Thank you,
41 Mr. Chairman. This is Mary Peltola, not to be confused
42 with Jenny Pelkola. I live in Bethel, I'm the
43 Executive Director of the Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish
44 Commission. We're a consortium of 33 tribes along the
45 Kuskokwim drainage. Our river has been Federalized
46 since 2014, so this summer we were on year eight of
47 having our river Federalized during the chinook run.
48 We were in our seventh year of advising the Refuge
49 while they had management of the chinook run. This
50

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1 year was very different, however, because we now have a
2 Refuge Manager who we have a very strong working
3 partnership, relationship with. He has as his salmon
4 team three of his employees at the Refuge who were born
5 and raised in the region and along the river and that
6 made the consultations and our working relationship a
7 lot stronger. The Refuge also put their logo on our
8 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan. We created
9 that a couple summers ago but it really only had our
10 logo on it for a few years. The Refuge also put their
11 logo on the harvest strategy that we co-developed with
12 them.

13

14 And this year our annual meeting was
15 April 6th and 7th. We have 33 commissioners who
16 comprise the governing body, the whole body of the
17 Commission. Of those 33 we have seven units and each
18 unit elects their own executive council member and then
19 also elected are four in-season managers and two elder
20 advisors. And the four in-season managers are from
21 four different portions of our river. So the in-season
22 managers this year, we only had one new person join the
23 in-season team and they were James Nicori from
24 Kwethluk, Jackie Cleveland from Quinhagak, Megan Leary
25 from Napaimute, Avery Hoffman from Bethel and the elder
26 advisers are Robert LeKander from Bethel and James
27 Charles from Tuntutuliak.

28

29 This year presented new challenges for
30 us. Federal management extended three weeks into July
31 and usually State resumes management of salmon usually,
32 you know, the end of June or certainly by the beginning
33 of July, and because of the complete lack of return of
34 our chum salmon the Feds retained management for
35 conservation concerns for chum salmon.

36

37 We did -- one of -- we ran a number of
38 index projects. One of them is the Takotna weir, and
39 Kevin Whitworth, who is one of your Council members, is
40 the primary investigator, one of the principal
41 investigators for that project. And the other program
42 that we ran, and this is a recurring program since
43 2017, is our community based harvest monitoring
44 program. We had nine harvest monitors from Eek,
45 Tuntutuliak, Napkiak, Napaskiak and Kwethluk who did
46 surveys. The nine monitors collected 540 total
47 interviews from subsistence fishermen. This is
48 something we're very proud of. We hope eventually to
49 qualify for FRMP funding. I know a few years now we've
50

0319

1 been competing for FRMP funds. I do want to note that
2 Fish and Game did receive FRMP funding for surveys of
3 which they collected seven -- again, single digit,
4 seven surveys, again, the Fish Commission community
5 based harvest monitoring program collected 540 total
6 interviews but we did not receive FRMP funding. So I
7 just want to make sure that that's reflected in the
8 record and that hopefully that will change. Clearly.
9 Clearly that needs to change. We are hoping to receive
10 funding for the Refuge for this important project.
11 Those in-season monitoring surveys are critical
12 information for our in-season managers that they use
13 during the in-season management of both king salmon and
14 chum salmon.

15
16 Our chum salmon return was smaller than
17 our king salmon return which has us very concerned.

18
19 And the Kwethluk weir did not happen
20 this year because of high water and Covid issues. This
21 is the second year that the Kwethluk weir has not been
22 in operation and we are concerned about that because
23 that is a critical index for monitoring both king
24 salmon and chum returns, but especially king returns.

25
26 I think I'll stop there and allow any
27 questions -- the only other thing I wanted to mention
28 is that Kuskokwim fishermen did send a letter of
29 concern to the Governor's office regarding the lack of
30 chum salmon returning and what direct impacts Area M
31 and other commercial fishing under the State's purview
32 may have had on our chum salmon returns. We understand
33 that in 2021 the Bering Sea pollock fishery, their
34 bycatch of chum salmon was 528,000 chum salmon. The
35 letter that we received -- that Kuskokwim fishermen
36 received back from the Commissioner of Fish and Game
37 indicated that their information shows that 65 percent
38 of the chums are bound for Asia, but their WASSIP
39 funding has been non-existent for years and I think a
40 lot of the genetic information that they're depending
41 on is quite dated, you know, older than a decade. So
42 we're very concerned. We know that NOAA funding for
43 research, genetic research project went from 5 million
44 to 500,000 and we are very concerned about that and are
45 looking for ways to build that genetic research funding
46 back up and different projects that we might be able to
47 partner with on that.

48
49 Mr. Chair, could I ask Kevin Whitworth
50

0320

1 if he would like to add anything, as he is our
2 biologist for the Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish
3 Commission.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, Mary, go right
6 ahead. Kevin.

7

8 MR. WHITWORTH: Thank you, Mary. This
9 is Kevin. Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I can add just one
10 program. Mary mentioned that the Fish Commission on
11 the Kuskokwim has this CBHM projects, community based
12 harvesting monitoring project, the interviewers
13 collected 540 total interviews. That program is part
14 of a bigger program that's run on the Kuskokwim in the
15 lower river, data is collected from this program, from
16 the Fish Commission and also ONC, the Bethel tribe,
17 they do something very similar in Bethel and in close
18 fish camps near Bethel. At the same time, after an
19 opener is closed -- actually during the opener the U.S.
20 Fish and Wildlife Service is flying aerial boat surveys
21 to collect the effort information from the air, and all
22 this information goes into a program that Fish and
23 Wildlife Service, among other people have developed,
24 the Fish Commission, myself, Bill Becthel, Ben Staten
25 -- we contracted Ben Staten, you guys might remember
26 him from years ago and then ONC Staff, the four of us,
27 we produced harvest estimates after each opener. So
28 in-season real-time estimates for Federal in-season
29 managers to assess the run, which is very valuable
30 information. This has only been fun for five years, I
31 think, now. And the Fish Commission played a bigger
32 part this year in helping with that and leading a lot
33 of that effort.

34

35 That's all.

36

37 Thank you, Mary and thanks for the
38 opportunity.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kevin. And
41 does any Council members have questions for Mary's
42 presentation.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's very apparent
47 that the funding reconfiguration for Kuskokwim
48 InterTribal Fish Commission to make those in-season
49 harvest reporting real-time, needs to change. I'll
50

0321

1 reiterate Mary's words, needs to change, and it's
2 imperative that that changes, sooner than later. This
3 is so important to the management of the Kuskokwim
4 River salmon stocks, it's pathetic to get seven
5 surveys. And so I fully reiterate what the Executive
6 Director had to say there. I really appreciate all the
7 work that the Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish Commission is
8 doing for the Kuskokwim River salmon stocks, and trying
9 to meet the escapement needs to recover or at least
10 stabilize these stocks -- the Area M interception was a
11 hot issue with the Board of Fish, they relaxed their
12 management structure -- the Department is fully
13 responsible for additional chum salmon harvest at Area
14 M. They knew that they were taking a lot of fish and
15 they knew in real-time that the Kuskokwim and Yukon
16 River drainages were in abysmal returns. We could pay
17 for this under-escapement for decades. You can't take
18 these fish down to these numbers. There's not a lot of
19 overlap like king salmon. So I'm very very satisfied
20 with the InterTribal Fish Commission's work to work
21 with the Refuge Manager and Federalization to achieve
22 escapements up the drainage.

23

24 Other Council member's comments or
25 questions.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No other Council
30 member questions or comments for the InterTribal Fish
31 Commission.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks so much
36 for your presentation. Do you have any final words
37 there, Mary.

38

39 MS. PELTOLA: You know I just want to
40 say that, you know, our annual harvest of chinook
41 salmon on average used to be 88,500, you know, on
42 average 30 pound chinook, this year our estimated
43 harvest was 21,560 chinook, 22,911 sockeye and about
44 4,060 chum -- so, you know, even just looking at those
45 other three species the cumulative was 48,530 of 11
46 pound, on average salmon. So I just want to make sure
47 that it's reflected that we are not coming close to
48 meeting our annual need for subsistence and we maintain
49 that we have a lot of concerns. And we are working

50

0322

1 with the processes -- you know, we've been testifying
2 as well as Brooke and Serena and others to impress upon
3 the Council how dire the situation is on our three
4 rivers to try and develop some kind of resource to
5 getting -- to, you know, abating this collapse of our
6 ecosystem.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Mary.
11 And that's basically the weight average of one-third is
12 also reflected in the spawning escapement, the
13 productivity of chinook salmon at one-third the weight
14 of previous averages, is a fecundity subtraction also.
15 So it's across the board, meaning numbers on the
16 spawning grounds is not always exactly what we're --
17 you know, like the international agreement up into the
18 upper Yukon, 42,500 to 55,000 of fish that are a third
19 the size is not -- there needs to be a reassessment of
20 what the needs are for spawning escapement because of
21 the size reduction. So I appreciate all of the work
22 you're doing and also YRDFA's work in trying to work
23 towards addressing this Area M issue also.

24

25 Appreciate it, thanks so much.

26

27 MS. PELTOLA: Quyana.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who's this?

30

31 MS. PELTOLA: Just saying thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So
34 we -- during this spring there was the Kuskokwim River
35 work group, which is a completely different entity than
36 the Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish Commission and I felt
37 that this Council needed to be represented and I worked
38 with Jenny and Karen to try to get an appointment for a
39 Kuskokwim River user.

40

41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kevin volunteered to
45 be that representative to the State working group. So
46 I can read what the State work group is really all
47 about, which is different and slightly different
48 managed than the Federal management. Kuskokwim River
49 Salmon Management Work Group was formed in 1988 by the
50

0323

1 Board of Fisheries in response to a request from
2 stakeholders in the Kuskokwim area who sought more
3 active role in the management of salmon fishery
4 resources. The working group is made up of 14 member
5 seats representing elders, subsistence fishermen,
6 processors, commercial fishermen, sportfishermen,
7 Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish Commission member at large
8 and Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory.....

9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:the Alaska
14 Department of Fish and Game, non-agency members
15 participating in a voluntary basis and receive no
16 compensation. Participation in the working group
17 process requires a great deal of time from its members
18 and agency Staff.

19
20 So, as Chair, I would like to entertain
21 a motion to confirm Kevin Whitworth's appointment to
22 the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Work Group
23 representing the Western Interior Regional Advisory
24 Council. So the Chair will entertain a motion to
25 confirm Kevin Whitworth appointment to the Kuskokwim
26 River Working Group, do I have a motion to that effect.

27
28 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, I would make
29 that motion.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Do we
32 have a second.

33
34 MR. DEMOSKI: I'll second.

35
36 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second, this is.....

37
38 MR. DEMOSKI: I'll second, Arnold.

39
40 MS. PELKOLA:Jenny.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Seconded by
43 Arnold. Any further discussion on Kevin representing
44 our Council to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Work Group --
45 State Work Group.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No further
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0324

1 discussion.

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MR. DEMOSKI: Question.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.

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7

MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

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9

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Call roll, Karen.

10

11

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

For the motion to confirm Kevin Whitworth's appointment
13 to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
14 representing the Western Interior Council.

15

16

Let's go with Jenny Pelkola, are you
17 back with us Jenny.

18

19

MS. PELKOLA: Yes. Can you hear me?

20

21

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we can.

22

23

MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, I can.

24

25

MS. PELKOLA: Okay. That's a yes vote.

26

27

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Jenny.

28

29

How about you, Goodwin, Goodwin

30

Semaken.

31

32

MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

33

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MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Goodwin.

35

36

Pollock Simon.

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MR. SIMON: Yes.

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MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

41

42

MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

43

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MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Rebecca.

45

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Don Honea.

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MR. HONEA: Yes.

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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: Arnold Demoski.

10

11 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's eight yes
14 confirming Mr. Whitworth's appointment to the working
15 group. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So
18 now we're moving into.....

19

20 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:U.S. Fish and
23 Wildlife Service reports.

24

25 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
26 Kevin.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to move
29 up the Yukon River fisheries update with Gerald
30 Maschmann up to the top as when we made the agenda.

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you on the phone
35 Gerald to.....

36

37 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead,
40 somebody's trying to talk.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Go ahead, Kevin.

43

44 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
45 is Kevin, can you hear me?

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay, go ahead.

48

49 MR. WHITWORTH: Before we go on, first

50

0326

1 of all thanks for your guys' confidence in me in
2 representing the Western Interior RAC at the working
3 group meetings. This past year, if you guys don't mind
4 I would like to give a real brief working group
5 assessment, or my summary of the summer, as far as
6 representing this group. I'll keep it brief, if you
7 guys don't mind.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Please do, Kevin. I
10 would appreciate that. Go right ahead.

11
12 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay, yeah, thanks.
13 And I would like to do this every year for you guys and
14 in-season feel free to call me if you guys have
15 concerns or want updates for what's going on on the
16 Kuskokwim as far as fisheries go.

17
18 As you all know, like Mary was talking
19 about, the Federal -- within the Yukon Delta Refuge the
20 Refuge was managed by the Federal Fish and Service in
21 cooperation with the Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish
22 Commission. Above Aniak, way up river boundary the
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game managed the fishery
24 above Aniak. And so we met weekly, the Kuskokwim River
25 Salmon Management Working Group, we met weekly through
26 the summer season June, July, some into August, through
27 teleconferences and we, as a group, the Kuskokwim River
28 Salmon Management Working group -- or management
29 strategy and a harvest strategy that Mary had mentioned
30 in her report, we got that and as a working group
31 members we reviewed that. The goal in that management
32 strategy within Kuskokwim for chinook salmon was
33 110,000 escapement goal. That's the upper end of the
34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game's escapement goal
35 range of 65,000 to 120,000. The working group endorsed
36 the 110, if I'm correct there, to try to reach the 110
37 escapement goal. It got very complicated once Federal
38 management started. A lot of people started to get
39 confused because the Fish and Game was not taking
40 recommendations from the working group and we asked
41 that Fish and Game not have concurrent openers with the
42 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service openers which confused
43 Federal management and there was lots of discussion at
44 every single meeting, through June, at least, there
45 seemed that there was a resolution that would pass,
46 basically stating that we should not have mirrored
47 concurrent openers between the two agencies and Fish
48 and Game created a lot of confusion on the river.
49 There was an opener announced on June 28th that was
50

1 basically illegal harvest opportunity, Federally-
2 qualified subsistence users were very confused if they
3 could even go out during that opener. There was not a
4 Federal opener at the same time so I would think
5 through those community based harvest monitoring
6 program we saw maybe a quarter of the people go out
7 during that opportunity. Lots of people expressed
8 their concern for getting a ticket because it wasn't
9 Federally opened, it was only State of Alaska
10 announced. So not only was there concurrent openers
11 happening but there was a blatant illegal harvest
12 opportunity. And the working group had recommended not
13 to have this. And the data at that time towards the
14 end of June was not looking good for chum salmon and
15 there was a conservation concern for chum so we wanted
16 to -- the working group did not want to fish, Fish and
17 Game decided to fish anyway. And it was not very easy
18 meetings in the working group, a lot of, like Rebecca
19 said up river, down river discussions because there was
20 State and Federal waters.

21
22 It just -- I really do think that this
23 issue, should be part of our annual report -- the
24 Western Interior annual report should be in our annual
25 report that talks about concurrent openers, violation
26 of ANILCA by ADF&G on June 28th and I've got language I
27 could send to you Jack for that.

28
29 But the good news is even with all of
30 the restrictions in place, we have area closures, we
31 have gear type restrictions, we have -- we're limited
32 to the amount of people fishing within the Yukon Delta
33 Refuge to Federally-qualified subsistence users, the
34 users were leading the way river-wide on conservation
35 trying to rebuild and they really did a good job of
36 trying to conserve. Even though we had openers, we're
37 looking at about 101,000 maybe a little more, maybe
38 about 101 escapement so very close to the Fish
39 Commission and Fish and Wildlife Service escapement
40 goal target, and it's a target, it's not like we could
41 get within -- if we got within 9,000 that's a huge
42 success. I mean even in-season when there's so little
43 data to work on, the in-season managers on the Federal
44 side have so little data to work off of, they got
45 within 9,000 of their goal, which is a huge success and
46 the working group actually endorsed that. So they,
47 too, were successful. So a lot of that success was
48 Kuskokwim harvesters foregoing their own harvest to try
49 to rebuild this stock, the chinook stock. It's not
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0328

1 looking good this year, 47 percent below the long-term
2 average in 2021.

3

4

5 Chum salmon as you heard was worse this
6 year in 2021, was worse than last year. Last year we
7 thought it was going to be the bottom of the barrel, we
8 thought it couldn't get worse than that, it did get
9 worse. The Bethel test fishery, there was 96 percent
10 decline from the 20 year average cumulative catch per
11 unit effort, 95 percent decline at the sonar site, 97
12 percent decline at Kogrugluk, 95 percent decline at the
13 George River. This is all 20 year data, except for the
14 sonar, there's only a few years data there. But very
15 obvious the disaster, can't describe how bad the chum
16 run was. And we are not in the clear with chinook
17 salmon on the Kuskokwim, it's been -- it's been over a
18 decade now with the chinook salmon being so low.

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I'll leave it at that. I did get into
Federal management more than I was expecting but
there's a lot going on there at the working group level
and a lot of it is because there's dual management on
the river so we do get in a lot of the Federal
discussion there at the working group.

That's all, thank you, Mr. Chair. And
thank you all for your confidence in me, I think you
guys got more confidence in me than myself -- just
kidding. Thank you very much.

(Pause)

MR. WHITWORTH: Hello, Mr. Chair, can
you hear me.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I accidentally had
my mic on mute. I appreciate all the work you've done.
If you wanted to put that on our annual report, the
issue of disparate, or conjunction ADF&G openings --
when the Federal Subsistence Board has closed the area
to only Federally-qualified subsistence users and
there's disparate openings like that, that's a
violation of the Federal Subsistence Board and ANILCA
process. That needs to be highlighted to the Federal
Subsistence Board and that should be placed on our
annual report. If you have language to that effect
that can be transmitted to Karen.

How does the Council feel about putting

0329

1 that on our annual report.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel that that's a
6 worthy issue, it's a Federal Subsistence Board issue.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do we have any
11 concurrence on this.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 What I might suggest, if Kevin wants to send me
19 language, if he has it, we can read that at the end of
20 the meeting when we finalize the annual report. Thank
21 you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead. So
24 go ahead and transmit that to Karen, we'll take that up
25 later on in the meeting. So at this point we're at
26 U.S. Fish and Wildlife reports. We got Gerald
27 Maschmann was going to give us the Yukon River
28 fisheries update. Gerald, are you there.

29

30 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair, it's actually
31 Holly Carroll if that's going to be okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, well, it says
34 Gerald on my thing here, cheatsheet, Holly, go right
35 ahead.

36

37 MS. CARROLL: Thanks very much. Many
38 of you may know who I am. I became the Federal
39 manager, I replaced Fred Bue just about a year ago as
40 the Federal manager. I came from being the State
41 summer season manager for the Yukon so I have had the
42 pleasure of working with a bunch of you for awhile.
43 But I just wanted to let you know that we also hired
44 another new member of our team and that's Keith Harren
45 Ivy. He comes from Bethel, and he's actually -- he
46 worked with us to help manage the fishery this summer
47 and to learn the ropes, but he's also going to be
48 getting a Master's Degree through UAF in indigenizing
49 salmon management. So we're really excited to have him
50

0330

1 as part of our managing program.

2

3

4 I had a script that I was going to
5 address and in light of all the time we need to make up
6 and how much agenda you've got left, I want to keep it
7 real brief. I think most of you know how the Yukon
8 season went and there is a full detailed summary, I
9 believe it's on Page 422 of your booklet. I'd rather
10 just address a lot of the comments you guys have made.

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So I guess one of the main things I'd like to start out with, I believe Member Honea mentioned that government to government consultation is important. And I personally believe that we can always be doing a better job of consultation. And to that end, this season, myself, and Keith, we worked on contacting all 55 of the Yukon tribes. At the beginning of the season we sent them an outlook flier letting them know about the potential for these closures for the bulk of the season, requesting consultation. Keith also followed up by phone with every single community to make sure we had updated tribal contact and to let them know where to find fishery advisory announcements, how to call us, the Staff, who to address when you had questions and also to just remind them that government to government can be as simple as calling the Federal manager. So we do want to remind folks that we are trying to engage in that process and so if you get an email from me and you want to talk about fisheries or you want to have a formal meeting we can do that. So you'll be getting emails this fall, if you're a tribal leader, or work in the tribal government of your community, looking for consultation. We'll be trying to have post-season consultations as well as pre-season consultations. So just throwing that out there that that's super important to us.

And then additionally, obviously we're talking to fishermen all season long. We learn a lot from sitting on those YRDFA teleconferences. And this summer I was really -- I don't know if any of the TCC Staff are still on, but I really got a lot out of working with Brooke Woods and the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission. We found their management recommendations super helpful. I know that I work closely with the State team, it's a real different situation than Kevin just described, we co-manage the State and the Federal teams work together every single

0331

1 day to make the decisions and review the data. That's
2 how we've been doing it for many years on the Yukon.
3 And -- but to have the inclusion of the Fish Commission
4 providing their management recommendations is super
5 valuable to us and I look forward to that kind of
6 collaboration continuing.

7
8 To that end, I also wanted to touch on
9 some things that Ben Stevens had brought up. Before
10 they did their restructuring I was working closely with
11 their former Executive Direction Stephanie Quinn-
12 Davidson and I submitted a letter of support to the BIA
13 to continue collaborating on co-management with the
14 tribes but also to work on collaborating and building
15 sonar capacity. So we do hope to partner on a sonar
16 feasibility study in the mid-river if we can get that
17 going with TCC. And Gisasa was mentioned. That's a
18 weir project that we typically run at Fish and Wildlife
19 Service, and we requested funding for that through OSM
20 but in part of that proposal we have suggested that we
21 would like to phase that project over to TCC in the
22 next two years, or excuse me two years from now. So if
23 that is funded and we can do some cross-training, we're
24 hoping to have TCC take over that project because of
25 their expertise in the Koyukuk drainage.

26
27 So as far as the runs went, you guys
28 have heard a lot about that already. I won't belabor
29 the point except to say that the chinook run came
30 within forecast, we were expecting this poor chinook
31 run, we were expecting closures. The summer chum run
32 is what was a surprise. The chum, you know, I think
33 it's fair to call the chum run a crash and that was
34 unexpected and partly that's because we don't have the
35 same three year forecasting capabilities that we do for
36 the chinook. Because of that there was no harvestable
37 surplus predicted on the chum runs and, indeed, the
38 chinook run, and so we had unprecedented closures in
39 the summer and the fall season. We have never had
40 these types of closures on the Yukon. The only fishing
41 opportunity we really were able to provide was with
42 four inch gillnets for non-salmon species and other
43 non-salmon gears. So we recognize how hard that was,
44 what incredible hardship that was. I don't want to dive
45 into too many numbers but I will say that on the Yukon
46 fishermen rely on over 170,000 every single year to
47 feed their families. We're used to having chinook
48 restrictions on the Yukon, though harvest has
49 fluctuated over time but that loss of that 170,000
50

0332

1 combined chum species has been horrible and we do want
2 to acknowledge the incredible food security issues that
3 that's creating.

4
5 We do expect that next years chinook
6 run will be lower than this year and will require
7 similar closures. We don't have forecasts yet but I
8 think it's safe to say we can also expect poor chum
9 runs and the reason is is our four year old return was
10 so bad that even if the four year old are better next
11 year, we know the five year olds won't be great. And
12 to that end we're hoping that tribes and communities
13 can work together to come up with other solutions and
14 can also find ways to get those available non-salmon
15 gear for people that want them. You know if there's
16 net exchange programs or purchasing programs, we're
17 encouraging people to do that stuff. It's not going to
18 be easy.

19
20 One thing I want to touch on and
21 hopefully I don't touch a nerve with something you said
22 Jack because you've got a great point about escapements
23 of chinook on the Yukon, but one thing I do want to
24 highlight about these chum returns is that we had a
25 very similar two year crash that occurred in 2000 and
26 2001. These runs we saw this year were worse than
27 that. But one thing that is heartening is that within
28 two to four years of those low runs we saw record
29 returns of summer and fall chum. So my hope is that
30 the resiliency of these species is going to come
31 through but, of course, we've also all heard about
32 these factors going on in the ocean and the marine
33 environment and when fish come back smaller we don't
34 know what affect that has on the spawning grounds. And
35 so the fact that we failed to meet spawning escapement
36 goals on nearly every single system for all species on
37 the Yukon that's disheartening, but to echo some of the
38 stuff Kevin said, you know, our fishermen made the
39 voluntary choice not to fish. Even some fishermen who
40 had the opportunity to put four inch gear in they did
41 not, because they did not want to risk getting
42 incidental catch of salmon. So I can't thank the
43 fishermen enough for being proactive in making the
44 sacrifices now to make sure that we got the salmon to
45 the spawning grounds that we could, and so, you know,
46 we're going to see that kind of work next year as well.
47 I do hope that people can start to harvest other
48 whitefish, pike and other species like that. People
49 can fish under the ice. And, again, like Mr. Reakoff
50

0333

1 said, you know, some of those other species are
2 predators, and we used to take them in greater numbers
3 when there were more dog teams, and I think we're
4 hearing some of that from the elders as well, and so
5 we're encouraging people to just look for these other
6 creative adaptations for these low salmon runs.

7

8 I'm going to leave it there for now.

9

10 I do want to make one personal request,
11 hopefully this is not inappropriate. But I know you
12 guys have heard all the administrative issues with
13 having two simultaneous RAC meetings, but for me,
14 personally, I have Staff I can assign to a meeting and
15 we can be in two places at once, but I learn an
16 infinite amount of stuff from you guys and I always
17 learn unexpected things, I don't just tune in for the
18 fisheries stuff because I learn so much. So for
19 instance when I can't hear your reports or the comments
20 that you make on other proposals or other topics I miss
21 learning from you. And one of the things I learned
22 during the YKDelta RAC was member Alissa Rogers talked
23 about how even though people got moose right now you
24 can only fit one moose in the freezer but a large
25 family is going to need multiple moose. So just
26 because you have a large limit of moose now you can't
27 go get all those moose. And that was really
28 enlightening to me to know that unless we think about
29 everything holistically, you know, we might be missing
30 a big part of the picture. So as a manager I value
31 hearing everything that you guys have to say from your
32 experience and so being able to sit in each RAC Meeting
33 is helpful, if you would consider when you schedule
34 your meeting dates, if you guys are in charge of that,
35 not overlapping with the YKDelta or the Eastern
36 Interior RAC, I would be able to much better learn from
37 each of you. But I also want to acknowledge your huge
38 work load, your huge task at trying to stay involved in
39 these meetings, especially through telephone and poor
40 communications, so I want to thank you for your
41 patience with this virtual format. And I also want to
42 apologize for how exhausting it is. So thanks again
43 for your service on these RACs and for guiding us in
44 our management.

45

46 With that I'll just standby for
47 questions.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks so much

50

0334

1 Holly. Appreciate your comments. And do we have any
2 Council comments or questions for Holly.

3

4 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Holly, thank you, Mr.
5 Chair. This is Don Honea. I appreciate your take on
6 this but it's, you know, it doesn't bring me much
7 encouragement about next year. I'm just looking --
8 trying to be -- you know we hear about the bycatch,
9 whether it's the Bering Sea bycatch or it's the Area M,
10 is that -- you know, I'm trying to get something on
11 here, I'm trying to see on the next few years -- it
12 looks like it's a dead issue, it's a moot point, I mean
13 do you see any light at the end of the tunnel here how
14 we can go about trying to, you know, maybe consult
15 somebody about the problem or bring those numbers down
16 somehow or do we just live with it. Because right now,
17 I mean it's pretty.....

18

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted)

21

22 MR. HONEA:a person here with a
23 dog team -- is somebody.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're getting a lot
26 of background noise, I think somebody's got an open
27 unmuted phone, we're hearing other meetings going on.

28

29 MR. HONEA: Okay. I just wanted to say
30 that, you know, Holly, it's a tough position to be in
31 but, you know, it's just -- it's just -- I was just
32 wondering if you had anything toward how we could bring
33 those numbers to somebody -- the State or whatever.

34

35 MS. CARROLL: Don. Through the Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

38

39 MR. HONEA: Me.

40

41 MS. CARROLL: I can address that.

42

43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got an open mic
47 there, is that you Ken Chase, you got an open mic.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Also, this is Karen,

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0335

1 through the Chair, I think Don needs to mute as well.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead

4 Holly.

5

6 MS. CARROLL: Yep, thanks for that.

7 Mr. Chair. So I think a couple things, and hopefully

8 I'm not -- I'm speaking as a biologist now, not

9 necessarily on behalf of Fish and Wildlife Service.

10 But what I would say is that from what I've heard at

11 this meeting, what I've heard in the last few weeks,

12 the reports from YRDFA, the reports from TCC is

13 something is happening right now. I don't think it's a

14 moot point, and I think you've got incredible groups

15 banding together and advocating to address those

16 issues. So you've heard reports about how they're

17 advocating for better genetic studies in the Area M. I

18 think there's a lot of Staff internally that has asked

19 why don't we rerun the genetics in Area M, we don't

20 know if those fish are headed for the Yukon or the

21 Kuskokwim, but if we could get those samples we might

22 know and then we could act on that. So you do have

23 people advocating for that research. And that's

24 through the State process in getting that sampling

25 going. For the bycatch in the Pollock fleet issue, you

26 know, Brooke and Ben Stevens and many others gave very

27 powerful testimony at the Council. I think engaging in

28 that Council process, you know, about lowering bycatch

29 limits, that is exactly what needs to happen if that's

30 what you guys see as the solution, and that is

31 happening. I'm seeing that happening. I'm seeing more

32 advocacy on this issue than I have seen in years. And

33 that advocacy has actually been happening for almost

34 two decades now. I remember learning about the bycatch

35 issue from YRDFA when I was just a biologist running a

36 sonar project, I didn't know about the problem and it

37 was YRDFA that educated me on it and it was YRDFA that

38 got the first caps in place, or at least helped to work

39 on that. Your Yukon and Kuskokwim fishermen already

40 worked and advocated to get some caps in place, and so

41 if you want more work to happen there I think you're

42 doing that work. I think it's happening now and you

43 have great organizations working to that end.

44

45 So as far as me, as the Federal

46 manager, as the State in-river manager, there's nothing

47 we can do to address that, but I want to commend the

48 people that are working very diligently to address it.

49

50

0336

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for
2 that comment Holly.

3
4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And my final comment
8 on your presentation is I would encourage you to look
9 at the 2000 and 2001 collapse chum salmon size
10 fecundity compared to the escapement that we have
11 currently for size and fecundity so that you can get
12 back to us later on that one.

13
14 So I need to move down on this
15 agenda.....

16
17 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, this is
18 Kevin.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Kevin, we got
21 to get going here, go ahead.

22
23 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay, I'll be real
24 quick. If I could ask Holly a question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go right
27 ahead.

28
29 MR. WHITWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Thank you, Holly for your update here on the Yukon
31 River for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I did
32 hear something that was kind of a red flag for me when
33 you were talking about chum salmon, you were basically
34 managing on hope, hoping that they come back here in
35 the next three or four years like they did in the past.
36 I'm hesitant to manage -- I'm not a manager, but if I
37 was I wouldn't want to manage on hope. I just want to
38 point that out. That's something on the Kuskokwim that
39 we are trying to do, is not manage on hope, what could
40 potentially -- like they could come back -- so with
41 that being said I do think that Fish and Wildlife has a
42 very unique position to do a lot more than what you've
43 described, you're putting the onus on the users to
44 testify at the North Pacific Fisheries Management
45 Council, testify at other boards, testify against Area
46 M bycatch fisheries. The Fish and Wildlife Service has
47 a seat at the North Pacific Fisheries Management
48 Council and I'm just curious what they have done in
49 that position -- I read the report to the Council from
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0337

1 the Fish and Wildlife Service, I'm curious what, Fish
2 and Wildlife, at the Council level, is doing for us in-
3 river for these stocks in Western Alaska for chinook
4 and chum. Because I do think you guys have a powerful
5 position, you are at the table, on the Council, and you
6 should be able to pressure -- if you guys believed
7 there was a chinook and chum crises, I think you guys
8 would be doing some advocacy on our part as well. If
9 you can help me with that, thanks.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good comment, Kevin.
12 And I do think that Holly can speak to the Regional
13 Director about that issue and the Fish and Wildlife
14 seat on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, but I
15 do need to move down this agenda. We're just after
16 3:30 here. Thanks so much Holly, appreciate all the
17 work you're doing, you've always been a great manager.

18

19 So we're going to -- so where are we at
20 here Karen, you need to give me some direction.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
23 no problem at all. Where we are next is in line with
24 the conversations that are being had right now. The
25 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council wanted
26 to initiate a sign-in letter with other affected
27 Councils regarding bycatch, and the impacts of bycatch
28 on in-river fishing, particularly this past season.
29 And so that letter has not yet been drafted but the
30 Council would like for the Western Interior to sign on
31 to a letter that not only requests that the bycatch
32 issue be reduced -- or bycatch be reduced for both chum
33 and chinook salmon, but also the letter will request
34 that the issue be elevated to the -- or sent to the
35 Federal Subsistence Board to be elevated to the
36 Secretary of Interior office.

37

38 And so this is something that the YK
39 Delta would like to ask the Western Interior to move to
40 sign on to a letter, to the North Pacific Fisheries
41 Management Council regarding bycatch and also to have
42 that letter elevated by the Board to the Secretary of
43 the Interior.

44

45 The Council can go ahead and move to
46 adopt that, sign on, and then make selections of who
47 would be the individuals, likely the Chair and perhaps
48 Kevin Whitworth or Tim Gervais, and/or Tim Gervais
49 could be reviewers of the letter on behalf of the
50

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1 Council so that it could be submitted in a timely way.

2

3 So thank you, Mr. Chair, if there are
4 any questions about that I'd be happy to try to answer
5 them, otherwise you can call for a motion if you
6 believe this is something that the Council should be
7 signing on to. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question, are
10 they asking EIRAC for that sign on also?

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 They are indeed asking the Eastern Interior Council as
14 well. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The Chair will
17 entertain a motion to adjoin or sign on to the letter
18 with the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory
19 Council to appoint Kevin Whitworth to work with
20 Karen.....

21

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and myself to
26 draft -- work with the draftees of those executors of
27 those different Councils, if EIRAC adjoins, the Chair
28 will entertain a motion to that effect.

29

30 MR. HONEA: I would make that a motion.

31

32 MR. SIMON: So moved, this is Pollock.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I got Pollock is
35 moving, and, Don, you want to be a second on that?

36

37 MR. HONEA: Second, yes.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any discussion on
40 that letter to adjoin.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. PELKOLA: I call for the question.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Call for question by
47 Jenny. Those in -- go ahead, call the roll Karen.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very much,

50

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1 Mr. Chair. For the motion to sign on to the Yukon
2 Kuskokwim Delta letter to the North Pacific Fisheries
3 Management Council and elevated to the Secretary of the
4 Interior, and ask Kevin Whitworth to work with the
5 draftees.

6

7

Don Honea.

8

9

MR. HONEA: Yes.

10

11

MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon.

12

13

MR. SIMON: Yes.

14

15

MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.

16

17

MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

18

19

MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

20

21

(No comments)

22

23

MS. DEATHERAGE: Is Goodwin on the
24 phone with us still?

25

26

(No comments)

27

28

MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

29

30

MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

31

32

MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

33

34

MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

35

36

MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

37

38

MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

39

40

MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

41

42

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

43

44

MS. DEATHERAGE: That's.....

45

46

MR. SEMAKEN: This is Goodwin Semaken I
47 vote yes.

48

49

MS. DEATHERAGE:seven votes in

50

0340

1 favor, thank you, Mr. Chair. Motion passes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so where
4 are we at now, Karen.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 We're going to be moving into Refuges. However, I can
8 -- let me send a text to Kenton Moos is willing to
9 address the issue of predation control in Units 18 and
10 17 for the Board of Game proposal. And so if Kenton's
11 on the phone he can address that so the Council can
12 decide whether or not they would like to proceed with
13 submitting comments to the Board of Game on that
14 proposal.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we tabled that
17 one. Is Kenton there to clarify that issue.

18

19 MR. MOOS: Yes, I am, Jack -- or Mr.
20 Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,
23 Kenton. You want to clarify that for us.

24

25 MR. MOOS: Sure. Just very, very
26 brief, I know this is a time crunch. So a little bit
27 of history, the Commissioner of Fish and Game sent the
28 Secretary of Interior a letter basically requesting
29 that we assist with predator control for the recovery
30 of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. The Secretary of
31 Interior, through the Director of the Fish and Wildlife
32 Service responded and said we will work with them,
33 however, there are steps that we have to take,
34 including going through the NEPA process and so forth.
35 So since that time we've been in conversations with the
36 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We've requested
37 that they provide a plan and because the request is
38 very ambiguous and it's basically predator control with
39 Units Federal lands within Unit 17 and 18, which is an
40 enormous land base and so forth, so they have not
41 provided us any details or any plan that specifies
42 exactly where they're talking about and so forth so the
43 proposal that's going before the Board of Game, we are
44 opposing, because there's a lack of specificity or a
45 plan. And to go along with anything that is that broad
46 we just cannot do.

47

48 Any questions.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So does that
2 answer your questions, Kevin.

3
4 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes, that does, thank
5 you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we tabled that
8 proposal, we can maintain that as a tabled proposal, we
9 don't actually have to adopt it or do anything to it.
10 I would just rather let it lay there and let the
11 details work out, it might pop up at a later date with
12 a different number but we'll table that proposal, is
13 that okay with the Council.

14
15 MS. PELKOLA: Okay with me, this is
16 Jenny.

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, you can
19 maintain the tabling until a different date, thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So if that's
22 agreeable to the Council give me an affirmative.

23
24 IN UNISON: Yes. Yea.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So now we're
27 going to move -- thanks so much for clarifying that
28 Kenton. So Koyukuk.....

29
30 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair, Pollock.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock, go ahead.

33
34 MR. SIMON: Yes, I don't want to
35 interrupt but I just got the meeting packet, and I want
36 to thank Karen for her efforts to get it to me so I
37 have the meeting packet now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you say you're
40 not going to continue with the meeting?

41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I think
43 he.....

44
45 MR. SIMON: No. At this time I
46 received the meeting packet right now.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you got it.

49
50

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1 MR. SIMON: And I was saying thank you
2 to Karen for getting it to me.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate
5 that comment, Pollock. And Karen and Erin Julianus
6 printed that out, BLM sent that up, so recognize and
7 appreciate that effort.

8
9 So we're going to move on now to the
10 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, you
11 there Bob or Jeremy.

12
13 MR. HAVENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
14 Council members. I guess I just want to ask can
15 everybody hear me okay?

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can hear you good.

18
19 MR. HAVENER: Excellent. Thank you for
20 giving us the time here today, I know we're kind of
21 crunching on the agenda. And I'm just going to keep my
22 few updates brief and I want to leave some time for
23 some potential concerns on a transporter on the Refuge.
24 And I think I should have Bob on here with me, Bob, are
25 you here.

26
27 MR. REBARCHIK: I am, Jeremy. And,
28 yeah, that's how we want to do it, thanks.

29
30 MR. HAVENER: Excellent. So I guess
31 just starting off here, the first thing is we're trying
32 to do as much field work as we can but we do have some
33 restrictions kind of coming into place with Covid so
34 right now we're not sure what we're going to be able to
35 accomplish coming up here through the winter, that's to
36 be determined right now. But we're trying to do what
37 we can with the circumstances.

38
39 Some Staff updates for our Refuge, and
40 I think they called in yesterday, I'm not sure if
41 they're still on here but we do have two new law
42 enforcement positions, one of them is Rob Hershback and
43 he's a patrol officer in Fairbanks, kind of a
44 supervisory position, and we've also got a new law
45 enforcement officer for Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko and that
46 is Jared Long, he's been on for over a year now but he
47 has been completing his training and had that finished
48 up and actually came out here for this moose season.
49 He spent probably 10 days with me at the Nowitna
50

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1 checkstation so he was out checking out the area and
2 looking for any kind of violations and all that stuff.
3 So excited to have those guys on.

4

5

6 Also we have we a new WRS, which is a
7 Wildlife Resource Specialist, kind of an assistant
8 manager position that we've hired, and that selection
9 is Lucas (Indiscernible) and he's going to be coming up
10 from, I believe, Minnesota, so we expect him here in
11 the next month or so filling in as our assistant
12 manager.

12

13

14 I guess this leads me to my next point,
15 this one is kind of an important one for me, and it's
16 the Refuge Information Technician position that we're
17 trying to hire here for the Galena area, or for the
18 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko Refuges. We had an announcement
19 out, oh, over the summer and it was open for about
20 three weeks, and unfortunately we didn't get very many
21 applicants and so with that we decided to postpone
22 hiring and we want to take the time and advertise this
23 position as much as we can through the winter. And I
24 was going to ask the Council for some help on that, if
25 anybody knows anyone, you know, who's kind of a local
26 resident, and has good knowledge of the resources,
27 subsistence practices, culture, and would potentially
28 be interested in working for Fish and Wildlife Service,
29 if you could please pass that word on that we're going
30 to be hiring a Refuge Information Technician position,
31 which -- for those of you don't know, the Refuge
32 Information Technician position is a liaison position
33 kind of between Fish and Wildlife Service and tribal
34 entities that we work closely with. And so I just
35 wanted to get that out there and feel really strongly
36 about that and hopefully we can get some good
37 applicants.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

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49

50

Jumping into a few subsistence hunts
that have taken place since I last spoke with you. A
hunt down in Game Management Unit 21E, we have a
Federal hunt FM2104, and then also FM2105. And I guess
some news updates on that. This is the first year that
we held that hunt in conjunction with a State hunt that
took place in that same game management unit at the
exact same time. So what we kind of did up front,
working with our RIT, Ken Chase, down there in the GASH
communities, we got the word out to folks that
essentially we were recommending them to get the State
registration permit for that hunt and what that allowed

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1 them to do is to hunt on all lands in that game
2 management unit instead of being restricted to Federal
3 lands only and having to travel further from villages
4 and no boundaries and, et cetera. So we did not issue
5 out any Federal permits this year for that winter hunt.
6 I got a hold of the area biologist out of McGrath,
7 Joshua Pearce, and it looks like they issued out 11
8 permits last year for that hunt and there were four
9 bulls and two cows taken, which is pretty close to what
10 we see on average for the Federal hunt. So I just
11 wanted to update the Council on that.

12

13 And then finally on the Nowitna
14 checkstation. We operate a moose hunter checkstation
15 on the mouth of the Nowitna River within the Nowitna
16 National Wildlife Refuge and we set that up on
17 September 2nd and this year we ran it until September
18 28th. And while we're there, you know, big things
19 we're looking for is to educate folks on the
20 regulations within the Nowitna River on the Nowitna
21 Wildlife Refuge, we're issuing permits out, and we're
22 looking at, you know, when folks are checking out, make
23 sure they got all the meat, making sure they've taken
24 good care of it and then, you know, also just following
25 all the other regulations that are required in that
26 area. And this year we had 95 hunters check in and a
27 total of 29 moose harvested for the State season that
28 goes from September 5th to September 25th. And then we
29 also have a Federal subsistence hunt that takes place
30 right after the State season there and that goes from
31 September 26th to October 1, and this year we issued 15
32 permits and had four bull moose harvested. And the 15
33 permits is actually the most permits we've issued since
34 that hunt began in 2007.

35

36 So with that that's my update and maybe
37 I'll leave it there for questions.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,
40 Jeremy. And most of those people were from Ruby and
41 Tanana on the Federal hunt.

42

43 MR. HAVENER: Yep, absolutely. The
44 majority was from Tanana and we did have, you know,
45 four or five people from Ruby come hunt this year.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
48 So thanks for that update, any questions for Jeremy on
49 Koyukuk/Nowitna.

50

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1 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead, Don.

4

5 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. I had a
6 question for Jeremy. You know when you guys do your
7 grid system or something, for the population, maybe in
8 November or whatever, the population estimate, now is
9 that a form of a counting system for the State to
10 actually do or do you guys do that. I mean the
11 population estimate. I think -- I guess the number's
12 always been about 30 but I was just -- I'm just kind of
13 concerned about some of the people that have gone up to
14 Nowitna, up to the Novi, were not successful, and I
15 know there's a lot of wolf packs in the area, about 20,
16 30 miles up there. So I was just wondering the
17 population estimate, is that something -- I was
18 wondering if Mr. Stout was on, if Glenn was going to be
19 on, but I guess I'll just pose that question to you
20 Jeremy. Thank you.

21

22 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Honea, through the
23 Chair. Yeah, I appreciate that question, Don, and, you
24 know, we've got a good group of biologists here at our
25 Refuge, unfortunately they're not on the call right now
26 and they would be a lot better than me on giving
27 specific details but I do understand, you know, a
28 population estimate is a much more thorough survey,
29 trying to get an actual count on an area, a population
30 estimate. And, yeah, we definitely work through the
31 State of Alaska on that with Glenn Stout, and just off
32 the top of my head I want to say the last time a count
33 estimate was done in the Nowitna was maybe around 2010
34 but I could be wrong on that and I'd want to check with
35 our biologists first.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Jeremy.

38

39 MR. HONEA: Jeremy, I actually
40 appreciate that. Just one final comment there, Mr.
41 Chair, I appreciate that. So is that something like
42 maybe the Ruby Fish and Game Advisory Committee could
43 pose to Glenn? Thank you.

44

45 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Honea, through the
46 Chair. Yeah, absolutely, you know, I think if folks
47 have enough concerns about the population and I've
48 heard quite a few people already this year talking
49 about the Nowitna moose numbers and, you know, in our
50

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1 trend count surveys that we're doing we have kind of
2 noticed a little bit of a dip as well. I think it
3 would be appropriate to ask about that, absolutely.
4 And, you know, hearing what I've heard today I'll talk
5 to Brad Scotten, our supervisory wildlife biologist,
6 and relay this information.

7

8 MR. HONEA: Okay, thank you. And thank
9 you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
12 much. And then there was an enforcement issue you
13 referred to, so Jeremy.....

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
16 this is Karen Deatherage. I'm just going to ask
17 if.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE:Bob Rebarchik is
22 on the phone.

23

24 MR. REBARCHIK: Yes, Karen -- Mr.
25 Chair, this is Bob Rebarchik, the Refuge Manager. Yes,
26 and I guess I don't want to belittle or minimize the
27 issue but I don't have all the information I need to be
28 able to answer questions. What we have is a
29 transporter that was issued a special use permit back
30 in December of last year. And subsequently was
31 transporting on the northern unit of the Innoko Refuge
32 fall hunting season. Had a call from Goodwin Semaken,
33 back, I believe on the 7th of September, and I
34 attempted to contact that transporter by phone, both
35 cell phone and landline and got a message that his
36 mailbox was full and could not accept messages at this
37 time on both lines. I subsequently emailed them and his
38 secretary responded to me indicated that he was in the
39 field and that he would get back with me when hunting
40 season was over. I did call them again yesterday and I
41 still have not been able to get any kind of response
42 from this transporter. And so I don't have all the
43 information that I need to effectively give information
44 to you and to respond to the issue. My recommendation
45 is that we address this and I would gladly address it
46 with any of the Council members and anybody else that
47 might be interested when I have more information, after
48 I've been able to speak with the transporter directly.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So you'll be
2 prepared to provide that information.....

3
4 MR. SEMAKEN: Mr. Chair, this is
5 Goodwin.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:at our next
8 meeting -- Goodwin, you have a comment.

9
10 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah. Yeah, I think --
11 having a meeting on this, was you going to include
12 Doyon on this, because those are non-navigable waters
13 that they're traveling and it's Doyon selection, I
14 think, if I'm correct, getting into the Refuge, from
15 Twentytwo Mile Slough.

16
17 MR. REBARCHIK: Yes, their access to
18 the Refuge would be on navigable waters and those are
19 actually controlled by the State.

20
21 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, but on the river --
22 outside the river, Doyon owns those selections I think.
23 I just thought non-navigable waters -- and they're non-
24 navigable waters according to the map so how does Doyon
25 address that, they're trespassing on Doyon lands
26 because I think they're non-navigable waters?

27
28 MR. REBARCHIK: And this is part of why
29 I think it'd be more appropriate if we can go through
30 the discussions at another time. Time is limited here
31 with a lot of other folks prepared to give testimony
32 and.....

33
34 MR. SEMAKEN: Okay. Okay.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So maybe at our next
37 meeting you can get all the ducks in a row with law
38 enforcement, work all this out with the transporter and
39 have a more thorough update at our next meeting?

40
41 MR. REBARCHIK: Most certainly. My hope
42 is I can get this addressed in the next couple weeks
43 but again I tried to contact that transporter yesterday
44 and I'm still receiving the same messages and no return
45 call so I'm disappointed.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we would
48 expect some kind of a more thorough report at our next
49 meeting.

50

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1 MR. REBARCHIK: Most certainly.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thank you there,
5 Bob. So that completes Koyukuk/Nowitna and so then
6 we're going to go to Yukon Delta National Wildlife
7 Refuge. Is that you Aaron Moses, or who's doing that
8 one.

8

9 MR. MOSES: Mr. Chair, it's me, Aaron,
10 I'll be doing the Refuge update.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go right
13 ahead.

14

15 MR. MOSES: All right. My name is
16 Aaron Moses, I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for Yukon
17 Delta and I will be doing the Refuge update on behalf
18 of Boyd Bilhovde, our Refuge Manager.

19

20 The Fish Commission -- and we heard a
21 little bit about the fishing effort on the Kuskokwim,
22 and just to add a little bit more, within the Refuge
23 waters, we were able to fish for about a total of 144
24 hours with setnet and 81 hours with driftnets during
25 June and July. So we had really low chum -- lowest
26 recorded chum run in our history but with all the
27 sockeye that were able to come in, we were lucky that
28 we were able to fish because of all of the sockeye that
29 were in the Kuskokwim River.

30

31 For waterfowl. We were able to have
32 our waterfowl crew go out for the summer. They were
33 out at Kigak Island, they were doing the emperor goose
34 nest ecology and survival and they were able to find
35 280 goose nests and out of those 280, 247 of the nests
36 had at least one egg hatched, so even with this wet
37 weather we had -- it was pretty successful. They also
38 did Black brant and cackler goose banding, they were
39 able to band 1800 Black brant and also 770 cackling
40 geese. Management issues for waterfowl, the population
41 index for Emperor geese is only roughly a thousand
42 above their closure threshold of about 23,000 so there
43 is a 50/50 percent chance that the hunting season for
44 emperors will be closed in 2023. The cackling goose
45 population is below its population objectives. So down
46 states, Washington and Oregon state are reducing their
47 harvest opportunities from four per day to three per
48 day so that population could get back up to its
49 objectives.

50

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1 Staff updates. Spencer Rearden who was
2 our Deputy -- Assistant Refuge Manager is now our
3 Supervisory Biologist. Todd (Indiscernible) comes from
4 the regional office and he's our new Park Ranger.
5 Julie DeBois (ph) is our budget technician. I have
6 officially become the Refuge Coordinator. I've been
7 filling in for the last few years. We got a new
8 Wildlife Refuge Specialist coming in November. And
9 also we hired a new RIT, he lives in Napakiak, Emmitt
10 Nicori, but his family comes from Kwethluk, and so we
11 are also looking for more representation of RITs
12 especially on the Yukon. So if you guys know anybody
13 from the lowest -- lower Yukon that wants to be an RIT
14 please send them our way. And then in the summertime
15 we had eight interns and two Youth Conservation Corps
16 students work for the Refuge. And we also had a
17 seasonal Park Ranger that came for the summer.

18
19 With that, I'll make it short and
20 sweet. If you guys have any questions.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Aaron.
23 Congratulations on your upgrade. Any questions for
24 Aaron.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any from
29 the Council. Thanks so much Aaron, always appreciate
30 knowing what's going on at YK Delta Wildlife Refuge.

31
32 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, who's
33 doing this one.

34
35 MR. HARWOOD: Good afternoon, this is
36 Chris Harwood. Can you hear me Jack.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you
39 great, Chris, go right ahead.

40
41 MR. HARWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
42 other Council members. I'm Chris Harwood and I'm the
43 Biologist for Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and I'll
44 be giving a biological report. I'll be referring to
45 surveys listed in Kanuti's report which starts on Page
46 414 of your booklet.

47
48 The first project is the Interior-wide
49 lynx movement study. Of the original 20 collars that
50

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1 we deployed near Bettles over 2019 and 2020 only two of
2 those collars are still active. These are the lynx
3 that are shown in red and blue in Kanuti's report on
4 Page 416. The lynx that moved to the Central Brooks
5 Range remained there, while the lynx in the Northern
6 Yukon Territory is still there but made a recent long
7 trip back to Alaska just west of the Alaska/Canada
8 border near Circle before returning to the northeastern
9 Yukon Territory.

10

11 We were able to complete two summary
12 aerial surveys for waterfowl. In June we, again, did
13 our annual survey for breeding pairs of scaup and
14 scotters, or black ducks as some local folks refer to
15 them. Results suggested about a 1000 scaup in the
16 study area which is on the low side compared to recent
17 year estimates but is well within the range observed
18 over the seven year history of the survey. The crew
19 detected no surf scotters for the first time but did
20 see a few white-wing scotters, which we don't always
21 see.

22

23 Also in June we did a recon of a
24 drained lake along the Kanuti River near the Johnson B
25 Moses administrative cabin at Kanuti Lake. This
26 originally large deep lake across the river from our
27 cabin suddenly lost water last fall and had been used
28 quite a bit by float planes to both drop off and pickup
29 moose hunters. When we checked the lake this June it
30 was too shallow to use for float plane, as two beaver
31 dams had breached last fall which was what caused the
32 water to spill out into the Kanuti River. We don't
33 know yet if any planes tried to use the lake during the
34 fall this year, during the moose hunting season,
35 although we did hear that an early freeze-up required a
36 helicopter evacuation for one set of moose hunters.

37

38 In July we did the annual molting goose
39 survey. The crew concentrated in the Kanuti River area
40 which is where most of our white-fronts molt. They
41 observed about 250 white-fronts, all adults, that's
42 similar to previous years as annually we see a few
43 hundred white-fronts there.

44

45 And in October of 2020, not this year,
46 but last year, we did an aerial survey for beaver
47 caches or food piles. We use this beaver cache survey
48 as a way to monitor beaver on the Refuge. The crew saw
49 about 15, that's 1,500 caches which was about 30

50

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1 percent, that's 3-0 -- 30 percent more than what we saw
2 last when we did the survey in 2010. And we try to do
3 that survey every five years as survey conditions
4 allow.

5

6 And finally ADF&G is currently planning
7 to do a moose population estimate survey this fall on
8 the near Kanuti Refuge and they hope to start as soon
9 as snow conditions permit.

10

11 And with that I'll take any questions
12 if you have any.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Chris.
15 Any questions for Kanuti from the presentation.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's virtually no
20 young greater white-front geese in the survey, they're
21 just not having babies or there's too much predation or
22 what's.....

23

24 MR. HARWOOD: Mr. Chair, we did observe
25 young -- we did observe goslings on the Kanuti River
26 proper, however, this was about a week or two before
27 the aerial transect survey so the transect survey does
28 not cover all available habitat and is not the best for
29 those -- for families that are in the Kanuti River
30 itself. It's hard to see them as they tuck into the
31 bank. So we know that there was some production it
32 just wasn't reflected in those large numbers that tend
33 to molt out at the mud lakes, which is the area where
34 we receive 95 percent of our molting birds.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Copy that.
37 any other questions for Kanuti.

38

39 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair, Pollock.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

42

43 MR. SIMON: Yeah, my question is when
44 was the last moose count, was it declining or going
45 steady or what.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Chris.

48

49 MR. HARWOOD: Yeah, through the Chair,

50

0352

1 Mr. Simon. The last survey was in 2017 and I don't
2 have the report up but I can get you that in one minute
3 if you can stand by.

4
5 MR. SIMON: Okay.

6
7 MR. HARWOOD: I can get you the
8 estimate at that time.

9
10 (Pause)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've had 2018.
13 2019, we had really deep snow, then rain on snow at the
14 end of the winter in March, moose, south slope,
15 including Kanuti went through six weeks of ice crush on
16 top of the snow that was really hard on the moose
17 population and dall sheep population. In 19/20 was
18 almost a carbon copy with not as much snow at four
19 feet, in some areas with mortalities, again mortalities
20 and glazed snow. So 2017 data's pretty old for what's
21 been occurring since that last survey.

22
23 MR. HARWOOD: That's correct, Mr.
24 Chair. I have that estimate.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

27
28 MR. HARWOOD: Through the Chair to Mr.
29 Pollock Simon. So the estimate in 2017 was 1,310 moose
30 in the Kanuti area which was the highest over the
31 period of which we had been doing this geospatial
32 estimator survey type, which -- so that's over a period
33 of about 10 years from 2007 to 2017. So it was, I
34 guess you could say it was stable if not increasing a
35 bit at that point. But as the Chair mentioned there
36 have been a few rough winters between now, currently
37 and 2017.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you've tracked
40 those snow depths and rain on snow events in 2018, 2019
41 and 2020 winters, have you documented those icing
42 events on the Refuge.

43
44 MR. HARWOOD: Mr. Chair. No, we would
45 not have documented necessarily the icing events. We
46 monitor snow -- or we attempt to monitor snow monthly.
47 So between January -- or I'm sorry, between December,
48 February, March, April and May we do a monthly survey
49 at the beginning of the month in which they measure
50

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1 snow depth but that does not capture rain on snow
2 events.

3

4

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would encourage
5 the Refuge to look at the weather data for Bettles,
6 which showed that we had a significant rain event
7 around the middle of March, 18th, 19th of March,
8 something like that. At Wiseman, I had .89 of an inch
9 of rain but then froze into a crust that I could walk
10 on for six weeks and the moose were breaking that
11 crust, it was sad. There was blood, there was hair all
12 over the place. The Refuge needs to take into account
13 those kind of conditions. Deep snow is one thing, but
14 crusted and firm that's resistant to moose movement is
15 extremely detrimental and the wolves are on top of that
16 snow.

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Did you have a wolf survey was another
question I had. Have you done any track -- you used to
do those track inventories.

MR. HARWOOD: Mr. Chair. ADF&G has
been doing wolf surveys and we -- I have -- I can look
up those data, if you don't mind as well.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, if you don't
-- that's okay. It's just a given that wolf numbers
will increase with deep snow so that's okay.

MR. HARWOOD: Okay.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks so much.
I need to move down this agenda.

MR. HARWOOD: And one question for you,
Jack, you said March 18, 19, 20, that was in 2020, the
year, is that correct?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We had rain on snow
in October of 2018. I tabulated 146 inches of snow
here at Wiseman. Then in mid-March we had another
warming event and rain on snow, icing the mountains and
the valleys with this crust that I could walk on and
the moose were breaking crust. There was virtually no
habitat in the mountains for those mountain birds. So
in the spring of April of '19 the birds were on the
valley floor, the moose were floundering in deep snow
and there was a significant mortality on lighter moose
in the population. 19/20, again rain on snow in

0354

1 October, rain on snow in mid-April of '20. Down in
2 Coldfoot, in the southern mountains there was around
3 four feet of snow and there were -- I saw mortalities
4 there. So there was mortalities and so if we could get
5 a moose survey, it's super important to get data that
6 reflects what our population is right now, and a comp
7 is what we really need. So just stating those facts
8 for the record here.

9

10 So I need to move down -- thanks so
11 much, Chris, thanks for the good work you're doing.

12

13 MR. HARWOOD: You're welcome, thank
14 you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gates of the Arctic
17 National Park and Preserve update, Will Deacy, are you
18 doing this or is this Marcy.

19

20 MR. CAMERON: Hello, Mr. Chair.....

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
23 Karen Deatherage. It's actually Matt Cameron who will
24 be doing that on behalf of the Park Service. Thank
25 you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Mat.

28

29 MR. CAMERON: Yeah, thank you.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right, Matt.

32

33 MR. CAMERON: Hello, Mr. Chair and
34 members of the Council. Can you hear me.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I can hear you,
37 go right ahead.

38

39 MR. CAMERON: Great. My name is Matt
40 Cameron and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with Gates of the
41 Arctic. Marcy is on the Eastern Interior call today
42 and so I will be presenting the Gates update which you
43 can find in your supplemental packet.

44

45 I'll go over the SRC, caribou and moose
46 updates and then I'll turn things over to Will Deacy
47 who is also on the line and he will present the dall
48 sheep update.

49

50

0355

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MR. CAMERON: And after that I have a
4 few last announcements to share.

5

6 So Gates of the Arctic SRC met on April
7 14th, 2021 via teleconference. The SRC received
8 updates on the Ambler Mining District Road project as
9 well as management updates from Park Staff. The SRC
10 sent a letter to Secretary Haaland sharing concerns
11 about the SRC reappointment process and the length of
12 time it takes. The SRC will also be submitting a
13 comment letter to the Board of Game on proposals
14 affecting the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.
15 The next SRC meeting is scheduled for November 16th and
16 17th via teleconference. And lastly the SRC submitted
17 a letter for Pollock's reappointment to the SRC which I
18 understand was submitted to this Council.

19

20 Alex covered our Western Arctic Herd
21 update earlier yesterday. Just to recap, we were happy
22 to have a successful collar deployment this last spring
23 working closely with ADF&G and are planning for collar
24 deployments next spring of 2022.

25

26 We have four research project updates
27 listed on the handout and I will briefly go over them.

28

29 The first was a project in which we
30 worked with Alex from ADF&G and analyzed 10 years of
31 Western Arctic Herd GPS data to better understand the
32 seasonal patterns of range use of the herd. Besides
33 using the calving grounds every year we found that the
34 herd consistently uses the same area for insect
35 harassment and winter areas change from year to year
36 and fall migration was more variable than spring
37 migration. There were a lot of other interesting
38 aspects of how the herd uses its range and I'd direct
39 you to the link on the handout for those.

40

41 The second were two projects that we
42 worked on to develop new tools to better understand how
43 potential development may impact the Western Arctic
44 Herd. The first looked at how proposed roads may
45 impact caribou migrations and the second measured how
46 much different proposed EIS alternatives might impact
47 range of species in the NPR-A. You can find both of
48 those studies on the second link on the handout.

49

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1 In the third project we worked with
2 ADF&G and discussed how methods to detect calving and
3 caribou found to work beyond just the Western Arctic
4 Herd, for which these methods were validated in earlier
5 work that we did. These findings highlight that these
6 methods using GPS data may be more broadly applicable
7 to other caribou herds around the state. The full
8 article can be found on that third link.

9
10 And lastly the Park Service biologists
11 are collaborating on a global initiative on ungulate
12 migration which will work to document the movements of
13 migratory ungulates on a global atlas. The goals are
14 to address conservation needs of species and their
15 habitats globally and you can find more about this on
16 the fourth link.

17
18 Shifting to moose. We are planning a
19 moose survey for this spring in late March of 2022 that
20 will cover most of the Park. The last survey was in
21 2015 and we are planning to be based out of Bettles and
22 expect the survey to last about a week.

23
24 If there are any questions or comments
25 on those updates I'd be happy to address them before
26 turning things over to Will.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for
29 Matt on the issues that he's discussed so far Council
30 members.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I.....

35
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead, Karen.

39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, thank you,
41 this is Karen Deatherage. And I'm waiting to hear from
42 Marcy but I have not been involved, yet, with this
43 Council, with an appointment of a member to the SRC and
44 my understanding is that there is a letter in our
45 supplemental packet to appoint Pollock Simon to the SRC
46 and that the Council needs to approve that, to take a
47 quick vote to approve his reappointment to the Gates of
48 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission.

49
50

0357

1 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The Gates of
5 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission has three
6 appointing sources. One is the Secretary of Interior,
7 which I have a Secretary of Interior appointment, the
8 Governor of Alaska and the Regional Corporation, so the
9 Western Interior Council appoints one member, the
10 Northwest Arctic one member and North Slope appoints
11 one member. So Pollock has served on the Gates of the
12 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission for many years.
13 The Chair will entertain a motion to submit Pollock
14 Simon's name for reappointment to the Gates of the
15 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission.

15

16

(No comments)

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I need that in a
motion.

20

21

MR. HONEA: I make that motion.

22

23

24

MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chair, I'll make
that motion. This is Kevin.

25

26

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I got Don.....

27

28

MR. WHITWORTH: Or Don.....

29

30

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and Kevin as a
second. Further discussion.

31

32

33

(No comments)

34

35

36

37

38

39

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41

42

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock has
represented the Western Interior Regional Advisory
Council very well and has represented the people who
utilize -- have eligibility to hunt and fish within the
Gates of the Arctic National Park to a high degree so
he's a very valued member of the Gates of the Arctic
Subsistence Resource Commission. So any other
comments.

43

44

(No comments)

45

46

47

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a
question on the motion.

48

49

MR. HONEA: I call for the question.

50

0358

1 MR. DEMOSKI: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called,
4 call the roll Karen.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 For the reappointment of Pollock Simon, Sr., to the
8 Subsistence Resource Commission. Let's start with
9 Pollock Simon.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock, are you on
14 the phone?

15

16 MR. SIMON: Yes.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Pollock.

19

20 Don Honea.

21

22 MR. HONEA: Yes.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

25

26 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Wilmarth.

29

30 MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

37

38 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny, are you on the
45 phone?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: How about Goodwin

50

0359

1 Semaken.

2

3 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're breaking up a
6 little bit Karen.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: (Indiscernible -
9 breaking up) Goodwin, please.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Goodwin was a
12 yes.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: You did hear that, I
15 did not hear that, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I heard that.

18

19 REPORTER: Goodwin said yes.

20

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

22

23 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes. I said yes.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: So there are seven yes
26 so the motion passes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
29 other questions for Matt on the presentation then we'll
30 go to the dall sheep portion with Will Deacy.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go ahead, Will.

35

36 MR. DEACY: All right, thank you, Mr.
37 Chair. This is Will Deacy, Biologist with the National
38 Park Service. Just kind of quickly go over our recent
39 dall sheep survey. And for those who have it, I'll be
40 referring to the map on the last page of the NPS
41 supplemental handout.

42

43 So we conducted distance sampling
44 surveys for dall sheep this summer, July 8th through
45 the 14th in Gates of the Arctic Park and Preserve, and
46 then also in partnership with the BLM, we surveyed BLM
47 and State managed lands surrounding the Dalton Highway.
48 Today I just have preliminary results to share that we
49 just calculated over the last couple days but I'll have
50

0360

1 a more thorough update ready for the Gates SRC meeting
2 and then also the spring RAC meetings.

3

4

5 First, starting in the north, our
6 preliminary estimates indicate approximately stable
7 populations in the Itkillik Preserve at Northeast Gates
8 and the area surrounding Anaktuvuk Pass. And this is,
9 of course, following, this is stable since the large
10 decline that we saw in sheep in 2013 and 2014. And
11 also we observed approximately average number of lambs
12 per ewe like sheep in those two areas.

12

13

14 And down in the Southeast Gates study
15 area, and this is, for those who don't have the map, we
16 surveyed the area between the John River and the Dalton
17 Highway in the Park and then a little bit outside of
18 the Park to the south, and that's the study area that's
19 blue in your handout. Our preliminary results for that
20 area indicate a population that's declined
21 significantly since 2015. And like I said we'll have
22 exact estimates at the next meeting but they're likely
23 down 50 percent or more. And then for 2021 we saw
24 approximately more lamb production in that area.

24

25

26 And then, finally, on the handout, the
27 area that's shown in orange is a study area we surveyed
28 in partnership with Jenn McMillan and BLM Ranger Pilot
29 Seth McMillan, and Steve Masure (ph), and I think
30 Jenn's on the line if you end up having specific
31 questions about this area. So for that area, similar
32 to Southeast Gates of the Arctic Park, our preliminary
33 results are pointing to severe declines, likely greater
34 than 50 percent since the last survey that covered that
35 entire area in 2015, but we'll have more precise
36 estimates at the next meeting.

36

37

38 And, then, finally, before I take any
39 questions I just want to thank Beth Lenart at ADF&G and
40 Tim Knudsen at Fish and Wildlife Service, they both
41 helped us greatly with the logistical support for this
42 big and complex survey.

42

43

44 Thank you.

44

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Will, and so
47 the total numbers you're showing are showing a real
48 high lamb to ewe-like ratio, which those numbers are
49 not real actual population numbers those are just
50 unrecruited lamb -- I saw almost 100 percent lamb

50

0361

1 production this year, but that doesn't mean that
2 there's a lot of sheep, that just means that the few
3 ewes that are here had a lamb. Whereas last year ewes
4 that had a -- one ewe that had a lamb, she's gone and
5 so is her lamb, so those are unrecruited numbers.
6 Cautionary to the managers who are listening to me
7 talk, those high lamb numbers that you see right now in
8 the survey are not actually recruited or adult sheep.
9 From inventorying the sheep population it appears to be
10 mostly four, five and six year old sheep. That's the
11 main component. There's a couple yearlings, and
12 they're -- out of these large number of lambs. So that
13 has to be modeled in. I told Fish and Game they needed
14 to model this population and I've gotten no response
15 out of them. So I appreciate the data -- or the
16 presentation so far showing the significant decline.
17 That was unrecognized up until this survey this year.
18 And so the last survey was in 2015, 2015 was only just
19 a couple years after the massive decline in 2013 and
20 '14, '12, '13, and '14 was affected by the late winter
21 and rain on snow events then. So the population has
22 climbed to 2017/18 and took a nosedive after that, so
23 you're comparing a low population in '15 to an even
24 lower population right now, so that's to be considered.

25

26 I'm saying these things because the
27 managers need to think about what I'm saying and stop
28 ignoring what traditional knowledge says.

29

30 So I appreciate that presentation.
31 When we get to the Bureau of Land Management update
32 I'll discuss this further with Jenn McMillan. So any
33 further questions for National Park Service.

34

35 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair, Pollock.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

38

39 MR. SIMON: Yeah, Jack, I appreciate
40 you and all the Board members reappointing me to the
41 SRC Commission. Thank you, I appreciate it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you're quite
44 welcome.

45

46 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Jack.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're quite
49 welcome, you're a very valued member. So no questions

50

0362

1 for Park Service, we're going to move down to the
2 Bureau of Land Management presentation, Central Yukon
3 Field Office update. Who's doing this one, is that Tim
4 LaMarr or.....

5
6 MR. LAMARR: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
7 Tim LaMarr, Central Yukon Field Office Manager so I can
8 provide an update and I intend to speak a little bit to
9 the dall sheep issues. If you have specific questions
10 for Jennifer McMillan, I know she is on the line so if
11 you want to address specific questions to her along the
12 way that's fine, but I'd like the opportunity to share
13 a few things up front if that's all right.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That'd be great.

16
17 MR. LAMARR: Okay. So, yeah, I wanted
18 to start off by kind of touching on some of the
19 questions and concerns related to the BLM Alaska
20 statewide special recreational permitting process and
21 I'll call that SRP process, and that just means hunting
22 guide permits in this context, related to dall sheep.

23
24 The overarching questions about the
25 process that we use and BLM Alaska needs to be -- they
26 need to be raised to our State Director for him to
27 address. And currently we have an acting State
28 Director, and so I have been coordinating with some
29 other internal BLM Staff, including folks from the
30 State office and we do intend to raise that issue to
31 our acting State Director here soon after this round of
32 RAC meetings winds down here before we get too much
33 further into fall. So that overarching issue is
34 broader than anything that I can address as the Field
35 Manager for one field office. So that being said, I
36 would like to speak to some of the dall sheep hunting
37 guide SRP practices that we have in the Central Yukon
38 Field office. Just as a reminder to this body that we
39 did provide a summary of the field office program on
40 this at last winter's meeting, and just wanted to
41 remind folks of a couple of items from that summary.

42
43 One, the 10 year annual average harvest
44 by permitted guides on BLM lands is three sheep per
45 year, those are our numbers from 2010 to 2020 based on
46 post-use reports of what the guides have to report to
47 us as well as the Big Game Commercial Services Board.
48 Also Item, 2, the Central Yukon Field office does not
49 permit geographically overlapping hunting guides for
50

0363

1 dall sheep. Each guide has their own discreet
2 geographic area in which they're required to operated.
3 And the third point I'll make right now is that guides
4 are only allowed a specific limit on the number of
5 clients per year. Those numbers are spelled out in
6 their permits, and so they're not allowed to deviate --
7 or they're not allowed to exceed, and often they come
8 in under those numbers.

9
10 So I just wanted to remind everyone of
11 some of those points kind of in the context of that
12 discussion about our permitting process.

13
14 And I will turn towards some of the
15 very recent discussion of just a few moments ago.
16 Obviously as Will Deacy reported, the Central Yukon
17 Field office is partnered up with the Park Service and
18 Jennifer McMillan has been a key player in that with
19 the joint surveys that were done this summer, you know,
20 and we're awaiting a full population analysis of those
21 data. The initial numbers that we've seen from those
22 survey -- excuse me, hold on one moment -- excuse me,
23 sorry about that -- while the data aren't fully
24 analyzed yet, because of the low numbers of sheep seen
25 on BLM managed lands, one thing that we're going to be
26 doing in the short-term, that'll be doing in the short-
27 term is seriously looking at potentially amending the
28 SRPs for dall sheep hunting guides on the BLM lands in
29 that area, and I can do that without applying a NEPA
30 process to it. I can modify the allowable use, you
31 know, they're allowed under their permits, I can amend
32 that without going through the NEPA process. And if
33 the -- you know, the full analysis of the dall sheep
34 population data suggests that we need to make some
35 dramatic changes, you know, that's what I am taking a
36 look at here in the near term given the numbers that
37 I've seen so far. I'm very concerned about the numbers
38 as a lot of folks are and so I just wanted to make sure
39 folks understand that.

40
41 Also another aspect that we're going to
42 be looking at, so in the short-term the BLM can amend
43 the existing permits without a NEPA process so by next
44 year we can modify what they're permitted to do.

45
46 But in the longer term, Central Yukon
47 Field office, you know, we need to take a look at the
48 programmatic environmental assessment, which was
49 originally done in 2013 for dall sheep SRPs for this
50

0364

1 area and we recognize the need to go back and revisit
2 that based on some of the new information related to
3 what's going on with the population. Again, circling
4 back to the recent survey data as well as noting that
5 there are likely a number of other variables that we
6 need to take a look at in our analysis that were not
7 initially addressed perhaps in the 2013 EA. The
8 results of that type of analysis would identify, you
9 know, potential conditions under which we might permit
10 guided dall sheep hunts in this area and it would also
11 identify limits, particularly on things like numbers of
12 clients that we might permit for the area, and any
13 sideboards that we would identify for such permitting,
14 if we choose to do so.

15

16 So that's what I wanted to share at
17 this point on the dall sheep issue and I'd be
18 interested on any questions on that at this point.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this is where I
21 live.....

22

23 MR. LAMARR: Uh-huh.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:so the -- it
26 was surveyed in conjunction with the Alaska Department
27 of Fish and Game. As I discussed earlier, in other
28 times, incorporates part of Unit 25A, which has a
29 completely different weather pattern and mortality
30 issues in 25A. So the BLM lands occur predominantly in
31 Unit 24A, that's where the BLM lands predominantly
32 occur so taking numbers from the Chandalar and applying
33 those to the 25A is mixing apples and oranges. That
34 bolsters the numbers that you're actually using and in
35 reality the numbers that I've requested at different
36 times, that the State utilizing part of Unit 25A
37 muddies the water about what these populations are
38 doing. I used to hunt a lot in the Northfork of the
39 Chandalar, I know for a fact that there's more sheep
40 over there than there is over here. But previously
41 there -- when they were going to build the pipeline
42 there were 2,000 sheep from Beecher Camp to the Pass,
43 you can't find -- I would be surprised if you could
44 find 100, 125 sheep in that whole country. The reality
45 is these sheep population -- we're looking at a clip
46 with the ram population. We have four, five, six year
47 old rams. I watched hunters, not guides, I watched
48 hunters with archery trying to kill 7/8th rams, they
49 don't know a full-curl from the hole in the ground.

50

1 The reality is we don't only have guides which have a
2 80 to 90 percent success rate and have three SuperCubs
3 on floats and wheels attacking this population and
4 pushing their harvest to other areas because they're
5 liable to pay you three percent, we have -- we have big
6 problems with this population. Under Title VIII of
7 ANILCA and it says, specifically in .802, that there's
8 cons -- that the people who subsistence uses of
9 resources of such lands consistent with management of
10 fish and wildlife in accordance with recognized
11 scientific principles and purposes. You're under an
12 ANILCA mandate to maintain scientific principles. I've
13 told Fish and Game and I'll tell you at BLM, you need
14 to model the population. When we run out of adult
15 lambs here in about two years, we're not going to have
16 any breeding component. Baby two year old lambs, or
17 rams that may be recruited this winter are not going to
18 be your breeding population. We're in a crises
19 situation here. I would like to see an elimination of
20 any guided hunters on the BLM lands until -- I did not
21 take a sheep this year, I didn't feel good about taking
22 a dall sheep this year, why's that, because I'm so
23 concerned for the population -- we're allowed one ram,
24 I could kill ram, but I didn't do it, the subsistence
25 users are bearing the brunt of the conservation for
26 this population. So when you analyze your special
27 recreation permits, your guide permits, I want you to
28 take into serious consideration the population basis of
29 where you started back in 2010 when there was a lot of
30 sheep, we hadn't had the die-off in '13, you're now
31 allocating seven sheep to one hunting guide when
32 there's not even seven legal rams in the whole country,
33 that needs to be curtailed. You need to go into a
34 moratorium stature with your model that shows that we
35 can't harvest dall sheep for several years,
36 commercially. That's what your model will tell you.

37

38 So we need to involve scientific
39 principles and we have to get rid of Unit 25A in this
40 analysis. I've said this before, that's not part of
41 the Bureau of Land Management lands, that's part of the
42 State managed lands and that's a completely different
43 game management unit and management objectives over
44 there.

45

46 So I would like this Council -- you
47 said that the Regional Director has to address this, I
48 would like this Council to write a letter to the Bureau
49 of Land Management Regional Director stating that we
50

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1 have a crises situation because of special recreational
2 permitting processes that are affecting the subsistence
3 harvest and risking, severely risking the resource
4 itself. So we need to -- I would like this letter to
5 be promulgated and written to the Regional Director
6 stating our concerns for this population. And it needs
7 to be CC'd to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
8 and the Federal Subsistence Board also. It should be
9 an annual report topic. The dall sheep population
10 issue here needs to be also addressed, an overview by
11 the Federal Subsistence Board, they have to be aware
12 that there's an issue here in our region. Not only in
13 this area but also in Unit 19C in the Alaska Range, has
14 some bleak population figures also.

15

16 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
17 write a letter to the Regional Director of the Bureau
18 of Land Management regarding this special resource
19 permitting, SRPs.

20

21 MR. SIMON: So moved, this is Pollock.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.
24 Do we have a second to that.

25

26 MR. SEMAKEN: Second, Goodwin.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have any
29 discussion, Council members want to discuss this issue.

30

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

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

34

35 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I just want to make a
36 comment, I wanted to mention that since the early
37 1900s, our peoples from this area has been going up
38 into the mountains with trolling boat or some in canoe
39 to look for sheep in the mountain and today some young
40 boys, including my boys always try to go up in the
41 mountains and keep the tradition going and looking for
42 sheep so my thought is to keep the sheep population
43 healthy.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate those
48 comments, those will be incorporated into our letter.
49 The letter should also be requesting modeling the.....

50

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1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:sheep
5 population taking into account previous population dips
6 that dictate what this population is right now. This
7 by guess and by golly work, the sheep manage
8 themselves, because we got full-curl, well, we're
9 running out of full-curl. So we need to have
10 recognized scientific principles involved with this and
11 I'm going to be requesting -- we will be requesting
12 that in this letter.

13
14 Do we have a question on the motion.

15
16 MR. DEMOSKI: I call for the question.

17
18 MR. SIMON: Question.

19
20 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I believe Pollock
23 called the question. Poll the Council, Karen.

24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 On the motion for sending a letter to the Regional
27 Director of the Bureau of Land Management regarding
28 sheep populations of the SRP permitting process.

29
30 Member Pollock Simon.

31
32 MR. SIMON: Yes.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kevin Whitworth.

35
36 MR. WHITWORTH: Yes.

37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Arnold Demoski.

43
44 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Arnold.

47
48 Jenny Pelkola.

49
50

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1 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

4

5 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Goodwin.

8

9 Rebecca Wilmarth.

10

11 MS. WILMARTH: Yes.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Don Honea.

14

15 MR. HONEA: Yes.

16

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

18 That is a vote of eight Council members in favor, the

19 motion passes unanimously. Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that's the

22 letter you requested Tim. Did you have further

23 briefing for the Council.

24

25 MR. LAMARR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 do -- actually just to clarify, you know, I think I
27 said -- I did mention in my update on the dall sheep
28 that -- after preliminary numbers that I see, you know,
29 I share the concerns about the population and I do have
30 the capacity to amend current permit uses without a
31 NEPA process and so that could be something I could act
32 upon relatively quickly. And I would be -- you know,
33 as you suggested in your comments, looking to rely on
34 the model population data from the raw data that have
35 been collected recently. So I want to wait and see
36 what that looks like and then develop a rationale and
37 justification for any action that I might take further.
38 So the short-term measure could involve -- with the
39 situation could include amending the SRPs that we have
40 right now. The longer term solution of revisiting the
41 2013 environmental assessment, for longer term approach
42 to potentially, you know, permitted guides in this area
43 would entail a robust public involvement process and so
44 I would want to make that a robust process and allow
45 for, you know, public comment and I would be interested
46 in coordinating with the WIRAC on how to facilitate the
47 opportunity for the WIRAC to chime in on that process.
48 So that would be a more longer term process compared to
49 the possibility of a shorter term process of modifying
50

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1 existing permits if it comes to that.

2

3

So I just wanted to clarify that.

4

5

6 And then on a totally different topic,
7 I thought I'd give just a couple sentences on updates
8 on the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan. Folks
9 might recall that the draft RMP EIS for the resource
10 management plan was published last December. We held a
11 public comment period that got extended essentially to
12 a six month comment period until June 11th of this
13 year. And we have been reaching out to the Biden
14 Administration since they've kind of come in and filled
15 positions and gotten Staffed up and we have been told
16 by the new folks in our Headquarters that they will be
17 giving us direction on how to proceed further with the
18 proposed RMP Final EIS and we're still awaiting that
19 direction. So that's where we are. We anticipate
20 direction relatively soon and we anticipate crafting
21 the proposed RMP Final EIS and releasing that in early
22 calendar year 2022, that's our best estimate at this
23 point. That's not a hard date.

23

24

25

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

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28

MR. LAMARR: So I just wanted to update
everyone on that.

29

30

31

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I'll also just mention that folks are
probably aware that the BLM issued a right-of-way grant
to Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
on the Ambler Road project in January of this year.
Since then we've been working with AIDEA on pre-
construction phase work, the work that they've
conducted this summer has consisted entirely of
archeological survey and I believe some hydrological
survey in certain stream channels. No ground
disturbing work at all. So that's where we are on that
project at that moment. We're awaiting end of field
season reports from AIDEA on what they're findings were
with archeological surveys that they did and then we'll
move forward from there.

44

45

46

That concludes my comments.

47

48

Thanks.

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Tim,

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1 appreciate your updates on the Resource Management Plan
2 and where we're at on that issue. The Governor is
3 requesting funding for capital construction -- if the
4 State was to begin building the Ambler Road across the
5 BLM land, they would notify you in advance, the public
6 would be aware of that movement forward in actual
7 construction?

8

9 MR. LAMARR: Yes, Mr. Chair, if that
10 was a question. Yeah, AIDEA has indicated to the BLM
11 that they have multiple years of pre-construction work
12 to do, field surveys, and so they're not anticipating
13 moving forward for another two or three years with any
14 actual ground breaking on the project so there is still
15 -- and in the meantime with pre-construction work they
16 still have to work with us, with the BLM, at least, on
17 BLM lands for any authorizations that they may need
18 associated with pre-construction work if they propose
19 any ground disturbing work.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

22

23 MR. LAMARR: So we are constantly
24 working with them on that as we go.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And if you are
27 notified about ground disturbing work, the people of
28 this area would like to know about that.

29

30 MR. LAMARR: Okay. No, that's a good
31 -- I appreciate that. I appreciate that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

34

35 MR. LAMARR: Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think we've
38 covered that, is there any questions from Council
39 members for the Bureau of Land Management, Central
40 Field office Manager Tim LaMarr.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, we'll
45 move down on the list for BLM, at Anchorage Field
46 office, are you there Bonnie.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We had Bonnie at
2 some point in this meeting, Million.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we did go into
7 overtime here so apparently she dropped off. So we're
8 going to go to Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
9 customary trade in the middle and lower Yukon River
10 communities, Alida Trainor, are you.....

11
12 MS. TRAINOR: Yes, hello, Mr. Chair,
13 and members of the RAC, can you hear me?

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you good,
16 go right ahead.

17
18 MS. TRAINOR: Okay, great. There was a
19 labeling error on that -- on this agenda item. I'm
20 just going to give a brief overview of all of our
21 current work including the customary trade project.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead.

24
25 MS. TRAINOR: You should have received
26 a PowerPoint with this information.

27
28 So first I'd like to just give a brief
29 overview of our.....

30
31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted)

33
34 MS. TRAINOR:three current
35 projects in the Western Interior region. The first is
36 titled Yukon Salmon Network. This is a two year OSM
37 funded project that included the communities of Pilot
38 Station, Nulato and Beaver. We wanted to explore the
39 ways in which wild foods, particularly salmon, are
40 shared in these communities and how factors such as
41 resource decline and fishing restrictions impact these
42 significant sharing networks. We used a social network
43 survey to document the scope and characteristics of how
44 salmon are shared, bartered, and even sold or bought.
45 We also conducted traditional ethnographic -- or
46 traditional knowledge interviews (indiscernible -
47 background interruption) -- our results show that
48 sharing salmon is widespread within and outside local
49 communities and is a primary way communities support
50

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1 one another to maintain cultural ties with those who
2 have moved away from their hometowns.

3

4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted)

6

7 MS. TRAINOR: And that as salmon
8 declines sharing networks are disrupted. Households
9 described having to share less, limit who they share
10 with or even switch from sharing to other forms of
11 exchange such as customary trade. Sharing is the
12 primary way that Yukon River communities ensure that
13 all community members are provided for. It could be
14 argued that reductions in harvest opportunity affect
15 non-harvesting households even more than fishing
16 households because they do not have direct access to
17 salmon themselves and rely on sharing to access the
18 resource. In times when harvest is limited fishers
19 cannot adequately provide for others as they typically
20 would.

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We also include some management
implications and suggestions in our report. First
management must account for the role that sharing plays
in local communities. Second, reduction in fishing
opportunity can impact non-fishing households more than
fishing households. And, finally, if management does
not account for the role of sharing and exchange more
broadly the well-being of Yukon River communities will
be in jeopardy and other unintended social and resource
management consequences will emerge. Successful
management of a fishery depends on understanding how
communities experience and respond to management
decisions. The report describes how more holistic
management of all subsistence resources, such as salmon
and moose together could be a more effective way at
meeting the need of subsistence users.

The next project I'd like to give you a
brief summary on is one we're just starting now. It's
called customary trade in the lower and middle Yukon
River. This is an OSM funded project that we had to
actually delay a year, last year we chose not to deploy
this project due to Covid and decided that because of
the sensitive nature of this work we needed to do this
work in person and so that's what we hope to achieve
this year. Study communities include Nunam Iqua,
Mountain Village, Kaltag and Galena. This project
builds off prior work that documented that the selling,

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1 buying and bartering of salmon in the upper Yukon River
2 region. Completing this project will fill a critical
3 information gap regarding the traditional practice of
4 customary trade and will better inform the
5 conversations surrounding this form of exchange. The
6 diagram on the right of this slide shows the resources
7 that were exchanged in an earlier study community.
8 Salmon appears at the center of the diagram because
9 it's the most frequently exchanged resource. Moose,
10 gas, berries and to a lesser extent, cash, were also
11 exchanged for salmon. This is an example of the type
12 of documentation we'll make during this project.

13

14 The final project I will speak to is
15 the Kuskokwim Management Area post-season subsistence
16 salmon harvest survey. That's a mouthful. Which is
17 funded annually by OSM. The Department has been
18 gathering subsistence harvest information from
19 Kuskokwim area families since 1960. For over the past
20 two decades the Department has partnered with ONC to
21 conduct surveys among Bethel area households. We
22 typically survey about 28 communities throughout the
23 Kuskokwim drainage to include south Kuskokwim and
24 Goodnews Bay areas. This project seeks to document one
25 of the primary pieces of information, the total harvest
26 needed by managers and tribal organizations to inform
27 the total run estimates and other pieces of the puzzle.

28

29 Because of the ongoing circumstances
30 with the Covid19 pandemic, for the 2021 season we are
31 adhering to the same contingency plans which we
32 deployed last year, that included using a shortened
33 survey that can be administered by the phone or be sent
34 out via mail. The use of PPE when in person conducting
35 household surveys.

36

37 This year our outlying village survey
38 crew has visited a handful of Kuskokwim area
39 communities, of which we received approval from each
40 tribal council, households with the remaining
41 communities currently being contacted by telephone.
42 ONC technicians will be surveying Bethel households
43 this season using the same abbreviated survey form we
44 used last year. ONC technicians will begin surveying
45 Bethel, or they did just a few days ago on the 10th.

46

47 Also we have reintroduced the same
48 alternative survey options for folks who are interested
49 river-wide. Our sampling design this season is similar

50

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1 to last years. For communities that we cannot visit in
2 person we'll conduct a census by attempting to contact
3 every household. For communities that we visit in
4 person we surveyed a percentage of the communities.
5 For Bethel we will continue to sample approximately 25
6 percent of the households there.

7
8 Finally, I'll just briefly speak to the
9 only proposal we submitted to OSM for the Western
10 Interior region and this project is titled, Combining
11 Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Biological
12 Sampling to Enhance Understanding of Humpback Whitefish
13 and other non-Salmon fisheries in the Upper Koyukuk
14 River -- region. Brooke McDavid, Brian McKenna at TCC
15 and Randy Brown at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are
16 all co-PIs on this project. The first objective of
17 this project is to update TEK of critical non-salmon
18 fish by Alatna and Allakaket residents with attention
19 to humpback whitefish. The second objective is to
20 estimate non-salmon fish harvest timing and location
21 and compare results with previous studies. And the
22 third objective is to describe the demographics,
23 composition, age, sex, length, weight and chromatic
24 index of humpback whitefish spawning populations
25 (indiscernible - cutting out) and Southfork Koyukuk
26 River. We look forward to hearing from OSM about the
27 status of this proposal.

28
29 That concludes my abbreviated
30 presentation and if there are any questions I will take
31 them now.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're getting a
34 big echo off of somebody's open mic and so that's
35 probably driving Salena nuts. Does Council members
36 have questions on Alida's presentation of the three
37 different projects she outlined for Alaska Department
38 of Fish and Game. Council members.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we had your
43 PowerPoint I was going over while you were speaking so
44 I think you covered it. So thank you so much Alida.

45
46 MS. TRAINOR: Thank you for your time.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

49
50

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1 MS. TRAINOR: Goodnight.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Pacific Treaty
4 Funding -- oh, is that a different one?

5

6 MS. TRAINOR: Oh, I don't think you
7 should be seeing that in this presentation. Oh, I
8 could speak to it just real briefly. The Pacific
9 Salmon Treaty Implementation Funds were recently
10 increased and the Subsistence Division was able to get
11 some of that funding and will receive it annually in
12 order to conduct comprehensive (indiscernible - cuts
13 out) surveys on Yukon River communities. This year we
14 are focusing on conducting the work in Chevak and
15 Hooper Bay. And in going forward we will try to fill
16 in data gaps that exist in a number of Yukon
17 communities and so we might be coming to a community
18 near you soon.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for
21 outlining that. Appreciate that. Office of
22 Subsistence Management.

23

24 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, yeah, Tom
25 Kron here. And I've taken the liberty to cut the OSM
26 report in half given the press of time for your meeting
27 and I'll just dive in.

28

29 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. On
30 behalf of OSM I do want to thank all Council members
31 for the exceptional work that you do on behalf of your
32 communities and the user groups during these trying
33 times. We value your expertise and contribution of
34 your knowledge and experience to the regulatory
35 process. It had been very difficult for all of us
36 dealing with the Covid19 environment.

37

38 Teleconferences. As you've learned
39 from Board Chairman Christianson's letter from August
40 20th, 2021, we are holding all 10 fall 2021 Regional
41 Advisory Council meetings via teleconference. The
42 Federal Subsistence Management Program recognizes that
43 in-person meetings are preferable, however, until we
44 can ensure the safety of all participants we will
45 follow current guidance and hold all meetings via
46 teleconference. We thank you all for being willing to
47 participate the lengthy teleconferences and participate
48 and appreciate your patience.

49

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1 Since your last Council meeting in the
2 winter 2021 the following OSM Staff changes have
3 occurred.

4
5 We are very pleased to announce that
6 Ameer Howard has joined OSM as our new Deputy Assistant
7 Regional Director. Ameer previously worked for OSM as
8 policy coordinator.

9
10 We are also very pleased that a number
11 of Staff that worked at OSM grew with the program and
12 got promoted.

13
14 Katya Wessels, who spoke earlier on
15 this teleconference, was promoted from Council
16 Coordinator to Supervisor of the Division.

17
18 Lisa Grediagin, was promoted from
19 Wildlife Biologist to the Supervisor of the Wildlife
20 Division.

21
22 Robbin LaVine was promoted from
23 Anthropologist to Policy Coordinator position.

24
25 In addition we have good news on the
26 wildlife front. We were able to hire three new
27 wildlife biologist. One of them spoke earlier on the
28 analysis, Kendra Holman came to OSM from the U.S. Army
29 Corps of Engineers here in Anchorage.

30
31 We also had three departures at OSM
32 through retirement and new opportunities.

33
34 OSM team is diligently working to build
35 capacity and will be filling several new positions.

36
37 Also we've been talking to you the past
38 couple years about the changing IDs required at
39 airports. The latest we're seeing is beginning May
40 3rd, 2023 every air traveler will need to present a
41 RealID compliant driver's license or another acceptable
42 form of identification to travel even on Alaska
43 Airlines but also the Bush planes.

44
45 The final issue I'll talk about is the
46 lawsuit from the State of Alaska. As you were
47 previously briefed, on August 10th, 2020 the State of
48 Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence
49 Board after it adopted Emergency Special Action WSA19-

50

1 14. This special action allowed the Village of Kake to
2 engage in a community harvest of two antlered moose and
3 five male Sitka black-tailed deer. Also included in
4 the lawsuit was temporary special action WSA20-3 which
5 closed Federal public lands in Units 13A and 13B to
6 non-Federally-qualified moose and caribou hunters. As
7 part of the lawsuit the State asked the court to issue
8 two preliminary injunctions. One to prevent the Unit
9 13 closure from taking effect and another vacating the
10 Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board from allowing any
11 additional emergency hunts related to the impacts of
12 Covid19. On September 18th, 2020 the U.S. District
13 Court denied the State's request for a preliminary
14 injunction on the Unit 13 closure. The court found
15 that, quote, because the State has not demonstrated
16 either a likelihood of success or serious questions on
17 the merits of its claims, the court need not consider
18 the remaining elements of the preliminary injunction
19 analysis.

20
21 Two months later on November the
22 18th, 2020 the Court also denied the State's motion for
23 a preliminary injunction on the Kake hunt -- again,
24 Kake is in Southeast Alaska -- after Judge Gleason
25 concluded that the State had not demonstrated a
26 likelihood of success on the merits, raised serious
27 questions on the merits of its claim, or demonstrated
28 any likelihood of irreparable harm.

29
30 While these rulings are preliminary
31 they did not resolve the litigation. Recent
32 developments are that settlement negotiations between
33 the Department of Justice, the DOI Solicitor's Office,
34 USDA Office of General Counsel, and the State proved
35 unsuccessful. A briefing was completed at the end of
36 August 2021 and we are now awaiting the Court's
37 decision.

38
39 That concludes my report, Mr. Chair.
40 I'd be happy to take any questions, thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
43 report, Tom. OSM gets a few steps forward and then a
44 couple back but I'm -- I was very satisfied and pleased
45 with the performance of your Staff at our meeting. So
46 any questions for Tom on OSM's sort of update.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So don't hear any,
2 thanks so much for that outline.

3
4 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It was concise. So
7 we -- Karen, we have to revisit our annual report as
8 one of our last topics here. Would you like to give us
9 what you've got written down there.

10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Yes, I have currently five items that the Council has
13 requested have included in their annual report, please
14 forgive me if I missed something.

15
16 The first issue is the Yukon/Kuskokwim
17 chinook and chum salmon issue and the need to broaden
18 the Federal and State government participation in
19 rebuilding the in-river stocks, particularly by looking
20 at the Bering Sea and Area M fishery impacts and the
21 second issue is to -- because of the first issue look
22 at other fish species, monitor other fish species like
23 whitefish and sheefish because they are being targeted
24 more due to the chinook and chum collapse. And also a
25 higher need for terrestrial animal, like moose
26 monitoring due to the low salmon stock. In other
27 words, there's wider ramifications for the region as a
28 result of this fishery disaster.

29
30 There's also a request to include that
31 the Fishery Resource Monitoring Program should be
32 revised to prioritize research and monitoring projects
33 by local tribes and regional tribal organizations
34 pursuant to the intentions of ANILCA, Title VIII and
35 cooperative agreements with Alaska Native Organizations
36 in ANILCA .809. State of Alaska and Federal agencies,
37 which continue to experience cuts in their budgets are
38 cost shifting to this competitive grants funding
39 opportunity. Sustainable management of Alaska fish and
40 wildlife populations should be funded through State and
41 Federal base budgets, not through competitive grant
42 programs like the FRMP. Furthermore the Technical
43 Review Committee should be expanded to include
44 technical expertise from Alaska InterTribal
45 organizations who are best positioned to be able to
46 advance traditional knowledge, research and management
47 integration as well as employ biologists and
48 anthropologists who should be involved in reviewing
49 FRMP proposals. So that's Item 3.

50

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1 Item 4 is entitled the current and
2 blatant violation of ANILCA by Alaska Department of
3 Fish and Game. WIRAC should include in the annual
4 .805(c) report the Council's concern regarding the
5 State of Alaska's violation of ANILCA, Title VIII, on
6 June 28th, 2021 when the ADF&G opened gillnet fishing
7 for salmon in Federal waters for all Alaska residents
8 when the Federal in-season manager, in partnership with
9 the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission had
10 closed all salmon fishing with gillnets in Federal
11 waters. This action, if unchallenged indicates that
12 the Federal subsistence protections fought for so long
13 and hard by Katie John no longer exist. The Federal
14 Subsistence Board and Secretaries of Interior and
15 Agriculture must take proactive actions to enforce
16 ANILCA, Title VIII.

17
18 And then the fifth issue that the
19 Council would like to include is an informative to the
20 Regional Director of the -- informative issue to the
21 Board that a letter will be going to the Regional
22 Director regarding the SRP, or guide use permits,
23 particularly pertaining to the extremely low sheep
24 population in the Brooks Range, and so that will be
25 fleshed out further as the letter is developed but the
26 Board will be given an informational blurb on that
27 action by the Council.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that's what I
30 have.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That sounds good,
33 Karen. Any Council member comments or inclusions to
34 the annual report. We'll review this annual report at
35 our winter meeting and we'll finalize it at that time.
36 And so any Council comments at this point on the annual
37 report topics identified.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any.
42 That sounds good, Karen. We've covered our meeting
43 dates earlier in the meeting so closing comments from
44 the Council members and adjournment is coming up. So I
45 would like to get the impression of our new membership,
46 are you still there Arnold.

47
48 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes, I'm still here.

49
50

0380

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to have
2 your closing comment with your impression of your first
3 meeting.

4
5 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes. I just want to
6 thank everybody for their presentations and all the
7 information provided today. It was a really good
8 meeting, I'm sorry I missed yesterday, I was traveling
9 home yesterday on a plane and I couldn't call in. But
10 for today, though, it was a really good first meeting,
11 I really -- I mean I really enjoyed all the discussions
12 and I look forward to the next meetings. I thank the
13 other Council members for your knowledge that you
14 provided, I look forward to learning a lot from you
15 guys. It's just been a really good meeting and this
16 has -- I've been trying since 2013 to be on this
17 Council so it's just really good to be here and I look
18 forward to learning a lot and can't wait for the next
19 meeting.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate
22 those comments. Your willing to serve on this Council
23 and we need your input and you're an articulate speaker
24 so thanks for accepting and attending when you could.

25
26 So, Kevin, closing comments.

27
28 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, can
29 you hear me.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go right ahead.

32
33 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, okay, I had to
34 switch on my cell phone so it's not always a very good
35 connection but, anyhow I'm on. Yeah, appreciate this
36 meeting. Thanks to OSM Staff, Karen, thank you for
37 coordination. It's my first meeting, you know, I've
38 listened and sat in the public on these meetings when I
39 was younger and really enjoyed being on the other side,
40 actually part of the Council now. So look forward to
41 the next meeting, hopefully it's in person. I did get
42 a concern from a public member that they would like to
43 see that we don't overlap the Eastern Interior and
44 Western Interior RAC meetings like we did this time. I
45 think they were trying to monitor both meetings at the
46 same time and they would like to see us split those.

47
48 So that's it, thank you, very much,
49 until next time.

50

0381

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kevin. I
2 think OSM should make that as a policy that it was
3 commented on a few different times during the meeting,
4 that the Yukon -- EIRAC, WIRAC and Yukon Delta should
5 not overlap on the same timeframe, it's a very --
6 unless they're a joint meeting, it's very disparate to
7 the public and the managers to try to monitor both. So
8 that should be like a blackout if a Council picked a
9 week or a timeframe, that we don't have an overlap with
10 another Council.

11
12 So then Rebecca, are you still on the
13 phone, would you like to give your closing comment.

14
15 MS. WILMARTH: Yes, thank you, Chair.
16 I appreciate everybody's time. It's apparent that you
17 all put a lot of time into this, Karen, and as you --
18 you as well, Jack. The work that you guys do is very
19 important. Appreciate all of the other Council
20 member's knowledge. I had some difficulty staying
21 connected with the snow that we're having here in Red
22 Devil. But I learned a lot and really appreciate the
23 meeting materials being mailed ahead of time and all
24 the thought and coordination to getting thee meetings
25 together is really appreciated.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for
28 considering being on the Council and, yeah, I could
29 tell your phone was dropping you all the time but I
30 appreciate your diligence to stay to the end here and
31 we needed your input at times and unfortunately you
32 were offline at the moment, so hopefully we won't be
33 forced into having these teleconferences in the future.
34 Hopefully we'll be coming out of the black days of this
35 Covid.

36
37 Then we'll move, Jenny, are you there.
38 Jenny.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Jenny's phone
43 might have died, I'm not sure about that.

44
45 Pollock. Are you still here Pollock?

46
47 MR. SIMON: Yes, I'm here.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You want to
50

0382

1 give your closing comments.

2

3 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I'm here. Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I'll make some
8 comments. I hope the virus goes away. Having this
9 teleconference, my arm is kind of tired from holding up
10 the phone so I'm looking forward to sitting down and
11 facing everybody next time, that would be good. And if
12 the meeting is going to be in Galena, it's good that we
13 go out to the villages once in awhile and have a
14 meeting where the peoples -- the people are the ones we
15 represent so it's good to sit down and meet them and
16 talk with them and see what they want and that would be
17 good to do again once the virus leaves us behind.

18

19 So that's all, Jack, thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for
22 sticking in there Pollock. So, Don, are you there?

23

24 MR. HONEA: Yeah, could you hear me
25 now.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead.

28

29 MR. HONEA: Hey, I'd like to welcome
30 those three aboard, Kevin, Rebecca and Arnold and this
31 is really trying. I don't like these teleconference
32 type of things and I guess Pollock just kind of summed
33 it up right there about holding his phone and stuff and
34 switching different phones and, boy, this is really
35 trying and I appreciate everybody being on board, being
36 online and it's not easy. And I just -- I'd like to
37 see all the areas represented and the GASH area right
38 now, just like when we didn't have anybody from Aniak
39 or Red Devil or Georgetown or that area, I'm glad
40 somebody is sitting in there and filling it and taking
41 care of McGrath because we had a rep there that was
42 really knowledgeable and Ray was just one of a kind
43 and, you know, and also we had reps from -- Robert
44 Walker and James Walker, I believe -- Jimmy Walker --
45 those guys had a lot of knowledge on the board. I
46 remember maybe 15, 16 years ago whenever I got on here
47 it was almost overwhelming. So, you know, it takes a
48 lot of time and even right now, you know, I don't know,
49 you know, anything about what's going on up -- Jack, up
50

0383

1 there with the sheep, everything, you know all about
2 that and so it's -- so it's, you know, I think it's
3 cool, I think it's vital that we have people from every
4 area.

5

6 Appreciate you guys. I'll see you in
7 Galena. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
10 comments, Don. Goodwin, are you there now?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there
15 Goodwin?

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Must have lost him,
20 too. And I'll try Jenny again, Jenny are you there?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So apparently we
25 lost them. These teleconferences, I'm juggling phones,
26 fortunately I've got two home phone landline cordless
27 phones and I keep juggling them back and forth, I turn
28 one on and turn the other off to keep a charge going.
29 These teleconferences are a real challenge, not only
30 because of the static and noise that occurred, the
31 backfeed and all that, it's just trying to hear and
32 trying -- the phone systems go in and out of these
33 villages, they're not the best phone systems, and
34 internet is almost abysmal, so trying to log in to get
35 anything off the internet is almost impossible and a
36 lot of people aren't even capable of that. But we're
37 working it out, it's part of what we have to do with
38 this virus and so we're making headway and I really
39 appreciate all that OSM did for our support. Karen did
40 a great job getting this meeting together and getting
41 us the materials and thanks to Erin Julianus for
42 getting that book printed out for Pollock and the
43 coordination to get that up there.

44

45 I think that the dialogue with the
46 State is very important and the other agencies to
47 understand where we're coming from, where we would like
48 -- in reality if you watch the Councils have more
49 conservation ethic and a lot of time people are willing
50

1 to conserve, willing to take closures to maintain
2 populations and so why is that because when those
3 resources are gone we're not going to have food, so
4 it's food security. So we shift to another resource.
5 I'm not hunting sheep, I'm going after caribou now so
6 I'm conserving the sheep. There's people conserving
7 salmon and harvesting pike or whitefish or some other
8 species, beavers, muskrats. Elders told me that that
9 was some of their primary food when they had problems
10 with caribou or moose populations, was eating beavers
11 and muskrats. And so these things are all interwoven,
12 these resources, it's a holistic use of subsistence
13 resources and so these elders that we have on this
14 Council are vital to our long-term understandings and I
15 feel that the State of Alaska is more -- is sometimes
16 more driven by revenue. The Department of Fish and
17 Game has told me that the sheep population is
18 regulating, the full-curl, well, that's if you have a
19 model that shows that you have consistent recruitment.
20 If you don't have consistent recruitment this by guess
21 and by golly methodology of management has got to end.
22 There's got to be science-based sustained yield and
23 science-based management involved. And so I might push
24 some buttons, I might make people a little hot on the
25 collar when I say certain things about bull/cow ratios
26 going over a cliff in Mulchatna but I want everybody to
27 realize this Council member is conservation-minded, we
28 need to have healthy populations so that people that
29 rely on them have a food source.

30

31 So I'll shut up now.

32

33 I appreciate all the State input, the
34 presentations by the Subsistence Division, the Alaska
35 Department of Fish and Game, and so I'm looking forward
36 to our next meeting, I think we've got a real strong
37 Council now, I'm looking forward to some new
38 appointments before then. Hopefully we'll have a full
39 10 member Council by that time and so I'm hoping for
40 the best.

41

42 I hope everybody has a good winter,
43 good holiday season and God bless, I'm signing out.

44

45 The Chair will entertain a motion to
46 adjourn the meeting.

47

48 MR. WHITWORTH: Motion to adjourn.

49

50

0385

1 MR. DEMOSKI: Motion to adjourn.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not sure who

4 said that.

5

6 MR. HONEA: I said it, Arnold.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Arnold.

9

10 MR. WHITWORTH: Second, this is Kevin.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sometimes I can --
13 if you're phone is breaking I can't tell your voice so,
14 Arnold.....

15

16 MR. HONEA: Okay, I second it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and seconded by

19 Don.

20

21 MR. HONEA: Yes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Further discussion
24 by the Council.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, you
29 want to call the roll Karen.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: I was just going to
32 say all those in favor.....

33

34 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE:say aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, just say aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, now we're
45 good. I doubt there's any opposition to that one.
46 Those opposed, same sign.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50

0386

1 MR. HONEA: Roll call. Roll call.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: I can't even read the
4 roll anymore.

5

6 MR. HONEA: All right, goodnight
7 everyone.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Goodnight, have a
10 great evening, thanks so much.

11

12 MR. WHITWORTH: Thank you.

13

14 MR. DEMOSKI: Thank you.

15

16 MR. HONEA: See you in Galena.

17

18 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Jack.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sounds great.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sounds great. Thank
23 you, Pollock.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

28

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