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SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE  
October 26, 2021  
9:09 a.m.

Members Present:

- Louis Green, Chairman
- Martin Aukongak
- Tom Gray
- Deahl Katchatag
- Ron Kirk
- Leland Oyoumick
- Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator - Karen Deatherage

Recorded and transcribed by:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 10/26/2021)

(On record)

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I'd like to call this meeting, it's 9:09, I think there's five of us on here now. So, Karen, would you do the roll call, please.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And just so you know Doug Katchatag is going to try to call in.

MR. SEETOT: Here. Brevig.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Great.

Leland Oyoumick.

MR. OYOUNICK: I Brevig, this is from Unalakleet.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Ronald Kirk.

(No comments)

MS. DEATHERAGE: Is Ron Kirk with us?

(No comments)

MS. DEATHERAGE: He did say he'd join us.

Martin Aukongak. Sorry about your name there.

MR. AUKONGAK: Good morning. That's all right.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning.

Lloyd Kiyutelluk.

(No comments)

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Lloyd from Shishmaref,  
2 are you with us?

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom, you still on the  
11 phone?

12  
13 MR. GRAY: Yep, I'm here.

14  
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Alrighty.  
16  
17 How about Charles Saccheus.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland -- I mean Louis  
22 Green.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louis' here.

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right. Deahl  
27 Katchatag.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Maybe he's still  
32 trying to get in. Doug, you on the phone with us,  
33 Deahl Katchatag.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, apparently he's  
38 still having a problem connecting.

39  
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, there's some  
41 problems in Unalakleet this morning, apparently, so  
42 hopefully he'll be able to join in but right now we do  
43 have one, two, three, four, five of you so that does  
44 establish a quorum, Mr. Chair.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
47 Karen. So I'm going to go ahead and move to the next  
48 item on the agenda which is the welcome and  
49 introductions and we can go around.....

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry, go ahead.

4

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

6 I need to make an announcement and then with your

7 permission I can go ahead and do the welcome and

8 introduction so there's an order, given the

9 teleconference.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Please, would you,

12 thank you.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Good  
17 morning, everybody. This is Karen Deatherage with the  
18 Office of Subsistence Management in Fairbanks. And I  
19 want to first of all thank everybody for their patience  
20 with the teleconference meeting. It's going to be a  
21 lot of time on the phone today so a couple of things we  
22 really, really need your help with so we can record  
23 this meeting appropriately. First of all, please do  
24 not put us on hold, otherwise we'll have to listen to  
25 elevator music for quite awhile and it's really  
26 difficult for us to remove that music. And, secondly,  
27 unless you're speaking you need to please mute us. On  
28 your cell phones there's a mute button on the menu that  
29 you can just press on and off for when you're speaking  
30 and when you need to mute. And on your landline down  
31 next to the left of the zero is a star, and if you push  
32 star, six on your landline, that will mute your phone  
33 on your landline, and when you need to speak just push  
34 star, six again and that will unmute you. And, again,  
35 we really appreciate that. There's a lot of people  
36 that will be joining us and we'll try to keep the  
37 background noise to a minimum.

38

39 And I'd also like to make some  
40 announcements about some written and oral comments  
41 today. The Council will be deliberating several  
42 Wildlife Proposals and closure reviews and we want to  
43 make sure that anybody from the public or organizations  
44 or tribes has an opportunity to either submit written  
45 comments to the Office of Subsistence Management or to  
46 testify orally during the deliberation.

47

48 So at the beginning of each day there  
49 is an opportunity to provide testimony on non-agenda

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1 items. The Council Chair will announce these  
2 opportunities.

3

4

5 Then there is also an opportunity to  
6 provide oral comments on the wildlife proposals and  
7 closure reviews during or after an analyst presents  
8 proposal analysis. The order of receiving the comments  
9 is outlined on Page 22 of your meeting book. The  
10 Council Chair will call for this public oral testimony  
11 under each wildlife proposal or closure review.

11

12

13 There is also an opportunity to submit  
14 written public comments on the proposals. This is a  
15 new option, if you have a written comment please email  
16 it to subsistence@fws.gov, and please clearly indicate  
17 the number of the proposal or closure review you are  
18 commenting on in the title of the email. If there's  
19 less than 10 written comments we will read those into  
20 the record, if there's more than 10 written comments  
21 they will be tallied and the result will be presented  
22 to the Council prior to their deliberation.

22

23

24 So I'll go ahead and make this  
25 announcement again about written and oral testimony  
26 prior to the wildlife and closure review deliberations  
27 but we did want to let folks know on the phone that  
28 there are opportunities to comment on these important  
29 proposals.

29

30

31 So thank you, Mr. Chair, with that I'll  
32 start with welcome and introductions.

32

33

34 First, from the Office of Subsistence  
35 Management, if you could introduce yourself.

35

36

37 MR. KRON: Good morning, Council. This  
38 is Tom Kron and I'm the Statewide Support Supervisor  
39 for OSM and I'll be the leadership team lead working  
40 with you during these meetings today and tomorrow.

40

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\*\*Transcriber Note\*\*

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1 Hannah Voorhees contacted Computer Matrix Court  
2 Reporters requesting she be titled as Dr. Voorhees in  
3 transcripts and not Ms. Voorhees

4

5 \*\*End Transcriber Note\*\*

6

7 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is  
8 Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with Office of  
9 Subsistence Management.

10

11 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning. This is  
12 Brian Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist with Office of  
13 Subsistence Management.

14

15 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, this is Lisa  
16 Grediagin, Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Alrighty, and as I  
19 said earlier this is Karen Deatherage with the Office  
20 of Subsistence Management and I'm up here in Fairbanks.  
21 How about from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, do we have  
22 anybody on the phone from the BIA.

23

24 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. This is  
25 Pat Petrivelli, BIA Subsistence Anthropologist out of  
26 Anchorage.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great. Welcome, Pat.  
29 Thank you for being on the phone with us today. How  
30 about from the National Park Service. Do we have some  
31 folks from Nome or Anchorage.

32

33 MS. KOELSCH: Hi, this is Jeanette  
34 Koelsch, Superintendent of Bering Landbridge National  
35 Preserve.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, welcome  
38 Jeanette.

39

40 MR. THOMPSON: And Mike Thompson,  
41 District Park Ranger with Bering Landbridge National  
42 Park -- or Preserve, excuse me.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, welcome, Mike.

45

46 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning, Karen.  
47 This is Ken Adkisson, Bering Landbridge National  
48 Preserve, Nome.

49

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hey there, Ken.

2

3 MS. HUGHES: Good morning. This is  
4 Letty Hughes, Wildlife Biologist Bering Landbridge  
5 based in Nome.

6

7 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. This is  
8 Nikki Braem, Cultural Anthropologist with Bering  
9 Landbridge based here in Nome.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, welcome Nome  
12 National Park Service. Anybody from Anchorage.

13

14 MS. FLOREY: Oh, hi, yes. This is  
15 Victoria Florey out of Anchorage, National Park Service  
16 Subsistence Program Analyst. Good morning.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning,  
19 Victoria.

20

21 MS. YOCHUM: And good morning, this is  
22 Kim Yochum, I'm the Acting Subsistence Program Manager  
23 at the Regional Office.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Kim Yochum,  
26 welcome. Welcome Anchorage.

27

28 MS. YOCHUM: Thank you.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Alrighty, how about  
31 from the BLM.

32

33 MS. ATKINSON: Sorry, hi, this is  
34 Hannah Atkinson, I'm with the National Park Service in  
35 Kotzebue, Cultural Anthropologist.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, great. Oh, great,  
38 welcome Hannah. Anybody else from the Park Service on  
39 the phone with us?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, let's move to  
44 the BLM, Bureau of Land Management. How about Tom  
45 Sparks, you on the phone with us today?

46

47 MR. SPARKS: Yes, I am, good morning.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning, nice to

50

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1 hear you. Any folks from Fairbanks or Anchorage.

2

3 MR. GUSSEY: Good morning.....

4

5 MR. MCKEE: This is Chris Mckee.....

6

7

8 MR. GUSSEY: .....this is Walker Gussey  
9 out of Anchorage BLM office.

10

11 MR. MCKEE: .....Subsistence  
12 Coordinator for BLM out of the State office.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, hi Walker,  
15 welcome. Anybody else from BLM.

16

17 MR. MCKEE: Hi, this is Chris McKee,  
18 Subsistence Coordinator for BLM out of the State  
19 office.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Chris. Bonnie  
22 Million or Bruce Seppi on the phone.

23

24 MR. SPARKS: Hello, this is Tom. They  
25 both had conflicts with this meeting, they had other  
26 RAC meetings to attend. Over.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thanks, Tom.  
29 Maybe they can join us later. Appreciate knowing that  
30 though, thank you. How about anybody from the U.S.  
31 Fish and Wildlife Service.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Or any other Federal  
36 agencies.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: If not we can move on  
41 to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, who's with  
42 us this morning from ADF&G.

43

44 MS. BROWN: Hi, this is Caroline Brown,  
45 Statewide Research Director for Subsistence Division in  
46 Fairbanks.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Caroline.

49

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1 MR. SCANLON: Hi, this is Brendon.....

2

3 MR. SCOTT: Good morning.

4

5 MR. SCANLON: .....Scanlon, Fisheries  
6 Biologist, Fairbanks.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sorry, who was that?

9

10 MR. SCANLON: Brendon Scanlon,  
11 Fisheries Biologist out of Fairbanks.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, thank you.

14

15 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, good morning, this  
16 is Bill Dunker the Unit 22 Area Biologist based here in  
17 Nome.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Bill.

20

21 MR. DUNKER: Good morning.

22

23 MR. SCOTT: Good morning. This is Ryan  
24 Scott, the Assistant Director with Wildlife  
25 Conservation out of Juneau.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning, Ryan.  
28 Anybody else with us from ADF&G this morning.

29

30 MR. HANSON: Yeah, Alex Hanson here,  
31 Caribou Biologist out of Kotzebue.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Alex.

34

35 MR. HANSON: Hey.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Alrighty. How about  
38 anybody from Kawarek this morning.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Or any other Alaska  
43 tribes or Native organizations with us this morning.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hopefully we'll have  
48 some folks join us later. How about from the Fairbanks  
49 Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3

MS. DEATHERAGE: Or if anybody is on  
4 the phone from the general public we'd like to welcome  
5 you now, if you could introduce yourself.

6

7

(No comments)

8

9

MS. DEATHERAGE: And I'd like to  
10 backtrack, if we don't have any public members right  
11 now, to see if Doug Katchatag has been able to join the  
12 call. Doug, are you on the phone with us?

13

14

MR. KATCHATAG: Yes.

15

16

17

18

19

MS. DEATHERAGE: Super. Welcome. And  
then did I miss anybody, if so, could you go ahead and  
introduce yourself now.

20

21

(No comments)

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

MS. DEATHERAGE: All right, thank you  
very much everybody, and thanks for joining the call  
this morning. I'll go ahead and turn it over to  
Chairman Green, and Chairman Green we have six members  
present right now, which does establish a quorum.  
Thank you so much.

29

30

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.  
We'll start with Tommy for introduction.

31

32

33

34

MR. GRAY: Hey are we -- yeah, I'm  
here. We're not doing any reports or anything 'eh.

35

36

37

CHAIRMAN GREEN: We got six of us on  
deck now Tom, just letting you know.

38

39

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

40

41

MR. GRAY: Yeah.

42

43

44

MS. DEATHERAGE: .....can proceed to  
review and adopt the agenda.

45

46

47

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry, Karen,  
what's that.

48

49

50

MS. DEATHERAGE: Sorry. If you wish  
you can go ahead and move on to agenda Item No. 5, to

0011

1 review and adopt the agenda.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you for  
4 that. So No. 5, review and adopt agenda, there was  
5 some considerations to make and one of them is to  
6 Wildlife Proposal 22-50 to the end of the wildlife  
7 proposals and the other one is to remove the Bering  
8 Landbridge National Preserve discussion prior to  
9 Wildlife Proposal 22-47 under wildlife proposals. So  
10 I'd like to have a motion to approve the agenda as it's  
11 written with the changes and a second.

12

13 MR. AUKONGAK: Martin moves.....

14

15 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
16 Mission. I so move.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. That  
19 sounds like Martin made the motion and Elmer seconded;  
20 is that correct Karen?

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
23 that sounds good.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So that moves  
26 us into reports of Council members.

27

28 REPORTER: Vote.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'd start off with  
31 Elmer up north there.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I apologize  
34 for interrupting.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: The Council does need  
39 to review and approve the previous meeting minutes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oops. Oops.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: And I think you need  
46 to take a -- we also need to take a vote on reviewing  
47 and adopting the agenda and I would be more than happy  
48 to do a roll call for that or you can just have folks  
49 speak to it. Thank you.

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, we can do a roll  
2 call on it, Karen. I got my throttle down and I'm  
3 ready to go, because we got lots to cover today, so I'm  
4 -- sorry I'm skipping over the vote.

5  
6                   (Laughter)

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So we got a  
9 first and a second on the motion to approve the minutes  
10 -- I mean the.....

11  
12                   MR. GRAY: So hold on Louis, Louis,  
13 excuse me.....

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....and -- go ahead,  
16 Tom.

17  
18                   MR. GRAY: So I'm a little curious why  
19 we're removing the Beringia Park out of discussion on  
20 the proposal, is the proposal not infringing on the  
21 Park because the Park's in 23 also.

22  
23                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair,  
24 this is Karen Deatherage. If you'd like me to answer  
25 that question for Member Gray.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

28  
29                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Member  
30 Gray, through the Chair. The Park originally wanted to  
31 have an in-depth discussion about the cultural aspects  
32 of management on the caribou herd and calf take and  
33 they decided it would be best to have that discussion  
34 when the Council meets in person. And so they are  
35 available and will be available for any questions  
36 during the Council's deliberations on any of these  
37 proposals including those that are, you know, within  
38 the Park or Preserve and also -- or adjacent to that  
39 affect resources in Park so they will be available but  
40 they have opted to not have an in-depth discussion  
41 prior to the proposal until the Council can meet in  
42 person. Hopefully I captured that accurately on  
43 behalf of the folks with BELA, if not, please feel free  
44 to add your input.

45  
46                   Thank you.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Karen.

49  
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1 MR. GRAY: So for those folks listening  
2 it would be good to get some kind of a letter or a  
3 paper outlining what they're thinking so those of us on  
4 the Board have a chance to look at their mindset before  
5 we actually -- you know I hate to get in a meeting and  
6 be short termed about this thing and not have time to  
7 think about it. So thank you for answering the  
8 question.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There was a.....

11  
12 MR. GRAY: And I call the question on  
13 the vote.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....motion and a  
16 second and.....

17  
18 REPORTER: So hang on, hang on a  
19 minute. Hold on, this is Tina, the court reporter.  
20 When you guys are going to call the question, or do a  
21 motion, do a second, can you please state who you are.  
22 I know most of you but there's a couple of new people,  
23 so if you could just do that when you're calling the  
24 question I'd appreciate it.

25  
26 MR. GRAY: Tom Gray. Question.

27  
28 REPORTER: Thank you, Tom.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Tina. Okay,  
31 we've had a motion and a second and we got a Councilman  
32 calling for question on the review and adopting the  
33 agenda, we made a couple of changes. So Karen if you  
34 just did a roll call it'd probably be easier.

35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, I think  
37 given it's a phone conversation, and teleconference, a  
38 roll call would be appropriate.

39  
40 Elmer Seetot.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: On the vote to adopt  
45 the agenda as amended.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: We'll come back.  
50

0014

1 Leland Oyoumick.

2

3 MR. OYOUNICK: Aye.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Doug Katchatag.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Doug are you with us?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin Aukongak.

14

15 MR. AUKONGAK: Aye.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.

18

19 MR. GRAY: Yep.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Back to Elmer Seetot,

22 Jr.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer, you can press  
27 star, six if you wish to speak.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: How about Deahl

32 Katchatag.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louis a yes.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Louis.

41 Unfortunately we're missing two folks and so we do not  
42 have a quorum for the vote.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, it sounded like  
45 Doug was trying to do something, I kept hearing some  
46 scratchy things so that'd be -- maybe you could  
47 instruct him again.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Doug, if you're on the

50

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1 phone with us and you're trying to get through to  
2 vote.....

3  
4 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, I keep getting  
5 hung up, I don't know why.

6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sometimes that happens  
8 particularly in the rural area with the teleconference,  
9 it's just difficult -- you know, it's just difficult to  
10 have good lines and good communication but we  
11 appreciate it. If you could let me know if you vote to  
12 approve or oppose the agenda as amended that would be  
13 super.

14  
15 MR. KATCHATAG: Approve.

16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you so much.  
18 Mr. Chair, motion passes unanimously. Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. So  
21 did we have Leland, was he missing?

22  
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland voted  
24 affirmative, I believe.

25  
26 MR. OYOUMICK: I'm still here. Yeah.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. That was  
29 somebody else that kind of bleeped out. Okay, thank  
30 you. So.....

31  
32 MR. OYOUMICK: Maybe it was Ronald  
33 Kirk.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is this Ron Kirk?

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hello, this is Louis,  
40 is this Ron calling in?

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nope, apparently not.  
45 So that brings us to Item No. 6 to review and approve  
46 previous meeting minutes. I didn't have any issues  
47 with anything there. I just want to know if there's  
48 any comments or concerns or additions or deletions from  
49 the other Council members that are there on the phone.  
50

0016

1 Let's start with Elmer.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I'm not  
6 sure if we lost Elmer. I might suggest calling for a  
7 motion to approve the minutes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Karen. So  
10 I'm going to ask for a motion and a second to approve  
11 the previous meeting minutes.

12

13 MR. KATCHATAG: So moved. Doug  
14 Katchatag.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Doug, I  
17 need a second.

18

19 (Teleconference interference -  
20 participants phones not muted)

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It sounds like  
25 somebody's trying to second but we need somebody to.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Gray, would you  
30 care to second.

31

32 MR. GRAY: If I can figure out how to  
33 unmute my phone I'll second it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, we got a first  
36 and a second. Are there any comments, questions or  
37 concerns on the meeting minutes or any changes or  
38 deletions by any Council members. Discussion.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't know, Karen,  
43 it sounds like somebody's trying to get in there but I  
44 can't tell.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47 I think it's just some rustling going on. It's really  
48 difficult right now when Council members need to vote  
49 or move a motion forward to mute and unmute, and so if  
50



0017

1 people could keep the background noise down we don't  
2 have to mute during voting times. But I'd be happy to  
3 -- if somebody.....

4

5 (Teleconference interference -  
6 participants phones not muted)

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....could call the  
9 question I would be happy to do a roll call. Thank  
10 you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think that would be  
13 appropriate, Karen, to go through a roll call vote here  
14 unless there's any concerns by Council.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
17 If somebody could call the question.

18

19 MR. KATCHATAG: Question.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been call.  
24 Roll call.....

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Roll call, Elmer.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....please, Karen.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....Seetot, Jr., on  
31 the motion to approve the minutes.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer, are you on the  
36 phone?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

41

42 MR. OYOUMICK: Aye.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Doug Katchatag.

45

46 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

49

50

0018

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin Aukongak.

4

5 MR. AUKONGAK: Aye.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Martin.

8

9 Tom Gray.

10

11 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Did Charlie Saccheus  
14 join us?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Lloyd Kiyutelluk.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louis' a yes, thank  
25 you.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 The motion passes 5/0, thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So that takes  
31 care of Item No. 6. So we move to Item No. 7 and  
32 request that Council members make their individual  
33 reports. We'll start with Doug.

34

35 MR. KATCHATAG: (Indiscernible -  
36 breaking up) dog salmon, millions of pink, hardly any  
37 king salmon. Our moose are (indiscernible), our  
38 berries are lower and the river has been really high  
39 all summer. (Indiscernible - breaking up). I don't  
40 know what it looks like on the coast but up river it's  
41 just spilling all over the place. Climate change is  
42 really eating -- the permafrost is really thawing. So  
43 we got a lots of concerns about -- with that. So other  
44 than that I don't know everything's different.

45

46 Okay, thank you.

47

48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's Doug  
49 Katchatag.

50

0019

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Doug. Some  
2 of that was kind of hard for me to hear, I don't know,  
3 Karen, did you get it all?

4  
5                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr.Chair, yeah, there  
6 was a lot of break up so I tried to capture as much as  
7 I could. Thank you.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Leland.

10  
11                   MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, good morning.  
12 Probably he was trying to say that there was hardly not  
13 too much fish this year in the way of kings, all the  
14 way from kings, to silvers, to chums, there was  
15 humpies, quite a few humpies but that was the only big  
16 return on fish, as far as fish goes. I don't know  
17 where the silvers are or what's going on with them or  
18 the chum, or -- there are still not too many at all.  
19 So it's kind of different to not see fish jumping in  
20 our river when you're used to seeing fish all over.  
21 It's kind of different.

22  
23                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's Leland.

24  
25                   MR. OYOUMICK: Other than that they  
26 caught a lot of moose. I don't know how many exactly  
27 but the quota this year was 61 and maybe like almost 50  
28 moose were caught and people were real happy with the  
29 moose season because I didn't hear no complaints and  
30 they got some really nice moose.

31  
32                   I didn't see too much -- any bear.

33  
34                   So other than that weather is still --  
35 the weather factor and we still have to deal with that  
36 no matter what.

37  
38                   So that's about all for me, thank you.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.  
41 We'll move on to Tom Gray.

42  
43                   MR. GRAY: Hey, I'll echo the fish  
44 stuff.....

45  
46                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's Tom Gray.

47  
48                   MR. GRAY: .....you know from -- even  
49 the pinks, this.....

50

0020

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants phones not muted)

3

4 MR. GRAY: .....is usually a pink year  
5 and we didn't get the pinks in our river that we  
6 normally get. Silver salmon sucks, you know.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Excuse me, Tommy.

9

10 MR. GRAY: .....I run a fish guiding  
11 business and.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody's.....

14

15 MR. GRAY: Uh?

16

17 REPORTER: Okay, hang on a second Tom.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody's got to  
20 mute.

21

22 REPORTER: Yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody needs to  
25 mute.

26

27 REPORTER: So unless your name is Tom  
28 Gray or Louis Green, please mute your phone so I can  
29 pick up Tom, I'm having a hard time picking up people  
30 on the recorder. Thank you. And go ahead Tom.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tina.

33

34 REPORTER: Yep.

35

36 MR. GRAY: Okay. Is this working any  
37 better this time?

38

39 REPORTER: Go ahead, Tom, yes, thank  
40 you.

41

42 MR. GRAY: Okay. Again, our fish runs  
43 were horrible. Usually on a odd year we have millions  
44 and millions of pinks. When they die they stack up and  
45 the whole river just sinks. It was dismal. Hardly any  
46 fish died on the edge of the river, usually they're  
47 like potato chips but this year there was very few.  
48 This is the first year that I know of that nobody on  
49 the river system made dry fish. You talk about climate  
50

0021

1 change, it rained, rained, rained and there was -- of  
2 all the camps and all the people that cut fish, no dry  
3 fish got made. Silver salmon run was dismal. And, you  
4 know, through all of this the chum run wasn't good, the  
5 silver salmon, the humpies were down, through all of  
6 this we still had commercial fishing going on out in  
7 the ocean. Very frustrating. You know our people on  
8 the river system and subsistence needs to be taken care  
9 of. And, yet, you know, this commercial fishing goes  
10 on.

11

12 Let me see, crabbing, we had a few more  
13 crab this year, but small crab, not big crab. I set  
14 pots in White Mountain because I had some people come  
15 in and ended up losing -- last year is the first time I  
16 ever lost crab pots and I lost five crab pots because  
17 of ice conditions. So, again, global warming.

18

19 The caribou never really came south.  
20 There was caribou on the north side of the Peninsula  
21 but not down in the -- you know, mid part of the Seward  
22 Peninsula so caribou hunters had to go a long ways to  
23 get caribou.

24

25 The water on the river system never  
26 really dropped, you know, we had high water all summer.  
27 And it never really got real high, it just kind of  
28 maintained high water, you know, maybe once this summer  
29 it was super, super high but it never -- you know what  
30 I call shallow -- and I've got -- during my fish  
31 guiding time I've got three boats running in the river  
32 and I got no problems.

33

34 (Teleconference interference -  
35 participants phones not muted)

36

37 MR. GRAY: Hunting in the ocean.  
38 What's that?

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody needs to  
41 mute. Somebody needs to mute their phone. Tommy go  
42 ahead.

43

44 MR. GRAY: Oogruk hunting and beluga  
45 hunting last year was great. This year I didn't get  
46 any belugas and my world's just spinning too fast.

47

48 For all you villagers, here's a good  
49 one for you, everybody always complains about bears.

50

0022

1 Tom Gray was responsible for killing 10 bears this  
2 year. My business -- I had clients that killed nine and  
3 I killed one so if anybody's helping the moose out, I  
4 am.

5  
6 It's just been kind of a tough year.  
7 So, anyway, I think that's all I got.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Gray.  
10 I'll go on over to Elmer Seetot, if you're on the line  
11 Elmer, need your report, please. Thank you.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It sounds like we lost  
20 him, uh, Karen.

21  
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'm  
23 not sure what happened to Elmer.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Well, maybe  
26 he's got to dial back in. Let's go to Martin, Martin  
27 Aukongak.

28  
29 MR. AUKONGAK: It's pretty much the  
30 same. You know I spent half my summer in Whittier  
31 working but.....

32  
33 (Teleconference interference -  
34 participants phones not muted)

35  
36 MR. AUKONGAK: .....you know hardly any  
37 fish and crab, you know, people went out and still get  
38 their trout, you know, gathering, berry picking. But  
39 pretty tough berry picking because of the rain. And,  
40 you know, my family got very little bit of dry fish,  
41 like Tom said there was a lot of rain. But I came back  
42 up toward the end of August, there was still a lot of  
43 rain then and definitely a late freeze-up right now.  
44 And with that, supposed to go out boating and pretty  
45 dangerous if anybody want to go on the ice toward the  
46 rivers right now, hopefully everybody waits, you know,  
47 everybody wants to get their trout still.

48  
49 And, you know, there's definitely a lot  
50

0023

1 of bears, I'll agree with that. We got a few in  
2 Golovin too. So that'll definitely help out everything  
3 with the caribou and moose.

4  
5 A lot of wolves, wolverine. Had some  
6 good friends trap wolverine this past winter, they're  
7 everywhere.

8  
9 That's about my report.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Martin.  
12 I'll go ahead and try and see if we can get Elmer back  
13 on. Elmer, are you there?

14  
15 MR. SEETOT: Do you hear me now?

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I can hear you now.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 MR. SEETOT: Yeah, I need a phone  
22 advisory much like Office of Subsistence Management,  
23 that legal counsel, so that's one of my set backs.

24  
25 We had limited fishing due to wet  
26 weather, onshore winds all the time, wet weather to dry  
27 our fish, we had limited fish that were drying. Numbers  
28 were really down, the red salmon. Hardly saw humpies  
29 jump on the surface of the water. Usually we saw them  
30 every day when the numbers were there. We saw a number  
31 of seabirds on the shoreline during the past summer,  
32 even the kittiwakes, they were like in a daze or in  
33 some kind of mental state where they weren't even  
34 afraid of people around so that, I think, one of the  
35 effects of something like water being too warm for food  
36 to be eaten by the seabirds.

37  
38 Berry picking was limited during the  
39 first couple of times, first couple of months. Other  
40 than salmonberries were plentiful on the west side of  
41 Brevig Mission, all other places, I think due to the  
42 cold May, June, July temperatures when the flowers  
43 first started blooming, either they blew away or they  
44 froze.

45  
46 Beluga were harvested last month. I'm  
47 Okay. with (indiscernible) station down, the beluga are  
48 starting to come in to and feed on the fish resources  
49 within Port Clarence Bay and Grantley Harbor. So was  
50

0024

1 of right now Imuruk Basin is starting to freeze up.

2

3

We just (indiscernible - breaking up)

4

5

6

MS. DEATHERAGE: Hey, there Elmer,  
you're cutting out a little bit, could you speak closer  
to the phone if possible, thank you.

7

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

CHAIRMAN GREEN: We lost him. Elmer.

12

13

(No comments)

14

15

MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, I think we did.

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. When he comes  
back on we'll let him finish. I'll go ahead with mine.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

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49

50

So I had a real interesting summer. I had to spend, not only time in Nome, but I had to come down to Palmer and help my son Bryce. But, you know, the old ways about fishing up there, you know, I started fishing in the first part of the June and I would have salmon but that'd be a good time to dry because generally you'd have a little bit of sunshine in the month of June and that was kind of always the way my grandmother, Elsie, did business, was take care of it right away and then move on over -- before the Fourth of July, move over to the Pilgrim River for reds. But this year it was a really bad year for salmon. I'm just like Tommy, I'm not happy with that commercial fishery that we have there in Nome, in the Nome subdistrict, especially two or three seasons ago, I mean there were 10,000 -- 9,000/10,000 silvers taken. I have a problem with that because our river are too small to be targeting any of our fish stocks when they're trying to build. As it has been -- I mean we've developed into a pink habitat and like Tommy says, the even year is supposed to be the big year, well, last year was the big year between two years. I have a camp on the Nome River up on the upper limits of it and this last summer there was barely any pinks to speak of. And the same time last year they were going all the way up past -- you know, up Twentyeight, Twentynine, Thirtymile on the Kougarok Road. I had five year old kids picking them up out of the creek and they were in good shape. And, you know, we were able to get pink salmon. But the chums, the silvers, the



0025

1 kings, they're non-existent. The red salmon are even  
2 having troubles and they're being fertilized at Salmon  
3 Lake by -- the plankton's being fertilized that is so  
4 that the smolts have feed for their first and second  
5 year there.

6  
7 The commercial salmon fishery, I  
8 testified against it. I said if you're going to have a  
9 commercial fishery in Nome, when the Board of Fish was  
10 considering it, I said you need to have a pink purse  
11 seine fishery only, target the pinks. In 2018 3.2  
12 million went up the Nome River and that was after that  
13 suggestion a few years before that. So I'll go ahead  
14 and get off the salmon.

15  
16 The crab issue is really sad. And I  
17 was really happy that there weren't any buyers to  
18 process any crab to allow for a crab season so I was  
19 thankful for that. Our stocks have been down since the  
20 '70s when the big Bering Sea boats came in there. I  
21 was out there in '80 with the oil rig west of Nome,  
22 southwest of Nome watching them put their gear out on a  
23 flat calm ocean and those guys were using 7x7x7 pots,  
24 they weren't messing around and they put a heck of a  
25 dent in our crab stocks. And they have dribbled back a  
26 little bit at a time but we keep hitting them and  
27 things are not adding up to crab for subsistence even.

28  
29 So we've got salmon, you can't get for  
30 subsistence, we got no crab for subsistence, caribou's  
31 hard to come by unless you go way, way up north so  
32 that's out of a lot of people's reach. Tommy's right  
33 about the high water all summer.

34  
35 Last year my family was successful with  
36 beluga hunting, this year didn't have the time so I was  
37 out of luck just like Tommy.

38  
39 And people still complain of bears.

40  
41 Beavers are another, you know, addition  
42 since the '70s in our rivers and they're everywhere. I  
43 witnessed them this year.

44  
45 For the moose hunt, which was two days  
46 longer this year, in 22D, last year it was three days  
47 long, this year it was five days. My two sons, Michael  
48 and Louis and I were successful again this year. So  
49 we're okay in that. But there are a lot of families  
50

0026

1 that are spending a lot of money, \$15,000 machines to  
2 get out there and they're not filling their freezers.

3  
4 So all and all we've had a really bad  
5 year for subsistence and I don't quite know how to look  
6 at it any other way than we need to change our  
7 regulations and, you know, things have to shape up  
8 before we have any commercial targeting of any of our  
9 species.

10  
11 Thank you, Tom, for taking those bears  
12 out. I wished I would have been able to do that myself  
13 this year in the spring and the fall. I didn't see any  
14 bears this fall but a lot of tracks in the Kuzitrin and  
15 Pilgrim so I know there's plenty there.

16  
17 Anyway, I think that would be the  
18 extent of what I have to say. The other one is that  
19 one last thing this public testimony that was out for  
20 trawling, the trawlers in the Bering Sea, there's a lot  
21 of opposition to that, the wanton waste that goes on  
22 there, we really need to have a look at that. I know  
23 that we're part of it because we're involved in the  
24 Community Development Program so, you know, you rob  
25 Peter to pay Paul and pretty soon Paul's got empty  
26 pockets -- or Peter's' got empty pockets. We've got  
27 empty rivers, we've got an empty ocean in front of the  
28 Nome area, in Norton Sound actually. So I think that  
29 things need to change and people need to change their  
30 way of thinking and doing business in our region.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 Is Elmer on?

35  
36 MR. SEETOT: I'm on.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

39  
40 MR. SEETOT: My phone went dead.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead and finish  
43 your report, Elmer.

44  
45 MR. SEETOT: Yeah, I was just going to  
46 mention that I -- we -- I harvested caribou, genuine  
47 caribou in the mountains, this was last May so that's  
48 something we're going to look at more often. I think  
49 they are migrating on the north side and then down to  
50

0027

1 the Yurt Mountains.

2

3 I got to mention about the phone lines,  
4 we do have problems with the phone lines occasionally  
5 being on teleconference, our lines do go dead and at  
6 times that's kind of frustrating because it happens  
7 maybe not only once but maybe a couple times. So  
8 that's one of the things that we're looking at when  
9 we're teleconferencing -- in teleconferencing the phone  
10 lines do go dead and then we do have to call in.

11

12 Other than that, that was my report.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for getting  
15 back online Elmer, I know it's difficult, it's  
16 happening in Unalakleet, it's happening in Brevig, so  
17 it's understandable, we know. Technical difficulties  
18 are problematic with these phones.

19

20 So that's all the Council reports, I  
21 think I got everybody, Karen, including myself. So I  
22 guess that brings us to Item No. 8, which are service  
23 awards, and I think Tom Kron has something there for  
24 us.

25

26 Tom.

27

28 MR. GRAY: Louis, can I jump in here.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, you have something  
31 to add, sorry.

32

33 MR. GRAY: I'm headed to the airport.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

36

37 MR. GRAY: This is Tom Gray, I'm headed  
38 to the airport, the jet's early I guess. So if I can  
39 sign back in I'll sign back in but I'll try when I get  
40 to Anchorage.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're obligated, Mr.  
43 Vice Chair.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just teasing. Thanks,  
48 Tommy Gray. And, again, the introduction for Tom Kron  
49 under Item 8 service awards.

50

0028

1 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, yeah, this  
2 is Tom Kron with Fish and Wildlife Service.

3  
4 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last  
5 spring recognized Louis Green for the Alaska region  
6 Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Native Elder  
7 Conservation Award for 2021 so thank you, Louis, for  
8 your years of service in Alaska.

9  
10 Louis has served on the Seward  
11 Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for the  
12 past decade and is currently the Chair of the Council.  
13 He serves on the Board -- he served on the Board of  
14 Sitnasuak Native Corporation in Nome for 19 years. He  
15 served on the ADF&G Advisory Committee for 13 years,  
16 and served as Vice Chair there. He was named by Alaska  
17 Governor as Citizen of the Year in 2000 for his search  
18 and rescue efforts.

19  
20 He is a subsistence hunter and fisher.  
21 Has commercial fished, been an assistant big game  
22 guide, worked on an oil rig, worked on geothermal  
23 exploration. He also worked as a licensed ship captain,  
24 airplane pilot and police officer.

25  
26 Next I'll go on to service awards on  
27 the Council.

28  
29 I'll start off with Louis Green, 10  
30 years, and just read the recognition here.

31  
32 Louis Green, Jr,'s attendance at  
33 meetings is exemplary despite the fact that he serves  
34 as a caretaker for many people, most notably his  
35 paraplegic son, who resides at a facility in Palmer.  
36 Mr. Green is also a member of numerous committees and  
37 frequently a traveler for the tribe. Mr. Green's level  
38 of participation at meetings is high, as he is viewed  
39 as a leader on the Council and has been elected to  
40 serve as Chair for many years. Mr.Green is also very  
41 inclusive of other Council members and has deep respect  
42 for the elders that serve on the Council who are often  
43 to shy to speak up, or not as familiar with the subject  
44 matter. Despite this, Mr. Green ensures that they have  
45 their time to speak on issues of importance to their  
46 Council, to the communities and share their traditional  
47 knowledge regardless of the subject matter.

48  
49 Mr. Green is extremely active with the  
50

1 public, engaged in the North Pacific Fishery Management  
2 Council issues and marine mammal issues as well as  
3 salmon fishing and moose hunting in the region.

4  
5                   Mr. Green has a very busy schedule and  
6 frequently is on travel but still partakes with his  
7 family in traditional hunting practices. As a pilot  
8 he's been able to see the country and witness  
9 activities on the ground that help the Council make  
10 informed decisions. For example, in Unit 22D remainder  
11 and 22E there have been concerns over the moose  
12 population and the impacts of non-local and non-  
13 resident hunters on subsistence opportunities,  
14 Mr.Green's observations of herding and harassment of  
15 moose in this area has been helpful to law enforcement,  
16 wildlife managers and the Council to better understand  
17 these impacts and the actions needed to protect the  
18 resource for subsistence users.

19  
20                   Mr. Green also actively fishes for  
21 salmon in the region and helps the Council and others  
22 understand the impact to salmon in Norton Sound and  
23 area tributaries from outside the region.

24  
25                   Mr. Green's overall conduct is  
26 welcoming, knowledgeable and flexible on the Council.  
27 One newly appointed Council member recently described  
28 the meeting as fun, which is a testament to Louis'  
29 ability to continue to embrace the human element of the  
30 work, despite the complex regulatory and biological  
31 issues before the Council. He expresses his gratitude  
32 to agency participants and the public even if he  
33 disagrees with their positions. Mr. Green is a  
34 dedicated participant on the Seward Peninsula Council.

35  
36                   Next, a five year award to Leland  
37 Oyoumick.

38  
39                   Mr. Oyoumick has served as a  
40 subsistence use representative on the Seward Peninsula  
41 Regional Advisory Council since 2016. Leland has not  
42 missed a meeting since he was appointed. He is not  
43 currently an officer on the Council but has stepped up  
44 in the past to act as Chair and did an excellent job.  
45 He frequently asks questions to ensure that he has as  
46 much information as possible to make informed  
47 decisions.

48  
49                   Mr. Oyoumick lives along the Unalakleet  
50

0030

1 River which is a site where long-term chinook salmon  
2 monitoring has been conducted via a weir funded by the  
3 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Mr. Oyoumick  
4 was given the opportunity to participate in a site  
5 visit to the Unalakleet weir, after which he became a  
6 strong advocate for chinook salmon on the river and  
7 research needs to help conserve the population. He  
8 helped to educate other Council members on the research  
9 by asking public members pertinent questions at Council  
10 meetings. Mr. Oyoumick also shares his personal  
11 experience subsistence fishing on the river in an  
12 effort to assist researchers understanding what is  
13 happening is outside of the weir area.

14  
15 Mr. Oyoumick is deeply concerned about  
16 the impacts of climate change on the resource within  
17 his community as well as the potential for toxins in  
18 the Bering Sea coming from international sources.

19  
20 He shares important observations  
21 regarding seabirds and marine mammal changes, mortality  
22 and subsistence activities with the Council at every  
23 meeting.

24  
25 Mr. Oyoumick has also engaged in the  
26 Bureau of Land Management Bering Sea Western Interior  
27 Resource Management Plan, as a result BLM  
28 representatives working on the plan participated in  
29 several meetings and shared important information with  
30 the Council on how aspects of the 20 year management  
31 plan could impact local subsistence users.

32  
33 Lastly, Mr. Oyoumick keeps appraisal of  
34 salmon bycatch in marine waters and frequently requests  
35 updated information on the annual bycatch numbers. He  
36 is very forthright with his feelings on how chinook  
37 salmon bycatch is negatively impacting chinook salmon  
38 numbers coming into the Unalakleet River and,  
39 therefore, threatening subsistence activities and the  
40 long-term conservation of the species. He is strongly  
41 committed to subsistence and wishes to continue his  
42 service on the Council and on behalf of subsistence  
43 particularly in Unalakleet. He fully supports and  
44 lives a subsistence lifestyle and is dedicated to  
45 preserving the traditional way of life and culture in  
46 rural Alaska.

47  
48 Next, Ronald Kirk, five years on the  
49 Seward Peninsula Council.

50

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1                   Mr. Kirk is a subsistence user who  
2 resides in the village of Stebbins. He also served on  
3 the Council since 2015. Mr. Kirk works full-time and  
4 has often had to call into meetings while working,  
5 which shows his dedication to the Council.

6  
7                   Mr. Kirk's discourse, both on and off  
8 the Council has developed considerably since he was  
9 first appointed. He is very passionate about  
10 subsistence and speaks with an informed approach. He  
11 actively participates in Council activities and engages  
12 respectfully with speakers, biologists and others who  
13 ask for additional information. Mr. Kirk is extremely  
14 dedicated, at times having to call in during a busy  
15 work schedule.

16  
17                   Mr. Kirk is familiar with subsistence  
18 issues in his community particularly with respect to  
19 marine mammals, salmon, herring and moose. Like others  
20 in the Seward Peninsula region, he brings to the table  
21 the impacts of climate change and how it affects the  
22 communities of Stebbins and St. Michael.

23  
24                   On behalf of the Federal Subsistence  
25 Management Program, congratulations and thank you to  
26 Louis, Leland and Ron for the years of dedicated  
27 service on behalf of subsistence users on the Seward  
28 Peninsula.

29  
30                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, thank you, Mr.  
33 Tom Kron for that, and thanks to the guys on the  
34 Council that are so passionate about their work here,  
35 appreciate it. So having said that, that was Item No.  
36 8, this moves us into Item No. 9, and I guess I would  
37 be asking anybody from the public or tribal entities to  
38 make comment on non-agenda items. We do this each  
39 morning. This is anybody's opportunity in the public  
40 or from tribal, actually ANCSA Corporations are  
41 included to have comment on non-agenda items.

42  
43                   (No comments)

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, I don't think  
46 we've got anything from the public at this point.

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

49  
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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So then.....

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: I would like to ask,  
4 if it's possible, for anybody who has joined the  
5 conference call and did not have an opportunity to  
6 introduce themselves this morning, if you could do so  
7 now that would be super. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that's great.  
10 Anybody.

11

12 MR. MERIZON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
13 Members of the Council. This is Rick Merizon with  
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning, Rick.  
17 Anybody else join us since this morning.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you for  
22 that opportunity, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you,  
25 Karen, and welcome Rick. That brings us to Item No. 10  
26 under old business. Karen, do you have a report for  
27 us.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 This is Karen Deatherage with OSM and I have a report  
31 for you on the .805(c) report. This is a report that  
32 the Office of Subsistence Management puts together for  
33 the Council members to report on the actions of the  
34 Federal Subsistence Board. And the last Federal  
35 Subsistence Board meeting deliberated on fishery  
36 proposals.

37

38 The Seward Peninsula Council had a  
39 closure review under FCR21-01 which closed the  
40 Unalakleet River up stream of the confluence of the  
41 Chirosky River to the taking of chinook salmon for all  
42 users. The Council voted unanimously to retain that  
43 closure and the Board took the recommendations of the  
44 Council and sustained the closure on the Unalakleet  
45 River for chinook.

46

47 There were two proposals that -- or  
48 closure reviews that the Council voted on that -- where  
49 the Board did not go with the recommendation of the

50



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1 Council, however, the Board did open opportunity for  
2 additional action for these closures.

3

4

5 One, was a closure on the Jim River by  
6 Federally-qualified subsistence users and the second  
7 was a closure on Nome Creek. While both of these  
8 rivers are quite far from users on the Seward Peninsula  
9 there are some customary and traditional use traditions  
10 that allow for fishing to occur. The Council voted to  
11 concur with the Western Interior Council to support  
12 eliminating the Jim River subsistence closure and  
13 modifying it and also to modify the closure -- or defer  
14 to the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council for  
15 Arctic grayling on Nome Creek. And, again, both of  
16 these closures were sustained but the Western and  
17 Eastern Interior Councils were encouraged to put forth  
18 proposals in the future that would allow them to modify  
19 these closures to meet their needs.

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So that's all I have on the .805(c)  
report for fishery proposals. If there's any questions  
I'd be happy to help answer those.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody on the Council  
have any questions or comments for Karen.

(No comments)

MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
Chair, if not I can move on to the fiscal year 2020  
annual report reply. If you could refer to your  
meeting book on Page 16.

The Council, each year, puts forth an  
annual report to the Board where you highlight areas of  
concern to the Councils [sic] that are largely outside  
the regulatory process. There were two issues brought  
up for the fiscal year 2020 report.

One was the Norton Sound red king crab  
issue. The Board responded that the Council was doing  
basically doing what it could to approach the Board of  
Fish and the National -- North Pacific Fisheries  
Management Council to reduce or eliminate commercial  
take of Norton Sound red king crab in order to allow  
for the crab population to recover so it could meet  
subsistence needs.

The Board also responded to the

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1 Councils concern over Seward Peninsula salmon,  
2 including the silver and chum salmon the summer before  
3 last and the millions of pink salmon which the Council  
4 believes completes with the silver, chinook and chum  
5 salmon for resources. And the Board responded to that,  
6 that they encouraged the Council to continue to bring  
7 up these concerns. The Council also wanted the State  
8 to put more resources, included the Fisheries Resource  
9 Monitoring Program funding into researching in-river  
10 salmon resources on State rivers -- or State-managed  
11 rivers, and unfortunately the Fisheries Resource  
12 Management Program is limited to Federal waters or  
13 where there is a nexus to Federal waters but there are  
14 other opportunities for funding that the State can seek  
15 and so the Board encourages the State to utilize those  
16 resources.

17  
18 That's it for the annual report reply.  
19 If there's any questions, again, I'd be happy to answer  
20 them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,  
23 Karen. Any Council members comments or concerns for  
24 Karen, questions.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't know if I  
29 heard anybody. Somebody tried to call my phone here  
30 and I declined the call. Any comments, concerns or  
31 questions for Karen on the annual report.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't sound like  
36 it Karen.

37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 And it is a lengthy report so I encourage all of the  
40 Council members, when you get an opportunity, to reread  
41 through that and please bring your concerns about any  
42 responses from the Board to our attention and we'll  
43 make sure that those concerns are addressed. So thank  
44 you very much.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you,  
47 Karen. I think that brings us to Item No. 11 under new  
48 business, and I think you had something to add to that  
49 Karen.

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 I'll sound like a broken record here but it's really,  
3 really important to the Federal Subsistence Management  
4 Program that everybody be given an opportunity to  
5 either provide oral or written testimony for the  
6 proposals that the Council's going to be deliberating  
7 on shortly, the wildlife proposals and wildlife closure  
8 reviews. So I need to repeat the opportunities for  
9 everybody and I appreciate your patience.

10

11 The Council meetings provide an  
12 opportunity for public and tribes to provide oral and  
13 written testimony and comments. There will be several  
14 opportunities for these throughout the meeting.

15

16 Then there is an opportunity to provide  
17 oral comments on the wildlife proposals and closure  
18 reviews during or after an analyst presents proposal  
19 analysis. The order of receiving the comments is  
20 outlined on Page 22 of your meeting book. The Council  
21 Chair will call for this public oral testimony.

22

23 There is also an opportunity to submit  
24 written public comments on the proposals. This is a  
25 new option, if you have a written comment please email  
26 it to subsistence@fws.gov, that's  
27 Fishwildlifeservice.gov. Please clearly indicate the  
28 number of the proposal or closure review you are  
29 commenting on in the title of the email. The comments  
30 need to be emailed prior to the proposal you are  
31 commenting on is presented to the Council. If there's  
32 less than 10 written comments we will read those into  
33 the record, if there's more than 10 written comments  
34 they will be tallied and the result will be presented  
35 to the Council prior to their deliberation.

36

37 I also want to remind everybody to  
38 please keep your phones on mute when you're not  
39 speaking. Please do not put us on hold and press,  
40 star, six to mute your phone, or star, six to speak.  
41 I'll now turn it over to the Chair for new business  
42 under wildlife proposals and closure reviews.

43

44 Thanks so much everybody.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And thank you again,  
47 Karen. So we are at Item 11 new business. We have  
48 Sub-A wildlife proposals. I think this is the  
49 opportunity for Office of Subsistence Management  
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1 Wildlife and Anthropology to speak. Who's up.

2

3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
5 this is Karen Deatherage. And Rick Merizon with the  
6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be presenting  
7 information on the hare population prior to the  
8 presentation of WP22-45, and so with the Chair's  
9 permission we'll turn this over to Mr. Merizon with the  
10 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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Thanks.

MR. MERIZON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
members of the Council. Again, my name is Rick  
Merizon. I'm the Statewide Small Game Program  
Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
I'm going to try to provide some information relative  
to Alaska hare in Unit 22, the Seward Peninsula, as it  
pertains to Federal subsistence Proposal WP22-45.

Beginning in 2017 Fish and Game began  
evaluating and trying to understand Alaska hare  
populations and just for the record, we're speaking  
about Alaska hare, which are the big rabbits, what some  
folks call jackrabbits or tundra hares, these are not  
the smaller snowshoe hares which are fairly abundant  
and pretty cyclic throughout Alaska, again, we're  
talking about the big hares. And for the rest of this  
discussion I'm going to use the common vernacular known  
as Alaska hare.

So the information relative to Proposal  
WP22-45 again, pertains to Alaska hare and back in 2017  
as I said, Fish and Game began evaluating and trying to  
understand the current population of these species  
throughout its range which occurs as best we can  
determine currently from the Baldwin Peninsula near  
Kotzebue south throughout the Seward Peninsula, the YK  
Delta down into Bristol Bay, King Salmon, and  
historically at least, and currently believes to still  
occur throughout the Alaska Peninsula.

We began visiting numerous villages  
talking to many village elders across the range of the  
species trying to understand the best we could what  
folks were seeing on the ground, trappers, hunters,  
pilots and pretty unanimously it was relayed to us that  
folks had been seeing far fewer Alaska hares than they  
had ever seen in the past, or at least within the last

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1 20 to 30 years. Based on conversations that we had  
2 over those visits it sounded like the previous high of  
3 these species was back in the '70s, early '80s when  
4 folks said they were fairly abundant, they were fairly  
5 easy to harvest for a food resource but since the mid-  
6 80s the population seems to have taken a pretty  
7 significant decline and remains at very low density.

8  
9                   Beginning in 2018, Fish and Game began  
10 developing and executing a large species range-wide  
11 research project to try to begin to tackle some of what  
12 we didn't know, I mean what you don't know you don't  
13 know. So we had two objectives with this research  
14 project and it's currently ongoing, we've got one more  
15 year of data collection. But the two primary  
16 objectives were, one, to see if we could develop a  
17 long-term population monitoring technique that would  
18 and then the second objective was to see if we could  
19 actually capture and deploy radio transmitters on a  
20 select number of individuals throughout the range so  
21 that we could learn more about its movement, mortality,  
22 survival, some basic population metrics that we really  
23 didn't have a good understanding about with the species  
24 that we have in Alaska.

25  
26                   Although the data currently is  
27 preliminary, and like I said we still have one more  
28 year of actual data collection, there is definitely  
29 hope and promise that we identified what will likely  
30 become a very viable and effective long-term population  
31 monitoring technique that uses pellets, actually. We  
32 run transects on snowmachines in the wintertime and  
33 collect pellets and we can actually look at the genetic  
34 material in those pellets to identify individual hares  
35 with a very high degree of confidence. So we believe  
36 that this technique moving forward is going to provide  
37 a very good estimate of localized population abundance  
38 wherever we perform these surveys. But, again, like I  
39 said we still have one more year of data collection and  
40 about another year after that of analysis so we'll have  
41 a much higher degree of confidence in the next year or  
42 two about this method. We've also been able to deploy  
43 radio collars on a select few number of individuals, of  
44 which we're still learning a lot about movement and  
45 mortality patterns.

46  
47                   So knowing this and after visiting many  
48 villages and beginning to develop an understand of  
49 local population abundance, Fish and Game began  
50

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1 examining the current management regulations on the  
2 State side and beginning in 2018 began creating a  
3 season bag limit and harvest limit and salvage  
4 requirement for Unit 9. In 2020 Fish and Game created  
5 something similar, a salvage, a season and a harvest  
6 limit for Unit 18, 22 and 23 and that's what leads into  
7 the proposal that was submitted to the Federal  
8 Subsistence Board and you're considering today that  
9 addresses the same regulations essentially on the  
10 Federal side.

11

12 So that, really, in nutshell, is kind  
13 of a brief thumbnail sketch of what I have to offer  
14 today. I'm happy to answer any questions and I can  
15 certainly be available when the Office of Subsistence  
16 Management provides their report as well.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Rick  
21 Merizon. We're having one of those Verizon days today,  
22 the humorous side of it with your name, I'm not picking  
23 on you.

24

25 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, it's often how I  
26 suggest folks spell it.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so, thank you,  
31 Rick. For Council members, any comments, questions or  
32 concerns on this, we'll be voting on this here action.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anyone.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing nothing from  
41 Council members, so this is under action, right, Karen,  
42 we need to go through the ten -- the list of ten.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 This is Karen. And, yes, you would start with the  
46 presentation of the draft Staff analysis and Brian  
47 Ubelaker will be doing that for Proposal WP22-45.

48

49 Thank you.

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1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that  
2 Karen. So Mr. Ubelaker, I think you have the floor on  
3 this one.

4  
5                   MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
6 and good morning. Yes, for the record my name is Brian  
7 Ubelaker. I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of  
8 Subsistence Management. And I will supply you with a  
9 brief summary of Wildlife Proposal 22-45 this morning,  
10 which this analysis begins on Page 23 of your meeting  
11 books.

12  
13                   Proposal WP22-45 submitted by the  
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game requests to create  
15 specific harvest regulations for Alaska hare in Units  
16 18, 22 and 23.

17  
18                   The proponent states that the once  
19 abundant Alaska hare is now at very low density and has  
20 a patchy distribution throughout the Yukon Kuskokwim  
21 Delta, Seward Peninsula and Northwest Alaska region.  
22 The Alaska hare is called the tundra hare in Federal  
23 regulation but Alaska hare appears to be the dominant  
24 term in contemporary usage including in State  
25 regulations. The Alaska hare is a different species  
26 than the snowshoe hare despite being lumped together in  
27 Federal regulations.

28  
29                   Federal Subsistence regulations for the  
30 hare in Units 18, 22 and 23 have not changed since 1990  
31 when the Federal Subsistence Management Program begin.  
32 At that time a year-round season with no harvest limit  
33 was adopted from State regulations. In 1995 the Board  
34 adopted a proposal to shorten the season for hares in  
35 Unit 22 from year-round, to September 1st through April  
36 15th, with the intent to close the season for hares  
37 during the mating, breeding and birthing seasons.  
38 ADF&G submitted several proposals in regard to Alaska  
39 hare at the Alaska Board of Game during their January  
40 2020 meeting noting very low densities and patchy  
41 distribution of Alaska hares in these units. ADF&G  
42 requests that the reduction in season and harvest  
43 limits in Units 18 and 22. For consistency the Board  
44 of Game adopted an identical management structure for  
45 all the units, 18, 22 and 23 for the Alaska hare  
46 consistent of a harvest limit of two per day with a  
47 total of six per season, August 1st to May 31st season  
48 that required the hunters to salvage the hide or meat  
49 for human usage.

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1                   And Mr. Merizon just covered biology so  
2 I'll not repeat what he said and skip right over to  
3 giving you a little information on harvest, but much  
4 like the biology there is little known about the  
5 harvest of Alaska hare. Household harvest surveys  
6 indicate that it is harvested throughout the  
7 communities of Western and Southwestern Alaska.

8  
9                   If this proposal is adopted the Alaska  
10 hare season would be reduced although hunters would  
11 still have the opportunity to harvest hares during  
12 winter when they're engaging in other subsistence or  
13 recreational activities. The change in daily and  
14 overall harvest limits may be effective in reducing  
15 harvest which may translate to an improvement in the  
16 conservation status of these populations. Any positive  
17 effects these changes have on the Alaska hare  
18 population will benefit subsistence users in the long-  
19 term, despite the immediate reduction in subsistence  
20 opportunity. The proponent requested a season which  
21 would be more restrictive than existing State  
22 regulations, and if adopted as requested Federally-  
23 qualified subsistence users would still be able to  
24 harvest Alaska hare in August and May under State  
25 regulations.

26  
27                   The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence  
28 Regional Advisory Council voted in two separate motions  
29 to support the reduced bag limit and to support the  
30 season in their recent fall meeting. And the Western  
31 Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council voted to  
32 defer on this proposal.

33  
34                   Therefore, OSM's preliminary conclusion  
35 is to support Proposal WP22-45 with modification to  
36 shorten the season to August 1st through May 31st and  
37 to modify the definition of hare in the Federal  
38 regulations.

39  
40                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I would be  
41 more than happy to answer any questions anybody may  
42 have.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.  
45 Ubelaker. Is there anybody on the Council, go ahead  
46 and speak.

47  
48                   (No comments)

49  
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1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: I might have stepped  
2 on somebody there, was somebody trying to break in  
3 there.

4  
5                   (No comments)

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: There doesn't seem to  
8 be. Mr. Brian Ubelaker thank you for your report. It  
9 sounds like there's no questions or comments.

10  
11                   MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. So, Karen, I'll  
14 just go ahead and go on down to No. 2, report on Board  
15 consultations.

16  
17                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments on  
19 WP22-45. Thank you.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that  
22 Karen. So Item No. 3, agency comments, ADF&G.

23  
24                   MR. MERIZON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 Again, this is Rick Merizon. I have no further  
26 comments unless the Council has questions for me.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Rick. We  
29 go to Federal.

30  
31                   (No comments)

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we're good on  
34 Federal, Brian just covered that. So, again, Item C,  
35 tribal comments and, Karen, I believe you said there  
36 are none, and, do we have anybody on the phone.

37  
38                   (No comments)

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I don't believe  
41 anybody on the phone is on to make any comment towards  
42 this. So Item No. 4 advisory group comments. So we  
43 asked for under Item A, sub-item, other Regional  
44 Advisory Councils.

45  
46                   (No comments)

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sub-item B Fish and  
49 Game Advisory Councils.

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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, we'll move to Item 5 for a summary of written public comments. Karen, do you have anything.

MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, Brian Ubelaker.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Brian, go ahead.

MR. UBELAKER: There were no written public comments submitted before the deadline for comments.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you, Mr. Ubelaker. So we move on to Item 6, public testimony.

MR. KIRK: Mr. Chairman. Ron Kirk, Stebbins, I just joined, where are you?

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hey, right on, we're on 22-45 about the Alaska hare.

MR. KIRK: Oh, okay.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I'm going through the presentation procedure that's on 22, Page 22. I'm down on Item No. 6 which is public testimony, if there is anybody on the phone.

(No comments)

MR. KIRK: Okay.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for calling in, Ron.

MR. KIRK: Sorry I'm a little late, Mr. Chair, I had to attend a meeting.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're fine, all you got to do is standby on mute.

MR. KIRK: Okay.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Again, public testimony, are there any public to testify.

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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, we go to Item No. 7, Regional Council recommendation. So we're going to be voting on this 22-45, so I just wanted to ask Ron, Ron, are you clear on 22-45, about the Alaska hare.

MR. KIRK: Not really, no. I see it has no bag limits.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, we had the reports and stuff from ADF&G and OSM and they want to shorten the season to protect the Alaska hare during its mating season and during the time that they're having their young. And they're shortening the season to August 1st to May 31st, and that would be in Unit 18, Unit 22 and Unit 23. Do you have any comments or concerns on this.

MR. KIRK: No, I don't. That would be fine, yeah, okay, that's good. We need to preserve our Arctic hare.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep, you're up to speed on it so you can participate in the vote now. So we're.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I need to ask for a motion to proceed here. What was that, Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I apologize for the interruption. Again, I'd like to remind the Council members, if you do make a motion or second the motion please state your name for the court reporter. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So I need a motion and a second and we will be voting on this.

MR. AUKONGAK: Moved by Martin.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Martin moves. Is there a second.

MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, second.

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a question.

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3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

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7 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen. I  
8 would encourage the Council to have some discussion  
9 first on this proposal, or if the question is called, a  
10 justification for why the Council would support or  
11 oppose WP22-45 would need to be on the record. Thank  
12 you so much.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for correcting  
15 me there on that, I jumped the gun again. So under  
16 Item 8 there's discussion and justification for this  
17 22-45 proposal. So anybody from the Council, any  
18 discussion.

19

20 MR. KATCHATAG: What's the proposal, I  
21 just got in.

22

23 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, Brevig Mission.  
24 How would the motion read if it was put to a vote.  
25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: How are we going to  
28 verbalize this Karen.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 For all the motions that the Council will be making on  
32 the proposals or closure reviews today, they will need  
33 to be made in the positive. So for example, the motion  
34 would be that the Council moves to adopt WP22-45 and a  
35 vote of yes would be to support the proposal, a vote of  
36 no would be to oppose the proposal. But the motion  
37 does need to be made in the positive.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, that helps.  
42 So in this case if there's no further discussion, Elmer  
43 does that suffice?

44

45 MR. SEETOT: Yes, in a way I think I  
46 just want to figure out what the general description of  
47 the executive summary would pretty much wrap up the  
48 motion, something like that. That's what I was just  
49 kind of questioning.

50

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
2 Karen. Elmer, could you repeat that.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think she needed to  
5 hear you again, Elmer.

6  
7 MR. SEETOT: My understanding is the  
8 motion would be kind of to follow on Page 23, the  
9 executive summary description for the motion, take the  
10 harvest regulations from unlimited to a certain number.  
11 That was just kind of my question that I was looking  
12 at.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, yes, that  
17 would be the case and also to include the OSM  
18 modification for this proposal if the Council chooses  
19 to. And the modification from the Office of  
20 Subsistence Management would be to shorten the season  
21 to August 1st to May 31st and to modify the definition  
22 of hare in Federal regulations.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so.....

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: So the motion for this  
27 particular proposal would be to support WP22-45 with  
28 modification, if the Council chooses to do that. Thank  
29 you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen, for  
32 that clarification. So in other words, we can vote it  
33 under one action instead of -- I heard that somebody  
34 did it in two different votes, am I correct?

35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 You are welcome to have one motion to support the  
38 proposal as modified by OSM, or if the modification is  
39 not acceptable then the Council can move to support the  
40 proposal as written without the OSM modification.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you,  
45 Karen. So on Page 23 it's written right out there so  
46 if the maker of the motion wants to read that I think  
47 that will suffice for the record. So I need to --  
48 who.....

49  
50

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1 REPORTER: It was Martin.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, I guess I could  
4 just read it out. Yeah, to support the Proposal WP22-  
5 45 with modification to shorten the season August 1st  
6 to May 31st and to modify the definition of hare in  
7 Federal regulations. So I think we can go to the vote  
8 if there's no further discussion. I think I heard Doug  
9 earlier, Doug?

10

11 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, I'm here now.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Did you.....

14

15 MR. KATCHATAG: Did you hear me?

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....have a comment on  
18 -- yeah, yeah, you're coming in clear, go ahead.

19

20 MR. KATCHATAG: Okay, no, I don't got  
21 no comments.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you, Doug.  
24 Are there any other Council members under discussion.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No further comments  
29 from Council. So I guess, Karen, you can do a voice  
30 vote here.

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 For the motion to support.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I mean roll call.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....WP22-45. Elmer  
38 Seetot, Jr.

39

40 MR. SEETOT: Yea.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

43

44 MR. OYOUMICK: Aye.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.

47

48 MR. KATCHATAG: Yep.

49

50

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

2

3 MR. KIRK: Yep.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin Aukongak.

6

7 MR. AUKONGAK: Yes.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: He's flying.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green -- oh,  
16 Tom, are you on?

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, I think he's  
19 flying.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, he's in the air,  
22 okay. And Louis Green.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 The motion passes unanimously 6/0. And I do want to  
28 clarify that the Council is supporting this proposal  
29 based on the justifications of conserving the Alaska  
30 hare population which has been reported as low.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, thank you, Karen.  
35 Okay, so we've gone through the statewide proposal, and  
36 passed Proposal 22-45, and so we're moving on to  
37 regional proposals and closure reviews. And that  
38 starts with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alex  
39 Hanson. If you're there, you have the floor.

40

41 MR. HANSON: This is Alex Hanson,  
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, that was a  
45 discussion about the Bering Landbridge National  
46 Preserve, I think, wasn't it, or are you on caribou?

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, if you  
49 recall the discussion was removed.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

2

3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: But the Bering  
5 Landbridge National Preserve Staff are available if  
6 there are any questions regarding this proposal,  
7 otherwise Alex Hanson with the Alaska Department of  
8 Fish and Game will provide an update on the Western  
9 Arctic Caribou Herd. Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,  
11 Karen. Alex, you do have the floor, sorry.

12

13 MR. HANSON: Okay. One moment please.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 MR. HANSON: Through the Chair and  
18 members of the Council, this is Alex Hanson, Alaska  
19 Department of Fish and Game. I'm going to give you a  
20 brief update on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

21

22 Currently I'll walk you through --  
23 first of all I'll walk through the population  
24 estimates. So beginning in about the mid-70s we  
25 conducted caribou census for the Western Arctic Caribou  
26 Herd, the population was at a low in the mid-70s around  
27 74,000, that increased over time, that peaked out at  
28 about 490,000 in 2003. The population then declined  
29 over the years to about the low, the most recent low of  
30 201,000 in 2016. Since that time the population has  
31 stabilized to a greater extent. And the last census  
32 that we took was 2019, that was 244,000. We also got a  
33 count in 2017 of 259,000. So it went from 200,000,  
34 259, to 244. We shot a census this summer for 2021 and  
35 we're still in the process of finalizing that number.  
36 That number should be out shortly.

37

38 We did not attempt to census last year  
39 and we're still determining whether or not we'll shoot  
40 a census this coming summer. We try to do that on an  
41 every other year, ever two, every three years depending  
42 on the population and we'll assess that as we look  
43 closer at the metrics.

44

45 Let me pull up another thing here, one  
46 second.

47

48 As far as things that we look at very  
49 closely is we're looking at the calf recruitment, so we

50



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1 look at calf recruitment in the spring so that would be  
2 the first part of July we'd be up in the calving  
3 grounds as far as the calving rates. And so what we've  
4 been seeing the past few years is pretty high calving  
5 rates, totally acceptable and in the past couple of  
6 years that's gone down just a little bit, but nothing  
7 of major concern. We're watching that fairly closely.  
8 Looking at about 67 percent, 68 percent in the past two  
9 years, respectfully for maternal cows calving on the  
10 calving ground.

11

12 Another survey that we look at closely  
13 is calving -- or spring recruitment. So that's a  
14 survey that we do in June each year. And as we work on  
15 -- what we're doing out in that time period is we're  
16 looking for calves coming into the population so those  
17 number of calves have been pretty stable. So this  
18 would be calf to adult ratio at about 17 to 18 percent  
19 for the past few years. Around 2016/2017 was a little  
20 bit higher, about 23 to 100. But currently we're  
21 looking at good and acceptable rates. Another thing  
22 that we watch very closely as we're monitoring the  
23 Western Arctic population is mortality, so of great  
24 importance to us is the adult female mortality rates  
25 and that's something that has been of concern as of  
26 late. So when we were coming out of the bottom of this  
27 decline, around 2015/2016, our survival rates went up  
28 considerably and we were able 80 percent survival,  
29 which is good, and at kind of that rate we would expect  
30 to see some growth in the population. However, in the  
31 past few years, '17, '18, '19 the survival started to  
32 go down a little bit. Part of that may have been due  
33 to the fact that we're detecting that through the use  
34 of our collars that are put out on the caribou, the  
35 adult female caribou. And that portion of the collared  
36 individuals were getting a little bit older because  
37 we'd been struggling to get collars out through our  
38 collaring project that was conducted on the Kobuk River  
39 there at Onion Portage. So we had a reduced number of  
40 collars going out in 2017 to 2018 and then we were able  
41 to gain some ground with collaring in 2019, didn't have  
42 any luck in 2020. So as we're looking at some of the  
43 older age class of those animals dying out we were  
44 losing collars and then making that up with potentially  
45 younger animals as we were collaring those animals. So  
46 that may explain some of that higher mortality,  
47 however, we do feel like we're detecting a higher adult  
48 female mortality in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd in  
49 the past few years, and that's been consistently high.

50

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1 It's been about 73 percent adult female mortality, on  
2 average, for the past four years which is higher than  
3 we'd like to see.

4

5                   Back to collaring, I'll speak to that  
6 just momentarily. I mentioned we'd been struggling to  
7 get our collars out on the Kobuk River. As many folks  
8 in the region have noticed, you know, the caribou are  
9 not -- have not been coming down and crossing the Kobuk  
10 River like they had historically in the past 50 or so  
11 years. And we had been challenged by that as well,  
12 unable to put collars out. So we made a transition  
13 last spring to helicopters capture catching caribou by  
14 net gun. And that project allowed us to put the  
15 collars out, we put out 54 collars which enabled us to  
16 get caught back up from the previous year, 2020, in the  
17 fall we were unable to get any caribou on the Kobuk  
18 River. And as we continue to work in that direction,  
19 we're working with helicopter pilots and Federal and  
20 State agencies so that we can get those permits in  
21 place and it seems to be working out very well and  
22 that's kind of the direction we're going at this point  
23 in time.

24

25                   I will mention, however, that as  
26 caribou often do they did surprise us this year. We  
27 hadn't seen good passage through the Kobuk River since  
28 probably 2018 or 2017, probably about 2017 and this  
29 year, you know, a lot of the caribou had moved down  
30 rather than staying on the North Slope or in the  
31 Central Brooks Range, they've come down -- a great  
32 portion of the collars have crossed the Kobuk River and  
33 then there's still quite a few on the north side in the  
34 Kobuk Valley region. Also a number of collared  
35 individuals up on the northern side on the western  
36 coast there, Kivalina, Red Dog Road area. So very  
37 different migration this year than what we've seen the  
38 past four or five years. It's interesting to see how  
39 that's going to shake out.

40

41                   Another thing that we're working on  
42 very closely is to continue our efforts to get the word  
43 out and get folks engaged in our harvest permit  
44 program. There on the Seward Peninsula you have the  
45 RC800, 23 and 26A we have the RC907. This is very  
46 important to us as we are sort of close, you know, just  
47 hovering above that IM objective of 200,000 so that we  
48 understand harvest better and we're working to engage  
49 the communities and the hunters within the public so  
50

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1 that we might be able to get more up to date and  
2 harvest data. Currently our method for estimating  
3 harvest is fairly course, you know, and it doesn't  
4 track very well with short-term changes. So we'll  
5 continue to work on that effort as we move forward.

6  
7 I guess I might speak just very briefly  
8 on the proposal for calf harvest. This went through  
9 the Board of Game proposal harvest in 2019, January,  
10 and kind of our general consensus on that is that, you  
11 know, calves -- the intent of this proposal coming from  
12 the Kotzebue Sound AC is that calves coming through  
13 this region specifically were sometimes found  
14 abandoned, not available for harvest, and they wanted  
15 to allow that harvest, it would be incidental or, you  
16 know, take of calves that were lost out on the  
17 landscape or, you know, potentially disconnected from  
18 their mothers. So from a biological perspective, you  
19 know, this harvest is fairly incidental. Most folks  
20 within the region are not targeting calves and we don't  
21 have any biological concerns with that. I would say  
22 that, you know, if we get to the point where we have  
23 serious biological concerns the place to look at that  
24 would be to reducing female harvest -- adult females  
25 that I mentioned, that's a very strong driver of the  
26 population.

27  
28 And with that I'm happy to take any  
29 questions or whatever I can do to help you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, Alex, well,  
32 thank you for that. I had a couple that I scratched  
33 out here on paper real quick. Average age of a female,  
34 what is it and what is the thought of the cause of  
35 death?

36  
37 MR. HANSON: Great question. The  
38 average age of a female, it's pretty hard to determine  
39 because we don't collar (indiscernible) animals. In  
40 other herds, specifically the Teshekpuk, they're  
41 collaring, you know, long yearlings and then they're  
42 recollaring through life so they have an understanding  
43 of what the actual age is. Western Arctic Herd, it's  
44 been our goal to weigh four month old calves and so  
45 we've been collaring at least along the Kobuk, prior to  
46 our switch in our methodology there, we've been  
47 collaring adult females with calves at heel or, you  
48 know, in the water with them. And so we're just  
49 looking for adult cows probably three or four, plus,  
50

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1 and we don't actually know the age. And currently  
2 we're not sending in teeth for our (indiscernible) to  
3 determine age. I would say that, you know, we  
4 certainly do see a number of collars that are out in  
5 the herd in multiple years. I've had some as old as,  
6 you know, 16, 18 recently die off. So, however, those  
7 are on the extreme end.

8

9 And, my apologies, your other question?

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What is the suspected  
12 cause of death, is it just mortality, you're talking  
13 about the female mortality rates, is there anything,  
14 predation or just old age, or food sources?

15

16 MR. HANSON: Yeah, good question. We  
17 do our best to determine that, it's kind of a  
18 challenging thing to do. Basically what we're doing is  
19 when we have a -- you know a number of collars that are  
20 out on the landscape or, you know, those caribou die,  
21 we go out and collect those collars using helicopter  
22 generally and we do our best to determine what that  
23 cause was, you know, looking at the kill site and  
24 trying to see if there's any evidence of what may have  
25 caused that. Predation, you know, generally, you know,  
26 they can stand out fairly well, it's pretty easy to  
27 determine if it's a bear mortality generally. But  
28 there's certainly some challenges so predation  
29 certainly plays a role. Unable to really detect any  
30 indications of disease at this point. Weather events  
31 certainly have -- cause you know mortality events over  
32 the years with rain on snow or rain on bare ground  
33 events, which have caused some kind of more  
34 catastrophic die-offs in certain confined areas. So I  
35 guess I would say any and all. We also detect hunter  
36 harvest as well. Sometimes folks will report those  
37 collared caribou they harvested or we can infer from,  
38 you know, the kill site that it was a hunter harvest.  
39 But kind of all things that kill caribou is what we  
40 find out in the landscape.

41

42 And I guess I can't really point to one  
43 thing being the greatest causatory factor, just all  
44 things combined to cause that mortality.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, Alex, thank  
47 you. For Council, any questions, comments.

48

49

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1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is that somebody  
4 coming on, I thought I heard a mic or something.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, it doesn't sound  
9 like it. So thank you, Alex, for your report, and  
10 answering my questions.

11

12 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, go ahead, Elmer.

15

16 MR. SEETOT: Louis.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer has something.  
19 Yep, go ahead Elmer.

20

21 MR. SEETOT: Tom Gray mentioned  
22 something about a caribou/reindeer on the northern  
23 Seward Peninsula towards Serpentine hot springs. What  
24 is the status, are they growing or are they just not  
25 letting the caribou migrate up north for their  
26 wintering grounds or stuff like that, is there  
27 something with the caribou on the northern Seward  
28 Peninsula that prevents the other caribou from  
29 migrating up north or down south. That was kind of my  
30 question on that.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. HANSON: Yeah, that's certainly an  
35 interesting topic on the northern Seward Peninsula.  
36 There are consistently caribou, you know, probably  
37 several thousand caribou on the Seward Peninsula year-  
38 round and caribou, reindeer, reindifur (ph), I guess we  
39 might call them, and so it's unknown, you know, what  
40 that status is. We haven't really done any work to  
41 understand that, you know, fully. And so I guess I  
42 would say that sometimes we would see in the past when  
43 the caribou were coming down on the Northern Seward  
44 Peninsula, that occasionally collared individuals would  
45 stay there for the summer and then return back with the  
46 main body of the herd. So it's not uncommon, I would  
47 say to find caribou within, you know, basically any  
48 part of the range and any time of the year however, you  
49 know, the greatest portion of the herd would be, you

50

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1 know, where the bulk of the collars are at that time.

2

3

4 So I guess I wouldn't say that there's  
5 any reason to believe that those caribou or reindifur  
6 on the northern Seward Peninsula prevent or inhibit  
7 caribou from coming down or from leaving, it just  
8 happens to be, you know, maybe those individuals are  
9 comfortable there and they decide not to migrate or  
10 move. We don't understand exactly what's going on per  
11 se there.

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your question Elmer, and thanks for your answer Alex. Is there any other Council members that have question or comment for Alex.

MR. KIRK: Just one comment, Mr. Chair. Ron Kirk, Stebbins.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

MR. KIRK: We -- as you guys are aware, we have pretty close to 10,000 reindeer here in our area and occasionally we do see caribou among our herd and they don't leave and so we take the time to remove them from the herd because they tend to try to bring the herd up north. But we do have caribou that stay with our herd and they don't go anywhere, they just stay within our herd so we have a hard time trying to corral our reindeer with them caribou there and we have to eliminate them so we can corral our deer. But once they get mingled with our herd they stay with the herd.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Alex, do you have anything to add to that.

MR. HANSON: No. No, I would concur with Ron, you know, certainly mixing of domestic animals and wild animals can be a challenging thing. And I suspect, you know, certainly we saw history in the past as many reindeer were lost to the caribou herd. That's not something that we want to see again.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thanks, Alex. So, Karen, I'm kind of confused on this 22-47 where we're removing it with the Bering Landbridge Preserve discussion.

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 All the Federal agencies and State agencies were  
3 invited to present any biological or cultural  
4 information prior to the proposals so that the Council  
5 would have as much up to date information as possible  
6 prior to their deliberations. And so some agencies  
7 elected to do that and that's -- and thanks to the  
8 Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the information  
9 on Alaska hare, as well as the Western Arctic Caribou  
10 Herd. But, you know, the Park Service is available to  
11 answer any questions regarding this proposal that some  
12 Council members might have but they're not going to be  
13 making any presentation prior to the deliberation of  
14 this proposal. Hopefully that answers your question,  
15 if not, please feel free to elaborate.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So in other words we  
20 have OSM with Brian Ubelaker on this, and we just heard  
21 from Alex Hanson with ADF&G so that leads me to believe  
22 we're taking action on this today?

23  
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. We'll go  
25 ahead -- after there are any agency reports, those  
26 usually will go first and then we'll start with No. 1  
27 on the presentation procedure for proposals and closure  
28 reviews. So next up Brian Ubelaker will be doing a  
29 presentation of the Staff analysis for WP22-47.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. You kind of cut  
34 out there, but I'm taking that as a go for the 10  
35 questions, after Brian. Brian, you have the floor.

36  
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: That would be correct.  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
41 Brian Ubelaker, OSM, once again. The analysis for this  
42 proposal starts on Page 41 of your meeting books. And  
43 Proposal WP22-47, which was submitted by the Western  
44 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group requests that calf  
45 harvest be permitted for caribou in Unit 22.

46  
47 The proponent states that the intent of  
48 this proposal is to allow for the harvest of orphaned  
49 calves and that this change would align Federal and  
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1 State regulations.

2

3

4 In 2016 the Board of Game established  
5 the current registration permit hunt, for caribou in  
6 Unit 22 with a harvest limit of 20 caribou per year.  
7 Then in 2018 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted  
8 regulations to require a State registration permit for  
9 Federal users in Unit 22. In January of 2020 the Board  
10 of Game adopted a proposal to allow calf harvest in  
11 Units 22, 23, and 26A. Also in 2020 the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board established a year-round bull season  
13 and allowed calf harvest in Unit 23. The justification  
14 for this change to allow calf harvest was to permit the  
15 taking of orphaned or injured calves.

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And since Mr. Hanson just gave us an update on Western Arctic Caribou Herd population numbers I will not repeat anything that was said. I will give you a brief synopsis of caribou history.

Caribou calves of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd are typically born in May or June and weaned by October or November. Calves will usually stay with their mothers for their first year of their life. If a calf is orphaned after they are weaned they have a much greater chance of survival than if they are orphaned before they are weaned. The current management level determined by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, places the herd in the conservative declining category. Some harvest recommendations of this level include encouraging involuntary reduction of calf harvest and not allowing cow harvested by non-residents. Factors leading to the declining population are not known for sure but it is believed cow mortality and decreased calf recruitments are factors.

Residents of Unit 22 on average account for about 17 percent of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd harvest. From 2016 to 2019 reported harvest averaged 377 caribou per year, of which 74 percent were bulls and 26 percent were cows. It is unknown how many calves have been harvested as that is not a reportable category.

The majority of Unit 22 harvest occurs in the winter when the caribou inhabit the Seward Peninsula. If calf harvest is allowed, it may present a minimal conservation concern as most of hunters do



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1 not specifically target calves, however, it would allow  
2 the harvest of orphaned calves who may otherwise die in  
3 winter.

4  
5 One consideration of this point is that  
6 it is difficult to tell if a calf is orphaned or not as  
7 caribou herds tend to be quite spread out, orphaned  
8 calves that stay with a herd are much more likely to  
9 live than a single calf on its own. Adoption of this  
10 proposal may also reduce wanton waste. It has been  
11 mentioned at other RAC meetings that rural residents  
12 have seen calves that have been shot and then left to  
13 lay in the fields. It is believed these were shot  
14 mistakingly by hunters who realized too late they're  
15 incorrectly identified target and then left it in the  
16 field rather than bring back an illegal animal and face  
17 repercussions. This would also align Federal and State  
18 regulations. Currently Federal regulations are more  
19 restrictive than State regulations.

20  
21 Therefore, OSM's preliminary conclusion  
22 is to support Proposal WP22-47.

23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I would be  
25 happy to answer any questions.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.  
28 Ubelaker. Any Council have any comments, any  
29 questions.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, I think  
34 we have to move on to Item No. 2 on this presentation  
35 procedure for proposals and closure reviews and that  
36 would be report on Board consultation from the tribes.

37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
39 this is Karen Deatherage. There were no tribal or  
40 ANCSA Corporation comments during consultation on WP22-  
41 47. Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So  
44 that brings us to Item 3 agency comments. We heard  
45 from Alex from ADF&G. I don't know if he has any  
46 additional.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50

0058

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't sound like  
2 Alex has anything additional to add -- oh, go ahead,  
3 sorry.

4  
5 MR. HANSON: Yeah, this is Alex Hanson.  
6 I have nothing additional to add but happy to address  
7 questions as they come up though.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Alex.  
10 Brian, you just gave us OSM report. Any afterthoughts.

11  
12 MR. UBELAKER: No, sir, unless there's  
13 any questions for me.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Sir. That  
16 moves on to sub-Item C, tribal, any tribal comments out  
17 there.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: From Kawarek,  
22 Maniilaq.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, moving  
27 on to Item No. 4, advisory group comments.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Other Regional  
32 Advisory Councils. Are there any out there.

33  
34 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, Brian  
35 Ubelaker.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

38  
39 MR. UBELAKER: The Western Interior and  
40 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory  
41 Councils both voted to support this proposal in their  
42 fall meetings last week.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Good to  
47 get that in the record. So under sub-Item B, Fish and  
48 Game Advisory Committees, are there any Advisory  
49 Committees out there from Northern Norton Sound,  
50

0059

1 Southern Norton Sound and Kotzebue.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, that  
6 brings us to No. 5, summary of written public comments.  
7 What do we have, Karen, anything.

8

9 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, this is  
10 Brian.....

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 There were.....

14

15 MR. UBELAKER: .....Ubelaker.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....no written public  
18 comments for this proposal WP22-47 and Brian Ubelaker  
19 will be providing that information for future  
20 proposals. Thanks.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, okay, thank you.  
23 Go ahead, Brian.

24

25 MR. UBELAKER: I will just repeat what  
26 Karen said, no, there were no submitted comments, thank  
27 you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I got your name  
30 alongside of that now. No. 6. Item No. 6 public  
31 testimony, do we have anybody in the public on the  
32 phone, do we have anything from public.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing nothing. Do I  
37 hear something?

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, that may  
40 have been me, this is Karen Deatherage.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Can you hear me -- I'd  
45 like to make a recommendation, with your permission.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: What you might

50

0060

1 consider is when the Council is deliberating on the  
2 proposal, I would be happy, prior to a motion being  
3 made, of reading the justification from OSM and for  
4 after the motion is made, just so the Council makes  
5 sure it has a justification on the record, and if the  
6 Council agrees with the OSM justification we'll need to  
7 have that on the record. But this is something I'd be  
8 happy to read into the record at some point during the  
9 deliberation to ensure that the Council has a  
10 justification for their support or opposition to a  
11 proposal on the record.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I like that idea,  
16 thank you. So having not heard anything on Item 6 I  
17 think that brings us to No. 7 Regional Council  
18 recommendation, motion to adopt. So Karen, would you  
19 want to read that justification now or after?

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, that's up  
22 to the discretion of the Council but I can read it and  
23 the Council can adopt the justification after their  
24 discussion.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: So if you'd like me to  
29 read the justification from OSM, I can certainly do  
30 that.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Let's get the motion  
33 on the table and then we'll do it that way.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It sounds like a  
38 little bit better order. So I've got a come up with  
39 wording -- I know this proposal is a proposal --  
40 Wildlife Proposal 22-47 requests a calf harvest be  
41 permitted for caribou in Unit 22. So trying to find  
42 some way to -- Karen.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I would  
45 just invite a motion to approve WP22-47 and then open  
46 the floor for discussion. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right thanks. So  
49 I need a motion on Wildlife Proposal 22-47 and a second

50

0061

1 to go into the discussion. Council.

2

3 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk. So

4 moved.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron Kirk moves, I need

7 a second.

8

9 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

12 That moves us into discussion. At this time I'd allow

13 or ask, not allow, ask Karen to read the justification.

14 Thank you.

15

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

17 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to support Proposal

18 WP22-47. Adopting Proposal 22-47 increases harvest

19 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users

20 as most people do not target calves, calf harvest is

21 expected to be very low and should not affect

22 conservation of the herd, especially since calf harvest

23 is already permitted under State regulations.

24 Additionally, allowing calf harvest may reduce wanton

25 waste by allowing mistakingly shot calves to be legally

26 salvaged and would permit harvest of orphaned calves.

27 Adoption of this proposal would give Federal users the

28 same opportunity as State users.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 And I would invite the Council to

33 certainly disagree or agree with the OSM justification.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that

36 Karen. Are there any comments or concerns from Council

37 in discussion.

38

39 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig

40 Mission.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

43

44 MR. SEETOT: Usually when we go out on

45 long trips towards the lava beds or behind the

46 mountains that's pretty much the only animals that we

47 see is maybe two, three year old deer that grew from

48 calves and most of the young ones are pretty much with

49 their mothers, or with the females, the bulls, whether

50

0062

1 they be reindeer or caribou, they migrate a lot without  
2 other deer. So sometimes when we do go long distances  
3 like from Brevig to Kuzitrin River, which is about 60  
4 miles, and then we got to go another 30 -- anywhere  
5 from 10 to 15 miles from the Kuzitrin River bridge to  
6 spot caribou, that's pretty much the only thing that we  
7 kind of see is either the bulls or the young ones that  
8 have grown from their time of birth and they might be  
9 following the same bulls -- I mean they'll -- the bulls  
10 and females, stuff like that, so that's something that  
11 we encounter sometime during the hunt, especially  
12 during early -- early winter harvest so we kind of wait  
13 for April or May, that way the bulls have a chance to  
14 grow their antlers, their little nubs and that's when  
15 the meat really start -- start getting different from  
16 their October/November rut, so that's a thing that I  
17 see is when -- when we come from our area to a place,  
18 either up north towards the lava beds that's what we  
19 see. So that would be a good indication that we're not  
20 just out there riding around.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your  
25 comments Elmer. We got a Golovin rep and some  
26 Unalakleet reps, any comments.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are you guys --  
31 Leland, are you there, I'm just making sure your phone  
32 line's working.

33  
34 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I'm still here  
35 Louis, still tuning in.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, thank you.  
38 How about you, Doug.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Technology's wonderful  
43 sometimes.

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Doug, are you on the  
48 line?

49  
50

0063

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds like we lost  
4 him, okay so we'll move on. Martin, did you have any  
5 comment.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Martin, are you  
10 online?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We may have lost  
15 Martin. Ron, are you on, I'm just going to make sure.

16

17 MR. KIRK: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'm on, no  
18 comment.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. We need five,  
21 what do we have Karen.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 We can certainly do a roll call for the vote when the  
25 question's called. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. So we've had  
28 a motion on the floor, and a second, we need a positive  
29 motion and that is a proposal for Wildlife Proposal 22-  
30 47. I had it a minute ago and now I've lost it.  
31 Wildlife Proposal 22-47 is about caribou harvest to be  
32 permitted for caribou in Unit 22. Give me some wording  
33 here so I can quit stumbling.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Karen Deatherage. And the motion on the floor is to  
37 adopt WP22-47 which would allow caribou calf harvest in  
38 Unit 22. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for untwisting  
41 my tongue.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So that brings us --  
46 have we got any comments or questions from the Council.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0064

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't sound like  
2 we have any. I think that gives us opportunity to do  
3 roll call, Karen.

4  
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
6 If a member of the Council would call the question I  
7 can proceed with the roll call. Thank you.

8  
9 MR. KIRK: Question.

10  
11 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
12 Mission. Call for question.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You got it.

15  
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. For the  
17 motion to adopt Proposal WP22-47. Elmer Seetot, Jr.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: How do you vote,  
22 Elmer.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll come back to  
27 Elmer.

28  
29 MR. SEETOT: Oh, yea, I was daydreaming  
30 a little bit.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is this Elmer.

35  
36 MR. SEETOT: I vote yea.

37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you Elmer.

39  
40 Doug Katchatag.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

45  
46 MR. OYOUNICK: Aye.

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin Aukongak.

49  
50



0065

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

4

5 MR. KIRK: Yes.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

10

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

12 We only have four of the Council members present. Let

13 me check, just give me one minute.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: And that does

18 represent a quorum given the absence of Mr. Kiyutelluk

19 and Mr. Saccheus. So the motion passes unanimously.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, somebody

24 knows Robert's Rules. We got a parliamentarian in the

25 building, thank goodness. All right, so motion 22-47,

26 the proposal passes. So we'll move on to Wildlife

27 Proposal 22-48.

28

29 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Mr. Chair, Brian

30 Ubelaker with OSM.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, there you go

33 Brian, you have the floor.

34

35 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, very much.

36 This analysis begins on Page 65 of your meeting books

37 and I would like to draw your attention to the maps

38 that are on Page 67 and 68. If you guys are much like

39 me it's a lot easier to picture this rather than to

40 hear the stream of words that I'm about to spew out.

41 If anybody is confused please ask for clarification

42 points afterwards and I'd be happy to see if I can

43 straighten my words -- my thoughts out.

44

45 But Proposal WP22-48 submitted by the

46 Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee

47 requests modification of the boundary between two hunt

48 areas in 22A.

49

50

0066

1                   The proponent requests to shift the  
2 boundaries between Unit 22A, that portion north of and  
3 including the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages  
4 in Unit 22A and the Unalakleet drainage and all the  
5 drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the  
6 Golsovia River drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and  
7 Shaktoolik River drainages, from the Tagoomenik and  
8 Shaktoolik River drainages north to the Egavik Creek  
9 drainage. As a result of the change the Tagoomenik and  
10 Shaktoolik River drainages would become part of the  
11 Unit 22A north hunt area.

12  
13                   The proponent states that the foothills  
14 near Shaktoolik have always been a traditional hunting  
15 area for the residents of Shaktoolik and not  
16 Unalakleet. Currently the Federal lands closure in  
17 Unit 22A Central limits hunting on Federal public lands  
18 to residents of Unalakleet. The proponent additionally  
19 notes that changing the boundary to Egavik Creek  
20 drainage would align with Federal moose hunt areas with  
21 recently changed State regulations.

22  
23                   Unit 22A was divided into the current  
24 subunits in Federal and State regulations in 2003. In  
25 2006 Federal Subsistence Board action closed moose  
26 hunting to all users in 22A Central. Then in 2008  
27 Federal action allowed Unalakleet residents to harvest  
28 a limited number of moose in 22A Central. And the Board  
29 of Game in 2020 changed this boundary to the Egavik  
30 Creek drainage.

31  
32                   If this proposal were to be adopted it  
33 would align Federal hunt areas with traditional hunting  
34 areas of Federally-qualified subsistence users. As  
35 regulations currently are Shaktoolik residents cannot  
36 hunt in areas easily accessed by them.

37  
38                   Therefore, it is OSM's preliminary  
39 conclusion to support Proposal WP22-48.

40  
41                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I really  
42 hope I didn't confuse anybody listening as much as I  
43 confused myself. So if there are any questions please  
44 let me know.

45  
46                   (Laughter)

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian.  
49 Council, do you have any questions. We've got people  
50

0067

1 from Unalakleet involved here on the Council. Leland,  
2 you have any comment.

3

4 MR. OYOUNICK: Not really. I just  
5 support those people.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Any  
8 comments or questions from other Council members for  
9 Mr. Ubelaker before we do a vote.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, could we  
14 get a positive motion to adopt Wildlife Proposal 22-48,  
15 Unit 22A, revising the hunt area boundaries.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 This is Karen Deatherage. We'll need to go through  
19 the.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 We'll need to go through the presentation procedure  
25 starting with No. 2 now.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, sorry.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's okay, thank you  
30 so much.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I flipped the page  
33 over -- I tore it out of the book and I flipped it over  
34 and it was gone.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Well, I have a fork as  
39 a placeholder Mr. Chair, so that helps me. If you'd  
40 like I can go ahead and report on Board consultations.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am, please do  
43 that.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments  
47 during consultation on WP22-48. Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Under 3, we heard

50

0068

1 agency comments from the Federal under Office of  
2 Subsistence Management, Brian Ubelaker. Anything from  
3 ADF&G.

4  
5 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
6 Bill Dunker.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go, Bill,  
9 you're on the floor.

10  
11 MR. DUNKER: Very good, thank you. So  
12 I'll keep it brief since Brian covered most of the  
13 pertinent details there. But effectively, you know,  
14 ADF&G supports the proposal as written to align the  
15 State and Federal regulations. I've participated in  
16 the process to make the modifications on the State side  
17 during the last Board cycle and this topic was one that  
18 was well supported by both residents of Unalakleet and  
19 Shaktoolik during our AC meetings and with discussions  
20 with community representatives from each of those two  
21 communities there. So it seems like we got a lot of  
22 local support for it and it has been modified in the  
23 State regulations and, again, the State supports the  
24 proposal as written to align the hunt area boundaries.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Bill. That  
29 brings us down to sub-Item C under tribal. Is there  
30 any comments from Kawarek.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any other tribe.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, that  
39 moves us down to advisory group comments, sub-A under  
40 other Regional Advisory Councils, do we have anything  
41 Karen, or Brian -- yeah, this would be Karen.

42  
43 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, Brian  
44 Ubelaker. I believe that is my bailiwick.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Brian. I got to  
47 get your name on the side of that there.

48  
49 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. I'm going to be  
50

0069

1 all over this thing by the time we're done today.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

4

5

(Laughter)

6

7

8

MR. UBELAKER: No, Sir, there were no other comments from Regional Advisory Councils on this proposal. Thank you.

9

10

11

12

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Going through the process, thank you, Mr. Brian. We're going to sub-Item B, Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

13

14

15

(No comments)

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Northern Norton Sound, Southern Norton Sound.

19

20

21

(No comments)

22

23

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing Bill Dunker's comments, I think that was a slam dunker there already. So we'll move on to No. 5, summary of written public comments. I got your name on the side this time, Brian.

27

28

29

30

31

MR. UBELAKER: All right, we're one step ahead of the game now. No, Sir, there were no submitted written comments before the deadline. Thank you.

32

33

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. Item No. 6, public testimony. Are there any other public on the phone to testify on Proposal 22-48.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, that moves us on to Item No. 7. Regional Council recommendation. we need a motion on the floor and a second -- excuse me, go ahead.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I apologize for the interruption. I think we forgot under agency comments to invite any Federal comments and there may not be any but we need to make sure we allow the Federal agencies, BLM, or Park Service, or Fish and Wildlife Service to weigh in on the proposals if they

0070

1 have any comments.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for that. I  
6 did slip over because I took Brian in there. Are there  
7 anything from BLM.

8

9 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, this is Tom, no  
10 comment. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you Tom.

13 National Park Service.

14

15 MS. HUGHES: This is Letty. There is  
16 no comment.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty. Who  
19 am I going to miss. Victoria -- or Hannah Atkinson, I  
20 think I got that name, from Kotzebue.

21

22 MS. ATKINSON: Hi, no comment.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. And then

25 Victoria.

26

27 MS. FLOREY: No comment, thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: BIA.

30

31 MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Pat. Does  
34 that cover it, Karen, did I get them all. I had some  
35 of these written down.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: That was fantastic,  
38 thank you, Mr. Chair. And, once, again, I apologize  
39 for the interruption.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, thanks. So no  
42 further conversation, discussion for the -- sorry, go  
43 ahead.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sorry, Mr. Chair, I  
46 was just going to help by saying that the next item on  
47 the list is to invite a motion from the floor to adopt  
48 WP22-48. Thank you.

49

50

0071

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we did that  
2 early on so we could have discussion, Ron made the  
3 motion and Elmer seconded and then we moved into  
4 justification.

5  
6                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair,  
7 I believe that was.....

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

10  
11                   MS. DEATHERAGE: .....for WP22-47  
12 according to my record. Tina, can correct me but I'm  
13 not aware of a motion made to adopt WP22-48.

14  
15                   REPORTER: Louis, there is no motion  
16 for 48 yet.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for the  
19 correction. Thanks, Tina. I didn't write the number on  
20 the side. All right, so, again, I need a positive to  
21 adopt Wildlife proposal 22-48 Unit 22A revising hunt  
22 area boundaries. Do I have a motion.

23  
24                   MR. OYOUNICK: Hi, this is Leland. I  
25 so move that we adopt this WP22-48. Thank you.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland. Is  
28 there a second.

29  
30                   MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, Stebbins. Second.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. So  
33 we'll go to a roll call vote, Karen.

34  
35                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Would you like me to read the OSM preliminary  
37 conclusion justification for WP22-48?

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am.

40  
41                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
42 Chair. The OSM preliminary conclusion is to support  
43 WP22-48, adoption of this proposal would better align  
44 hunt areas with traditional hunting areas of Federally-  
45 qualified subsistence users, increase hunting  
46 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users,  
47 and is not expected to affect the moose population.  
48 Additionally, it would give Federal users the same  
49 access opportunities to areas as State users and would  
50

0072

1 align Federal and State hunt area boundaries.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 The vote, I can go ahead and do a roll  
6 call for the vote, unless I hear otherwise, the Council  
7 can adopt WP22-48 with the OSM justification. Thank  
8 you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Roll call,  
11 please.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

14

15 MR. KIRK: Yes.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

22

23 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin Aukongak.

26

27 MR. AUKONGAK: Yes.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, great, welcome  
30 back Martin.

31

32 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

37

38 REPORTER: You already called Ron.

39

40 MR. KIRK: Yes again.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, I'm sorry.

43

44 Louis Green.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. Sorry about the  
47 mix up, I had a phone call coming in at the same time  
48 all these motions were being made, threw me right out  
49 the window. Anyway, thank you, Karen.

50



0073

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 You're doing fantastic. There's a lot of proposals and  
3 a lot of different steps that need to be taken and  
4 we're here to help you in any way possible and that  
5 goes for the entire Council. It's very difficult to do  
6 this over teleconference, and we miss seeing you.  
7 Anyway, the motion did pass unanimously.

8  
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So  
12 that brings us up to the next wildlife proposal, 22-49,  
13 Unit 22A, rescind closure to moose hunting for non-  
14 Federally-qualified users. Mr. Ubelaker.

15  
16 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
17 Brian Ubelaker, OSM. This analysis begins on Page 74  
18 of your meeting books.

19  
20 Wildlife Proposal WP22-49 submitted by  
21 Lance Kronberger of Eagle River requests that the  
22 Federal public lands closure for moose in the portion  
23 of Unit 22 north of and including the Tagoomenik and  
24 Shaktoolik River drainages, referred to as 22A north be  
25 rescinded September 1st through the 20th to coincide  
26 with the State's non-resident moose season.

27  
28 The proponent states that Federal  
29 public lands, which are remote and difficult to access  
30 compromise a large portion of this hunt area while the  
31 communities in the area are surrounded by State managed  
32 land. He states that the Federal public lands closure  
33 serves to concentrate all moose hunting activities on  
34 to a small area of State managed lands and that  
35 rescinding the closure would reduce the potential for  
36 conflicts in the field.

37  
38 In recent regulatory history the Board  
39 of Game extended the State non-resident season in 22A  
40 north in 2017. In 2018 this proponent submitted a  
41 similar worded proposal to the Federal Subsistence  
42 Board for the first time. The Board considered this  
43 proposal and opted to open Federal public lands to all  
44 Federally-qualified subsistence users stating that  
45 although the moose population was growing densities  
46 were too low to open to all users. In 2020 the Board  
47 of Game extended the fall and winter seasons in Unit  
48 22A Central. Also in 2020 the proponent submitted the  
49 same request again to the Federal Subsistence Board,  
50

1 the Board rejected this proposal stating that  
2 biological information was lacking for the area. The  
3 Board committed to working with ADF&G to conduct moose  
4 surveys in Unit 22A in 2020.

5  
6 The moose population in Unit 22A is  
7 considered to be increasing. In 2020 ADF&G estimated  
8 the Unit 22 total moose population at 6,675 which falls  
9 within their management objectives. The most recent  
10 22A population estimate is 2,043 moose. ADF&G  
11 extrapolated this estimate into a Unit 22A North  
12 population estimate which was 645 moose with a density  
13 of 3.5 moose per square mile. Although Unit 22A  
14 surveys re conducted mostly in the Unalakleet drainages  
15 and populations are assessed for adjacent areas from  
16 this data, the population has been increasing since  
17 2003. Recruitment is estimated for the area and is  
18 characterized as adequate. The observed bull to cow  
19 ratio is above State population objectives.

20  
21 Reported moose harvest in Unit 22A has  
22 increased over the last 20 years. The average moose  
23 harvest from 2003 to 2018 was 27 moose per year with 72  
24 percent being harvested by Federally-qualified  
25 subsistence users, 7 percent by non-local residents and  
26 18 percent by non-residents. But in the same period  
27 since 2014, the average has been 39 moose harvested per  
28 year with 66 percent going to Federally-qualified  
29 subsistence users and 24 percent being reported by non-  
30 resident. Moose harvest among sub-units of 22A is not  
31 distributed equally as with the population throughout  
32 subunits. In 22A Central, for example, home to 36  
33 percent of Unit 22A residents claims 64 percent of the  
34 reported moose harvest. One explanation for this  
35 inconsistency may be the fact that 22A Central requires  
36 a registration permit, which has a failure to report  
37 punishment and 22A North uses a harvest ticket which  
38 has no report requirement or associated punishment.

39  
40 This is of interest because household  
41 surveys show higher annual harvest than ADF&G harvest  
42 reports. ADF&G estimates that as many as 20 moose are  
43 harvested annually and not reported in 22A North.  
44 There are currently five permitted guides in 22A North.

45  
46 If the closure in Unit 22A North is  
47 rescinded all users would be allowed to hunt moose on  
48 Federal public land including the five guides that  
49 operate in the area. Lifting of the closure may  
50

0075

1 increase moose harvest by non-local and non-residents  
2 in the unit. This increase in harvest may be  
3 detrimental to the moose population which, in turn,  
4 would affect Federally-qualified subsistence users  
5 ability to meet their needs. The Shaktoolik River is a  
6 main artery used to access Federal public lands and  
7 increased use by sporthunters may lead to increase  
8 pressure and user conflict. Limited understanding of  
9 population limits the ability to judge if an increase  
10 in harvest will affect the moose population in Unit 22A  
11 North. But the very high bull to cow ratio suggests  
12 the population can withstand more bull harvest.

13

14 Rescinding the closure may alleviate  
15 some hunter pressure and user conflict by spreading  
16 non-resident hunters out to Federal public land not  
17 easily accessed except by plane, which may take  
18 pressure off of the river corridors. But with the  
19 population appearing recovered the original  
20 conservation concern is over.

21

22 Therefore, it's OSM's preliminary  
23 conclusion to support Proposal WP22-49.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I am ready  
26 for any questions Council members may have.

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, are you on  
31 the phone?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tina, can you hear me?

36

37 REPORTER: I can. I don't hear Louis,  
38 but I hear you and I did hear Brian.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you. I'll  
41 speak on behalf of Louis, perhaps he got cut off. Are  
42 there any questions of Brian Ubelaker on Proposal WP22-  
43 49.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: This proposal requests  
48 that Federal public land closure for moose in the  
49 portion of Unit 22A north of and including the

50

0076

1 Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages be rescinded  
2 September 1st to 20th to coincide with the State's non-  
3 resident moose hunting.

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'd like to do a quick  
8 roll call to see if our Council members are on the  
9 phone, we've apparently lost our Chair.

10  
11 Leland Oyoumick, are you on the phone?

12  
13 MR. OYOUNICK: I'm here.

14  
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Leland.

16  
17 How about Doug Katchatag.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: How about Elmer

22 Seetot.

23  
24 MR. SEETOT: Here.

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Elmer.

27  
28 How about Ron Kirk.

29  
30 MR. KIRK: Here.

31  
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin, are you on the

33 phone with us?

34  
35 MR. AUKONGAK: Yes, I got cut off here

36 a couple times, too.  
37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, I think that  
39 does happen and apparently it's happened with Louis.  
40 Did I miss anybody here?

41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louis back on.

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Alrighty. Hi, Louis,  
45 I just checked with everybody else as well so right now  
46 Brian Ubelaker has finished the Staff analysis for  
47 WP22-49 and you asked the Council members if they had  
48 any questions for Mr. Ubelaker, I repeated that request  
49 and did not hear any questions so we can move on with  
50

0077

1 the process for proposals which goes into No. 2, the  
2 report on Board consultations and I can tell you --  
3 this is Karen Deatherage with OSM, that there were no  
4 comments on WP22-49 from tribes or.....

5

6 MR. OYOUMICK: Excuse me, Karen.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: What's that?

9

10 MR. OYOUMICK: This is Leland.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.

13

14 MR. OYOUMICK: Excuse me, Karen, this  
15 is Leland.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Go ahead, Leland.

18

19 MR. OYOUMICK: I was wondering this  
20 area that we're questioning about is it only accessible  
21 by air?

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'd like to direct  
24 that question to Mr. Ubelaker with the Chair's  
25 permission, thank you.

26

27 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes, please.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Brian.

30

31 MR. OYOUMICK: Is this area.....

32

33 MR. UBELAKER: This is Brian Ubelaker.

34

35 MR. OYOUMICK: .....that.....

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Either Mr. Ubelaker or  
38 Mr. Dunker could probably be able to answer that  
39 question for you, Mr. Oyoumick. Thank you.

40

41 MR. OYOUMICK: Okay, I was  
42 wondering.....

43

44 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Oyoumick, this is  
45 Brian Ubelaker.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. OYOUMICK: Okay, go ahead.

50

0078

1 MR. UBELAKER: My apologies, sorry  
2 about that. Most of the Federal land in Unit 22A North  
3 is quite remote especially from Shaktoolik as was said  
4 in the presentation. State lands and tribal lands seem  
5 to concentrate around Shaktoolik whereas most of the  
6 BLM land -- BLM managed land is farther out. Some of  
7 it is accessible, it borders the Shaktoolik River but I  
8 would say the majority of it would probably be air  
9 travel.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. OYOUMICK: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any other Council  
16 members.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, that  
21 moves us into the -- we had a question of Brian, so  
22 Bill Dunker, agency reports under No. 3.

23

24 MR. DUNKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, wait a minute,  
27 sorry. I'm sorry. Karen, did we have any reports on  
28 Board consultations with tribes or ANCSA Corporations,  
29 did you already answer that.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: I did, Mr. Chair, but  
32 I'd be happy to repeat it if you wish. There were no  
33 comments from tribes or ANCSA Corporations during Board  
34 consultations on WP22-49. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. We're on No.  
37 3, agency comments. Sorry, Bill, go ahead.

38

39 MR. DUNKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 Again, this is Bill Dunker with Department of Fish and  
41 Game here in Nome. So ADF&G supports the proposal and  
42 is in agreement with the OSM's preliminary analysis and  
43 conclusions. Our recent abundance and composition  
44 survey information, like Brian mentioned, is from the  
45 surveys completed during the 2020/2021 season in the  
46 Central portion of the unit there and it's often  
47 historically been used to provide some inferences about  
48 the population in that northern portion there. We  
49 believe that the biological circumstances that

50

0079

1 warranted the closure initially no longer exists.  
2 We've got extremely high bull/cow ratios in the area  
3 and that population, in general, has experienced growth  
4 over the past 15 years or so.

5  
6                   Looking at harvest, specifically, for  
7 the northern portion of Unit 22A, the reported harvest  
8 is minimal on average over the last five years. We've  
9 only had a reported harvest of two moose from that  
10 area. As Brian mentioned a portion of our  
11 understanding of what harvest is in the area does come  
12 from household subsistence surveys completed primarily  
13 in the community of Unalakleet. But even when we  
14 combine those estimates of harvest with the reported  
15 harvest we're roughly half of what we estimate to be  
16 the harvestable surplus for that area. So clearly  
17 additional opportunity and additional harvest is  
18 warranted in the area at this time.

19  
20                   The Department recommends that  
21 additional harvest opportunity be provided for in the  
22 short-term. We would continue to monitor that harvest  
23 and evaluate it, and, if necessary, can be managed  
24 through changes to the State regulations utilizing a  
25 variety of input from different user groups.

26  
27                   Happy to answer any questions that  
28 folks might have. Thank you.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question from me, Mr.  
31 Bill, thank you. Would that be an EO, like we do at  
32 home, when you need to close the.....

33  
34                   MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, no that would  
35 be -- the hunt in the northern portion of 22A for both  
36 residents and non-resident hunters is administered with  
37 a general season moose harvest ticket and so we don't  
38 have emergency order authority closure for that area,  
39 any changes to the regulations or any management of  
40 moose harvest in the area would need to go before the  
41 Board. I remember when we discussed this topic at -- I  
42 believe it was at a 2017 Board of Game meeting down in  
43 Bethel. This topic came up, it's when we were talking  
44 about lengthening the non-resident season from  
45 September 1st to the 14th to September 1st to the 20th,  
46 and I think one option that was considered at that time  
47 would be to adopt some sort of registration permit for  
48 non-resident hunting in the area to, you know, provide  
49 those types of controls. But that any changes of that  
50

0080

1 sort would require Board action.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you.  
4 Because it's a green tag harvest tag then you don't  
5 have any -- you don't see it necessary to have EO but  
6 we wait through the cycle to readjust if necessary,  
7 right?

8

9 MR. DUNKER: Correct. Yeah, at this  
10 time I don't have any concerns about overharvest in the  
11 area. Our next opportunity to bring this topic before  
12 the Board would be during the Western and Arctic Board  
13 of Game meeting in, I believe, it will be January of  
14 2024. So a couple of years to evaluate harvest and  
15 then potentially revisit this topic at a later date.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Karen.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
22 this is Karen Deatherage. I did want to clarify that  
23 this proposal, WP22-49 is for Federal lands and,  
24 therefore, if the Council did vote to open the area to  
25 non-resident hunting, that if there were an issue with  
26 the populations and there was concern or there was  
27 injury to subsistence users, that the Federal system  
28 does have a special action process and the hunt could  
29 be closed through special action through the Federal  
30 Subsistence Board.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, thank you for  
35 that Karen. I was wondering if we did. So we do, as a  
36 Council, we have the option of -- because it's Federal  
37 land to make a change under special action between now  
38 and 2024 if we see that it looks like something that  
39 needs to be done.

40

41 Is there any other Council, any  
42 questions for Mr. Dunker.

43

44 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
45 Mission.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

48

49 MR. SEETOT: Some of these wildlife

50



0081

1 resources that we kind of target during the different  
2 seasons, sometimes they're in very bad areas like they  
3 were mentioning north of Shaktoolik, it's a hard area  
4 to go to. I'm also mentioning, for caribou, or any  
5 four-legged species, that trying to hunt in the Bering  
6 Land Preserve in and around the lava beds that's a  
7 place that we kind of go to for caribou and even though  
8 it's kind of hard I would kind of say that it shouldn't  
9 be open to anyone other than people in and around a  
10 community that kind of regulates regulations and  
11 harvest limits for the people. As with many Native  
12 people we don't have the resources to really say, oh,  
13 this new regulation came into effect, maybe I'll just  
14 wait for that. We kind of hunt animals within season.  
15 We pick berries, we pick plants within the natural  
16 season. So for someone to say that -- who has the  
17 money and financial behind them to change the  
18 regulation, you know, they don't live in the area long  
19 enough. We, the residents of Alaska, most of them,  
20 rely on these wildlife resources to sustain our diet so  
21 that we could be healthy, you know, to hunt other days.  
22 So for me that would be kind of like opening the area  
23 to wide range of uses, even though it's in a far away  
24 place. A far away place for me requires effort and  
25 planning and money so that's not very much what we have  
26 out there especially with extreme weather issues that  
27 we start having during these days.

28  
29 So I would kind of go against that  
30 proposal.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your  
35 comment, Elmer.

36  
37 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, this is  
38 Leland.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

41  
42 MR. OYOUMICK: I agree with Elmer.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.  
45 Since we -- do we have any more out there Martin, Ron.

46  
47 MR. KIRK: Louis, Ron Kirk, Stebbins.  
48 Yeah, I agree with Elmer because our ancestors in the  
49 past, before the villages became villages would move  
50

0082

1 from hunting ground to hunting ground to try and live  
2 off the land, they'd move from one place to another,  
3 hunting grounds, so that they can pick greens or  
4 berries or catch caribou or moose, they'd move from one  
5 place to the other and trying to survive by staying in  
6 that certain area. So I agree with Elmer that our  
7 hunting grounds are our hunting grounds, we shouldn't  
8 open them up widely to anybody.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Doug,  
13 are you out there?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I got a question  
18 for you Brian, when was the last time we made a vote on  
19 this, I can't remember what year, maybe 2018, and it  
20 went to the Federal Subsistence Board level?

21

22 MR. UBELAKER: Give me just a second,  
23 Mr. Chair, let me get to that page and I can get you an  
24 answer.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, thank you. I  
27 know we debated it, I was in the heat of the  
28 discussion. The person that proposed it, Lance and  
29 Fish and Game were also there and the Federal  
30 Subsistence Board voted not to open it.

31

32 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is  
33 Hannah Voorhees.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Hannah.

36

37 DR. VOORHEES: I can -- thanks. So you  
38 would have -- a similar proposal came before you in  
39 2019 and then for action in 2020 the Board rejected  
40 rescinding the closure, in part, due to lack of  
41 biological information at that time.

42

43 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, and, Mr. Chair,  
44 this is Lisa Grediagin, just to add to what Hannah  
45 said. The Board rejected it in part because there  
46 wasn't a recent survey but since the Board rejected in  
47 2020 there has been a survey conducted by ADF&G and BLM  
48 for that area so there is updated, more recent  
49 biological information.

50

0083

1 Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Am I back on?

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: You are back on. And  
6 I suggest you go on to additional agency comments to  
7 see if anybody from the Federal side or tribal  
8 organizations or individuals would like to speak to  
9 this proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, when we get  
12 through with this one I think we need to take a short  
13 lunch break.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: That sounds like a  
16 fabulous idea.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So all right, let's  
19 try to get on with this list I had laid out here, or  
20 maybe you could call them out, Karen, because I'm  
21 having trouble finding my list of agencies.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. On behalf  
24 of the Chair, are there any agency comments from the  
25 Federal government. Agencies.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tribal.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: If not I'll move on to  
34 the advisory group comments. Bill -- I mean Brian  
35 Ubelaker, are there any other Regional Advisory Council  
36 votes on this proposal.

37

38 MR. UBELAKER: No, there were no other  
39 comments from other Regional Advisory Councils. Thank  
40 you.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Are there  
43 any representatives from Fish and Game Advisory  
44 Committees that wish to speak to this proposal.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, moving on, Mr.  
49 Ubelaker, could you provide us with a summary of any

50

0084

1 written public comments.

2

3 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, there were no  
4 submitted written public comments. Thank you.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very much.  
7 And right now I'd like to open the floor on behalf of  
8 the Chair to any public testimony for WP22-49.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 (Teleconference interference -  
13 participants phones not muted)

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'd ask also if you  
16 could mute your phones, we're hearing a little bit of  
17 background noise here, if you're not speaking. Next,  
18 we'll go into Regional Council recommendation. This  
19 would be an affirmative recommendation to support  
20 Proposal WP22-49. This proposal would rescind the  
21 closure to moose hunting for non-Federally-qualified  
22 users in a portion of Unit 22A. Is there a motion to  
23 adopt WP22-49.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm back here. A  
26 positive motion to adopt and then in voting, if you  
27 want to adopt the motion it's a yes, if you don't want  
28 to adopt the motion it's a no. So if somebody would  
29 make the positive motion to adopt Wildlife Proposal 22-  
30 49, Unit 22A, rescind closure to moose hunting for non-  
31 Federally-qualified users. I think I got that right,  
32 uh, Karen?

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We'll make a motion and  
37 then we'll have some discussion.

38

39 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission,  
40 Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer, go ahead.

43

44 MR. SEETOT: I move to adopt Proposal  
45 WP22-49 requesting that Federal public lands be closed  
46 [sic] in that portion of Unit 22 and September 1 to  
47 September 20 to be rescinded to coincide with State's  
48 non-resident moose season.

49

50

0085

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Is  
2 there a second.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer made the motion  
7 to adopt, is there a second.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, I don't hear a  
12 second.

13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
15 Again, we want to remind the Council that this motion  
16 is not a vote to support or oppose the proposal but  
17 rather to bring the proposal to the floor so that the  
18 Council can vote on it and justify its vote. So we'll  
19 need to get a second before we proceed.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 MR. OYOUMICK: This is Leland, I'll  
24 second that.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.  
27 Now, it's open for discussion. Council members. We  
28 heard Elmer.

29  
30 MR. OYOUMICK: Louis, this is Leland.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Leland.

33  
34 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I talked with a  
35 couple people in the town and they kind of don't like  
36 that idea of opening that area if it's only going to be  
37 accessible by guides and that kind of thing, if it's  
38 accessible for everybody it'd be fine and well, but we  
39 don't -- as subsistence users we don't got airplanes to  
40 go fly around and hunt and gather stuff up, we're just  
41 limited to what we have and we can't pay this guy  
42 20,000, 50,000 whatever it cost to hunt moose. I don't  
43 like this idea and maybe they can hunt some otherwhere.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for the  
48 discussion comment. Any other Council members.

49  
50

0086

1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer. Call for question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been

4 called.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Karen.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, sorry for the  
11 interruption. At the Council's discretion if they  
12 would like me to read the justification from OSM. OSM  
13 has a preliminary conclusion to support WP22-49, if the  
14 Council wishes, if the Chair wishes, I can read the  
15 justification otherwise the Council can proceed with  
16 the vote. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Karen, and

19 read it.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Please.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: The OSM preliminary  
26 conclusion is to support WP22-49, extremely high bull  
27 to cow ratios and population estimates in 22A Central  
28 adjacent to the area in question, that are above  
29 management objectives as well as low reported harvest  
30 and estimates of total harvest that are below the  
31 harvestable surplus indicate that the Unit 22A North  
32 moose population can withstand the potential increases  
33 in harvest that may result from rescinding the closure  
34 during September. Additionally, harvest is not  
35 expected to increase substantially as reported harvest  
36 did not increase following the Board of Game's 2017  
37 season extension to non-resident hunters, and reported  
38 harvest did not increase after the Board opened Unit  
39 22A North to all Federally-qualified subsistence users.  
40 In 2020 the Board and Council rejected rescinding the  
41 closure, in part, due to the lack of biological  
42 information. In spring 2021 a population survey in 22A  
43 Central indicated that the Unit 22A moose population  
44 remained high and in fall 2020 a composition survey  
45 indicated that the bull/cow ratio remained  
46 extraordinarily high. While the closure was originally  
47 enacted due to conservation concerns, the effects of  
48 rescinding the closure on subsistence users is unknown  
49 but may increase their hunting opportunity. Currently

50

0087

1 all moose hunters are concentrated on the easily  
2 accessible State managed lands along the river  
3 corridors. Rescinding the Federal land closure during  
4 September may help spread non-Federally-qualified users  
5 out across the hunt area, reducing user conflicts and  
6 competition for moose.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for reading  
11 that Karen. I got a question about Federally-qualified  
12 users in all of 22, aren't we allowed to hunt in that  
13 area?

14

15 (Teleconference interference -  
16 participants phones not muted - on hold)

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Within 22? I guess  
19 that would be a Brian question.

20

21 MR. UBELAKER: Federally-qualified  
22 subsistence users are allowed to hunt everywhere in  
23 Unit 22A North. This closure restricts non-Federally-  
24 qualified subsistence users -- the Federal land is  
25 closed to them so they are stuck on State managed  
26 lands.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And those that are  
29 non-Federally-qualified are the five guides and their  
30 customers, correct?

31

32 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Sir.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And it probably also  
35 includes anybody out of the area from Anchorage,  
36 Fairbanks.

37

38 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Sir, the balance of  
39 Federally-qualified subsistence users, that would be  
40 the -- the other side of that coin would be out of  
41 state hunters and then non-local residents from other  
42 areas of Alaska, outside of the subsistence regions.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. So  
45 I guess another question I have is the people of  
46 Shaktoolik, how much did they weigh into this. I guess  
47 I would ask Bill Dunker, I can't remember what he said  
48 about it.

49

50

0088

1 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, this is Bill  
2 Dunker. Could you clarify your question a little bit?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hi, I'm sorry. The  
5 question was, is, you know, we went through this whole  
6 thing a while back and we retained -- instead of  
7 opening it to all State residents, we maintained that  
8 all Federally-qualified residents of Unit 22 were able  
9 to hunt in the 22A North and 22A Central, I think. And  
10 there was like a step, we were taking a step up, and I  
11 think that had something to do with Lance over there on  
12 the edge of -- or Unit 18 wanting to be able to get up  
13 where nobody else could get with an airplane and guide  
14 out of that area, and now we're in the same -- I know  
15 he brought it up before, but we're back in that same  
16 thing, where you can only fly into where he's talking  
17 about getting into but I guess -- I kind of lost track  
18 here, I'm sorry. I had something written down here.

19  
20 Anyway, all of Unit 22, Federally-  
21 qualified users can go there and that's the step we  
22 took or -- and it had to do with biological and I know  
23 I stressed it quite a bit at the Federal Board level  
24 where they made the decision, it was to -- the idea of  
25 -- they didn't have any real data, it was just working  
26 off of no studies. So what kind of survey was done and  
27 how recent was it again, that's my question.

28  
29 MR. DUNKER: Sure. So -- gotcha. Mr.  
30 Chair, we did a fall composition survey in late  
31 November of 2020. That covered primarily the central  
32 portion of the unit. The Unalakleet River itself, the  
33 North River, the Northfork of the Unalakleet and then  
34 some of the tributaries to the south, the coastal  
35 drainages, north of the Golsovia, the Southfork and  
36 portions of the Chirosky. The results of that survey  
37 corroborated what we seen when we did a composition  
38 survey in 2016. In each of those two years we found  
39 bull/cow ratios in excess of 120 bulls per 100 cows and  
40 I think 2016 was 123 bulls per 100 cows, and then the  
41 2020 survey was 120 bulls per 100 cows.

42  
43 For context, that's almost unheard of  
44 in other parts of the state. I can't really think of  
45 other places that have bull/cow ratios that high. You  
46 know here on the Nome road system and elsewhere in Unit  
47 22 our population objective or our composition  
48 objective is to maintain bull/cow ratios post-hunt at  
49 30 bulls per 100 cows. 60 to 70 bulls per 100 cows is  
50



0089

1 considered high. 120 bulls per 100 cows is almost  
2 unimaginable.

3

4

5 One thing to consider along those lines  
6 is, you know, the composition of a population can  
7 certainly play -- is a factor in determining that  
8 populations ability to grow and its productivity. And  
9 as it stands right now the bull/cow ratio is skewed  
10 pretty dramatically towards the bull component of the  
11 population and I think that's part of the reason why we  
12 see such low recruitment rates within that population.  
13 You know we've got pretty good calf/cow ratios but then  
14 those calves are sort of washed out by the large number  
15 of bulls within the population. And so, you know,  
16 actually harvesting some of these bulls and skewing  
17 that bull/cow ratio more in favor of the cow component  
18 might actually provide for, you know, more home ranges  
19 for cows to live in and ultimately create sort of a  
20 more productive population.

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The other consideration here is that when we did that survey, I think it was about 45 percent of the bulls that were observed were greater than 50 inches. And so with that we're talking about animals that are four plus years of age that may live up to 10, maybe 11 years, and so these animals that are on the landscape, they're not going to be there forever. At a certain point as they age they become more susceptible to harvest and so I think we have an opportunity in the short-term to provide for additional harvest opportunity but clearly need to continue to monitor it as time goes on. So that's just a little bit more of context and information about that composition survey and what we think we were able to learn about the population from that survey. We followed up with an abundance survey that was completed within, effectively the same area, the Central portion of Unit 22A and that was a spring survey that we completed in late March, early April of 2021. The results of that survey estimated the abundance of moose within that Unalakleet hunt area to be about 766 moose and that was consistent with the population estimate from 2017 when we had an estimated abundance of 840 moose. So pretty relative stability within that timeframe. Still seeing calf recruitment, 10 or 12 percent, which is low compared to other areas but, again, I think the composition of that population is a factor there that we're able to sort of shed light on using the information from those fall composition

0090

1 surveys.

2

3

So.

4

5

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thanks. What was the bull ratio in 2017 in that area?

6

7

8

9 that 2016 survey, right, because we do it in the fall.  
10 We can't estimate composition from our spring abundance  
11 surveys, so what we do is get into the area in the  
12 falltime. It was 123 bulls per 100 cows in 2016. And  
13 so that was eye -- that was surprising, and, you know,  
14 we held off on liberalizing things in the Unalakleet  
15 drainage until we were able to sort of corroborate  
16 those bull to cow ratios but, again, with the 2020  
17 survey being completed we were able to confirm, you  
18 know, what is an extremely high bull/cow ratios and  
19 they've allowed us to liberalize things in the  
20 Unalakleet drainage there and this would be an  
21 opportunity to do the same for the northern portion  
22 that, you know, borders that Central portion and has  
23 similar habitat.

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I guess one following question would be what kind of survey was one on that northern group, or are you just basing it off of Unalakleet Central?

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MR. DUNKER: It's based off that Central portion there, you know, we -- it's a challenging area to work in and we weren't able to put resources towards completing surveys in the northern portion there. So the inferences that we make about the population in the northern portion are based on population surveys completed in the Central portion, the neighboring unit to the south.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So there was an argument about that opening up between 18 and 22, and the thought was that because there's so many moose in 18 they're moving around the corner and coming down into the Norton Sound side. So I guess with that thought -- and then we got 22E and 22D, we're not sure what's going on there. So we got this study that went on and it was in the Central but it doesn't really take into account what's going on in the Northern 22A, North; there's no visual, it's just I heard extrapolated numbers and I always have troubles with

0091

1 extrapolations. So I just -- that same argument was in  
2 front of the Federal Subsistence Board about a real  
3 genuine survey and so I just hear that we're basing it  
4 on what's going on in the Central, am I correct?

5

6 MR. DUNKER: Yes, our understanding of  
7 those populations in that northern portion is based on  
8 surveys completed, you know, within the unit and in an  
9 area that we believe is representative of the  
10 population as a whole.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So do you think any --  
13 excuse me, Bill, yeah, so do you think any of that's  
14 helping further the moose population towards like say  
15 Koyuk, or Interior a little bit, is that -- but there's  
16 no knowledge of that, correct?

17

18 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, I guess, you know,  
19 making those inferences beyond the boundaries of 22A  
20 gets a little bit more challenging so that's about as  
21 far as I guess I would be willing to extend the  
22 inference would be to that northern portion there.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, but we got  
25 nothing collared over there that might show signs so  
26 there's no -- not really much of a collaring project?

27

28 MR. DUNKER: No, Mr. Chair, we don't  
29 have any collared animals within the 22A or 22B East  
30 hunt area for moose.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you.  
33 Other Council have any questions, comments.

34

35 MR. AUKONGAK: Mr. Chair, this is  
36 Martin.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Martin, you have the  
39 floor.

40

41 MR. AUKONGAK: With Nome and White  
42 Mountain and Golovin being in the same unit, you know,  
43 our moose goes within two days and then, you know, go  
44 from the Darby Mountains toward all the way to Koyuk,  
45 you know, they're open like a month and ours is like  
46 two days so (indiscernible - breaking up) smaller  
47 community, you know, going out and then all of a sudden  
48 the moose, you know, are pretty much done. You know  
49 they wait almost a year and then all of a sudden you  
50

0092

1 can't get nothing. And then with the bull moose and  
2 the cow moose, you know, the counts, you know, if we  
3 get more that's great and it's kind of a saying, the  
4 more wildfires in the Interior it'll push all the  
5 critters towards our (indiscernible - breaking up).  
6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You kind of cut out  
8 there, Martin, at the last bit there, the last five  
9 seconds or so.

10

11 MR. AUKONGAK: (Indiscernible)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, Martin, you  
14 blanked out, are you there?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We must have lost him.  
19 Yeah, so, anyway, I'm trying to figure out a way to  
20 make a decision on whether it's a go or no go in my  
21 mind and, again, I'm not getting the information that I  
22 thought I would have by now if we had to address this  
23 area there. It's based on the other portion of 22A.  
24 So I hear my other Council members basing it on  
25 subsistence and I -- I'm there, too, because that's why  
26 we're here and we're here about subsistence so my  
27 concern is about starting something and not being able  
28 to stop it. Every time we go commercial on anything  
29 it's always harder to get it out of there and so that's  
30 what I'm worried about at this point. We have numbers  
31 that are based on another area basically with  
32 extrapolated number. Did I hear somebody else trying  
33 to come on?

34

35 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, this is Bill  
36 Dunker, if I could.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, go ahead, Bill.

39

40 MR. DUNKER: Well, just as a point of  
41 clarification about emergency order closures and  
42 general season harvest ticket hunts, I guess when I  
43 spoke earlier saying that we didn't have that  
44 authority, it was more along the lines of what, I  
45 think, you're more familiar with in the sense that we,  
46 you know, manage seasons based on harvest quotas and  
47 get reports in real time and do in-season management to  
48 maintain harvest at sustainable levels. With a general  
49 season hunt that's not typically how that process  
50

0093

1 works, but in the event of any kind of biological or  
2 conservation concern, the Department certainly has the  
3 authority to issue an emergency order closure for a  
4 general season hunt in circumstances such as that.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, thank you. I  
9 learned what you said. And, well, that would be State  
10 under EOs and that wouldn't have anything to do with  
11 the Federal side and the only way we could do it at  
12 this Council level with the Federal side is if we  
13 enacted this thing and agreed to do it then the only  
14 way we could pull it back was to have a special action  
15 between now and the next time the cycle brings it  
16 forward.

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is Lisa  
19 Grediagin.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Lisa.

22

23 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I just wanted to  
24 clarify that I mean another option, this is maybe  
25 getting more complicated than you want to go here, but  
26 if you delegate authority to open and close a season to  
27 a Federal manager, that that's another option under the  
28 Federal side to close or open Federal lands to non-  
29 Federally-qualified users based on subsistence uses or  
30 conservation concerns, and it's kind of a different  
31 form of a special action but it's just another way to  
32 open and close in-season.

33

34 Thanks.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That means  
37 the Federal manager has the authority like a State  
38 manager has EO authority, is that what you're saying?

39

40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I mean of course  
41 there are some nuances and, you know, some differences  
42 between the State and Federal process but, yeah, more  
43 or less, it would be, yeah, the Federal manager in this  
44 case, it would probably be the BLM Anchorage District  
45 Field Office Manager would have that authority to issue  
46 a special action and open and close those Federal  
47 public lands in Unit 22A North.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So that would

50

0094

1 mean that we would have to do that in a form of a  
2 motion, and word it that way, to give authority to a  
3 Federal manager to emergency closure of a Federal area.

4  
5 MS. GREDIAGIN: Correct, yeah, it'd be  
6 a modification. Thanks.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. So  
9 Council members, anybody got anything to say about  
10 that.

11  
12 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, Louis, Leland  
13 right here.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead Leland.

16  
17 MR. OYOUMICK: Traditionally we never  
18 had no guides in our area.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep. Anybody else.

21  
22 MR. OYOUMICK: Louis, this is Leland  
23 again. From what I gather the only ones that benefit  
24 from the guiding outfit is the guide.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I guess my  
27 question goes back to, you know, public comment, I  
28 don't know what took place in Shaktoolik or did the  
29 agencies go to Shaktoolik and meet with people and talk  
30 to them about it, I guess that's a question I had  
31 earlier but I didn't get it out. Bill.

32  
33 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, I guess I  
34 haven't spoken with anybody from Shaktoolik  
35 specifically about this proposal but over the last  
36 couple of years I've had the opportunity to talk with  
37 folks there in Shaktoolik, mostly in regards to that  
38 boundary change that you guys just took action on and  
39 that was realistically more of a pressing issue in  
40 their minds as it related to their ability to be  
41 successful during the fall moose hunting season. And  
42 that was primarily what they pointed out as one of the  
43 hurdles to their success was that mismatch in the  
44 traditional hunting areas and the Federal land closures  
45 in that area north of the Egavik Creek drainage and  
46 south of the Tagoomenik. Reference to non-local  
47 hunters, it wasn't something that was brought up in  
48 those discussions. Not to say that it doesn't exist  
49 but it didn't come up in those meetings there. I got  
50

0095

1 the impression that the majority of hunters from  
2 Shaktoolik that are hunting by fourwheeler are  
3 accessing that foothills region there south of  
4 Shaktoolik and then the remainder of them are focusing  
5 their efforts primarily along the Shaktoolik River  
6 Corridor, accessing that area by boat and spending a  
7 good deal of time on, you know, Native corporation  
8 lands and State managed lands in the coastal areas  
9 there. That's kind of what I've heard in discussion  
10 with Shaktoolik folks, again, not specific to this  
11 particular issue but in terms of moose hunting in  
12 general.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thanks, Bill.  
15 So I was just trying to think of the timeframe the  
16 moose hunt is open on those Federal lands, I don't have  
17 anything in front of me to do that.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen  
24 Deatherage. The other option, too, here for the  
25 Council to consider, if it wishes, is they could invite  
26 the proponent to submit a special action request to  
27 open up that hunt and what this would do would, first  
28 of all, ensure that this is not a permanent hunt but  
29 rather an opportunity to see the impacts to subsistence  
30 and/or the moose population in that area. And also it  
31 could be an opportunity to invite comments at a  
32 hearing, a public hearing from the residents of  
33 Shaktoolik how this might impact their subsistence  
34 opportunity. So that's just another option along with  
35 delegating authority for opposing or approving this  
36 proposal as written.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I appreciate that  
41 Karen. I did kind of have a thought of that earlier  
42 but I didn't know how to put it across and kind of lost  
43 track of it. Special action hunt by Lance Kronberger,  
44 in other words, what's the cycle on this, and, yeah, I  
45 was trying to come up with some way how we could just  
46 have an opportunity -- a window of opportunity to take  
47 another step up. We could offer that but it's only,  
48 you know, so long, so you kind of open the door there,  
49 a special action hunt by the guide there. When is this  
50

0096

1 due? I know we're talking about it now, but when is  
2 this, for the cycle? Moose cycle.

3

4 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
5 Lisa. The -- if you're talking about a special action  
6 request they can be submitted at any time whereas a  
7 proposal to change codified regulations there is a  
8 cycle for that and so I think you know Board will  
9 consider this proposal, 22-49 at their meeting in April  
10 and then there won't be an opportunity to submit  
11 another proposal until January of 2023. And while  
12 someone can submit a special action request at any  
13 time, there are certain criteria that OSM and the Board  
14 uses whether or not to accept the special action  
15 request. So I have to admit if there's already a  
16 proposal requesting the same thing as a special action  
17 request, I don't -- I can't think of another time  
18 that's happened so there's no way I can speak for the  
19 Board, but it seems like a very surprising situation to  
20 me for the Board to reject a proposal, but then accept  
21 a special action request. So, again, I can't speak for  
22 what exactly what the Board would do in that situation  
23 but it is a rather unusual situation to have both  
24 asking for the same thing for the same season.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, okay, that's  
27 fine. You're just making sense out of stuff here,  
28 that's fine with me. That's what we need, the most  
29 information we got to make a decision, the better  
30 decision we make so that's where I'm going with this.  
31 And I'm hearing from my other Council members that  
32 there's a little bit of resistance here about going  
33 there.

34

35 So can we just take a -- what do you  
36 think, Karen, a half hour.

37

38 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk,  
39 Stebbins. There was a motion on the floor for this  
40 item.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, yeah, I guess we  
43 need to act on it. So, you know, we've discussed it.  
44 I think I would call somebody, a couple of people in  
45 Shaktoolik, but I think it's up to us to make a  
46 decision now. Karen.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, thank you.  
49 If the Council makes a decision now and you get  
50



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1 additional information later on in the meeting you can  
2 certainly bring this proposal back for reconsideration.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. That  
7 helps me a lot. So I think since there's a motion on  
8 the floor, we've discussed it, I think it's time for a  
9 break, let's just take a vote, let's do a roll call  
10 vote and hopefully we have at least five or four of us,  
11 whatever it is. Karen, please, thanks.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. I believe,  
14 but I'd like to confirm with Tina that the question was  
15 called for this proposal.

16

17 REPORTER: Sorry, I was eating, but,  
18 yes, the question was called by Elmer.

19

20 MR. KIRK: Question.

21

22 REPORTER: And Ron's calling it as  
23 well.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yep, it is now.

26

27 REPORTER: Correct.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Roll call  
32 to approve Proposal WP22-49, Unit 22A, rescind closure  
33 to moose hunting for non-Federally-qualified users.

34

35 Call on Doug Katchatag.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

40

41 MR. OYOUMICK: Nay.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is that a nay or a yea  
44 -- I would say no if you mean no and yes if you mean  
45 yes at this point because we're on the phone. Thanks.

46

47 MR. OYOUMICK: No.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Leland.

50

0098

1 Martin Aukongak.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin are you on the  
6 phone with us?

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot.

11

12 MR. SEETOT: No, but I called the  
13 question 40 minutes ago.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's what I thought  
16 -- okay, Ron Kirk.

17

18 MR. KIRK: No.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. I'd like to see  
25 if Doug Katchatag is on the phone, Doug, do you have a  
26 vote?

27

28 MR. AUKONGAK: Karen, this is Martin, I  
29 say no. I keep getting cut off, sorry about that.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you,  
32 Martin. So I have one, two, three, four, five no's,  
33 motion passes -- or motion fails unanimously. Thank  
34 you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Now, if we get  
37 further information it can be brought back up in this  
38 meeting. So at this time it is -- what is it, 12: -- I  
39 think I got 12:53, let's take 30 minutes -- let's just  
40 say 1:30.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
43 And I would like to ask that all Council members please  
44 call back in, we do need to maintain a quorum. We have  
45 a lot of wildlife proposals and closure reviews before  
46 the Council and there will need to be a quorum in order  
47 for action to be taken. So appreciate everybody  
48 calling back in and enjoy your lunch.

49

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0099

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thanks, Karen.

4 1:30 back. Call in just a little bit before maybe.

5

6 Thank you, everybody.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It is now 1:42 I call

13 the meeting back to order, do we have some

14 introductions out there, if you want to Karen.

15

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

17 I just would like to invite anybody who didn't have the

18 opportunity to introduce themselves this morning but

19 have joined us this afternoon, is you'd like to

20 introduce yourself that would be super.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. Since, we're

25 still waiting for Council members to call in.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pippa, are you on the

28 phone?

29

30 MS. KENNER: Yes, Pippa's here.

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Let's

33 check in again, Mr. Chair, if we could to see if any of

34 the other Council members, Leland Oyoumick or Doug

35 Katchatag have joined us.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What about Martin.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin, have you

42 joined us?

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I can hear something

47 but it's just making a noise but it's like a hangup or

48 a mute or something.

49

50

0100

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: It may be people  
2 trying to call in and then keep getting cut off. I  
3 know that was happening with the folks in Unalakleet.  
4 I'll try to call Leland right now.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that might be a  
7 good idea. And I think that might be what's going on.  
8 I got on and got knocked right off as soon as I got on  
9 too. So, okay, we'll standby.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: I just tried Leland's  
14 number and it said it's unavailable so either he's  
15 trying to get in -- Mr. Chair, in the interest of time  
16 I might suggest that we bring up the Item No. B under  
17 new business, and Mr. Tom Kron can present the annual  
18 report reply process revision. There's no real action  
19 necessary for this and so the Council members that are  
20 present can hear the information and then if we have a  
21 quorum after that we can move back to the wildlife  
22 proposals.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, that's a good  
27 idea. Tom, Mr. Kron, you have the floor, if you're  
28 ready.

29

30 MR. KRON: Yes, sir, this is Tom Kron.  
31 Just one issue related to the annual report reply  
32 process.

33

34 During the Federal Subsistence Board  
35 process in August 2021, in their work session, the  
36 InterAgency Staff Committee briefed the Board on the  
37 annual report reply process and possible revisions to  
38 improve work load efficiency and respond to the  
39 Regional Advisory Council concerns. The Board reviewed  
40 and discussed the annual report reply process and  
41 agreed to forward this topic on to the Councils for  
42 your input on the suggested revisions, including  
43 possible ideas of your own.

44

45 As you're aware ANILCA, Section .805,  
46 authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual report  
47 containing information related to important subsistence  
48 resource issues within your region. These reports are  
49 invaluable as they provide the Board with a broad

50

0101

1 holistic picture of local resource conditions and the  
2 subsistence issues facing communities across rural  
3 Alaska. With this knowledge the Board can make  
4 informed decisions.

5  
6 Holistically [sic] the Board has  
7 strived to provide responses to every topic listed in  
8 the annual reports regardless of its authority to  
9 address the issues raised. It is unclear whether Board  
10 responses on all annual report topics are helpful to  
11 the Councils while taking considerable Staff time to  
12 complete.

13  
14 The InterAgency Staff Committee has  
15 suggested process revisions to consider annual reports  
16 to serve solely as a mechanism for informing the Board  
17 of local conditions and needs and proposed letter  
18 writing as a means of requesting Board response to a  
19 topic of concern. Under this scenario, Councils could  
20 ask their Coordinator to write a letter to the Board if  
21 there is an annual report topics to which they are  
22 specifically requesting a response.

23  
24 These suggested revisions are not  
25 intended to diminish the ability of the Councils to  
26 report to the Board and Councils will still receive  
27 responses from the Board, when requested. And these  
28 are only suggestions. You, the Council, may have other  
29 ideas about a more efficient and responsive annual  
30 report and reply process.

31  
32 To that end, we ask you to think about  
33 what you want the Board -- want from the Board in terms  
34 of replies as you develop and confirm your FY2021  
35 annual report following the fall and winter meetings.  
36 We will take this up again when we meet in 2022

37  
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 And, again, this is just an item to  
41 consider, it is not an action item here at this  
42 meeting. But wanted to let you about this.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom. What  
45 comes to mind is thinking the comments that the Council  
46 members make, I don't know, do they get to see that --  
47 they must get to see that, the Board? Do they not,  
48 Tom?

49  
50

0102

1 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, on the  
2 annual reports, the Board on an annual basis has been  
3 responding to all of your annual report topics and,  
4 again, the discussion on this issue is available for  
5 all the Councils to see and consider. But, again, the  
6 Board is just asking the Councils at this point, if you  
7 want to change the process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Yep, that's  
10 clear, thanks, Mr. Kron. How we doing Karen.

11  
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
13 Karen. I was able to get a hold of Doug and he's going  
14 to be trying to call in, Deahl Katchatag. I'm not able  
15 to get ahold of Leland. Leland, have you been able to  
16 join us on the phone here.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: I wonder if they're --  
21 they are having phone issues in Unalakleet. Doug, are  
22 you on the phone here.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: How about Martin  
27 Aukongak, have you joined us?

28  
29 MR. AUKONGAK: Yeah, I'm here but I'm  
30 still getting cut off.

31  
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. I appreciate  
33 you're keeping trying, we know it's difficult. Mr.  
34 Chair, that would leave us with just four members and  
35 we need five for a quorum. So we can continue with the  
36 non-action items on the agenda at your discretion.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I'm trying to  
41 set up here.

42  
43 MR. KRON: Hey, Louis.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Tom.

46  
47 MR. KRON: Yeah, I just got cut off, I  
48 apologize for that. I don't know if I missed anything  
49 or not but just wanted to let you know I'm back on if  
50

0103

1 you've got any more questions. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You didn't see that  
4 shooting star that went over, I tried to tell you.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. KRON: No, please let me know.

9 But, again, I just.....

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oops, there he went.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, this is Leland.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Who's joined us is

20 that Doug?

21

22 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, it's Doug here.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, great. Well, we

25 do.....

26

27 MR. OYOUMICK: Leland is here too.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....have a quor.....

30

31 MR. OYOUMICK: Leland is.....

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....quorum, Mr.

34 Chair, of five -- is that Doug Katchatag.

35

36 REPORTER: It's Doug and Leland.

37

38 MR. OYOUMICK: Leland is here, too.

39

40 REPORTER: Leland.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, Leland, hi Leland.

43 So are both you and Doug on the phone right now?

44

45 REPORTER: Yes, they're both on.

46

47 MR. OYOUMICK: I am at home.

48

49 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, I'm on too.

50

0104

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. So Mr. -- okay,  
2 that's super, thank you both so much. Mr. Chair, we do  
3 have a quorum so we can return at this point to the  
4 wildlife proposals. We are actually on Wildlife  
5 Closure Review 22-09A. But I do need to go back. IT  
6 seems like we did have a vote and I thought I had heard  
7 Mr. Aukongak vote but I didn't capture it. For WP22-47  
8 I'd like to.....

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, let me.....

11  
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....know, Martin, did  
13 you vote.....

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen.

16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....in support or  
18 opposition of that Unit 22 allow caribou calf harvest?

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin, are you with  
23 us.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We might have lost him  
26 again. Aukongak, that's how you say his name.....

27  
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Aukongak.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....just to help you  
31 out.

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Aukongak. Aukongak.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go,  
36 that's.....

37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Aukongak, okay.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: good. That's good.

41  
42 MR. AUKONGAK: Yes, I'm here.

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Aukongak

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Martin, I'd  
49 like to clarify whether or not you voted on the  
50



0105

1 proposal to allow calf caribou harvest in Unit 22, I  
2 only captured four votes but I keep thinking that there  
3 was an attempt of you to vote on that because I believe  
4 you were on the phone.

5

6 MR. AUKONGAK: Yes, I did.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry.

9

10 MR. AUKONGAK: Yes.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: You did vote yes,  
13 okay, so, thank you. So I do have, Mr. Chair, support  
14 Proposal WP22-47 with a 5/0 unanimous vote. Thank you,  
15 Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good catch, thank you,  
18 Karen. Thanks Martin. We're all on so we're going to  
19 move on to WCR22-09A on this agenda. Unit 22A North  
20 closure to moose hunting to non-Federally-qualified  
21 users. Brian, what do we got on this.

22

23 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, there you are, go  
26 ahead.

27

28 MR. UBELAKER: Okay, Brian Ubelaker,  
29 OSM. Wildlife Closure Review 22-09A, that was the  
30 closure that was involved in Wildlife Proposal WP22-49  
31 so Karen, correct me if I'm wrong but I believe that  
32 that closure.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah.

35

36 MR. UBELAKER: .....was taken care of  
37 with that proposal.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I thought I was  
40 getting cross-eyed Brian, I had to look at it, I was  
41 like what did we just do, yeah, so I think you're  
42 right.

43

44 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. And not hearing  
45 any dissent, do you want me to move forward on 22-09B.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

50

0106

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, we got to make  
2 sure, so go ahead, Karen.

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Because we did not  
5 include WCR22-09A, I think at the very least a motion  
6 should be made, and action taken on behalf of the  
7 Council.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I guess.....

10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Unless Brian did you  
12 note the WCR22-09A in the initial analysis?

13  
14 MR. UBELAKER: I don't believe I  
15 specifically stated it, no.

16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay.

18  
19 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is  
20 Lisa.

21  
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Well, for the  
23 record.....

24  
25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is  
26 Lisa, if I could clarify.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Lisa.

29  
30 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin  
31 for the record. So WCR22-09A, there's no analysis for  
32 that because as Brian stated that closure review was  
33 covered by 22-49 which you just considered before  
34 lunch. So per OSM policy we have to review closures  
35 every four years but if there's a proposal that reviews  
36 that proposal that kind of takes the place of the  
37 closure review. And since you already considered 22-  
38 49, that was the, you know, kind of substitute for the  
39 closure review. So 22-09A just was kind of a  
40 placeholder to just recognize, yeah, we're counting the  
41 22-49 in place of WCR22-09A.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So, sorry for  
44 the confusion.

45  
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, it is confusing  
47 -- so, Mr. Chair, with that in mind then the Council  
48 can move on to WCR22-09B. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49  
50

0107

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, both for  
2 that. Brian, you have the floor here on 09-Bravo.

3  
4                   MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, very much,  
5 Mr. Chair. Once again for the record, Brian Ubelaker,  
6 OSM. This analysis begins on Page 89 of your meeting  
7 books. Before I dive into my summary, I will first  
8 provide you with another brief summary of the wildlife  
9 closure process.

10  
11                   Section .815 of ANILCA allows the  
12 Federal Subsistence Board to restrict or close the  
13 taking of fish and wildlife by subsistence and non-  
14 subsistence users on Federal public lands when  
15 necessary for the conservation of healthy populations  
16 of fish and wildlife or to continue subsistence uses.  
17 The Board reviews wildlife closures every four years to  
18 determine if the justification for the closure is still  
19 consistent with the Federal Subsistence Board's closure  
20 policy. Every two years half of all the closure  
21 reviews will be reviewed. Councils are asked to  
22 consider the OSM preliminary conclusion and make a  
23 recommendation to the Board.

24  
25                   And now on to Wildlife Closure Review  
26 22-09B pertaining to Unit 22A, that portion in the  
27 Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing  
28 into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage  
29 and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River  
30 drainages. Federal public lands are closed to the  
31 harvesting of moose. This closure was initially  
32 established in 1995.

33  
34                   The moose population in Unit 22A  
35 Central has been increasing over the last 10 years. In  
36 2011/12, the State harvest quotas were not met during  
37 the regular season and the State established a winter  
38 season for moose. Then in 2013, '14, and '15 regular  
39 season quotas were not met again prompting the State to  
40 extend the regular moose season by six days via  
41 emergency order. In 2017 the Board of Game permanently  
42 established the moose season for 22A Central September  
43 1st through the 20th. That same year with an increase  
44 in moose population the State opened then extended the  
45 winter moose season. Then in 2018 the State extended  
46 the fall moose season through September 30th via  
47 emergency order. In 2020 the Board of Game extended  
48 the fall season through September 30th and the winter  
49 season through January 31st when this closure was last  
50

0108

1 reviewed, in 2015, and the Council recommended to  
2 maintain status quo.

3  
4 The moose population in Unit 22A  
5 Central has been showing signs of increasing since  
6 2003. We've already brushed on the population  
7 estimates of 22A so I will keep this fairly brief, but  
8 if there are any questions please feel free to follow  
9 up. The most recent population estimate for 22A  
10 Central is 766 moose. The bull/cow ratio is also  
11 higher than population objectives for the unit at over  
12 120 bulls to 100 cows. Moose harvest has increased in  
13 Unit 22A Central since 2008 keeping pace with the  
14 increasing quotas. Total reported harvest has ranged  
15 from 14 to 45 moose within that timeframe. Federal  
16 harvest during this time has averaged 16.5 percent with  
17 the average Federal success rate at 13 percent.

18  
19 This closure could either be modified  
20 to allow moose hunting on Federal public lands by all  
21 Federally-qualified subsistence users, or it could be  
22 completely rescinded to allow harvest by all users. As  
23 the hunt is closely managed by harvest quotas little  
24 conservation concern exists for over harvest if this  
25 closure is completely lifted. The moose population and  
26 harvest quotas have increased in Unit 22A Central and  
27 the bull/cow ratio is high indicating surplus bulls  
28 available for harvest.

29  
30 Therefore, providing harvest  
31 opportunity for all Federally-qualified subsistence  
32 users in Unit 22A Remainder is warranted. Opening to  
33 only Federally-qualified subsistence users rather than  
34 all users represents a conservative incremental  
35 approach that is consistent with Board action in Unit  
36 22A North and Unit 22A Remainder in 2018. Therefore,  
37 it is OSM's preliminary conclusion to modify the  
38 closure to allow all Federally-qualified subsistence  
39 users to be able to hunt on Federal public lands in  
40 Unit 22A Central.

41  
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I will try  
43 to answer any questions anybody may have.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. We  
46 got Doug in Unalakleet and Leland, comments.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50

0109

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any other Council  
2 members have any comments on this, questions.

3

4

(No comments)

5

6

CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I'm reading --  
7 Brian, this is Louis. So Wildlife Closure 22-09-Bravo,  
8 Unit 22A closure to moose hunting in 22A, Unalakleet  
9 drainage except to residents of Unalakleet. So I was  
10 hoping to get some opinions there.

11

12

MS. DEATHERAGE: Are Leland -- Mr.  
13 Chair.

14

15

MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, this is Leland,  
16 I'm here.

17

18

MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, great.

19

20

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I was wondering  
21 if they fell off there, they're both together, right  
22 Leland, you and Doug are together?

23

24

MR. OYOUMICK: No, he's at home and I'm  
25 at home.

26

27

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

28

29

MR. OYOUMICK: He's at his house and  
30 I'm over here.

31

32

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

33

34

MR. OYOUMICK: I'm at the point and  
35 he's about the middle of town, maybe not quite this  
36 side of the Post Office. Anyway this -- are we still  
37 under the quota system, is that why it's been like  
38 this, because of low moose that we've been trying to  
39 build up on?

40

41

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think this thing is  
42 saying there's a -- you know to vote on whether to  
43 close it -- close the moose hunting in Unit 22A,  
44 Unalakleet drainage except to residents -- is that.....

45

46

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

47

48

CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....not in play  
49 already? I'm getting confused on this.

50

0110

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
2 what's called a wildlife closure review so it's  
3 different than a proposal.

4  
5 (Teleconference interference -  
6 participants phones not muted)

7  
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: And it's basically an  
9 opportunity for the Council to either maintain the  
10 current closure or to eliminate the closure that exists  
11 right now. The closure that exists right now is to all  
12 users except residents of Unalakleet in that area of  
13 Unit 22A along the Unalakleet drainage.

14  
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That  
18 straightened it out for me. So that's saying that if  
19 we voted to -- if we looked at this and voted it down  
20 that meant it would be open to all users of Federally-  
21 recognized users of 22, correct?

22  
23 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is  
24 Lisa.....

25  
26 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair.

27  
28 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.....

29  
30 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, sorry, go ahead,  
31 Brian.

32  
33 MR. UBELAKER: Oh, yes, as the  
34 preliminary conclusion that OSM came to would be to  
35 modify the closure to allow all Federally-qualified  
36 users to hunt in Unalakleet, so that would be all  
37 Federally-qualified users across Alaska, not just Unit  
38 22.

39  
40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is  
41 Lisa, just to clarify. Only residents of Unit 22 have  
42 a customary and traditional use determination for moose  
43 in Unit 22 so the Federally-qualified users would just  
44 be residents of Unit 22, but, also, as Karen mentioned  
45 this closure review is a little different than a  
46 proposal, in that, you're not voting to support or  
47 oppose the closure. You'll be voting to maintain  
48 status quo, which is just maintain the closure as it  
49 currently is, or to modify the closure, which in this  
50

0111

1 case would be opening to Federally-qualified users or  
2 to eliminate the closure completely which would then be  
3 open to everyone, you know, everyone in Alaska, non-  
4 residents, things like that. So, again, yeah, it is a  
5 little different than a proposal. But you're voting to  
6 maintain status quo, modify or eliminate the closure.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Lisa. So  
11 it says in here the OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
12 modify or eliminate the closure, in those words, to  
13 open to all Federally-qualified subsistence users,  
14 statewide, is that what that means, or unit-wise?

15

16 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, Brian  
17 Ubelaker.

18

19 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is  
20 Hannah Voorhees -- okay, sorry Brian.

21

22 MR. UBELAKER: Sorry Hannah.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Brian.

25

26 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, I do stand  
27 corrected. As Lisa pointed out, C&T only applies for  
28 residents of Unit 22 for this hunt. So opening the  
29 hunt would only open it to residents of Unit 22.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So we did that  
32 here two or three years or -- maybe three -- it was  
33 before Covid, so I'm going to say 2018 or something at  
34 the Board level we did that with 22. Kronberger was  
35 trying -- wanted something opened up to the east -- the  
36 south of Unalakleet, I guess. Anyway we kept it --  
37 with the Board, all users, Federally-recognized users  
38 in 22 and that's the same thing I'm seeing here again,  
39 so that makes sense now. It wasn't to all State -- all  
40 Federally-qualified people across the state it was just  
41 only in Unit 22. Right?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's my take anyway,  
46 it's only open to Federally-qualified users in only  
47 Unit 22 if we.....

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is

50

0112

1 Karen, that is correct.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: If you modified the  
6 closure to make that change. Right now it's only  
7 opened to residents of Unalakleet. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right. And that's  
10 OSMs conclusion is to modify or eliminate the closure.  
11 Well, I don't think we want to open it to everybody in  
12 the state. And to modify it would be to open it up  
13 just to all Federally-qualified users in Unit 22.  
14 Okay, so that's clear in my mind now. So I'll ask  
15 Council members to weigh in.

16

17 (Teleconference interference -  
18 participants phones not muted)

19

20

21 REPORTER: Whoever's typing, can you  
22 please mute your line.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland or Doug.

25

26 MR. OYOUMICK: This is Leland, if we  
27 vote on this thing to maintain -- it would just open it  
28 up for all the people in 22A and not the state?

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that's what I'm  
31 getting now, I got that clear in my mind. To modify --  
32 we're not eliminating the closure, we're modifying the  
33 closure, if that's what we want to do, to only be  
34 inclusive to the people that are Federally-qualified in  
35 Unit 22. So somebody from.....

36

37 MR. OYOUMICK: Before we do that --  
38 yeah, before we do that could we lift the quota, then  
39 we could do that?

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What was the quota,  
42 question?

43

44 MR. OYOUMICK: The quota this past year  
45 was 61 but it's been going up but we're still under a  
46 quota.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I think that's  
49 under the State Brian, or Bill.

50



0113

1 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
2 Bill Dunker with Fish and Game. So Leland's correct in  
3 that the Federal hunt was administered this past year  
4 with a quota much the same way both the State and  
5 Federal hunt has been managed since hunting was  
6 reopened in 2008. The State hunt was administered  
7 without a harvest quota for the first time this past  
8 year. That was a reflection of our analysis of  
9 previous years of harvest patterns and our most recent  
10 biological information for the area. And so we were  
11 able to sort of liberalize or make that small  
12 incremental change towards further liberalizing the  
13 hunt much the same way we have in response to changes  
14 in abundance and increases in the harvestable surplus  
15 throughout the history of hunting in this particular  
16 area and what that, in effect, allowed people to do is  
17 to plan on taking the full -- or taking advantage of  
18 the full season without any anticipated any emergency  
19 order closures sort of looming over their hunting plans  
20 in the area. So we have adopted that change to how the  
21 hunt's administered on the State side and I'd certainly  
22 encourage our Federal cooperators to follow suit in the  
23 years to come.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So, Mr. Dunker, I take  
26 it that the State no quota system worked good?

27  
28 MR. DUNKER: Sure. Yeah, so these  
29 recent changes in the quota and further liberalizations  
30 more or less started with our last survey that we  
31 completed back in 2020. We saw stability within the  
32 population during that timeframe between 2017 and 2020  
33 but, again, we sort of corroborated the composition  
34 survey information that we found in 2016 with that fall  
35 composition survey in the fall of 2020. And that led  
36 to further liberalizations and the harvest rate applied  
37 to the area. And so in 2020 we had administered the  
38 hunt with a quota of 50 bulls. The season was open on  
39 the Federal side from August 15th to September 14th and  
40 then the State hunt opened September 1st and ran all  
41 the way through to the 30th. The total reported  
42 harvested at the conclusion of the fall hunt was 47  
43 bull moose. And then later on that fall we went and  
44 did our composition survey, found 122 bulls per 100  
45 cows and subsequently opened the winter hunt by  
46 emergency order from December 7th through the end of  
47 January. As soon as we got those results from the comp  
48 survey we realized clearly there's an opportunity to  
49 provide additional harvest in the area and we opened  
50

0114

1 the season by emergency order. This past season, so  
2 the fall of 2021 was the first year that we  
3 administered the hunt without a harvest quota and  
4 subsequently without any sort of impending emergency  
5 order closure and the realized harvest from this fall  
6 was on par with what we saw last year, total reported  
7 harvest of 46 bull moose during the fall season, and we  
8 anticipate -- I've got drafts of emergency orders in  
9 review as we speak that we'll then open the winter  
10 hunt, more likely than not, December 1st to the end of  
11 January to provide for additional opportunity in light  
12 of those incredibly high bull to cow ratios.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, that's clear in  
15 my mind. Leland.

16

17 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, Louis.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You were asking about  
20 that Federal quota, trying to understand, go ahead.

21

22 MR. OYOUMICK: That quota there we  
23 started out from these folks here, they impose upon  
24 themselves, they put a moratorium of five years of no  
25 hunting moose period. Nobody hunted moose from here.  
26 And I just want to have these people to have their  
27 share of these moose before you lift all these  
28 regulations. You need to lift that quota first before  
29 we allow these others to come through. I'm not being  
30 stingy or greedy, just recognize how things happened,  
31 and these folks are largely responsible for honoring  
32 that five year moratorium and doing their part and  
33 preserving the moose in our area.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland. So  
38 what's the Federal quota? I guess, Brian.

39

40 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, Brian  
41 Ubelaker.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

44

45 MR. UBELAKER: The Federal quota, there  
46 is no specific set Federal quota. It's a -- I don't  
47 know the easiest term, it's the co-quota, it's the  
48 ADF&G, it's the State quota that the BLM manages their  
49 permits under in cooperation with Fish and Game.

50

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1 Therefore, if Fish and Game says, the quota's been met  
2 then they get in contact with the in-season manager at  
3 BLM, say, hey the quota's been met, we're shutting the  
4 hunt down this such and such a time, BLM follows suit  
5 along with the State recommendation. I mean it sounds  
6 -- as Bill just said there was no quota this season so  
7 then there was no emergency closure issued. Correct?

8

9 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, Bill Dunker  
10 here. I guess in response to Brian's statement there.  
11 Yeah, that's correct. So basically I believe the quota  
12 for, on the Federal hunt, as it was listed on the  
13 permits was 61 bulls, which is in effect what we've  
14 identified as a harvestable surplus for the area based  
15 on our most recent population survey results.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So that means the  
18 Federal quota at 61 and the State are on the same boat?

19

20 MR. DUNKER: That's correct, Mr. Chair.  
21 Had we chose to list the quota on the permits and, you  
22 know, sort of give people fair warning to be prepared  
23 for any emergency order closures, you know, that would  
24 have effectively been the same shared quota as was  
25 listed on the Federal subsistence permit.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so I'm trying to  
28 get this straight. So the State had no quota, under  
29 the Feds it has a quota of 61, which didn't get hit yet  
30 at 47 bulls this season?

31

32 MR. DUNKER: That's correct. And the  
33 total reported harvest for the Federal hunt, as I  
34 understand it was only one bull. Historically the  
35 majority of the harvest has occurred in the latter part  
36 of the season and realistically more or less like after  
37 the middle of the month, generally speaking, and so  
38 very rarely have we issued an emergency order closure  
39 during the open season under the Federal regulations.  
40 The majority of the harvest has taken place on State  
41 permits during the September season.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I'm just  
44 wondering, the State cap, if you got no quota and there  
45 were 47 taken, you have no quota, no cap, that 61 Fed  
46 quota or cap is already in place but it -- is it  
47 necessary?

48

49 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, in my opinion

50

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1 and based on historic harvest levels, no, we don't need  
2 to administer hunting in the area with a quota in  
3 future years just because we seem to have sort of  
4 plateaued in the 40 to 50 bull range in terms of  
5 harvest, at least during that -- the 46, 47 days of  
6 hunting opportunity that are provided on both the State  
7 and Federal systems.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So Mr. Oyoumick  
10 was asking about the Feds, I think, doing away with the  
11 quota. Leland, am I correct or not?

12

13 MR. OYOUMICK: I don't know if the --  
14 the quota is good, I guess, because it gives something  
15 for you to look for, it gets bigger and bigger every  
16 year I just was curious about that, you just got to  
17 recognize these folks and the effort they did to build  
18 the moose population back up. You know it took some  
19 doing but they made it, you know, the moose are getting  
20 more.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Yeah. And  
23 that's kind of why, when they were trying to push to  
24 open part of 22, to open it there for all Alaska  
25 residents we pushed back on that then and at the  
26 Federal Board level it was voted down to open it to all  
27 residents of Alaska. And it was contained in doing  
28 what this question is, do we do 22 Federally-qualified  
29 residents of all of 22 and that was the next step.  
30 Maybe we're at that again, what do you think Leland?

31

32 MR. OYOUMICK: I think moose is getting  
33 more and more but it's getting better and better  
34 because it seems like everybody was busy with moose  
35 meat this fall so I don't know, I can't tell people to  
36 do this and to do that, I just -- we just got to use  
37 good sound reasonable judgement, you know, and  
38 recognize some things while we're trying to do these  
39 other things too. You know don't forget what these  
40 people did, okay.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I haven't forgotten, I  
43 know what they did. I wish we could do that down the  
44 street. So at this point we're looking at modifying  
45 and opening to all of 22 Federally-qualified, I think  
46 that's the next step. And we've done that, I want to  
47 say it was in 22A Central, but I guess I'm -- so Doug,  
48 have you got anything to add to this?

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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: We might have lost somebody there. So I guess that question -- one more question, that 61 is kind of like a buffer zone there, I'm trying to understand why that number's there in the Fed quota, is it there for a reason or is it just leftovers? Brian or Bill.

MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair. I believe that's just leftovers. Like I say, there is no codified regulation that there's a quota of 61 moose for Feds. The number of 61 -- any quota we've had has always come from cooperation with Fish and Game so I believe it's just a throwback or a leftover or got overlooked at being on the permit. My assumption would be that in the future, if Fish and Game does not establish a quota that the Federal harvest will not have a quota associated with it either. But Bill can speak to that into more detail if need be.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian.

MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, could I just.....

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, go ahead, Bill, go ahead, weigh in.

MR. DUNKER: Yeah, Brian basically summarized the reality of it, the quota being listed on the Federal permit was a consequence of the reality that that's historically how we've done business in administering hunts in Unalakleet. So I don't believe that it's necessary moving forward to, you know, have that looming threat of an emergency order closure based on historic harvest patterns in the area.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. So on the Wildlife Closure Review 22-09-Bravo, Unit 22A closure to moose hunting in 22A, Unalakleet drainage except for residents of Unalakleet. If we vote yes, that's status quo. If we vote no, we do that to modify and only allow all residents of Unit 22 that are Federally-recognized. Does that make sense now?

MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, it does, Louis. That's Leland.

0118

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Are you good  
2 with that?

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Karen.

7  
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen. After  
9 we go through the steps, the Council goes through the  
10 steps to hear other input on this wildlife closure  
11 review, I'd be happy to help you word the motion to --  
12 which would be to either maintain the closure, modify  
13 the closure to open it up to Federally-qualified  
14 subsistence users in Unit 22, or eliminate the closure  
15 entirely. And so that's an option that the Council can  
16 do when they make that motion.

17  
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Karen, thank  
21 you. So we've heard the -- we've gone through No. 1,  
22 so we need to move into report on Board consultations,  
23 tribes and ANCSA Corporations.

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 This is Karen Deatherage. There were no tribal or  
27 ANCSA Corporation comments during consultation on WCR-  
28 09B. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.  
31 That brings us to No. 3, agency comments. We've heard  
32 from ADF&G, Federal was Brian. How about the other  
33 Federal agencies, BLM.

34  
35 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, this is Tom, no  
36 comment, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom. Any  
39 other BLM, you're the only one I think, so National  
40 Park Service.

41  
42 MS. HUGHES: No comment, thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: BIA.

45  
46 MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I think that's it,  
49 that's what we had, Karen -- OSM has already weighed  
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MS. DEATHERAGE: The next step is Step 4, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. So other Regional Advisory Councils under No. 4, advisory group comments. Other Regional Advisory Councils, Brian.

MR. UBELAKER: There were no other comments from other RACs, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Sub B, Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, moving to Item 5, summary of written public comments, Brian.

MR. UBELAKER: Nothing submitted before the deadline, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. No. 6, under public testimony. The floor is open to anybody from the public that wants to comment on the phone.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Not hearing any, moving on to Regional Council recommendation for a motion to adopt.

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

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

MS. DEATHERAGE: I would encourage a motion to maintain the closure, modify the closure per the OSM modification, or eliminate the closure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So if we're going to make a motion somebody has to make that motion.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: Maintain, modify or

0120

1 eliminate.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It sounds like our  
4 Unalakleet fellow there, friend, is opened to modify --  
5 Leland, would you want to make that motion or not.

6

7 MR. OYOUNICK: Well, I don't know if I  
8 want to modify, you know. I don't really know what  
9 kind of motion to make but things are getting better  
10 with the moose so it's hard to say this and that and  
11 the other. Yeah, I guess we could make a motion to do  
12 that, Louis.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, yeah, to modify  
15 it would be only to open it up to the next level, which  
16 is 22, all Federally-recognized users in Unit 22. I  
17 don't think it -- when we did it before, I don't think  
18 it really increased any pressure. Let me ask -- hang  
19 on a second. I'll let you make the motion and get a  
20 second first so we can discuss. Do you want to help  
21 him -- are you looking at the modification on your.....

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. This is  
24 Karen.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....Mr. Chair. You  
29 can go ahead and make a motion to modify and if the  
30 Council chooses to oppose that motion you could make  
31 another motion to maintain the closure. Thank you, Mr.  
32 Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, so it's up to  
35 the Council to add the modification and then to open it  
36 up to all Federally-recognized users in 22, all of 22,  
37 or status quo. I'm not for eliminating the closure  
38 myself. If somebody wanted to modify it, open it up to  
39 the next level, I'm okay with that. So we have to have  
40 a motion so we can discuss it some more and then we can  
41 vote it up or down. It's got to be a positive motion,  
42 please.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: If we get a motion on  
49 the table we can start working on it one way or the

50



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1 other.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Again, this is Karen  
4 Deatherage, Mr. Chair. And if folks want to make a  
5 motion, you can have a discussion and that motion can  
6 be voted down if after the discussion people are not  
7 comfortable with the motion and what it entails. Thank  
8 you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's correct. Thank  
11 you. That's correct, a motion is a motion, it's not  
12 the vote, it's just putting it on the table so we can  
13 discuss it one way or the other. So I can't make the  
14 motion. I don't know who's on the phone yet anymore  
15 either. Elmer, are you there?

16

17 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, Leland.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, go ahead,  
20 Leland.

21

22 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I move that we  
23 maintain status quo on this motion, if that's okay.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

26

27 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
28 Mission. Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. There's a first  
31 and a second, there's a motion on the table to maintain  
32 status quo. Now we can discuss it. Ron, are you still  
33 on?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Doug.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we lost some  
42 people there, Karen.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: With the Chair's  
45 permission I can do a quick roll call.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, please do that, I  
48 was just going to ask you.

49

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Did Tom  
2 Gray join us back on the phone?

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: He's still in the air.  
7 Deahl Katchatag.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: How about Leland, I'm  
12 assuming you're still on the phone since you made the  
13 motion.

14  
15 Martin.

16  
17 MR. AUKONGAK: Still here.

18  
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great. Elmer Seetot  
20 seconded the motion, he's still here.

21  
22 Ron Kirk.

23  
24 MR. AUKONGAK: Martin's here.

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, great Martin.

27  
28 How about Ron Kirk.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ronald, are you still  
33 on the phone?

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: So we do not currently  
38 have a quorum, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's what I was  
41 trying to figure out here. So no Ron, no Doug and no  
42 Tom. So we can't act.

43  
44 MR. KIRK: I'm here, Mr. Chair.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What's that?

47  
48 MR. KIRK: This is Ron.

49  
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1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, hey, you're on,  
2 good, that's five.

3  
4                   MS. DEATHERAGE: That is a quorum, Mr.  
5 Chair, thank you.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's a quorum. So  
8 we're at discussion now, I don't know if you heard it,  
9 Ron and Martin, that Leland voted -- or motion --  
10 excuse me -- made the motion to maintain status quo on  
11 the closure in 22A except for residents of Unalakleet.  
12 We're open for discussion.

13  
14                   MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

17  
18                   MR. SEETOT: Maintaining the status quo  
19 I think would be good for the residents of Unalakleet.  
20 If you open it to Unit 22 residents, I'm a 22 resident,  
21 what use do I have if I just go over to 22A and get a  
22 piece of moose for my subsistence use, those moose are  
23 very heavy and for them to allow closure except for the  
24 residents is very good because they are the caretakers  
25 of the animals in and around any area whether it be  
26 air, land, or sea. And that's how the Inupiaq, the  
27 people of Alaska have survived. These shortages during  
28 times of winter, extreme winter stuff, when the animals  
29 don't migrate, that's how we've been able to survive by  
30 taking care of our animals.

31  
32                   I have noticed during these past  
33 deliberations, something like a conflict between State  
34 and Federal agencies against the subsistence users.  
35 Under TEK, the more you use the animals the more the  
36 animals will be there for you. If you waste them, you  
37 know, they'll just move on. Other than, you know,  
38 talking good and bad about the animals, that's another  
39 factor, that's what I keep -- when I keep hearing these  
40 deliberations majority of the side -- or the vote seems  
41 to go with the regulators, we have been subjected to  
42 many regulations, some which are not followed during  
43 the (indiscernible - cuts out) between Stebbins or Nome  
44 or Wales, they have learned from the people before them  
45 on how to take care of the animals (indiscernible -  
46 cuts out) what's the hot spot on 22A, why is it so hot,  
47 why is there so many moose up there, maybe because it's  
48 a safe haven for moose there but the predators will get  
49 to them. The only ones I see that are trying to open  
50

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1 that place are the commercial users where they have the  
2 equipment, where they have the money and all the  
3 support to further their financial gain. For us in  
4 these communities that's pretty hard for us. Sometimes  
5 (indiscernible - cuts out) bad times had followed us.  
6 I would like, like I say, for it to be open to all  
7 Federal-qualified residents but what can I do, I don't  
8 have no vehicles, I don't have anything to transport  
9 the whole animal to my area so I can subsist on it, you  
10 know, during the months.

11

12 But all I can say is I support these  
13 closures around these communities because they are the  
14 ones that are harvesting and using these subsistence  
15 resources. If I dare say so I would say Leland would  
16 you please send me a piece of moose, I'll give you  
17 else, that's pretty hard to do with the freight costs  
18 and everything are rising so much. We have listened to  
19 our ancestors talk about the future, the future is  
20 right within our sight so whatever you Inupiaq do out  
21 there, remember the knowledge that was passed down to  
22 grandfather to father to you, you have to support it  
23 because that's how our ancestors lived.

24

25 Thank you very much for the comment.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.  
28 Question to managers, I'm trying to remember  
29 specifically where we were dealing with this issue of  
30 opening to all residents of Alaska, or maybe non-  
31 residents and the guides were -- that was towards Unit  
32 18, close to -- Bill, can you tell me what that was?  
33 We ended up opening it -- we ended up -- the Federal  
34 Subsistence Board voted to the next step to open to all  
35 Federally-qualified users in all of 22 and I didn't  
36 hear of any complaints or abuse of it, so can you tell  
37 me what that was?

38

39 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, Brian  
40 Ubelaker.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Brian, go ahead.

43

44 MR. UBELAKER: I believe you are  
45 referring to the next wildlife closure coming up, 22-  
46 09C for 22A Remainder. I believe in 2018 there was a  
47 proposal submitted to -- that the Board acted on and  
48 opened all Federal public lands to all Federally-  
49 qualified subsistence users. Then in 2020 the Board

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1 stepped it up again and opened it -- let's see,  
2 rescinded the closure from September 1st through  
3 September 30th. So I think that's your incremental  
4 increase that you are remembering.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So what did that do  
7 for the moose there, what, did it increase the take?

8  
9 MR. UBELAKER: Bill might be able to  
10 speak to that better. I can dive into the analysis  
11 unless Bill can shoot it off of his hip and answer you  
12 before I can get back on.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, let Bill go  
15 ahead. Go ahead, Bill.

16  
17 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, in addition to  
18 the 22A Remainder hunt area, a similar pattern is  
19 played out in the 22A North hunt area. In both  
20 instances the Federal Subsistence Board, to the best of  
21 my recollection, chose to make those incremental steps  
22 towards liberalizing the opportunity for moose hunting  
23 in the area and in both instances, you know, making  
24 that next step to -- from what had been very  
25 restrictive either -- well, in most instances only  
26 allowing for residents of 22A to hunt on Federal public  
27 lands in the northern portion and 22A Remainder, the  
28 southern portion of the unit, didn't result in any  
29 appreciable increase in harvest as a consequence of  
30 that.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. So in  
33 other words, somebody from Shishmaref or Nome, Alaska  
34 didn't drive all the way down there to go moose  
35 hunting. I imagine if they really had to it would have  
36 happened. But, yeah, we stuck with the steps. So  
37 knowing that there's some issues on the northern part  
38 of the Seward part of the Peninsula and what not, I  
39 wondered about the next step for this other one. The  
40 other one was that Shaktoolik they wanted to open it up  
41 -- the guide wanted to open it up then. And I was able  
42 to give my presentation on the idea, and I don't think  
43 it was just me, there were others that kept it closed  
44 to all residents of Alaska and just kept it in the Unit  
45 22 Federally-recognized hunters. And now that we've  
46 seen -- what year did you -- I think you said that was  
47 in 2018 so it's been three years and so far hasn't  
48 caused any noticeable increase in hunters from --  
49 within 22.

50

1 MR. DUNKER: That's correct, Mr. Chair.  
2 I think I have -- we'll get into it on the next one  
3 there. I suppose the one thing to consider, you know,  
4 in support of increased opportunity, particularly in  
5 the Central portion, Brian mentioned it in the OSM  
6 analysis there, you know, our population objective for  
7 22A is six to 800 moose. We're currently meeting that  
8 objective with only the abundance of moose that's in  
9 the Central portion there. And one thing I know that  
10 I've mentioned to the Council in the past and is still  
11 very much something we're considering and thinking  
12 about how we might evaluate and address is any kind of  
13 resource limitation in the area. So if, down the line,  
14 you know, we come to an understanding that perhaps we  
15 have too many moose in the Central portion of the  
16 Unalakleet and that level of moose is negatively  
17 impacting their habitat, you know, having the increased  
18 harvest potential would then be a resource that we  
19 could use to address those circumstances through  
20 additional harvest and management.

21  
22 As it stands right now, without any  
23 liberalizations and opportunity for basically residents  
24 of Alaska, outside of Unalakleet, the harvest potential  
25 is somewhat limited. We issue on average somewhere  
26 between 120 and 140 RM841 registration moose permits  
27 annually and even with, you know, 47 days of  
28 opportunity and then an additional two months during  
29 the winter season, you know, we're harvesting less than  
30 50 moose. Should the need arise in the future where we  
31 need to kill more moose we might not have the hunters  
32 available to do that. Like you and Elmer pointed out,  
33 you know, Unalakleet's a long way away from other parts  
34 of Unit 22 and I think that because of that, the  
35 likelihood that we would see a substantial increase in  
36 harvest as a result of any liberalizations to the  
37 Federal closures in the area aren't likely to result in  
38 dramatic increases in harvest, and even with that, you  
39 know, with the bull/cow ratios that we have in the  
40 area, any increases that do occur aren't likely to have  
41 any sort of negative effects on the population.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, okay, thank you.  
46 Thanks, Bill. And I recall back in the '80s when  
47 caribou hunters from all around Norton Sound would  
48 travel up to Granite Mountain and beyond to go get  
49 their caribous. We all did it, we had to travel, you  
50

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1 know, 150 miles, or so, 200 miles depending on which  
2 way you went just from the Nome area. I know that  
3 Southern Norton Sound hunters were traveling around  
4 there, too, it was before they spilled over into the  
5 eastern southern part of the area there.

6  
7 So one of the other considerations,  
8 we're here about subsistence, and I get it, I know  
9 where Unalakleet's coming from, they took a stand and  
10 had a moratorium for five years to protect -- to build  
11 the herd and they did. One thing to consider is the  
12 fact that, well, one is the travel distance, you know,  
13 Elmer and I both mentioned that. You know, it would  
14 have to be somebody that had some money in their  
15 pocket, I guess, that really wanted to get something if  
16 it was open all the way there where they could go to  
17 get them, but one of the considerations that I -- the  
18 other consideration is that not only is it a long ways  
19 but the other thing is, we're seeing it on TV, Puget  
20 Sound all the way down the west coast through  
21 California, all the way through the Gulf of Mexico and  
22 all the way up the East Coast, all those container  
23 ships sitting there because they don't have enough  
24 people to move anything. That's going to really start  
25 affecting our people so it doesn't matter to me what  
26 race you are, when it comes to getting food, we have to  
27 be able to get something to take care of our families  
28 so that's where the weight weighs on my shoulders about  
29 our residents in the whole unit, we need to provide for  
30 opportunity so I'm not trying to -- I understand 22A  
31 folks went for five years without, so I'm, you know,  
32 trying to weigh which way to go here. I just wanted to  
33 be understood on that, just to point those two factors  
34 out.

35  
36 You know, these grocery stores are  
37 empty shelves, even in Nome. I said something about  
38 that three years ago before Covid and here we are. So  
39 our salmon runs aren't great up there. They weren't  
40 great up in Norton Sound, all throughout Norton Sound,  
41 everybody's complaining about it and there's a resource  
42 of moose, somebody's going to need to have access to it  
43 and subsistence is where we're at, that's our job.

44  
45 Anyway, that's my two cents.

46  
47 Anybody else have anything to say about  
48 it, you have the floor.

49  
50

0128

1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
2 again.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

5  
6 MR. SEETOT: One thing that I forgot to  
7 mention was invasive species, you know, that alter the  
8 habitat of certain wildlife resources within Alaska.  
9 We have a lot of low pressure systems coming in from  
10 the west, especially from Russia. I know that they're  
11 not very good with containing chemicals and whatever in  
12 their -- responsibly. The walrus got hit a summer ago  
13 from algae bloom, water was too shallow. What else is  
14 coming over the low pressure system, we're only -- like  
15 I say we're only 56 miles away from the Russian  
16 mainland, what comes in the way of precipitation, you  
17 know, like rain and stuff like that from the Russian  
18 side. I seen pictures of sand, sand is coming from  
19 Africa to the U.S., so these things are not impossible  
20 to think about but this is stuff we don't really see  
21 with our naked eye unless, you know, it accumulates at  
22 a rapid rate or the system, you know, just goes haywire  
23 due to so much stuff in our land or in the water or in  
24 the air. So I think when we talk about wildlife  
25 species or wildlife resources, what does the future  
26 hold in terms of climate change and pollution nation-  
27 wide, or war-wide, or global-wide, and then you have  
28 that Covid. People are listening, some people are not  
29 listening, they think they can take care of their own  
30 system but sometimes, you know, it takes something to  
31 solve a problem of what you're talking about right now.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.  
36 Question for you Bill Dunker. On -- there was bears  
37 mentioned, at one point I know that the average take of  
38 bears -- you know Tommy Gray, he went and took care of  
39 10 bears this year, we all need to do something like  
40 that, but the bear population has grown and the moose  
41 calves become the moose steak for the bears along with  
42 caribou calves, and I guess we're looking at even  
43 muskox calves, I've seen that with my own eyes. So  
44 what I recall here, I don't know how current -- it's  
45 not current, but my information was on average all  
46 hunters that hunt bears in 22, there's only an average  
47 of around 100 or a little more than 100 taken a year,  
48 and in the past, in the '80s when the moose herd was  
49 good over -- I don't know what the take is now that --  
50



0129

1 you know, I don't have all the numbers from all the  
2 areas, but on the average of 400 moose were taken in  
3 the whole unit at one point in time.

4  
5 Can you shed any light on that, Bill,  
6 on what's going on now? It has to do with -- you know,  
7 at one point in time we were taking a lot of moose, you  
8 know, sometimes two and three moose were taken in a  
9 family without -- it was no issue, they were big  
10 families, but the bear weren't getting the pressure  
11 they needed to have -- and we also had wolves because  
12 of the -- I think the caribou herd coming in '97 or so,  
13 kind of allowed for that to take place, but anyway can  
14 you enlighten me on the bear average now and what our  
15 count is per year for moose in all of 22.

16  
17 MR. DUNKER: Sure. So on average,  
18 you're correct, we take anywhere between 95 to 100  
19 bears a year out of Unit 22 as a whole, the amount  
20 necessary for subsistence established by the Board of  
21 Game for moose harvest in Unit 22 is between 250 and  
22 300 moose. Our estimated harvestable surplus for this  
23 year alludes me right now, I don't have it off the top  
24 of my head, it's generally been somewhere between 315  
25 and 330 moose over the last couple of years. And  
26 generally we estimate that we're harvesting somewhere  
27 between 250 and 300 moose from Unit 22 as a whole.  
28 That certainly is less than was harvested when moose  
29 densities were at their highest levels back in the  
30 1980s and early '90s prior to the sort of range-wide  
31 decline in abundance that were observed in the early  
32 '90s.

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, go ahead.

37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Mr. Chair, thank  
39 you very much. This is Karen. I'm just wondering, it  
40 sounds to me like, from what we've been hearing is that  
41 the moose population is doing pretty well in this area  
42 and in large part thanks to the community of  
43 Unalakleet, so I'd like to suggest that possibly we get  
44 back to the proposal at hand and focus the attention on  
45 the moose population and the resources in that area and  
46 then when the agency reports come up it would be a  
47 great time for Council members and others to ask Fish  
48 and Game and the Federal agencies about other moose  
49 populations around the state. This would be my  
50

0130

1 recommendation given that we have so many wildlife  
2 proposals before us that must be completed at this  
3 meeting. So I appreciate your consideration of that,  
4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Those numbers --  
9 thanks, Karen -- those numbers apply to all of us so I  
10 just wanted to bring those to light. I think that,  
11 unless anybody else has anything to discuss, we might  
12 want to put this to a vote. Are there any other  
13 Council -- we maybe better make sure -- maybe we should  
14 do a roll call just to be sure who's online, Karen.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Certainly, Mr. Chair.  
17 Is Tom Gray on, has he joined us yet?

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Doug Katchatag.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

26

27 MR. OYOUNICK: Yeah, I'm here.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin, I'm going to  
30 save you.....

31

32 MR. AUKONGAK: Yes, I'm here.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm going to spare you  
35 my pronunciation Martin. Martin, are you on the phone  
36 with us from Golovin?

37

38 MR. AUKONGAK: Yes, I am.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

41

42 Elmer Seetot.

43

44 MR. SEETOT: Yes, Ma'am.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

47

48 And Ron Kirk.

49

50

0131

1 MR. KIRK: Yes.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Ron. So with  
4 that, Mr. Chair, we do have five which is a quorum so  
5 the Council could continue to take action on this and  
6 other proposals. Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So let's get  
9 the wording of the motion, is to -- oh, let's see, I'm  
10 losing track here, to maintain status quo, Wildlife  
11 Closure Review 22-09B, Unit 22A closure to moose  
12 hunting in Unit 22A Unalakleet drainage except to  
13 residents of Unalakleet, and the motion is to maintain  
14 status quo. We need a roll call vote, I guess.

15

16 Well, did anybody call for the question  
17 on this, we've gone through the first -- the motion  
18 made and seconded, did we get a call for the question.

19

20 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, call.....

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I did not  
23 hear.....

24

25 MR. SEETOT: .....for the question.  
26 Elmer.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....for the question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, there it is,  
31 Elmer made it.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead and do a roll  
36 call. Well, I couldn't remember if we.....

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Elmer.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Elmer.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: I needed a good laugh.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: So Deahl Katchatag, on  
47 the motion to maintain the status quo closure on WCR22-  
48 09B.

49

50

0132

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

4

5 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin.

8

9 MR. AUKONGAK: Yes.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot.

12

13 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

16

17 MR. KIRK: Yes.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I will vote no with  
22 the reasoning that I don't believe the pressure would  
23 be that extensive and we've done it once already. But  
24 that's the Council, that's good. Thank you.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 The motion carries 4/1, thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am, so we're  
30 moving on to the next, and that would be Wildlife  
31 Closure Review for 22-09C-Charlie, Unit 22A Remainder  
32 seasonal closure to moose hunting for non-Federally-  
33 qualified users. Mr. Ubelaker.

34

35 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 This analysis begins on Page 101 of your meeting books.  
37 And Wildlife Closure Review 22-09C pertains to 22A  
38 Remainder, Federal public lands in this area are closed  
39 to the harvesting of moose except by Federally-  
40 qualified subsistence users from October 1st to October  
41 31st. This closure was initially established in 1995.

42

43 Over the last decade numerous wildlife  
44 special actions and regulatory changes have taken place  
45 in Unit 22A Remainder for moose. Climatic conditions  
46 during that time have affected residents abilities to  
47 harvest moose. The Wildlife Special Action request was  
48 approved to implement a bull season in February and  
49 March of 2008. Another special action extended the  
50

1 winter bull season by two weeks in 2009. Then in the  
2 winter of 2011/2012 the winter season was extended by  
3 both the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board of  
4 Game by two weeks because of an unusual cold snap that  
5 prevented residents from attempting to hunt. A  
6 proponent submitted a special action request in 2017  
7 to lift the Federal public lands closure from September  
8 1st through the 30th. The Federal Subsistence Board  
9 rejected this proposal on the grounds that conservation  
10 was still warranted. Then in 2018 the same proponent  
11 submitted the same request again. The Board adopted  
12 the proposal with modification to open Federal public  
13 lands to all Federally-qualified subsistence users.  
14 When most recently in 2020 the Board rescinded the  
15 closure to non-Federally-qualified users from September  
16 1st through the 30th stating that while biological data  
17 was lacking for the area, the population in adjacent  
18 areas was doing well and that most of the land in Unit  
19 22A Remainder was very remote with a chance of  
20 residents accessing it being very low. This was the  
21 last time the closure was reviewed.

22

23                   Since there is no population estimate  
24 for Unit 22A remainder, this analysis will rely on  
25 population estimates for adjacent areas.

26

27                   Unit 22A Central which lies just to the  
28 north of the Remainder is one such area. And you have  
29 just heard the biological information in the previous  
30 presentation so I will just keep this a short summary  
31 of my last summary by saying the moose population in  
32 Unit 22A Central has been showing signs of increasing  
33 since 2003 and with the most recent population estimate  
34 being 766 moose. Unit 21E, just to the southeast of  
35 22A Remainder has an estimated population of 8,607  
36 moose with a related density of 2.1 moose per square  
37 mile. And this population is believed to be stable and  
38 exceeds the intensive management objectives set by the  
39 State. Unit 18 on the southwest border of Unit 22A  
40 Remainder has an estimated moose population of 12,031  
41 and an associated density of 6.9 moose per square mile.  
42 There is little knowledge of moose dispersal from any  
43 of these units into 22A Remainder but given the higher  
44 population estimates there is a likely effect.

45

46                   Moose harvest has mostly been  
47 attributable to local residents in Unit 22A Remainder.  
48 The average yearly reported moose harvest was 9 from  
49 2003 to 2020, although harvest has been increasing in

50

1 recent years. From 2016 to 2020 average reported  
2 harvest was 13 moose and during this time Federally-  
3 qualified subsistence users accounted for 33 percent of  
4 this harvest while non-residents took 45 percent. Much  
5 like in the last presentation, the trend of a large  
6 amount of unreported harvest applies to 22A Remainder  
7 as well with household surveys showing much higher  
8 numbers of harvest than ADF&G reports.

9  
10 An alternative considered for this  
11 proposal was to fully rescind this closure because this  
12 closure was established for conservation purposes that  
13 do not appear to be a concern right now. Rescinding  
14 the closure may not have a negative effect on  
15 Federally-qualified subsistence users as any non-  
16 Federally-qualified harvest occurs with the only  
17 authorized guide in the area. Incremental openings  
18 have occurred since 2017 with little to no effect on  
19 subsistence users, however this option was not  
20 considered as local users have reported difficulty in  
21 harvesting enough moose for their needs.

22  
23 If the closure is completely rescinded  
24 non-Federally-qualified users would be able to hunt  
25 moose on Federal lands in Unit 22A Remainder throughout  
26 the entirety of the State moose season. Currently,  
27 non-Federally-qualified users may only hunt moose in  
28 this area from September 1st to the 30th, which  
29 coincides with the State's non-resident season.  
30 However, as the rescision of the closure during  
31 September only occurred in 2020 more time is needed to  
32 assess the impacts of that change on the moose  
33 population and subsistence users.

34  
35 Based on biological metrics from  
36 adjacent units the moose population in Unit 22A  
37 Remainder is likely increasing and can withstand more  
38 harvest. The effects of the 2020 modification to the  
39 closure on subsistence users is currently unknown.  
40 While this closure was originally enacted for reasons  
41 of conservation, subsistence users have reported  
42 difficulty in harvesting enough moose to meet their  
43 needs. Due to the remoteness of the unit, opening  
44 Federal lands in September has the potential to further  
45 disperse non-Federally-qualified users throughout the  
46 area and away from traditional hunting areas, reducing  
47 user conflict.

48  
49 Maintaining the status quo until  
50

0135

1 additional information is available is the most  
2 conservative approach and provides an assurance that  
3 subsistence use continues to be prioritized. In  
4 addition, fully rescinding the closure is likely to  
5 result in increased pressure from non-Federally-  
6 qualified users and may result in increased guide and  
7 transporter use of the area.

8

9 Therefore, it is OSM's preliminary  
10 conclusion to maintain status quo.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I will take  
13 any questions that anybody has.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. Are  
16 there any questions from Council.

17

18 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, Brevig Mission.  
19 What is the habitat around 22A Remainder, a lot of  
20 timber or low shrub brush?

21

22 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair and Elmer. I  
23 am not 100 percent certain about 22A Remainder. Maybe  
24 Bill, I believe he has been down there more than I  
25 have, maybe Bill can fill you in on that one.

26

27 MR. DUNKER: Sure.

28

29 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk.

30

31 MR. DUNKER: Sorry. There's the guy to  
32 answer that question, perfect.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron.

35

36 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk. Yeah,  
37 there is not too much timber in this Unit 22A. It's  
38 mostly brush and the moose population in remainder of  
39 Unit 22A is questionable because like I've been stating  
40 for the past years, and you've all heard me, I've been  
41 wanting a moose count in the remainder of Unit 22A to  
42 see what the population is. There isn't that much  
43 timber down here, it's only in the Golsovia drainage we  
44 have timber and Pikmiktalik drainage there's a little  
45 bit of timber but other than that it's not really  
46 timber, it's just shade brush. And we don't get a  
47 moose population count in our area because, you know,  
48 I've been pushing for this and it hasn't happened yet.  
49 So they don't know how much moose we have and we don't  
50

0136

1 know how much moose we have in our area, in this  
2 remainder of Unit 22A. And with all the fires going  
3 around, you know, they could either move further inland  
4 or we don't know what they're doing.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Does  
9 that answer your question Mr. Seetot.

10

11 MR. SEETOT: Very good, thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're welcome. Are  
14 there any other questions or comments or concerns from  
15 Council.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, I think  
20 I have to go through the 10 Commandments here, correct.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. KIRK: You're correct there Louis.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, I don't think I'm  
31 Moses, but I've been accused of being Father Abraham.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, gosh. All right,  
36 we did get our draft Staff analysis. We're at No. 2,  
37 report on Board consultations, Karen.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 There were no tribal or ANCSA Corporation comments  
41 during consultation on WCR22-09C. Thank you, very  
42 much.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. No. 3,  
45 agency comments, we've heard from Bill Dunker at ADF&G,  
46 we've heard Federal from Brian. Are there any  
47 additional ADF&G comments.

48

49 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, this is Bill

50



0137

1 Dunker.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

4

5

6 MR. DUNKER: Great. So ADF&G supports  
7 maintaining the status quo. The total reported harvest  
8 over the last five years has averaged 10 bulls per year  
9 for non-resident hunters, two bulls per year have been  
10 reported by non-Federally-qualified users, and three  
11 bulls per year by Federally-qualified users. I believe  
12 Brian touched on it, but it's important to mention that  
13 a portion of the harvest, primarily by residents of the  
14 unit is not reported to the Department through the  
15 moose harvest ticket reporting system and so our  
16 understanding of harvest for a portion of the area  
17 comes from household subsistence surveys completed in  
18 those areas. However, that doesn't provide us with  
19 specific harvest information so we believe that a  
20 portion of that harvest is likely attributed to Unit 18  
21 for folks that have community ties and are able to  
22 travel to the Yukon River hunt area there and harvest  
23 moose along the Yukon River.

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But ultimately, again, we support  
maintaining the status quo in hopes that we'll have  
additional time to effectively evaluate the effects of  
the most recent regulatory change but at this point we  
haven't identified any increase in harvest as a result  
of the recent modification in 2020 to the Federal lands  
closure in 22A Remainder.

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Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That  
validates my stand a few years back when we dealt with  
it. How about any other ADF&G personnel, I think Bill  
took care of that, I guess. Okay, Federal, and I lost  
my little cheatsheet again. BLM, Tom.

39

40

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MR. SPARKS: No comment, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. National  
Park Service.

44

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MS. KOELSCH: No comment.

46

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty, or  
maybe that was Jeannette. BIA, Pat.

0138

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Pat. Any  
4 other OSM.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, I think  
9 that covers agency comments except for tribal. Do we  
10 have anybody with the tribes.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none we're  
15 moving on to Item 4, advisory group comments. Brian  
16 are there other Advisory Council comments.

17

18 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, no other  
19 Advisory Councils weighed in on this. Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sub B, Fish and Game  
22 Advisory Committees.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none --  
27 thanks, Brian. That moves us on to Item 5, summary of  
28 written public comments. Brian, again.

29

30 MR. UBELAKER: There were no written  
31 comments submitted for this one.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Under No.  
34 6, public testimony, the floor is open, if anybody on  
35 the phone from the public would like to make a comment  
36 or ask questions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, that  
41 moves us to Item 7, Regional Council recommendation,  
42 for a motion to adopt, that's the positive motion.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I need to -- go ahead.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sorry. Mr. Chair.

49 This is a wildlife closure review so it's kind of

50

0139

1 confusing, so the motion would be to maintain status  
2 quo, modify or eliminate the wildlife closure review.  
3 It would be one of those three in the positive.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So  
8 at this point we need a motion to adopt Wildlife  
9 Conservation [sic] Review 22-09C Unit 22A Remainder  
10 seasonal closure to moose hunting for non-Federally-  
11 qualified users, status quo, I think. Is there a  
12 motion.

13

14 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, Stebbins. So  
15 moved.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Is  
18 there a second.

19

20 MR. OYOUNICK: Leland, I'll second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And that's a second.  
23 Any discussion.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing nothing I need  
28 a call for the question.

29

30 MR. KIRK: Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been  
33 called. Roll call vote, Karen, please.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Deahl Katchatag.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: And this would be a  
41 motion to maintain the status quo.

42

43 Leland Oyoumick.

44

45 MR. OYOUNICK: Yes.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin Aukongak.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0140

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin, are you with  
2 us on the phone?

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll move on and come  
7 back to Martin.

8  
9 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

10  
11 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

14  
15 MR. KIRK: Yes.

16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green, Jr.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's a yes.

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: And I'll come back and  
22 see if Martin Aukongak is on the phone.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: So, Mr. Chair, at this  
27 point we do not have a quorum, we only have four of the  
28 seated members.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I suspected  
31 that.

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Just one moment and  
34 I'll try to get a hold of Mr.....

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Doug or Mr.  
37 Martin.

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....of Martin. Mr.  
40 Martin.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 (Pause)

45  
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: In the meantime maybe  
47 it would be a good idea to discuss the justification  
48 for this and I'd be happy to read the OSM justification  
49 on behalf of the Council to see if the Council concurs

50

0141

1 with that before the final vote.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Karen, you have  
4 the floor.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 One moment, please.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We got all the time in  
10 the world, Ma'am.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 (Pause)

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
17 The OSM preliminary conclusion was to maintain the  
18 status quo. The justification reads metrics from  
19 adjacent moose population suggests that the Unit 22A  
20 Remainder moose population may be growing and can  
21 withstand the potential increases in harvest resulting  
22 from the 2020 rescinding of the closure during  
23 September. However, more time is needed to assess the  
24 impacts of this regulation change on the population and  
25 subsistence users. Maintaining the status quo until  
26 additional information is available is the most  
27 conservative approach and provides an assurance that  
28 subsistence use continues to be prioritized. In  
29 addition, fully rescinding the closure is likely to  
30 result in increased pressure from non-Federally-  
31 qualified users and may result in increased guide and  
32 transporter use of the area. Given the temporal and  
33 spacial use patterns of local moose hunters, increased  
34 commercial traffic may result in increased conflict in  
35 this area. This may be exacerbated by the challenges  
36 Federally-qualified subsistence users face in gaining  
37 access to the harvestable moose.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I did text  
44 Martin and I have not heard a response so he may have  
45 gotten cut off.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, and we still  
48 don't know anything about Doug yet, uh?

49

50

0142

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I'd be  
2 happy to try to contact him. He did say he had another  
3 meeting but I can check and see if he's available and  
4 let him know his vote is important, if you wish.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am, please do.

7  
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

9  
10 (Pause)

11  
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin, did you get  
13 back on the phone, this is Karen.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: He -- Mr. Chair,  
18 Martin said he keeps getting cut off.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, okay, I hear  
21 that. He has to walk around and find the sweet spot  
22 they call it, where the radio waves come flying in and  
23 out.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 MR. KIRK: Or go use a landline.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go.

30  
31 REPORTER: Yes.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's the other one.  
34 Like you, uh, Kirk.

35  
36 MR. KIRK: No, I'm on my cell phone.

37  
38 (Laughter)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just testing you.

41  
42 (Pause)

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I'm unable  
45 to get a hold of Mr. Katchatag. Could we find out if  
46 Martin's on the phone, if he was able to get back in.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hopefully he'll keep  
49 trying.

50

0143

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: I asked him to go  
2 ahead.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin texted me, he's  
7 still trying to get in and I'm not able to get a hold  
8 of Deahl.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So we just need one  
11 more, right.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so we just have  
16 to hope that Martin can get on so we can continue on.  
17 Is there anything we can take up for a spacesaver.

18  
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
20 If you'd like I can move on to the identify issues for  
21 the fiscal year 2021 draft annual report. I can go  
22 ahead and open this up for Council input but also with  
23 an understanding that if there are additional items the  
24 Council wishes to add towards the end of the meeting  
25 that they are certainly welcome to do so.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thanks, Karen,  
30 go ahead.

31  
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 This is an opportunity for the Council to share with  
34 the Federal Subsistence Board issues of concern that  
35 are generally outside of the regulatory process.

36  
37 Section .805(a)(3)(d) of ANILCA reads  
38 for the annual report; an identification of current and  
39 anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife  
40 populations within the region; 2, an evaluation of  
41 current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and  
42 wildlife populations within the region; 3, a  
43 recommended strategy for the management of fish and  
44 wildlife populations with the region to accommodate  
45 such subsistence uses and needs, and, 4,  
46 recommendations concerning policies, standards,  
47 guidelines and regulations to implement that  
48 strategies.

49  
50

0144

1                   So basically the door is open for the  
2 Council to share any concerns that it would like to on  
3 any topics for the Board to at least be advised of or  
4 to respond to.

5

6                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.  
9 Martin, are you on.

10

11                   (No comments)

12

13                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: I bet he lost power on  
14 his phone, forgot to charge it, that's my famous last  
15 words.

16

17                   (Laughter)

18

19                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: What else can we read  
20 about.

21

22                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 And, again, I did just want to make sure that the  
24 Council knows that it's welcome to add any items to the  
25 annual report as the meeting progresses. I can suggest  
26 now that Karen Hyer do a presentation, an update on the  
27 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, which is not an  
28 action item for the Council.

29

30                   Thank you.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. Ms. Karen  
33 Hyer.

34

35                   MS. HYER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Council  
36 Members, can you hear me?

37

38                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're hired, yes, we  
39 can hear you.

40

41                   (Laughter)

42

43                   MS. HYER: All right very good. Just  
44 give me a moment to open my book. Okay, so good  
45 afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Council members. I wish we  
46 were together in person so we weren't having all of  
47 this electronic difficulty but it's always a pleasure  
48 to meet with the Seward Peninsula Council. For the  
49 record my name is Karen Hyer and I'm a Fisheries  
50



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1 Biologist for OSM. And I work with Hannah Voorhees, an  
2 Anthropologist for OSM and I think Hannah is also on  
3 the line and so if you have any questions concerning  
4 anything that applies to our HMTK projects she'd be the  
5 expert.

6

7

8 But anyway, starting on Page 265 I'm  
9 going to take you through the 2022 Fisheries Resource  
10 Monitoring Plan, which is composed of the successful  
11 research and monitoring projects that were submitted to  
12 OSM through the 2022 notice of funding. And I just  
13 want to remind you that we use that term, notice of  
14 funding, and it's actually our call for proposals. And  
15 it's when we put out an official request and then we  
16 ask -- it happens every two years and it's when we  
17 gather the proposals for continuing our Fisheries  
18 Resource Monitoring Program.

18

19

20 Now, there's a lot of information in  
21 this book and I'm just going to highlight a fraction of  
22 it and you can go back at your leisure and look at all  
23 the details.

23

24

25 But the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
26 Plan is comprised of projects providing information  
27 needs to sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal  
28 public lands for rural Alaskans. And the projects are  
29 usually multi-disciplinary and collaborative. The  
30 Fisheries Resource Plan is divided into six regions  
31 which you can see on the bottom of Page 265 of your  
32 books. These regions correspond to the Federal  
33 Subsistence fisheries areas and generally holds stock,  
34 harvest and community issues in common. The Northern  
35 region has three Councils, so your Council is one of  
36 three and you work in conjunction with Northwest Arctic  
37 and North Slope Councils. So when we met in the fall  
38 of 2020 we discussed the subsistence fisheries  
39 information gaps in the Seward Peninsula and if you  
40 remember the Council developed a priority information  
41 needs list for your area and the list of research  
42 priorities developed by you would guide the proposals  
43 submitted and those research priorities were combined  
44 with Northwest Arctic and the North Slope to make up  
45 the 2022 priority information needs for Northern  
46 Alaska. And this is what we put out when we put out  
47 our call for proposals, which we call the notice of  
48 funding opportunity and we ask researchers to submit  
49 proposals that address these priority information  
50 needs. And for your review, you can find those

50

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1 information needs on Page 275 and 276 of your book and  
2 these should look familiar to you because they're what  
3 we worked on last fall.

4  
5                   So we put out the notice of funding and  
6 in response to that several proposals were submitted  
7 for this region and all the proposals that were  
8 submitted go through a review process. The very first  
9 step of that review process is the proposals are  
10 reviewed by our Technical Review Committee and that is  
11 our committee of experts and they make sure that each  
12 proposal has a Federal nexus and they evaluate each  
13 proposal on five criteria and these criteria can be  
14 found on Page 270 to 272 of your book. But I'll just  
15 remind the Council that they review on strategic  
16 priority; the project must address an information need  
17 related to Federal Subsistence Management Program; then  
18 they review the proposal on technical and scientific  
19 merits; and the proposal must have scientific rigor and  
20 clarity of purpose; they review it on the  
21 investigator's ability and resources; the investigators  
22 must have the ability to complete the work; and then  
23 there's also a partnership and capacity building  
24 component; and each proposal must support local  
25 organizations and it must have a partnership component;  
26 and then the final criteria that they look at is the  
27 cost benefit; and the cost has to be reasonable for the  
28 work. So they collect -- they don't collect, but they  
29 review all the proposals under this criteria.

30  
31                   And then you can see in the proposal  
32 book starting at Table 1 on Page 277 there were four  
33 proposals that were submitted for the northern region  
34 and then if you look just below the table you can see  
35 the Technical Review Committee comments on those four  
36 proposals. And then each investigator an executive  
37 summary of each proposal and those executive summaries  
38 start on Page 281 and it's under Appendix 1, and that  
39 is the summary of the proposal.

40  
41                   So we now have the TRC's comments are  
42 about the proposal and the next thing we need is the  
43 Council's comments on the proposals and so that's what  
44 we're about to do and I'll go over each proposal with  
45 you and then if you have any comments you could provide  
46 them to me and then we put your comments together with  
47 the TRC comments and all of that is taken first to the  
48 InterAgency Staff Committee which is the Staff to the  
49 Federal Board and they review all of that, and then  
50

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1 it's all combined and it's presented next January to  
2 the Federal Subsistence Board and that's when they vote  
3 to approve it and then after that meeting the projects  
4 are implemented in the summer of 2022.

5

6 So that's kind of the whole process.

7

8 I just want to remind you today I don't  
9 need any action from you but I am interested in any  
10 comments you have specifically about the proposals.

11

12 So I'll pause for a minute to answer  
13 any questions and then we'll go over the list of  
14 proposals for this region. So does anybody have any  
15 questions for me.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Either they're off the  
20 phone or they don't have a question.

21

22 MS. HYER: Okay.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Please continue, I  
25 guess. I didn't have one.

26

27 MS. HYER: All right. Okay. Well,  
28 I'll just start and I'll go over. The first project,  
29 and these are just given a number as they come in, so  
30 there's no special order to any of these but Project  
31 22-102 Kotzebue Sound sheefish, describing coastal  
32 movement, temperature preferences and potential range  
33 expansion. The investigator of this project proposes  
34 using satellite telemetry to characterize coastal  
35 movement of sheefish outside their typical range in  
36 Kotzebue Sound. Currently, the extension of the  
37 northerly coastal movement is not well understood and  
38 may potentially be influenced by the changing climate  
39 in this region. So recent changes in movement patterns  
40 and abundance of sheefish has been observed by the  
41 local subsistence users and there have been many  
42 studies of sheefish have been completed during their  
43 freshwater phase but little is known about the marine  
44 behavior. So this project is directly related to what  
45 the fish are doing and where they're traveling in  
46 marine waters.

47

48 Now, I recognize this is in Kotzebue  
49 Sound, which is north of you but does the Council have  
50

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1 any comments on this particular proposal.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, I don't have  
4 any comments about the particular proposal but just one  
5 question. If we wanted to talk about red king crab  
6 outside the three mile boundary of the State's  
7 management and then the outside is Federal, is that a  
8 potential?

9

10 MS. HYER: So my understanding and we  
11 should probably -- at a different time we should go  
12 back and visit this specifically, but my understanding  
13 is that that jurisdiction is outside of the Federal  
14 Subsistence Program so these research dollars would not  
15 be applicable to that but I can certainly make sure I'm  
16 speaking correctly.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Sorry to  
19 change direction here but it came to mind.

20

21

MS. HYER: No.

22

23

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks.

24

25

MS. HYER: No, and that's fine, and I  
26 always appreciate those comments because we're going to  
27 have our 2022 plan which -- but 2024 is around the  
28 corner and I'm always looking for new ideas for  
29 information gaps in your area. So if you have any  
30 ideas at any time I appreciate the comment.

31

32

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I guess.....

33

34

MS. HYER: Okay. So the second.....

35

36

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sorry.

37

38

MS. HYER: No, go ahead.

39

40

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I just wanted to say  
41 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has  
42 something to do with our crab so I just thought maybe  
43 that might plug in somewhere. Anyway, thank you.

44

45

MS. HYER: Okay. Project 22-103 is the  
46 Unalakleet River chinook salmon escapement assessment  
47 and this is an ongoing project you're very familiar  
48 with. The Unalakleet River supports the largest  
49 chinook salmon subsistence fishery in Norton Sound and  
50

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1 Port Clarence. And while the subsistence fishery  
2 occurs primarily under State jurisdiction the Federal  
3 subsistence users participate in this and, of course,  
4 the very upper reaches of the region are wild and  
5 managed by BLM. Funding for this project would  
6 continue operating this weir. This weir has been  
7 operational since 2010 and the results from this  
8 project provide chinook salmon in-season and post-  
9 season estimates -- well, in-season estimates and post-  
10 season management and run timing. This information is  
11 provided to both State and Federal managers.

12  
13 If anybody has any comments about this  
14 project.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, does anything  
17 -- are you there?

18  
19 MS. HYER: I'm right here, yes.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I didn't get to read  
22 into this very much. Is there anything about egg takes  
23 or anything with chinook salmon on the Unalakleet.....

24  
25 MS. HYER: So.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....for hatchery  
28 purposes?

29  
30 MS. HYER: .....Oh, no, not at this  
31 point that I know about.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

34  
35 MS. HYER: Yeah.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. All right,  
38 thank you.

39  
40 MS. HYER: Okay. Anything else.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No.

43  
44 MS. HYER: Okay. All right. So then  
45 we're back up in Northwest Arctic again with Project  
46 22-104 Selawik River sheefish population estimate. And  
47 this is related to a permafrost slump that occurred 40  
48 miles up stream of the sheefish spawning area in the  
49 Selawik River and this slump began emitting sediment in  
50

0150

1 2004 and at that time it often resulted in turbid  
2 waters below the slump during the summer months and  
3 they were worried about the effects, negative effects  
4 on the habitat for the spawning sheefish. So in 2012  
5 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan began funding  
6 the investigators to monitor the annual abundance and  
7 age structure of the Selawik River sheefish spawning  
8 population to determine if the sediment had an effect.  
9 And the investigators concluded their research and they  
10 were not able to establish an effect of the permafrost  
11 slump but the recommendation was to revisit the data  
12 and go back to the site in five years. And this is a  
13 much reduced kind of a moment in time to look at the  
14 population. But this project would fund the  
15 investigators to go back and look again at the  
16 population to make sure that their original conclusion  
17 was correct.

18

19 So if anybody has any comments on that.

20

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. HYER: Okay.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, you got  
27 the floor.

28

29 MS. HYER: Yeah, okay. And then the  
30 last project in this table and a project that's related  
31 to this region is a traditional ecological knowledge of  
32 salmon in the river drainages of Kotzebue Sound. This  
33 is a two year project that will contribute to the  
34 understanding of the effects of the environmental  
35 changes on salmon in Northwest Arctic, as well as the  
36 shifting capacity of the subsistence users in Ambler,  
37 Noorvik and Kotzebue to harvest them. The project  
38 updates the traditional ecological knowledge work  
39 funded from the Monitoring Plan in 2012. The  
40 researchers will investigate subsistence use of all  
41 four of the specific salmon on the Noatak River and all  
42 five species of the Kobuk River. The investigators  
43 will interview subsistence harvesters about traditional  
44 knowledge of salmon ecology, map historical and  
45 contemporary subsistence harvest locations and observe  
46 fish migration. And this is just to update what's  
47 currently known about harvesting and to reflect any  
48 changes that occur because of the changing climate.

49

50

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1                   So just curious if the Council has any  
2 input for that project.

3  
4                   (No comments)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Not hearing anybody.

7  
8                   MS. HYER: Okay. All right. So  
9 there's a fifth project that's not listed in the table  
10 and it concerns the Pasorlik and Pasolik Rivers and  
11 they're part of the Yukon drainage but they're close to  
12 Stebbins and St. Michael and if the Council's  
13 interested in hearing about that proposal and possibly  
14 commenting on that I'd be happy to present that.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sure, it's in our  
17 jurisdiction.

18  
19                   MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk.....

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

22  
23                   MR. KIRK: It's pronounced Pastolik  
24 River and Pastolik -- it's two rivers, it's Pastolik  
25 River 1 and 2, so -- and, yeah, it's close to Stebbins  
26 and St. Michael. And another one I was trying to  
27 introduce for years is the Pikmiktalik River.

28  
29                   MS. HYER: Yes. Yes, okay so Pastolik  
30 1 and 2, and yes the Pikmiktalik was in the call but  
31 nobody submitted a proposal for that this year. So  
32 definitely if that is of interest to you, bring it up  
33 again when we start discussing the priority information  
34 needs for 2024 because this is -- the call happens  
35 every two years. And we have done work on the  
36 Pikmiktalik in the past but we haven't in recent  
37 history.

38  
39                   So I'll go ahead because -- and let you  
40 know what's happening, and the reason this isn't in  
41 your packet is because it's actually in the Yukon River  
42 drainage but because of the location of Stebbins and  
43 St. Michael this is definitely in their backyard.

44  
45                   So the Pastolik River 1 and 2 are near  
46 the mouth of the Yukon and they have been traditionally  
47 used by the residents of Kotlik and the surrounding  
48 area for subsistence salmon and non-salmon. Despite  
49 the long-term use of these rivers fisheries managers

50

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1 have no data on subsistence salmon harvest and maintain  
2 unresolved questions about the presence or absence in  
3 abundance and health of salmon species in these rivers.  
4 This study seeks to address the data gap that exists  
5 about the presence and the use of salmon in these  
6 rivers. Investigators will strive to document  
7 local.....

8  
9 (Teleconference interference -  
10 participants phones not muted)

11  
12 MS. HYER: .....and traditional  
13 knowledge held by the Kotlik residents about salmon and  
14 in addition, to collect the information on subsistence  
15 salmon harvest and location of the harvest, they will  
16 also document and collect information on species  
17 harvested, life stages, distribution, run timing and  
18 genetic sampling so they're really hoping to get a  
19 snapshot of those two rivers.

20  
21 So is there any specific comments on  
22 that proposal.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Excuse me, Karen, just  
25 one comment. Somebody doesn't have a mute -- somebody  
26 isn't muted. Okay, sorry, Karen.

27  
28 MS. HYER: Well, yeah, that -- Mr.  
29 Chairman and Council members, that's all I had. I just  
30 am looking for any comments you'd like to take back to  
31 the Federal Subsistence Board concerning the proposals.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any Council members  
34 have any comments.

35  
36 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chairman, Ron Kirk,  
37 Stebbins. Just one. I had brought this up a number of  
38 times about the Pikmiktalik River and last spring I  
39 brought it up to our IRA, our tribal president, Mr.  
40 Morris Nashoanak and let him know that he needs to  
41 bring it up in a meeting to make a proposal to have a  
42 counting tower at Pikmiktalik before this fiscal year  
43 and he said he was going to do it but I guess he didn't  
44 so do I need to bring that up to the Council again to  
45 see if we can get a proposal to have a Pikmiktalik  
46 counting tower up and running again.

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50



0153

1 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
2 member. I would recommend, definitely we always need  
3 proposals to actually implement projects but it is also  
4 important that if that is a priority that it's brought  
5 up next time we're collecting priority information  
6 needs for this region so that it is in the notice of  
7 funding, or the call, or the request for proposals so  
8 investigators know it's important. So I would  
9 recommend that when we come back, in about a year  
10 actually, it'll be about a year from now and start this  
11 whole process all over again, that that's brought up  
12 again at the Council meeting.

13  
14 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron again. Will  
15 you notify us about this proposals that need to be  
16 submitted with a deadline before they come up again.  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 MS. HYER: Absolutely, Mr. Chairman and  
20 Council members we will do that.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your  
23 questions.

24  
25 MS. HYER: So, Mr. Chairman and Council  
26 members.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you -- go ahead,  
29 sorry.

30  
31 MS. HYER: I was just going to say I  
32 have nothing else to add so I can take any comments or  
33 we can move on to the next item on the agenda.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any other  
36 Council comments.

37  
38 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, this is  
39 Leland.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Leland.

42  
43 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I was wondering  
44 not this past year but the year before we had a die-off  
45 of quite a bit of fish and I was kind of bummed out  
46 because nobody tried to look to see what that was all  
47 about and I'm still thinking about it and still  
48 wondering what happened and it's kind of weird nobody  
49 pursued it and did anything. And in the future if  
50

0154

1 something like that happened I'd at least want to have  
2 somebody look at it or check the fish out.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland, what kind of  
7 fish were they?

8

9 MR. OYOUNICK: Some were silvers, some  
10 were chums, all that part of the year, it was before  
11 there was a lot of -- there was a lot of humpies in the  
12 river but they just showed up and, you know, real  
13 beautiful red -- I mean silver fish belly up, floating  
14 down, stuck on snags and nuktuks and just regular fish  
15 from our river.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, thanks.  
18 Surprised there was no sampling all right. Any other  
19 Council comments or questions for Karen.

20

21 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig, Mr.  
22 Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

25

26 MR. SEETOT: There's been quite a few  
27 die-offs of seabirds that kind of rely on the fish, I  
28 think the past couple years they've been dying off out  
29 in our shorelines, out in the sea, we're not really too  
30 sure what's out there. Also tomcods, we seen some die-  
31 offs summertime and also springtime and I think that  
32 would have something to do with the waters that they  
33 swim in. There's too much stuff, i.e., sewage  
34 disposals, whales, while still in the -- that is  
35 deposited in the waters where these fish live and  
36 migrate up to their spawning areas. So I think like  
37 Leland say, hardly anything has been kind of mentioned  
38 about the die-offs or what would cause them to die-off.  
39 Mr. Green mentioned something about crab take, has been  
40 pretty much lowered, is there something on the sea  
41 floors that finally popped up after all these years  
42 that would cause some of these animals to die-off like  
43 chemical -- chemical run-off. Like I know Nome used to  
44 be a big mining community, what else did they pour into  
45 the rivers to extract gold. We have to look at the  
46 past history in order to pretty much solve what is  
47 happening at this time. It took me, what, a long time  
48 to kind of figure out but I think the problem lays with  
49 man-made pollution with the air, land and in the water.

50

0155

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

4 Anybody else have anything for Karen, questions,  
5 comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, hearing none,  
10 thank you, Karen.

11

12 MS. HYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
13 Council members.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Look forward to  
16 hearing some of the other stuff you have to bring  
17 forward. Thank you.

18

19 So Coordinator Karen, what do we got on  
20 Martin, anything.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Coordinator  
23 Karen, Mr. Chair. What I would like to suggest is that  
24 we do a roll call to see how many Council members we  
25 have on the phone to see if we can continue with the  
26 deliberations on the wildlife proposals and closures.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: If we can't do  
29 anything, can we continue to do these reports maybe.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: That is at your  
32 discretion but we certainly can and people are prepared  
33 to do that so we can continue to take care of items on  
34 the agenda. The priority is, however, to try to get  
35 through these wildlife proposals and closure reviews so  
36 with your permission I would like to go ahead and do a  
37 roll call to see how many people we have on the phone.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am.

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42 Is Deahl Katchatag on the phone.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

47

48 MR. OYOUMICK: Yep.

49

50

0156

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Leland.

2

3 Martin, are you with us.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot.

8

9 MR. SEETOT: Here.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ronald Kirk.

12

13 MR. KIRK: Here.

14

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

16

17 We are still at four Council members which does not  
18 represent a quorum. Letty Hughes with the National  
19 Park Service is prepared, however, to give us an update  
20 on the BELA fish inventory genetics FRMP project if you  
21 would like for her to proceed. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Karen, we would  
23 like Letty to proceed. You have the floor, Letty.

24

25 MS. HUGHES: Good afternoon, Chair and  
26 the Council. So we had put in a proposal a few years  
27 ago just like the proposals Karen Hyer just talked  
28 about and one of the priority information needs was to  
29 gain an understanding of fish inventory in the Preserve  
30 but in those northern waters of the Bering Landbridge.  
31 So we did that. And it was for the objectives that we  
32 had heard from folks up and around Shishmaref was for  
33 the Arctic River, Serpentine, Nolook and I'll just  
34 shorten it to say the Nugnug River. In addition so for  
35 all inventory of salmon, whitefish, you name it and one  
36 of the other objectives was to collect genetics on  
37 salmon so that way it can be compared to samples  
38 collected up in the Kotzebue Sound region and also in  
39 samples around Norton Sound. So that's just been an  
40 area that has not been touched in like 20-some years.

41

42 So as everyone has talked about this  
43 morning, the fish has been dismal and so we weren't  
44 really sure what we were going to see, in addition with  
45 all the high water. And our partners, and really the  
46 folks who are really the ones doing the project are  
47 Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the anadromous  
48 freshwater inventory folks out of Anchorage, I mean  
49 this is what they do, so they went through and they

50

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1 spent a good two and a half weeks working up out of  
2 Quartz Creek going into the Preserve and State waters,  
3 of waters that flow into the Serpentine area and it was  
4 actually really encouraging considering how dismal  
5 salmon runs are. So genetic-wise in the Serpentine  
6 area we were able to collect 100 chum salmon samples  
7 out of the Nugnug, it was 50 samples for chum, which is  
8 really impressive because out of all those four river  
9 drainages from what the guys were telling me, that  
10 river proved to be the most difficult. In terms of how  
11 brackish it is, and just the type of floor bed it is.  
12 So we don't know when we go back and revisit these  
13 rivers next summer how many more samples we're going to  
14 be able to pull out of there. I mean they were  
15 seining, electrofishing, reel and rod, everything they  
16 could get just so they could get samples in addition to  
17 inventory, what other fish species were going to  
18 surface.

19  
20 They were able to collect pink genetics  
21 out of Serpentine, Nolook and the Nugnug and so that  
22 was all very encouraging. We tried to get  
23 approximately 100 samples per fish species out of each  
24 of those rivers. Like with chum and pinks, we're  
25 pretty positive, you know, that we'll be able to obtain  
26 that sample goal. With other species such as sockeye  
27 and coho where they're not as prominent up in those  
28 northern waters, you know, we may not be able to gain  
29 as many genetic samples. So with that being said up in  
30 the head waters of Serpentine there's a tributary that  
31 many of you may be aware of, called Hot Spring Creek,  
32 and the guys were able to inventory chum, pink,  
33 juvenile coho and sockeye so that's pretty exciting  
34 that they were able to find some of those spawning  
35 salmon up there.

36  
37 The first week of October, even though  
38 we were having some bad weather there was an opening  
39 for Nate to come back out to Nome and do some spawning  
40 up in the Serpentine area and in some of those other  
41 rivers and that way we can go back and revisit these  
42 four rivers again for year two.

43  
44 So really good to get on the ground.  
45 They were really excited to see what those river  
46 drainages were like, what was coming into those records  
47 and also just the fact that we were able to get samples  
48 despite low, low salmon runs and we are going to go  
49 back out there next late summer and do it all over  
50

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1 again, it's the second part. And, in addition, we'll  
2 be collecting age, sex and length off of those salmon  
3 as well and we've been talking about further discussion  
4 and maybe collecting some eDNAs -- or we're collecting  
5 actually water samples to also see what else is in that  
6 water for -- that may not be coming up in seines or  
7 electrofishing.

8  
9 And so that's what I have right now.  
10 It's, you know, preliminary results. The genetic  
11 analysis will not happen until year three of the  
12 project when everything can be ran together. So I can  
13 take questions.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty.  
16 It's interesting to hear that late in the season, you  
17 said in October, you were able to get out in the upper  
18 limits of the Serpentine where the -- sound like a  
19 tributary, the Hot Spring Creek coming in there, I'm  
20 familiar with all that there so was it -- how close was  
21 it up to the Serpentine, Hot Spring Creek.

22  
23 MS. HUGHES: Yeah, through the Chair.  
24 So Hot Springs Creek is actually pretty close to  
25 Serpentine Hot Springs and so -- and then, you know, I  
26 personally was at Serpentine Hot Springs in, I want to  
27 say August, and we -- I, and a few other folks actually  
28 saw pinks up around near Hot Springs as well.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Very interesting.  
31 Other Council members, any questions, comments,  
32 concerns for Letty.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just one other  
37 question, I guess. You were talking about salmon  
38 species, did you have any trout, grayling, whitefish  
39 anything like that turn up?

40  
41 MS. HUGHES: Good question, Mr. Chair.  
42 So Nate and his team, you know, they did pull up  
43 whitefish and others. I do not have -- we have not  
44 completed our full report and so when that happens, you  
45 know, not only will Karen Hyer receive that, which I  
46 think it will be later in November but we can  
47 definitely make sure to pass that on to the RAC.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Great. And the salmon  
50

0159

1 numbers, you know, we were talking about dismal runs  
2 everywhere, what did those runs up there seem like?

3

4 MS. HUGHES: You know I don't know if  
5 Nate if was taking an account of the actual numbers,  
6 you know, they were definitely more focused on habitat  
7 areas where fish were spawning and also the water level  
8 was pretty high and they were working around some bad  
9 weather so visibility flying some of those surveys was  
10 not very good. But when they did the coho spawning  
11 survey in the beginning of October all what I kind of  
12 heard was like it was successful, thumb's up, and he  
13 and I have been missing each other since, you know,  
14 we've been out of town so I can follow up with him on  
15 that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you.  
18 Again, anybody from Council have anything to ask Letty.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Letty, I guess  
23 hearing nothing there thank you for your presentation.  
24 Karen, have we got anything on the phone?

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I could ask  
27 if either Martin or Doug Katchatag, either one are on  
28 the phone at this time.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: If not then we still  
33 do not have a quorum so we would have to continue with  
34 non-action items, which I can go into Item E, the fall  
35 2021 Council application nomination open season if you  
36 wish. Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, have at it,  
39 Karen. Keep it rolling.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 For the record this is Karen Deatherage at OSM.

45

46 And I would like to thank on behalf of  
47 OSM and the Federal Subsistence Management Program, all  
48 the Council members, for your service on this Council  
49 and on behalf of the user groups that you represent,

50

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1 your knowledge and experience is of great value to the  
2 Federal Subsistence Management Program.

3  
4 We are currently going through some  
5 difficult times during the pandemic but at the same  
6 time we are constantly working to have robust Councils  
7 with full memberships. And we are looking to you,  
8 Council members, for help because you are our  
9 connection to the communities that you represent.

10  
11 The 2022 Council application period was  
12 opened on September 17th. We are encouraging you to  
13 help us to spread the word about it in the region's  
14 communities and recruit new applicants throughout your  
15 region. You know the people in your region and you  
16 also share the firsthand experience of what it means to  
17 serve on the Council and what is involved and how much  
18 time it takes.

19  
20 You can also nominate the candidates to  
21 if someone is interested in applying but is having a  
22 hard time, for example, filling out an application.  
23 The applications are available on our website, and a  
24 fillable copy will be posted soon as well. We also  
25 plan on mailing a number of application packets to the  
26 current Council members so that you can hand them out  
27 to interested persons or organizations and tribes.

28  
29 Additionally, we are mailing around  
30 2,000 copies of the application packet to various  
31 addresses across the state. If someone needs a copy to  
32 be faxed to them we can do this as well. We are hoping  
33 to have a good number of qualified applicants applying  
34 this year so we are able to fill all of the vacant  
35 seats and have alternates available for the situations  
36 when Council members resign, move out of the region, or  
37 pass away.

38  
39 We would really, really appreciate your  
40 help with recruitment this year.

41  
42 I'm available if you have any questions  
43 about this process. Again, we do have the applications  
44 available and we're encouraging everyone to reach out  
45 both in your communities and outside of your  
46 communities to recruit members to serve on the Seward  
47 Peninsula Council. We have one vacant seat and there  
48 will be some seats up for reappointment this coming  
49 nomination cycle.

50



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1 So thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. I  
4 didn't hear anybody join us yet so what else can we  
5 take up.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.....

8

9 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya  
10 Wessels.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

13

14 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
15 Chair. For the record my name is Katya Wessels and I'm  
16 Council Coordination Division Supervisor with OSM. So  
17 I just want to reiterate of what Karen just presented  
18 to you.

19

20 You know, Seward Peninsula currently  
21 has a vacant seat and, you know, you're having a hard  
22 time having a quorum during this meeting because some  
23 of the Council members are not able to connect with the  
24 meeting or maybe too busy or, you know, I'm just like  
25 really appealing to the Council members that are  
26 present during this meeting, to reach out to your  
27 communities and to see if, you know, someone, or you  
28 want to nominate someone to serve on this Council. You  
29 know you have the first-hand experience serving on the  
30 Council. You know what it takes, what kind of time it  
31 takes because you're volunteers and so it takes some of  
32 your time and you all have your other lives, you all  
33 have your work, you know, that takes some time out of  
34 your lives but at the same time, you know, doing this  
35 public service is very important for your region, for  
36 your communities, for your user groups so I just really  
37 would like to encourage the Council members to think,  
38 you know, if they would like to nominate somebody to  
39 serve on the Council or they know of someone and they  
40 just want to provide OSM with their name and we can  
41 each out to that person and talk to them and see if  
42 they would be interested in applying to serve on the  
43 Council.

44

45 But we want to build up the Seward  
46 Peninsula Council so it will be robust and have all the  
47 seats filled and you have no problem in getting a  
48 quorum during your meetings.

49

50

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1                   So thank you for your attention and if  
2 anyone has any questions I would be more than happy to  
3 answer them. And also my email and phone number are on  
4 the OSM website so I can be reached at any time so  
5 thank you.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your  
8 comments. Any questions from Council.

9  
10                  (No comments)

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Are we  
13 hearing phone calls trying to come through, Karen.

14  
15                  MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm not hearing any  
16 but we can certainly ask, Mr. Chair, if Deahl Katchatag  
17 or Martin Aukongak is on the phone.

18  
19                  (No comments)

20  
21                  MS. DEATHERAGE: I've been texting and  
22 calling both of these individuals but I'm not able to  
23 get a hold of either.

24  
25                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, I was hearing  
26 this earlier when we were having problems connecting  
27 with Martin, I'm -- those other fellows are trying to  
28 call in, it's like a phone coming off the receiver and  
29 then hanging back up right away so it sounds the same  
30 so it's like somebody's trying. There's one right  
31 there.

32  
33                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 I'm not hearing that so it's interesting that you are  
35 and I know there have been challenges this, the phones  
36 cutting people off right when they try to call in so if  
37 you do happen to get cut off we definitely encourage  
38 you to just keep trying because it does come through  
39 eventually. I've been cut off a couple times today and  
40 you just have to keep trying to dial in and eventually  
41 it'll open up so we appreciate your patience with that.

42  
43                  Thank you.

44  
45                  MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya  
46 Wessels. I just wanted to ask Karen, Karen, do you  
47 think we can ask Tina to -- like, you know, before she  
48 was able to dial somebody's number when they got  
49 disconnected and connects them. I don't know, Tina, if  
50

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1 you are online, can we do something like that or with  
2 the help of an operator maybe we can connect this way  
3 instead of them trying to call in.

4

5 REPORTER: Okay, can you repeat that,  
6 you want me to check with the operator to connect them  
7 in?

8

9 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, if that's possible.  
10 Because I remember we've done that before at one of the  
11 meetings.

12

13 REPORTER: I guess Karen can send me  
14 their numbers and I could try that but they have to be  
15 expecting they're going to be connected in.

16

17 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, this is  
18 Leland.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, go ahead,  
21 Leland.

22

23 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I had that trouble  
24 with getting cut off quite a bit so I turned my phone  
25 off for awhile and after that it kind of cured the  
26 problem. Maybe they just got to turn their phone off  
27 for a while and then the problem will fix.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, may be. The  
30 other one is like Ron Kirk said is to go to a landline,  
31 so I don't know if people can just do that, easily  
32 that'd be one thing.

33

34 REPORTER: That is always the best  
35 option is to be on a landline and then, you know, we  
36 can't control the lines in whatever town, village,  
37 city, there's been a lot of that this round. So if  
38 somebody wants to send me their numbers I can try to  
39 connect with an operator but we're going to have to  
40 take a break for me to do that because if I am on the  
41 line with the operator then we're not recording the  
42 meeting.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, so Tina.....

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, go ahead.

49

50

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: I have been texting to  
2 Martin and he generally is available via text and he is  
3 not answering so I'm not sure if his phone is  
4 completely cut off or he has stepped away from the  
5 meeting because he generally does respond to me quickly  
6 when I text. He is out of state right now, he is down  
7 in Nevada so he definitely would not have access I  
8 assume to a landline but it using his cell phone.

9  
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep, he's down there  
13 in Las Vegas, I think. So if somebody's got a hotel  
14 room maybe they could refer them to trying a landline  
15 in a hotel room. But generally around rural areas  
16 everybody's switched over to cell phones and landlines  
17 are kind of disappearing. Anyway everybody going to go  
18 on standby, go on mute.

19  
20 (Pause)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Did we run out of  
23 presentations, Karen.

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
26 Karen.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

29  
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 I just got a hold of Deahl Katchatag and he's going to  
32 try to call in again. So if we could just give him a  
33 moment I think that would be the best option at this  
34 point. And, again, I'm not sure that Martin is near  
35 his phone because I generally do get pretty quick  
36 responses from him when I text.

37  
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.  
41 Standing by.

42  
43 (Pause)

44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
46 Karen Deatherage.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

49  
50

0165

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'd like to check to  
2 see if Deahl Katchatag has been able to call in, Deahl  
3 are you there on the phone?

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 (Pause)

8  
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl, is that you?

10  
11 MR. KATCHATAG: It's Doug here.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, Doug, great.  
14 Doug's on the phone, that's super.

15  
16 MR. KATCHATAG: Uh-huh.

17  
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you so much for  
19 joining us Doug, we did -- through the Chair. We  
20 stopped at Proposal No. -- or Wildlife Closure Review  
21 No. 22-09C. We have a motion on the floor to maintain  
22 the status quo which is basically in Unit 22A  
23 Remainder, a seasonal closure to moose hunting for non-  
24 Federally-qualified users, the motion was made by Ron  
25 Kirk and seconded by Leland Oyoumick, and the motion is  
26 waiting for the question.

27  
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.  
31 Thanks Doug. We need a call for the question so we can  
32 vote on this.

33  
34 MR. KATCHATAG: Question.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been  
37 called. Roll call vote for.....

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

40  
41 We will try Doug Katchatag.

42  
43 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah.

44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

46  
47 MR. OYOUMICK: Can you read me the  
48 thing we're talking about now?

49  
50

0166

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: I certainly can.  
2 Through the Chair. This vote is to maintain the status  
3 quo, which basically means maintain the closure, in  
4 Unit 22A Remainder, which currently has a seasonal  
5 closure to moose hunting for non-Federally-qualified  
6 users. And this is Wildlife Closure 22-09C. Thank  
7 you, Mr. Chair.

8  
9 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Oyoumick.

13  
14 Martin Aukongak.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Martin, are you on the  
19 phone.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

24  
25 MR. SEETOT: Here, and yes.

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Elmer.

28  
29 Ronald Kirk.

30  
31 MR. KIRK: Here and yes. We already  
32 voted on it, we just needed one more vote.

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Right. We do have to  
35 redo the vote because we didn't have a quorum.

36  
37 Louis Green.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am.

40  
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42 The Wildlife Closure status quo vote passes unanimously  
43 5/0. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That moves  
46 us on to Wildlife Closure Review 22-11/12, Unit 22B  
47 closure, west of the Darby Mountains, fall moose season  
48 to non-Federally-qualified users, Wildlife Proposal 22-  
49 11 and the Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains winter  
50

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1 moose season closed except by residents of White  
2 Mountain and Golovin. So Brian Ubelaker.

3

4 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 Once for the record, Brian Ubelaker, OSM. This  
6 analysis begins on Page 122 of your meeting books.

7

8 And Wildlife Closure Review 22-11 and  
9 22-12 both pertain to Unit 22B west of the Darby  
10 Mountains. WCR22-11 is closing Federal public  
11 lands.....

12

13 (Teleconference interference -  
14 participants phones not muted)

15

16 MR. UBELAKER: .....to the harvest of  
17 moose during the fall season. WCR22-12 closed Federal  
18 public lands to harvesting moose to all except  
19 residents of Golovin and White Mountain for the winter  
20 hunt. And this closure was initially established in  
21 2002.

22

23 It was enacted to restrict harvest to  
24 conserve a declining moose population. ADF&G have  
25 closed this hunt by emergency order in 2013 and 2014  
26 when the harvest quota of 20 was met. Last year the  
27 Board of Game changed the availability of permits by  
28 only allowing them to be picked up in person July 25th  
29 to August 25th. This closure has been reviewed by the  
30 Council at their winter meetings in 2011 and in 2015.

31

32 The moose population of Unit 22 is  
33 estimated at 6,775, which is within State management  
34 objectives. ADF&G considers the moose population in  
35 Unit 22B to be stable to increasing but below  
36 management objectives. The last estimate completed for  
37 22B was 728 moose in 2016 and a composition survey from  
38 2015 determined the bull/cow ratios to be 41 bulls to  
39 100 cows, which is higher than management objectives.

40

41 Most of the moose harvest in 22B West  
42 occurs under State regulations with a State permit.  
43 Only one moose was harvested by Federal permit in 2001  
44 and harvest has met or exceeded quotas in all years  
45 except in 2018.

46

47 One alternative considered was an  
48 incremental opening of the closure to allow all  
49 Federally-qualified subsistence users from Unit 22 to  
50

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1 hunt in Unit 22B West. The possible increase in  
2 hunting pressure in competition from Federally-  
3 qualified subsistence users within Unit 22 alone would  
4 likely reach the quota within several days as most  
5 State hunts in Unit 22 currently do.

6  
7 If these closures are rescinded, non-  
8 Federally-qualified users would be able to harvest  
9 moose on Federal public lands within Unit 22B West of  
10 the Darby Mountains. Unit 22B West moose population is  
11 below State management objectives and Federally-  
12 qualified subsistence users may experience increased  
13 competition and.....

14  
15 (Teleconference interference -  
16 participants phones not muted)

17  
18 MR. UBELAKER: .....decreased harvest  
19 success. As the moose harvest in Unit 22B West is  
20 managed by harvest quotas, rescinding or modifying  
21 these closures would likely result in a zero to minimal  
22 increase in harvest, however, competition with non-  
23 Federally and other Federally-qualified users on the  
24 Federal lands could reduce harvest opportunity for  
25 residents of White Mountain and Golovin.

26  
27 Therefore, it is OSM's preliminary  
28 conclusion to maintain the status quo.

29  
30 And, with that, I'd be happy to answer  
31 any questions anybody may have. Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any Council members  
34 have questions or comments or concerns.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I keep hearing  
39 something cut in and out.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I guess no  
44 questions for you Brian. That brings us to the Ten  
45 Commandments.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No. 2, we just got  
50



0169

1 through with No. 1, Mr. Brian gave us a presentation,  
2 draft Staff analysis. No. 2, Karen is there a report  
3 of Board consultations.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
6 this is Karen. There were no comments from tribes or  
7 ANCSA Corporations during consultation for WCR22-11 and  
8 12. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. No.3  
11 agency comments, ADF&G, Bill, any comments.

12

13 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, thanks, Mr.  
14 Chairman. Before I proceed a quick question for you, I  
15 see in the executive summary there's basically two  
16 closures that have been treated together in the  
17 analysis, how are you guys planning on handling that,  
18 do you want comments on both of the closures separately  
19 or collectively or what do you want to do here?

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good question. Bill,  
22 what do you think -- or Brian, excuse me.

23

24 MR. UBELAKER: My opinion it is all one  
25 population so, therefore, I think, you know, what goes  
26 for one closure would biologically follow for the other  
27 closure. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian.  
30 Does that answer your question, Bill.

31

32 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, thank you. So I  
33 suppose with your permission I'll just proceed with our  
34 comments here. These would be in reference to both  
35 WCR22-11 and 22-12.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep.

38

39 MR. DUNKER: Very good. So just right  
40 out of the gate here, ADF&G does support the  
41 elimination of these two closures. As Brian mentioned  
42 there's currently restrictions that were adopted by the  
43 Board of Game to limit the availability of the fall  
44 registration moose permit RM840 in which those permits  
45 are only available at licensed vendors within the hunt  
46 area July 25th to August 25th. The restriction has  
47 only been in place since regulatory year 2020 so this  
48 past fall 2021 was the second year in which the  
49 restriction has been applied so additional time will be

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0170

1 needed to evaluate the overall effect of that  
2 restriction on hunter participation.

3

4

5 Sorry if this is a repeat here but I  
6 don't believe I caught it in the OSM analysis. The  
7 RM843 winter moose hunt, registration permit moose  
8 hunt, likewise, has similar restrictions in terms of  
9 the permit availability for that hunt. These follow  
10 the recommendations of both the Board of Game and the  
11 Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee and they  
12 restrict the availability of permits for the winter  
13 hunt to licensed vendors in White Mountain and Golovin.  
14 Those permits are available beginning in early December  
15 and that hunt takes place January 1st through January  
16 31st or until we reach the harvest quota for that hunt  
17 depending. So ultimately the restrictions on the  
18 availability of permits that were adopted by the Board  
19 of Game and are implemented by the Department make it  
20 so that maintaining the closures in the area is  
21 unlikely to provide any additional harvest opportunity  
22 for Federally-qualified users and eliminating the  
23 closure may reduce regulatory complexity for Federally-  
24 qualified users participating in the winter RM843 hunt.

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Looking at the harvest and participation from those two hunts, on average 92 percent of the hunters that participated in the fall RM840 moose hunt in 22B West of the Darbys in the last five years were Federally-qualified users and similarly during that same time period Federally-qualified users accounted for 88 percent of the moose taken during that fall RM840 hunt. Likewise during the winter season, RM843, 99 percent of the hunters that participated in the winter hunt in the last five years were Federally-qualified users and during that same time period 100 percent of the harvest during the winter hunt was attributed to Federally-qualified users of which 90 percent of those hunters that were successful were residents of Golovin and White Mountain.

So, again, our support for the elimination of the closures stems from the fact that the State restrictions restrict the availability of permits and are unlikely to result in any additional opportunity provided to Federally-qualified users in the event the closure were retained.

Thank you. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.

0171

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Bill.  
2 Council members, questions for Bill.

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4                   (No comments)

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6                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: This is Louis, I was  
7 going to ask Brian, what's the advantage of the  
8 maintain status quo as opposing to dropping.

9  
10                  MR. UBELAKER: If you remove the  
11 closures in general anybody and their cousin can come  
12 and hunt moose in 22B West of the Darbys if they want  
13 to fly out and get a permit in Nome in the available  
14 season. Modifying the closure to allow all Federally-  
15 qualified users to hunt in the winter hunt in 22B would  
16 mean that any resident of 22, Nome, Unalakleet,  
17 wherever, can hunt 22B West of the Darbys where right  
18 now only residents of White Mountain and Golovin are  
19 allowed. I hope that answers it for you.

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, thank you.  
22 Dunker, what was it that you were saying was the  
23 reason.

24  
25                  MR. DUNKER: Well, at least  
26 particularly during the winter hunt since that closure  
27 restricts participation to only residents of Golovin  
28 and White Mountain, I think there's a possibility that  
29 eliminating the closure or modifying it would reduce  
30 regulatory complexity for Federally-qualified users,  
31 which would be all residents of Unit 22 that  
32 participate in that winter registration permit hunt.

33  
34                  (Pause)

35  
36                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, did you get  
37 dropped, this is Karen.

38  
39                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm back, I just got  
40 on.

41  
42                  (Laughter)

43  
44                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Super, thank you.

45  
46                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's hard to keep a  
47 good man down.

48  
49                  (Laughter)

50

0172

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a whole bunch  
2 of us here.

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4                   (Laughter)

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6                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: That was a compliment  
7 for everybody. So I was asking, Bill, why the State  
8 thought it was okay to drop the status quo.

9  
10                  MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, you might have  
11 missed some of my response, I take it.

12  
13                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, I did, I dropped  
14 right when I started asking the question and away it  
15 went -- sorry.

16  
17                  MR. DUNKER: Sure. So I guess  
18 generally speaking, and this is in addition to what I  
19 said already. The restrictions on the availability of  
20 the permits for both the fall and the winter hunt, you  
21 know, effectively limit the access to those permits  
22 and, in turn, participation in the hunt in a way that,  
23 you know, from our perspective certainly gives the  
24 priority to subsistence users.

25  
26                  On the regulatory side of things,  
27 particularly during the winter hunt, eliminating the  
28 closure or modifying it to allow for participation by  
29 all Federally-qualified users, in this case residents  
30 of Unit 22, would certainly reduce the regulatory  
31 complexity that a hunter might face participating in  
32 that winter hunt whereas under the current closure, the  
33 Federal public lands are closed to all but residents of  
34 Golovin and White Mountain.

35  
36                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: What kind of moose  
37 counts did you have on that west of the Darby?

38  
39                  MR. DUNKER: I don't have it immediately  
40 in front of me, I can give you a ballpark -- I don't  
41 know if Brian had it in the analysis, I want to say it  
42 was somewhere in the vicinity of seven to 800 moose,  
43 maybe Brian's got that at hand quicker.

44  
45                  MR. UBELAKER: I do, Mr. Chair. The  
46 last estimate completed for 22B was 728 moose and that  
47 was in 2016.

48  
49                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is that west of the  
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0173

1 Darby?

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MR. UBELAKER: I have it written as 22B so I'm assuming that is for 22B grand total but let me -- I will dig through my analysis and see if I can come up with a different answer here real quick. Please excuse me.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

MR. DUNKER: Brian, I can help you out on that, that estimate would be for 22B West of the Darbys only. We don't complete population surveys in the eastern portion there. So typically when we do surveys we do abundance surveys in that area, we do it in conjunction with Unit 22C and then it covers, yeah, 22C and B West of the Darby Mountains.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thanks. I can't find my map, what page is it on -- okay, no, I actually found it, Page 132. Any Council members got any comments, questions or concerns.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess we can continue down the list. So we talked to ADF&G. We've gotten Federal. We need to run it by BLM.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: National Park Service.

MS. HUGHES: Hello, this is Letty with Bering Landbridge. Through the Chair. So BELA is in support of OSM's preliminary analysis and conclusions to maintain the closure for this moose population, stable moose population in 22B West.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty.

BIA, Pat.

MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Pat.

MR. SPARKS: And, Mr. Chair, this is

0174

1 Tom, BLM, sorry. No comments.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. Yeah, thank you.

4 Thank you for coming back. Thanks. That covers it.

5 So we're on to the next. Tribal agency comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, moving

10 on to Item 4, advisory group comments. Brian, other

11 Regional Advisory Councils.

12

13 MR. UBELAKER: No other Regional

14 Advisory Councils have taken this one up, Sir.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Fish and

17 Game Advisory Committees.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, moving

22 on to 5, summary of written public comments. Brian.

23

24 MR. UBELAKER: No written public

25 comments were submitted to me, Sir.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. No.

28 6 public testimony, open the floor to anybody that's on

29 the phone from the public that wants to make a comment

30 or ask a question.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, moving

35 on to Item 7, Regional Council recommendation. So

36 we're down to making the motion.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

41

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

43 this is Karen. And I just wanted to remind the Council

44 that these are wildlife closure reviews so the motion

45 would be to maintain status quo, which is basically

46 maintaining the closure or modifying the closure or

47 eliminating the closure. That needs to be stated in

48 the motion for both WCR22-11 and 12.

49

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0175

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, is there --  
4 well, do we need to hear justification.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I'd be  
7 happy to read the OSM justification for these two  
8 wildlife closure reviews.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Please do, thank you.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 The moose population in the portion of Unit 22B West of  
14 the Darby Mountains continues to be below State  
15 management objectives and recruitment remains low,  
16 therefore, Federal public lands should remain closed to  
17 non-Federally-qualified users for the conservation of a  
18 healthy population and to allow the continuation of  
19 subsistence uses of moose, Section .815(3) during the  
20 fall and winter hunts. The winter hunt should remain  
21 open to the harvest of moose by residents of White  
22 Mountain and Golovin only. The Federal closure during  
23 the winter hunt will help ensure the continuation of  
24 subsistence uses of moose for residents of these  
25 communities due to the continued low number of animals  
26 available for harvest. So the OSM preliminary  
27 conclusion is to maintain status quo.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. Is  
32 there any comments from Council -- actually we need a  
33 motion, I can't make it.

34

35 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, Stebbins, so  
36 moved, Mr. Chair.

37

38 MR. KATCHATAG: So moved.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I heard Ron  
41 Kirk and did I hear Doug.

42

43 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron Kirk moves  
46 and.....

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

49

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0176

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead. And Doug  
2 seconds.

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 Just to confirm that this would be a motion to maintain  
6 status quo? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What do you say Ron.

9  
10 MR. KIRK: Yes, maintain status quo.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Does the second concur  
13 with the maker of the motion.

14  
15 MR. KATCHATAG: Second.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go. So now  
18 any discussion.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 MR. KATCHATAG: Question.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been  
25 called. Roll call please.

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 And, again, if this passes then the Council would be  
29 adopting it based on the OSM justification.

30  
31 Deahl Katchatag.

32  
33 MR. KATCHATAG: Yep.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

36  
37 MR. OYOUMICK: Yep.

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39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

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41 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

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43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Elmer.

44  
45 Ron Kirk.

46  
47 MR. KIRK: Yes.

48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Louis Green, Jr.

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0177

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: I don't think -- is  
4 Martin Aukongak on the phone.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. The motion to  
9 maintain status quo for WCR22-11/12 passes unanimously.  
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Karen, thank  
13 you. How late do we want to go Karen.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, that's at  
16 the discretion of the Chair and the Council members,  
17 thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What say the Council  
20 members, it's 5:00 o'clock basically right now.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anyone.

25

26 MR. KIRK: How many more items do we  
27 have on the agenda, Mr. Chair. This is Ron.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I was getting  
30 down to counting them, hang on there.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, there are  
35 nine more proposals and wildlife closure reviews to  
36 consider for the Council.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go, you got  
39 me, I was on it.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 And I do want to mention that we really appreciate  
45 everybody hanging in there. This is probably the  
46 largest number of proposals and wildlife closure  
47 reviews this Council has had in many years and many of  
48 them are within the region so they warrant the  
49 discussion that you're having on it and it's  
50

0178

1 appreciated.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk,

6

Stebbins.

7

8

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Go ahead, Ron.

9

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MR. KIRK: Maybe we can continue

11

tomorrow and hope to have better reception to have more

12

of our Council members join on these motions.

13

14

Thank you.

15

16

MR. SEETOT: Good idea, Ron.

17

18

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. How fast

19

do you think we could do Wildlife Conservation Review

20

[sic] 22-13, Unit 22D closure for moose hunting in the

21

Kougarok, Kuzitrin, Pilgrim drainages except by Unit

22

22C and Unit 22D residents, you want to wait until

23

tomorrow.

24

25

(No comments)

26

27

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Doug. Leland.

28

29

MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, we can wait until

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tomorrow.

31

32

MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah.

33

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: What's that.

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36

MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, tomorrow.

37

38

MR. SEETOT: Tomorrow.

39

40

CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, you heard

41

from the older guys.

42

43

(Laughter)

44

45

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

I do want to stress the importance of everybody please

47

calling in tomorrow so that we can establish quorum and

48

take action on these proposals. Thank you.

49

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0179

1                           CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think tomorrow we  
2 can burn through these so hope to hear everybody at  
3 9:00 o'clock in the morning so we can get them  
4 finished.

5

6                           MR. KIRK: I'll check on you at 8:50 in  
7 the morning.

8

9                           CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right.

10

11                           (Laughter)

12

13                           MR. KATCHATAG: Okay, good night.

14

15                           CHAIRMAN GREEN: So reconvene in the  
16 morning at 9:00. Have a good evening everybody.

17

18                           (Off record)

19

20                           (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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