

0001

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

TELECONFERENCE
March 3, 2022
9:05 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Louis Green, Chairman
- Martin Aukongak
- Mary Freytag
- Ronald Kirk
- Robert Moses
- Leland Oyoumick
- Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator -Katerina Wessels (Acting)

Recorded and transcribed by:
Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
329 F Street, Suite 222
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-227-5312; sahile@gci.net

0002

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 3/3/2022)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I'd like to call this meeting to order, it is 9:05 and have invocation. Elmer's on, would you like to do invocation, Elmer.

MR. SEETOT: Elmer's on.

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. So that moves us into the next, No. 2. item, call to order. We've already done this at 9:05 in front of invocation. So we'll go to Item 3, roll call. Who would do roll call.

MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, do you want Elmer to do it, or do you want me to do it.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Katya, go ahead and do it.

MS. WESSELS: Okay. All right. Mary Freytag.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: She was on the phone earlier.

MS. FREYTAG: Sorry. Present.

MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.

Tom Gray is absent. He said he would not be able to attend.

Deahl Katchatag.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: Sounds like he's not on currently.

Leland Oyoumick.

0003

1 MR. OYOUNICK: Good morning.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

4

5 Martin Aukongak.

6

7 MR. AUKONGAK: Good morning.

8

9 MS. WESSELS: Good morning.

10

11 MR. AUKONGAK: Aukongak.

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Elmer Seetot.

14

15 MR. SEETOT: (In Native) Here.

16

17 MS. WESSELS: Good morning.

18

19 Robert Moses.

20

21 MR. MOSES: Good morning, I'm here.

22

23 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, good morning.

24

25 Ronald Kirk.

26

27 MR. KIRK: (In Native) Good morning.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Good morning.

30

31 Louis Green.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Present, thank you.

34

35 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. So right now
36 we have eight -- I mean seven Council members present
37 and we have a quorum.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you,
40 Katya. So we'd like to welcome everybody to this
41 meeting here on the 3rd of March. I guess we have
42 introductions to go around. Let's start with the
43 Council. Go ahead, Mary, you're the new and upcoming
44 veteran, 10 years.

45

46 MS. FREYTAG: Okay, thank you, Louis.
47 good morning everyone. My name is Mary Freytag. I'm
48 the Sergeant at Arms for the Native Village of
49 Unalakleet and I'm really looking forward to my first
50

0004

1 new Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory
2 Council meeting. Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer.

5
6 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
7 Mission.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oyoumick, Leland.

10
11 MR. OYUUMICK: Leland Oyoumick, good
12 morning.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is Deahl on yet.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya.
19 I just got a message that he had a trip to Anchorage
20 that he needed to make unexpectedly but, you know, he
21 might be able to call in later, but he's currently not
22 on.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you,
25 that's good to know. I'll note that.

26
27 So Martin Aukongak.

28
29 MR. AUKONGAK: Martin Aukongak from
30 Golovin, Alaska.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Robert Moses.

33
34 MR. MOSES: Yes, I'm here. Robert
35 Moses from Golovin. Glad to be on the Board and do our
36 best to see what we could do to help Alaska.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robert.

39
40 Ron.

41
42 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, Stebbins.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Katya, did
45 I miss somebody, I was trying to do a roll call check-
46 off here at the same time.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Yes, you did not meet
49 anyone. The only other person is Tom Gray but he is
50

0005

1 not here.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right. He's excused,
4 he's got other things going on in his world.

5

6 So that brings us to the folks online
7 that are Staff. I think you could just speak up and
8 introduce yourself, I'll just open the floor.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 This is Katya Wessels and I am the Council Coordination
14 Division Supervisor with the Office of Subsistence
15 Management. I would like to make a suggestion that we
16 run this introductions by the agency. So I would
17 invite other OSM folks who are online to introduce
18 themselves now.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, Katya, since you
21 probably have a cheatsheet on the names, could you
22 bring them forward and let them introduce themselves.

23

24 MS. WESSELS: I don't have a
25 cheatsheet, sorry, but I'm just saying we'll call for
26 OSM, and then NPS, BLM, Fish and Wildlife, and public
27 and any tribes or -- so if OSM folks who are online can
28 introduce themselves now that would be great.

29

30 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, this is Lisa
31 Grediagin. I'm the Wildlife Division Supervisor with
32 the Office of Subsistence Management. Thanks.

33

34 MR. LIND: Good morning. This is
35 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
36 Subsistence Management. Good morning everyone.

37

38 MS. PILCHER: Good morning, everyone.
39 This is Nissa Pilcher.

40

41 MR. STONE: Good morning.....

42

43 MS. PILCHER: Excuse me. This is Nissa
44 Pilcher, I will eventually take -- or I will be your
45 Council Coordinator as I -- yes, as I transition into
46 that role. Hello.

47

48 MR. STONE: Good morning. This is
49 Jarred Stone, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of

50

0006

1 Subsistence Management.

2

3 MR. PLANK: Good morning. This is Tom
4 Plank, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

5

6 MR. VICKERS: Good morning. This is
7 Brent Vickers. I'm the Supervisor for the Cultural
8 Anthropology Division. I'll be sitting in for Hannah
9 Voorhees today. Thank you.

10

11 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, this is Ron Kirk.
12 Bering Air just landed. I got to run to the airport
13 real quick. I live close by so it'll take only like
14 less than five minutes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep, you go ahead and
17 take care of business, thank you, Ron. Next, Office of
18 Subsistence Management personnel.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, I think that
21 might be it with Office of Subsistence Management. Can
22 we do the Park Service now.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, ma'am.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. So any NPS
27 folks online please introduce yourself.

28

29 MS. KOELSCH: Hi. This is Jeanette
30 Koelsch, Superintendent of Bering Land Bridge National
31 Preserve and the Beringia Heritage Program in Nome.

32

33 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. This is
34 Nikki Braem. I'm the Cultural Anthropologist with
35 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve here in Nome.

36

37 MS. HUGHES: Good morning. This is
38 Letty Hughes, Wildlife Biologist for Bering Land Bridge
39 based in Nome.

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. This is
42 Ken Adkisson, Park Service, Bering Land Bridge.

43

44 MS. FLOREY: Good morning. This is
45 Victoria Florey, National Park Service in the Regional
46 Office. I'm a Subsistence Program Analyst.

47

48 MS. WESSELS: Okay, it sounds like this
49 is it with the National Park Service. Do we have any
50

0007

1 BLM folks online.

2

3 MR. SEPPI: Good morning. This is
4 Bruce Seppi with Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

5

6 MR. GUSSEY: Good morning. This is
7 Walker Gussey with the Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

8

9 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. This is
10 Chris McKee, Subsistence Coordinator for BLM and ISC
11 member.

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Sounds like this is maybe
14 it with BLM. Do we have any Fish and Wildlife Staff
15 online.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Okay. It sounds like we
20 don't have any U.S. Fish and Wildlife Staff online. Do
21 we have Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff
22 online.

23

24 MS. BELL: Jenn Bell.....

25

26 MR. DUNKER: Good morning. This
27 is.....

28

29 MS. BELL:based out of Nome.

30

31 MS. WESSELS: Sorry, one at a time.

32

33 MR. DUNKER: Good morning. This
34 is.....

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead.

37

38 MR. DUNKER: Good morning. This is
39 Bill Dunker. The Unit 22 Area Biologist based here in
40 Nome.

41

42 MS. BELL: Jennifer Bell. The Research
43 Biologist based in Nome.

44

45 MS. EDMISON: Good morning. This is
46 Nicole Edmison in Kotzebue, Wildlife Biologist.

47

48 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
49 in Palmer.

50

0008

1 MS. WESSELS: Okay. It sounds like
2 this is it with the ADF&G. Do we have any tribal or
3 Native organization representatives online.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MS. WESSELS: Okay, sounds like not.
8 Do we have anyone online who did not introduce
9 themselves yet.

10
11 MR. CHEN: Yes. Good morning, Mr.
12 Chair and Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm
13 the Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
14 Affairs.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Do we have anyone
17 else.

18
19 MS. DEBENHAM: Hi. This is Rosalie
20 Debenham with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I am a
21 biologist for the Alaska region.

22
23 MS. FREYTAG: Can you repeat that,
24 please, I didn't hear your name.

25
26 MS. DEBENHAM: Sorry. This is Rosalie
27 Debenham in Juneau Alaska with the Bureau of Indian
28 Affairs.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Do we have anyone
31 else online who did not introduce themselves yet.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MS. WESSELS: Okay, Mr. Chair, it
36 sounds like we are done with the introductions.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,
39 Katya. So we are at welcome to the meeting, that
40 brings us down to Item No. 5, review and adopt the
41 agenda. So it would take a motion and a second and any
42 discussion.

43
44 MR. AUKONGAK: Martin moves.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Martin.
47 Martin moves to adopt the agenda. Is there a second.

48
49 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, second.

50

0009

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Is
2 there any discussion.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MS. FREYTAG: Question.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been
9 called. All those in favor of adopting the agenda as
10 written say aye.

11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against,
15 same sign.

16
17 (No opposing votes)

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, the
20 agenda is adopted. So that gets us into Item No. 6,
21 the election of officers. So we have -- the only one
22 that's missing would be Ron, and the only one other
23 than that is Tommy, do we want to hold this off to --
24 move it down the line a little bit to wait for Ron to
25 come in. Anybody on the Council.

26
27 MR. KIRK: I'm back, Mr. Chair, this is
28 Ron.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, good. So I
31 guess, Katya, do I turn this over to you?

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Mr.
34 Chair. So for the record, my name is Katya Wessels and
35 I'm the Council Coordination Division Supervisor with
36 the Office of Subsistence Management. And for the
37 purpose of this meeting I am a designated Federal
38 officer.

39
40 So in accordance with the Council
41 charter, you Council members elect a Chair, Vice Chair
42 and a Secretary for a one year term. The term usually
43 begins at the start of the calendar year. So at this
44 point I would like to open the floor nominations of the
45 Council Chair. But first I would like to tell you that
46 nominations need not be seconded, you just call out the
47 names of the Chair, whomever you would like to elect as
48 Chair.

49
50

0010

1 So I would like to open the
2 nominations.

3
4 MR. OYOUMICK: Excuse me, ma'am, this
5 is Leland.

6
7 MR. SEETOT: (Indiscernible).

8
9 MR. KIRK: I nominate.....

10
11 MS. WESSELS: Would you repeat it.

12
13 REPORTER: Okay, Leland, I think -- go
14 ahead Leland, I heard you first.

15
16 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I kind of like the
17 idea of waiting until we have meetings face to face
18 before we can elect officers. Can we just keep things
19 the way they are until we can do that kind of a meeting
20 because.....

21
22 MS. WESSELS: I'm sorry to say but you
23 have to elect a Chair at least for the duration of this
24 meeting.

25
26 MR. KIRK: I nominate Louis Green, Ron
27 Kirk.

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

30
31 MR. OYOUMICK: I second it.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Louis Green has been
34 nominated. Any other nominations.

35
36 MR. OYOUMICK: I second that -- oh, it
37 don't need to be.

38
39 REPORTER: So who -- even though we
40 don't need a second, who just made that second, I need
41 you to identify.

42
43 MR. OYOUMICK: Leland.

44
45 REPORTER: Thank you, Leland.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Okay. If there is
48 no.....

49
50

0011

1 MR. SEETOT: Move to close the
2 nominations and ask.....

3
4 MS. WESSELS: If there is no other
5 nominations.....

6
7 MR. SEETOT:for unanimous
8 consent.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Sorry, we need to speak
11 one at a time. If there is no other nominations I will
12 close the nominations and, you know, who is in favor of
13 Louis Green being elected as the Chair, all in favor
14 say aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 MS. WESSELS: Anyone opposes.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 MS. WESSELS: Okay. No votes in
23 opposition. Thank you. Mr. Chair, I will pass this
24 gavel to you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Katya.
27 Thank you fellow Council members, I appreciate your
28 vote of confidence. So at this time there is a --
29 well, I heard what you said there, Leland, is there any
30 -- Katya, would we just carry on as we are or do we
31 want to have the Council weigh in on this to pass it on
32 to another meeting.

33
34 MS. WESSELS: Well, you can elect an
35 interim Vice Chair and Secretary as well and then
36 Council can have a second set of elections at the next
37 meeting. Hopefully in the fall we are going to have
38 face to face meetings, so that is our intent.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

41
42 MS. WESSELS: And it looks like we'll
43 be able to but this is just for the interim so we have
44 it for this meeting.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So to honor
47 what Leland requested I think we'll go through that and
48 then the process is we'll be looking for a nomination
49 for Vice Chair, interim, until the next face to face
50

0012

1 meeting which hopefully is in the fall. So the floor
2 is open for a nomination for Vice Chair.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't know if I lost
7 everybody or if it's just quiet.

8

9 REPORTER: It's just quiet.

10

11 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, I don't think
12 you lost anyone they're just being quiet.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot from Brevig
19 Mission. I think what Leland said would kind of stand
20 because we do have some members that are not available
21 especially, you know, the ones that.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, and I agree with
24 what Leland said but what we're doing now is just for
25 interim until we get to a face to face meeting where we
26 can go ahead and elect a Chair, a Vice Chair and
27 Secretary but for the process we'll just open it up for
28 the interim time, Elmer. So if there is a nomination
29 for a Vice Chair for the interim until we have a face
30 to face meeting and have another election I'd
31 appreciate that.

32

33 MS. FREYTAG: I would like to nominate
34 Tom Gray, Vice Chair.

35

36 REPORTER: Mary, is that you?

37

38 MS. FREYTAG: Correct.

39

40 REPORTER: Thank you. If we can all
41 remember to identify ourselves, thanks.

42

43 MR. KIRK: Move to close nominations.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. There's a
46 motion to close nominations.

47

48 MR. OYOUNICK: I second, this is
49 Leland.

50

0013

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Having a first
2 and a second to close nominations, Tommy Gray will fill
3 the seat for the Vice Chair, interim. So we'll move on
4 to the Secretary. Nominations for Secretary.

5

6 MS. FREYTAG: I would like to nominate
7 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

8

9 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, move to close
10 nominations.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. So
13 nominations are closed and then that would seat Elmer,
14 interim until hopefully the fall meeting so thank you
15 Council members. So we go into -- I think we're good
16 there, Katya.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Yes. Yes, we're good,
19 Mr. Chair. I just wanted to clarify if you are
20 allowing online regarding the agenda because Staff had
21 some questions. And what I would like to clarify is
22 the Council adopted the updated agenda and the updated
23 agenda that's published on our website and the Council
24 members should also have a copy of that, it was emailed
25 to them. And if one of you don't have it just let us
26 know, we'll try to email or fax you the updated agenda.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you,
31 Katya. So anybody on the Council that doesn't have an
32 update agenda please speak up, I'll give you a few
33 seconds for that. Does anybody need to make that
34 request.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Katya, sounds
39 like everybody received.....

40

41 MS. FREYTAG: Sorry, this is Mary.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, yep.

44

45 MS. FREYTAG: If I could get that
46 updated agenda emailed to me, please. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any other
49 Council besides Mary that don't have one.

50

0014

1 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, this is
2 Leland. All that stuff came with our meeting materials
3 or is it separate?

4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, Katya, how
6 recent is the new agenda, I didn't get that.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: Well, because of the
9 change in the Council Coordinator we had the updated
10 agenda very recently. So to answer your question,
11 Leland, the in packet you have you have the old agenda.
12 I can read into the record the changes to the new
13 agenda if it's okay with you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think that would be
16 helpful so that everybody is on the same page here, we
17 can just write it in.

18
19 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, so under the old
20 business we moved some reports from the agency report
21 section under the old business.

22
23 So No. 10A will be Western Arctic
24 Caribou Herd overview. ADF&G will present it, Alex
25 Hansen.

26
27 Then under 10B we're going to have
28 Western Arctic Caribou Herd update from the NPS, Letty
29 Hughes.

30
31 Then the item that was already on the
32 agenda, closure WSA21-01(a) request, that's a deferred
33 request. You already have that.

34
35 And then No. D is the joint draft
36 letter from all the Yukon Councils to the North Pacific
37 Fisheries Management Council on bycatch. That will be
38 for Council consideration, if they want to sign on to
39 this letter and, you know, add anything to it.

40
41 Then No. 10E will be 2021 Council
42 charter changes overview.

43
44 In the new business, 11A will be
45 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update.

46
47 No. B call for the fish and shellfish
48 proposals.

49
50

0015

1 No. C fisheries closure review
2 discussion.

3
4 No. D call for nonrural determination
5 proposals.

6
7 No. E review and approve FY21 annual
8 report.

9
10 No. F special wildlife action request
11 WSA22-01 regarding Federal muskox permit system.

12
13 No. G fisheries temporary special
14 actions, actually -- FSA22-01, 02 and 03 and 04,
15 question for the Yukon River chinook and chum salmon
16 fisheries.

17
18 Then it will be after that the Federal
19 Subsistence Board reply process review.

20
21 No. I receiving public testimony
22 protocol.

23
24 No. J briefing and Council comments on
25 the proposed action to automate Federal subsistence
26 permits.

27
28 No. K will be briefing on the
29 Secretarial regulations proposals inclusion of
30 identified submerged lands in the Tongass National
31 Forest.

32
33 Then under agency reports it's all the
34 same reports except for the ones that were moved under
35 the old business.

36
37 So that concludes an overview of the
38 updates to the agenda that is published online and we
39 can email or fax the updated agenda to the Council
40 members if they don't have access to the web.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Katya. Are
45 there any Council members that are requesting any
46 copies of the new updated that we voted in, please
47 speak up on how to get it to you.

48
49 (No comments)

50

0016

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, Katya, I
2 think everybody's in line with what you brought to the
3 table so they can make the corrections with their pen.
4 So that brings us down to reports. Council member
5 reports. We'll start with Elmer.

6
7 Before I go there, Elmer, hang on, is
8 Deahl on yet -- or no he's on a trip to Anchorage --
9 sorry. Okay, go ahead, Elmer, thank you.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't know if he can
14 hear me or if he's online. Elmer, we're looking at
15 Council member reports going around the table.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We'll move on to
20 Leland.

21
22 MR. OYOUNICK: Yeah, good morning
23 everyone, this is Leland in Unalakleet.

24
25 Fishing was real poor. The silvers
26 never showed up in large numbers, chums never showed
27 up, kings -- there were some kings -- more -- I think
28 there were more kings than silvers, but I don't know.
29 But there's a lot of humpies. We had some smelts, not
30 a whole lot but the weird thing about this is there's
31 not very much Tomcods and the Tomcods there are are not
32 very big, and like immature.

33
34 But moose hunting was good. And I
35 don't know about bear hunting, I never pay attention.

36
37 But weather again is different and
38 weird sometimes and even raining when it shouldn't be
39 but it's always weather.

40
41 And pretty much that's all what I have.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.
44 That's an observation out of Unalakleet. I'd like to
45 go to Mary.

46
47 MS. FREYTAG: Good morning. This is my
48 first meeting and Leland Oyoumick pretty much covered
49 everything for Unalakleet. Thank you.

50

0017

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
2 Mary. We go to Ron Kirk.

3
4 MR. KIRK: Good morning. Yeah, our
5 winter's been weird this year. We have all our Flats
6 is filled with ice from all that rain we had last month
7 so I'm cautious and I'm letting these young hunters
8 that are getting ready to go out to be careful out
9 there because of air pockets on the Flats. It's all
10 filled with water and ice that -- after that rain we
11 had a couple months it just iced up all over the Flats.
12 I had a rough time on search and rescue about four days
13 ago to go look for my oldest son, it was very slippery
14 and dangerous out there with snowmachines. Me and my
15 third oldest son took off with two snowmachines and we
16 had a hard time trying to manoeuver around out there
17 because of the slipperiness.

18
19 So as far as moose hunting goes, that's
20 been our problem there is we had a lot of rain and we
21 couldn't harvest any moose when it was open season,
22 when it was open for us so we didn't do any moose
23 hunting this year because of all that.

24
25 Other than that it's been a mild
26 winter.

27
28 Thank you, good morning.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. I'll
31 call on Robert Moses.

32
33 MR. MOSES: Hi. I'm Robert Moses.
34 There hasn't been a lot of Tomcods this year. There
35 were some silvers but not as many as years back.

36
37 We had a lot of wind this year and some
38 high water.

39
40 Other than that it's been kind of warm
41 sometimes, and cold. We got a lot of wind this year
42 this time especially from the south.

43
44 Crabbing has been stopped for awhile.
45 Silver salmon hasn't been as good as it was before,
46 along with the pink and silvers, our chum salmon.

47
48 Other than that it's been -- people
49 have been moose hunting too and no caribou around this
50

0018

1 area. Last year they had to go all the way past
2 (Indiscernible - cuts out - muffled) to get caribou
3 from here.

4
5 Haven't been much smelt either. And
6 the fish -- some people got silver salmon last year,
7 there was some boils and sores on them. Some had like
8 rashes. And along with the chum there were a few that
9 were not as good looking as how they are, or used to
10 be.

11
12 But that's all I have from Golovin.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robert. So
17 next on the list here is Martin.

18
19 MR. AUKONGAK: I guess Robert pretty
20 much said everything. No caribou. My caribou I got
21 from Wainwright last week. People been getting moose,
22 you know, in the fall and then they open up in January
23 again. A lot of bears were right before freeze up
24 there. Trapping is a little bit slower than last year
25 but I got some friends who did get wolverine.

26
27 Crab is better than a year ago but
28 after this little rain, I just went out with Davis
29 Lincoln yesterday and there was nothing in his crab
30 pot. So maybe got to put the crab pots a little
31 further out due to the freshwater.

32
33 There's a lot of rabbits. I seen a
34 squirrel two days ago, that's quite early.

35
36 People been getting trout at our camp.
37 And like he said there's no Tomcod until a little bit
38 later on and after freeze-up.

39
40 But for me it's been a real cold winter
41 but now it's definitely warmed up.

42
43 And that's all I have.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Martin. I
46 don't know if we have Elmer on.

47
48 MR. SEETOT: Elmer on. I've been
49 having phone issues ever since this morning. I
50

0019

1 (indiscernible - breaking up) around Igloo Creek and
2 American River where the caribou are at right now I
3 think they're trying to move from (indiscernible -
4 breaking up).

5

6 We have had some real cold spell from
7 December to maybe to the present due to the high
8 pressure (indiscernible - breaking up) huge strong
9 winds east from the north. Sea ice cover will help the
10 birds where we go last year, last year they were kind
11 of dying (indiscernible - breaking up) for these little
12 critters right from the start.

13

14 Other than that our snow cover is
15 pretty hard. We have had two rain days during these
16 winter months so everything is starting to melt very
17 fast.

18

19 I hope everyone has a good season
20 wherever they are. That's my report.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

25

26 MS. FREYTAG: Thanks, Elmer.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: As folks around the
29 Sound have commented, it wasn't any different in the
30 Nome area. The salmon runs were very poor. I had
31 heard some reports on Tomcod but I wasn't sure where
32 they were at. They were either late or no Tomcod.

33

34 The moose season, I think 22D, where I
35 hunted in there lasted until the 5th and last year it
36 was only until the 3rd and so it stretched out a little
37 bit longer and took longer for the harvest and my
38 hunting family group here were able to take a moose.
39 There were a lot of folks that didn't. And, you know,
40 I really wonder how long we're going to allow this to
41 take place and not do something like Unalakleet, go
42 into having a moratorium. But I understand how people
43 need food, need their meat but it's very competitive
44 out there and there's people that spend thousands of
45 dollars out there that don't recover that year to year.

46

47 Caribou, I heard that they're off to
48 the end of the Kougarak Road as of late. And I haven't
49 heard of any real heavy hunting on caribou out of the

50

0020

1 Nome area other than long distance.

2

3 I think there was a successful beluga
4 hunting season in the fall. I was unable to take part
5 in it this year but I heard good reports from some of
6 the younger hunters that did well.

7

8 I suppose that the season was, you
9 know, it was a late fall and then we got into this
10 harsh cold.

11

12 I see some crabbers out there,
13 subsistence crabbers that are bringing in a few of the
14 crab now. There hasn't been a commercial season buyer
15 during the season for two seasons now and I think
16 that's going on in the winter crab fishery right now,
17 there's no buyer. So we're seeing some subsistence
18 catches. I see it on Facebook.

19

20 I don't know what the bear pressure was
21 this year. I haven't followed up on it to see how many
22 were hunted, or taken in the fall hunt. On our
23 ventures for the fall hunt this year, I saw
24 (indiscernible - breaking up) but no critters in the
25 raw, no bears out there, didn't sight any.

26

27 So I think that's all I have to offer
28 for the Chairman's report.

29

30 Are there any others on the Council
31 that had anything else to say, please feel free for a
32 minute.

33

34 MR. MOSES: This is Robert Moses. I
35 forgot to add that in the fall too, (indiscernible -
36 breaking up) once the freeze -- the ice freezes a lot
37 seals go west after go and rest on the ice and over the
38 years we seen pretty much decline in seals that go in
39 on the ice and there's just a few bunches here and, I
40 don't know, it used to be like black up around the --
41 you know, there was so many our bay would be just black
42 across the bay and now a days there's like not as many
43 as there used to be. You could really see the decline
44 in the seals here in our bay and like four or five
45 years ago that's when we noticed that they started
46 getting sick with them, losing their fur, having black
47 skin after the fur comes off, we ran into seals like
48 that and we caught seals that were sick, hard of
49 breathing, that didn't breath and we just left them

50

0021

1 alone and didn't touch them. But we sure could see the
2 decline in seals in our bay and everybody notices it.
3 Because it was a big sight to see, you know, long ago,
4 you know, that many seals on the ice in the bay but now
5 a days there's not as many as there used to be, maybe
6 because due to the lack of food in the ocean for the
7 seals to eat, fish, like they say there's no Tomcods,
8 and that might be the primary source of their food that
9 brings them into the bay and that's when fall time you
10 start Tomcodding and (indiscernible) people would catch
11 500 to 1,000 Tomcods, what they relied on for winter
12 subsistence to eat, you know. And like Louis said, you
13 know, that they need their food.

14

15 And it must be that way with the oogruk
16 population too, I'm not sure. We get some oogruks here
17 in the bay. And I just forgot to mention about the
18 seals.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robert.
23 Are there any other Council to add to what they.....

24

25 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary Freytag. I
26 just wanted to point out the rain that we had towards
27 the end of December and the beginning of January, it
28 was quite the warm weather that we were having. In
29 fact, my older sister was able to capture two five
30 gallon buckets of rain water during this winter so, you
31 know, that just goes to show how much the weather
32 changes from way below zero to really warm weather.

33

34 And speaking of the Chair's moose
35 population and harvesting and talking about our past
36 moratorium. I just wanted to say that Ahtna people,
37 they had -- they were allocated like 109 moose and the
38 tribe was only able to harvest nine and the other 100
39 went to outside hunters so they ended up going to the
40 Federal government and winning on their tribal
41 allocation. They have their own tribal allocation with
42 no outsiders to be bothered with.

43

44 Thank you. I just wanted to share
45 that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary. Any
48 other Council, please speak up, anything to add.

49

50

0022

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, thank
4 you folks for your Council reports. It's important to
5 have this stuff documented. It tells the tale and it
6 lets the managers know that the eyes on the ground are
7 paying attention and we're passing information to them.

8

9

10 So this moves us on down to public and
11 tribal comment on non-agenda items. I think this will
12 be available on each morning. If we carry into
13 tomorrow, that'll be another opening for that. So at
14 this time if there's anybody on the phone with the
15 public or tribal on non-agenda items, please feel free
16 to take the floor. I'd like to hear from you.

16

17

18

MR. KIRK: Excuse me, Mr. Chair, Ron
Kirk, Stebbins.

19

20

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

21

22

23

24

MR. KIRK: Hey, did anybody make a
motion to approve the meeting minutes from the previous
meeting.

25

26

(No comments)

27

28

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, I'm not.....

29

30

REPORTER: No.

31

32

CHAIRMAN GREEN:sure, let me.....

33

34

35

36

MS. WESSELS: Oh, yeah, Mr. Chair,
this is Katya. We kind of skipped over that agenda
item and I apologize for not reminding you about it.

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, it's not on
there.

40

41

(Laughter)

42

43

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well.....

44

45

46

MS. WESSELS: It's right before the
reports.

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I didn't see -- oh,
it's review and approve previous -- sorry, yes, that is

0023

1 in there and I skipped over it, I was a little over
2 zealous trying to hear the reports I guess. So under
3 Item 7 let's go back. Ron, thanks for pointing that
4 out.

5
6 MR. KIRK: You didn't have enough
7 coffee Louis.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Not enough coffee.
12 Too much talking, I can't drink it.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So let's go back and
17 review and approve previous minutes. I'll give
18 everybody about five minutes here at this time. It's
19 9:52, so 9:57 we'll pick it up and vote to approve.
20 Yeah, so go ahead Council take a brief moment to check
21 your previous minutes.

22
23 (Pause)

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, it is 9:57. So
26 if there are any changes, or comments or concerns of
27 Council members under review and approval of the
28 previous meeting minutes could you please speak up at
29 this time.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, I would
34 ask for a motion to approve and a second.

35
36 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk moves.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. A
39 second.

40
41 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. All
44 those in favor of approval of the previous meeting
45 minutes please say aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against,
50

0024

1 same sign.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, previous meeting minutes approved. Thank you, Council. So that moves us down to No. 9 public and tribal comment on non-agenda items. So if there's anybody on the phone from the public I would ask that you open your mic and you have the floor.

10

11

12

(No comments)

13

14

CHAIRMAN GREEN: If there are any tribal comments on non-agenda items please speak up now. We'll have another comment period tomorrow if we need it.

17

18

19

(No comments)

20

21

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, Katya, I think that the No. 9 item there is done so we'll move on to old business, No. 10 and down to.....

23

24

25

MS. WESSELS: Yes, Mr.....

26

27

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead. Go ahead, Katya.

28

29

30

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, you know, the next item will be the old business No. A, Western Arctic Caribou Herd overview presented by ADF&G Alex Hansen. Is Alex online.

31

32

33

34

35

MR. BURCH: Through the Chair, Mr. Chair. Katya. This is Mark Burch with the Department of Fish and Game. Alex is not online at the moment, he's traveling and will be available later. But Nicole Edmison is prepared to give that presentation update on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

Thank you.

43

44

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Please, you have the floor, Nicole, thank you.

45

46

47

MS. EDMISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can everybody hear me all right?

48

49

50

0025

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Five by five on mine.

2

3 MS. EDMISON: All right, good news.

4 So, yes, thanks for having me today. Alex, as Mark

5 said, is in transit back to the office from Anchorage.

6 So, yeah, I'll just give you kind of an overview of

7 what's been happening recently and put that into a

8 little context for everybody. I think the PDF -- I

9 think you have a PDF of this presentation available for

10 folks but I'll try and tell you what slide we're on. I

11 apologize for not having numbers on the slides, I'll

12 just read the head er on each slide before I start

13 talking about it.

14

15 So as you can see, this is an overview

16 of the Western Arctic Herd. I'll talk a bit about

17 abundance and talk about the other things, additional

18 biological surveys that we get data from and then

19 we'll talk about some management and then we'll move on

20 to things we don't know, that we really would like to

21 know, and then we'll move on to variation and

22 availability and then sum it up and be done.

23

24 So this is an amalgamation of

25 presentations that Alex has given in the past so some

26 of you might have already heard this information,

27 apologize for that, but here we go.

28

29 So the second slide.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nicole.

32

33 MS. EDMISON:is called -- what's

34 that?

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, can you direct

37 the Council where to look and follow.

38

39 MS. EDMISON: Yes. Well, actually.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just to be sure

42 everybody's on the same page.

43

44 MS. FREYTAG: Tab 7 for us.

45

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

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Katya.

49

50

0026

1 MS. WESSELS: Yes, the Council should
2 have these materials under Tab No.12 in their meeting
3 materials, and this is also published on our website
4 under Seward Peninsula RAC meeting materials page. So
5 Council members please look under Tab No. 12.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, ladies, so
8 go.....

9
10 MS. FREYTAG: There's also information
11 under Tab 7.

12
13 MS. EDMISON: Yeah, thank you for that.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

16
17 MS. EDMISON: Sorry, I apologize I
18 should have asked for that direction in the beginning
19 there. I'll give everybody a minute to get on the same
20 page and then when I resume we'll be on slide No. 2,
21 WAH abundance. Okay if I carry on.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, go ahead, please
24 do Nicole.

25
26 MS. EDMISON: Okay. Right. So slide
27 2, WAH abundance. We did -- we were able to carry out
28 a photo census this year in July. And the number we
29 came up with was 188,000 caribou plus or minus like
30 12,000. So that is down quite a bit from the last
31 photo census, which was 244,000, that was in 2019. And
32 it's kind of been a downward trend for awhile.

33
34 And if we move on to the third slide,
35 WAH abundance graph, you'll be able to see the
36 population numbers that we have since the late '70s.
37 So you'll notice that in, you know, in 1975 the herd
38 was way, way down, you know, between 50 and 100,000
39 which is critically low for these parts and then it
40 shot way up into the 450,000 plus range in the late
41 '90s and early 2000s and then since then it's been
42 creeping back down to where we are now down to 188,000.

43
44 So that's -- I mean caribou are
45 cyclical animals, they do have cyclical population
46 trends and -- but it is definitely we're keeping an eye
47 on and we're concerned about for sure.

48
49 So if we move on to Slide 4, what's
50

0027

1 called Calving.

2

3

4 So do a lot of other biological
5 monitoring besides from just the population -- the
6 photo census. So we go out to the calving ground in
7 spring and figure out how many females are actually
8 having babies, and we call that parturition, and this
9 year you'll see on this graph you'll see it was about
10 68 percent of the females up there had calves, which is
11 below average. It's a little bit low long-term average
12 of 70 percent so, you know, it's kind of hovering
13 around that 70 percent, it has been for a very long
14 time. So that's not terribly alarming but definitely
15 something to keep in mind.

15

16 Another thing we do is we keep tabs on
17 the -- the next slide is called Recruitment.

18

19 So recruitment and you'll see the term,
20 short-yearling recruitment on the top of the slide.
21 That just means the animals that were -- that survived
22 that first year of life.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nicole.

25

26 MS. EDMISON: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, this is Louis.
29 So on this -- you're talking about this low average, 70
30 percent or less.....

31

32 MS. EDMISON: Uh-huh.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What is -- and that's
35 -- that's based on the calving on the grounds, calving
36 grounds and then you talked about the yearling survey.

37

38 MS. EDMISON: Uh-huh.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are you seeing this as
41 a food problem or is it a predation problem?

42

43 MS. EDMISON: Yeah, that's something
44 we're not -- we're not sure of. That's a very good
45 question. That's definitely one of the things that
46 we're trying to work out at this point. That -- you
47 know the calving rate hasn't been low for very long so
48 it just -- it could be a lot of things, you know, it
49 could be -- it could have something to do with changes
50

0028

1 in climate, it could -- yeah, it could be food, it
2 could be related to the change in climate and if it
3 gets warmer sometimes there's more insect harassment
4 which is problematic and it's just -- as Alex likes to
5 say it's kind of death by a thousand cuts. There is so
6 many variables and we're trying to figure out what the
7 most important ones are and whether or not we can do
8 anything about those, you know. Did that answer your
9 question?

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, but it gives an
12 idea of where Fish and Game is at at this time.

13

14 MS. EDMISON: Right. Yeah.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

17

18 MS. EDMISON: Yeah. So short answer,
19 we don't know.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So no bear
22 surveys, no wolf surveys, no understanding of what's
23 going on out on the grounds at this time?

24

25 MS. EDMISON: Well, there -- during the
26 calving survey we do keep an eye on predators on the
27 landscape. And I'm going to say table any talk about
28 that until Alex gets here because I haven't actually --
29 I've only been here since -- working here since July so
30 I don't have a good handle on, you know, kind of the
31 incidental stuff that happens during that survey.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you.

34

35 MS. EDMISON: So I'll -- yeah, I'll
36 write that question down and hopefully Alex can get you
37 a better idea of that.

38

39 Okay, so where are we, recruitment.
40 The fifth slide entitled Recruitment. So, yeah, this
41 is addressing how many calves make it to their --
42 through their first year of life. We're right -- we're
43 right at the long-term average so we're not too worried
44 about calf survival in that respect.

45

46 Adult survival, on the other hand,
47 adult female survival is a bit below average, it's at
48 73 percent and the long-term average is 81 percent. So
49 that's definitely something that we are trying to get a
50

0029

1 better handle on as well. As everyone knows the
2 females are what makes more caribou so when they're not
3 surviving that can have -- that can take its toll for
4 sure.

5
6 So moving on -- I don't know what
7 happened to this slide but it's supposed to say: Fall
8 Composition, but the photo got stuck over the title.
9 It's got some caribou running from left to right on the
10 top. So in the fall, when we assume the herds are
11 relatively evenly mixed we locate big chunks of them
12 and try to figure out what the herd composition is and
13 we've been pretty successful at getting those numbers
14 -- figuring out a long-term average. And that ratio,
15 the bull to cow ratio has been on a bit of an incline
16 over the last -- since 2000, so we're not too worried
17 about that, fairly steady, a bit above the long-term
18 average that we would be worried about. Anything below
19 30 bulls per cow would be worrisome but we're at 47
20 right now. So we're all right with that. And,
21 anecdotally, it's not data we actually take but during
22 this composition survey we observed all age classes of
23 bulls represented in the herd so it -- the herd was
24 pretty healthy in that respect.

25
26 So moving on to Cause and Mortality.

27
28 We have this graph that looks at known
29 causes or unknown -- or what we think is going on with
30 mortality for collared animals. So we have -- in red
31 we have hunter caused mortality for collared animals,
32 grey we have unknown, and blue we have predation. And
33 these are just collared animals that we get to the site
34 and we give our best go at figuring out how they died.
35 And as you can see there's a lot of unknown here. And
36 predation is also kind of a bit wobbly too because
37 sometimes maybe they died of disease or they were old
38 and weak and then they were taken by predators so that
39 one is -- we are working actually -- one of our
40 objectives currently is to get to collared mortalities
41 more quickly and that'll just help us -- help us get to
42 the seen and get any information we can more quickly
43 and hopefully shrink that grey zone of unknown.

44
45 So the next slide is Population Trend.

46
47 It's kind of a funny graph if you can
48 see it but so when you're comparing cow survival and
49 calf recruitment, we can gain a better understanding of
50

0030

1 population trajectory. On the far left of this graph
2 during years of growth, cow mortality is low and calf
3 recruitment is high so the relative difference between
4 those two measures translates into positive growth.
5 And then you'll see this middle zone where it's
6 neutral, there is, you know, kind of a bit of equal ups
7 and downs for both recruitment and mortality. And then
8 you'll see the opposite at the beginning where we have
9 -- where we have high -- higher cow mortality and lower
10 calf recruitment and that results in a population
11 decline. So that's just kind of one of the weird ways
12 that we try to wrap our brains around what's going on.

13

14 So moving on to Management Level

15 Overview.

16

17 You see this table that's out of the
18 Western Arctic Herd Working Group Cooperative
19 Management Plan and it's -- I think it was published --
20 I think the last one was in 2019 and these are that
21 working group's harvest recommendations for population
22 levels with a few caveats in terms of other biological
23 measures. So as of now, based on our previous photo
24 census and -- and biological measures we are in
25 conservative declining management level. And based on
26 the new photo census we will be in the yellow zone,
27 below that, preservative declining.

28

29 And I'll explain a little bit more
30 about that in the next slide, Management Levels.

31

32 So the current -- the current suite of
33 management levels, which is conservative management we
34 -- the -- the recommendation is to encourage voluntary
35 reduction in calf -- calf harvest, no non-resident cow
36 harvest, restrict non-resident bull harvest, encourage
37 voluntary reduction in resident cow harvest, and limit
38 subsistence harvest of bulls only if less than 30 bulls
39 per 100 cows. But as you'll recall from the previous
40 fall composition surveys we're well above that 30 bulls
41 per cows [sic], so there's no restriction on that in
42 terms of their recommendation. So the new population
43 census puts us into this preservative management
44 recommendation and the recommendations include no
45 harvest of calves, limit harvest of cows by residents
46 through permit hunts and/or village quotas, limit
47 subsistence harvest of bulls to maintain at least 30
48 bulls to 100 cows, which again we're well above that,
49 and harvest restricted to residents only according to

50

0031

1 the State and Federal laws, and closure of some Federal
2 public lands may be necessary.

3

4 So moving on to WAH Management Slide.

5

6 The Western Arctic Herd has kept a
7 positive.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So Nicole.....

10

11 MS. EDMISON:and traditional
12 finding -- what's that?

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, this is Louis,
15 Nicole.

16

17 MS. EDMISON: Yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I wanted to bring back
20 to the.....

21

22 MS. EDMISON: Yeah.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN:preservative
25 management and that's where you're at at this time with
26 the State?

27

28 MS. EDMISON: Yeah, so the new -- these
29 are just recommendations from the -- from the -- from
30 the working group and it doesn't -- it doesn't change
31 anything obviously -- I think probably mostly everyone
32 on this call understands the new -- actually new
33 management -- management regulations, that takes some
34 time to get into place and so based on this -- the new
35 -- the newest photo census, the recommendation of the
36 working group will be to -- to move into this preserve
37 -- preservative harvest and management level.

38

39 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary. Once that
40 recommendation is made, how long does that take to go
41 into effect?

42

43 MS. EDMISON: You know that is a good
44 question. I -- I want to say about two years but I
45 could be wrong. I -- I'm -- I don't have that in my
46 head, that's another Alex question, I'll write that
47 down.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Maybe Bill Dunker

50

0032

1 could answer that.

2

3

MS. EDMISON: Yeah, good job.....

4

5

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Bill Dunker.

6

7

MS. EDMISON: Bill.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No Dunker, Bill this
10 is Louis, are you online.

11

12 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, good morning, Louis.
13 This is Bill Dunker with Fish and Game.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, great. I guess
16 the question is about the preservative management.
17 Council Member Mary Freytag asked how long it takes for
18 it to take into effect, for the process. Mary, could
19 you please state your question again, I don't know if
20 Bill heard it.

21

22 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, I sure can. Thank
23 you. Once a recommendation is made, I was just
24 wondering how long before it goes into effect and which
25 office makes that declaration. Thank you.

26

27 MR. DUNKER: So Mr. Chair, I think that
28 question would probably be better answered by Phil
29 Perry or Tony. I think that if they're.....

30

31

MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah.

32

33 MR. DUNKER:on the line, they
34 might be better folks to talk to regarding that issue,
35 or question.

36

37 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair, this
38 is Lisa Grediagin, I can address that question as well.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, please do.

41

42 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. For the record,
43 this is Lisa Grediagin with OSM. And the preservative
44 management and the associated recommendations are from
45 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Ground. So
46 those are just recommendations from the working group
47 and for any regulatory changes to occur based on those
48 recommendations a proposal would need to be submitted
49 to either the Board of Game to make a change under
50

0033

1 State regulations or the Federal Subsistence Board for
2 a change under Federal regulations. And at the working
3 group meeting in December, the members -- oh, hold on
4 I'm being told I have an echo, is this any better --
5 okay, I'll try this, I think sometimes there's an echo
6 when people don't have their phones on mute. But
7 anyway there was some discussion about this at the
8 working group meeting in December and at that meeting
9 the working group members decided they weren't ready to
10 submit any proposals yet and that it would be at least
11 a two year time lag before they could submit on to the
12 Board of Game. They'd either have to submit on as an
13 agenda change request next year or the following year
14 would then that actual region would come under the
15 Board of Game process. And then for the Federal side
16 they'd either have to submit a special action or submit
17 a proposal next year when the call for wildlife
18 proposals opens again.

19

20 So I know that was a lot so let me know
21 if there are any other followup questions or
22 clarifications or if someone else from ADF&G is online
23 to clarify the State process more, feel free to jump in
24 as well.

25

26 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Lisa. So I
29 guess the working group has made a determination that
30 they suggest that this thing needs to be changed into a
31 preservative management scheme, so why are they
32 hesitant to putting anything out of cycle before the
33 State? Did they have any reasoning, or before the
34 Feds?

35

36 MS. EDMISON: So as Lisa was -- thanks
37 for some of that clarity Lisa. So as Lisa was saying
38 during the meeting there was obviously a lot of
39 discussion about this but there wasn't quite any
40 resolution about what exactly they should do. There
41 was definitely a feeling that something should be done
42 but I think we kind of ran out of time in that meeting
43 and weren't able to come up with a real plan of action
44 there. And, yeah -- yeah, I'm not -- I'm not sure if
45 there's a way to kind of move something into that
46 agenda change item so that it can happen sooner than
47 two years down the line.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Well, thank

50

0034

1 you. I kind of get grumpy when I see something like
2 this. They're going to say that they're -- this is the
3 WACH group now. This is all entities involved, Federal
4 and State, and the ADF -- Committee -- I find it kind
5 of remarkable that they haven't asserted -- this
6 caribou herd is down and I don't understand why they
7 wouldn't come forward with something. Is there anybody
8 with ADF&G that could tell me why they haven't done
9 anything? They're supposed to be the big dogs in the
10 game here and we never really hear from them very often
11 and now we're hearing all of a sudden they want this
12 preservative -- that we are saying that after our
13 reviews of things here that we suggest something. If
14 they're supposed to be the big dogs in the game here,
15 why aren't they mandating something and putting a
16 proposal ahead out of cycle.

17
18 Is there anybody at ADF&G who could
19 tell me why not, why they haven't, please?

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair, this
24 is Lisa. I'm with OSM, not ADF&G. But there was
25 discussion during the working group meeting to limit
26 cow harvest and there was a motion put on the floor for
27 a resolution to limit cow harvest since that can really
28 affect the trajectory of the herd but it actually
29 failed. And some -- there was some optimism among some
30 working group members and Staff that calf recruitment
31 was looking pretty good so they were thinking maybe
32 wait one more season to get another photo census
33 estimate before making recommendations on regulatory
34 changes and I think they also recognized how long it
35 could take for those regulatory changes to occur, just
36 based on the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence
37 Board cycle. And, again, if anyone else has any more
38 to add, those are just my recollections from the
39 meeting. And Tom Gray is on that working group and
40 obviously he's not in attendance at your Council
41 meeting, but he is on both the working group and the
42 Council.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair.

47
48 MS. BRAEM: Mr. Chair.

49
50

0035

1 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch from
2 Fish and Game.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you, Lisa.
5 Mark, go ahead and speak. Is there somebody else
6 trying to break in here, hold on Mark, I don't
7 know.....

8
9 MS. BRAEM: Yes, this is Nikki Braem at
10 BELA, but I'll go on after Mark Burch. Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you,
13 Nikki. Mark, go ahead you have the floor.

14
15 MR. BURCH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To
16 start with, I'd like to thank Lisa for kind of lining
17 out both the Federal and State timeframes that we're on
18 currently on on our normal cycles. That was helpful.
19 And I think it's fair to say that we have this two year
20 cycle on the Federal, a three year cycle on the State
21 side and that's normally how we regulate hunts and
22 fisheries depending on the various responsibilities of
23 the Boards and the agencies. And within that we do
24 have various processes for emergency situations. And
25 clearly there's no consensus at this point among the
26 working group, the State managers, Federal managers and
27 the Regional Advisory Councils on just where we should
28 go, at this point, to limit harvest, and that's what
29 this public process is about. It's not really clear
30 that we need to step in and, for instance, stop
31 harvest. But there is -- there are mixed signals and
32 there is some definite concern about cow harvest and
33 there's been some discussion, certainly in all those
34 groups about where to go with cow harvest and that's
35 really what's on the table here I think.

36
37 And, you know, our role is to sustain
38 -- sustained yield management and it's called for in
39 the Constitution for the State and, of course, just
40 assuming that responsibility through ANILCA on the
41 Federal side. So that's really why we're here, to hear
42 your perspective and to move forward from there.

43
44 So it's not to say that we couldn't
45 implement an emergency or an agenda change request
46 through the State process but we're not there yet,
47 we're not necessarily convinced that that's the
48 appropriate thing to do at this time.

49
50

0036

1 Thank you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,
4 Mark. That's the same way we handled salmon and that's
5 a picture. That's not a good picture. So I'm
6 concerned that nobody is stepping up and waiving the
7 red flag really hard. There's a lot of people that
8 depend on these animals and subsistence is what we're
9 here about, should be held to the highest and I know
10 the State likes to deal with this commercial side of
11 things. But when these numbers show up like this, and
12 a body of people that are like in charge, like off on
13 the other side over there are recommending something, I
14 would think that they would want to drive a little bit
15 harder to their point and try to make some action take
16 place. It sounds like we're just drifting along and
17 waiting to see what's going to happen into the next
18 year. Kneejerk -- I get it, kneejerk decisions aren't
19 good but we've been watching this decline over time.

20

21 So that's what strikes me in the gut
22 there, that maybe we're not doing enough.

23

24 So anyway I don't like to get off like
25 this and I apologize if anybody takes it the wrong way
26 but I -- over the long term we're seeing things fall
27 apart and we're still waiting to -- willing to wait and
28 the group that has been watching this for so long is
29 only making a recommendation. But thank you for any
30 help you can give us on this discussion.

31

32 If there is anybody else I think.....

33

34 MS. BRAEM: Mr. Chair.

35

36 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Who is this?

39

40 MS. FREYTAG: Mary Freytag.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, go ahead, Mary.

43

44 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, kind of a question
45 towards Mark and also I really want to thank you for
46 your concern about these recommendations and I was just
47 wondering how often and when do the State and Federal
48 meet to discuss the necessary recommendations. And
49 obviously it doesn't need to be an emergency meeting
50

0037

1 but I -- it would be really nice to see their timelines
2 and when they actually meet to discuss these
3 recommendations that everyone has put on the table.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mark. Thank
10 you, Mary.

11
12 MR. BURCH: Yeah, just starting with
13 Mary's question, you know, I'm operating at a statewide
14 level and I'm not involved on the ground day to day
15 like Alex and Nicole and certainly many others from
16 various Federal agencies, including Park Service,
17 especially, as far as this particular herd goes. But
18 the people on the field -- or in the field regularly
19 talk to each other formally and informally as they work
20 together to manage and especially to monitor the herd
21 and that kind of thing and so that happens on a very
22 regular basis.

23
24 I guess I would suggest at this point
25 that we focus on the biology of what we know about this
26 herd, its population level, and allow Nicole to talk
27 about the biology from the Department of Fish and
28 Game's perspective and then after we've heard the other
29 reports, then suggest maybe that we engage -- and
30 certainly we're here to be a part of the discussions
31 but mostly to listen to what the Council believes we
32 should do going from here.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mark.

37
38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

41
42 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa Grediagin.
43 And just to respond to Mary's question on the Federal
44 side, I understand this is her first meeting so it's a
45 high learning curve, but on the Federal side you can
46 submit proposals to change wildlife regulations every
47 other year and so next year will be the call for
48 wildlife proposals. This -- right now it's the call
49 for fisheries proposals and it's an every other year
50

0038

1 cycle for fish and wildlife. And so hopefully that
2 answers your question about this timeline for
3 submitting proposals to change Federal regulations and
4 then in the short term you can always submit a special
5 action as a temporary change.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MS. FREYTAG: Thank you, Lisa for that
10 information.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. So
13 any other Council, questions, comments or concerns.

14
15 MR. MOSES: This is Robert Moses. I
16 had a question for Fish and Game. A few years back,
17 you know, I hunted caribou myself for subsistence and
18 for my family and others. And a few times we caught
19 caribou that were -- had sand-papery like skin between
20 the skin and the meat. I was wondering if Fish and
21 Game did any blood work or take any pictures or hear
22 anything from other hunters about symptoms with caribou
23 that had like sandpaper when they start skinning them.
24 And we found some sores on other caribou also before
25 and we just left them alone because they didn't look
26 too good to eat. There was like boils and sores. And
27 what other symptoms that other hunters reported to Fish
28 and Game, and I was wondering if they did field work on
29 the field by taking samples of blood work and that kind
30 of stuff to see if that's causing the mortality rate to
31 deteriorate. That's my question.

32
33 MS. EDMISON: Yeah, thanks. That's a
34 really good question. That is. So the specific
35 situation you're talking about with that weird texture,
36 that's usually a symptom of severe atrophy. Like the
37 animal has just used all of its resources and its body
38 is basically eating itself at that point. But in the
39 larger picture of things we are ramping up our -- we
40 have done health monitoring over the long-term and
41 we're considering some other monitoring measures this
42 year as well. So we are ramping that up to see if
43 there's some health situation that we're missing,
44 whether it's -- whether it's virus, bacteria, some
45 trace mineral situation, the environment, we -- yeah,
46 we're trying to work on that some more as well.

47
48 But thanks for that question for sure.

49
50

0039

1 So then.....

2

3 MR. OYOUNICK: Hey, Louis, this is
4 Leland.

5

6 MS. EDMISON: What's that?

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We have a Council
9 member asking a question. Go ahead.

10

11 MR. OYOUNICK: That very same thing
12 what Robert was talking about is I was wondering back
13 in the '80s and I never got an answer back so that's a
14 very, very good question. Thank you, Robert.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.
17 Okay, go ahead.

18

19 MS. EDMISON: Yeah. Yeah, and it -- it
20 makes sense that you would see really atrophy animals
21 down there in the southern part of their range because,
22 you know, they've used up all of their energy a lot of
23 times and if the forage hasn't been great that's likely
24 to happen, especially down there in the bottom part of
25 the range.

26

27 So is it okay to finish up the last few
28 slides in the presentation?

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

31

32 MS. EDMISON: I think it'll be a little
33 bit more information that'll -- that'll kind of.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: My apologies for the
36 distraction there.

37

38 MS. EDMISON: Yeah, no worries.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sorry about that.

41

42 MS. EDMISON: No.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: But just kind of
45 caught me sideways, I don't usually go there.

46

47 MS. EDMISON: Yeah, no -- no, you're
48 the Chairman, you get to run the meeting how you want.
49 No worries at all.

50

0040

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, proceed please.

2

3 MS. EDMISON: Okay, so -- what's that?

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry, I said

6 proceed please, thank you.

7

8 MS. EDMISON: Oh, okay, yeah. Thank

9 you. So I think we were on the WAH management slide.

10 And this is where we kind of get to this, the data gap

11 problem, right. So amount necessary for subsistence

12 for both -- for the herd is eight to 12,000 and we

13 estimate the annual harvest at around 12,000 but we

14 really do not have a good handle on the annual harvest.

15 Because we get -- we get solid harvest reporting from

16 -- from non-resident hunters, both out of state and in

17 state, but the subsistence users, it's been difficult

18 to get real numbers from that.

19

20 And we've had -- so moving on to the

21 WAH Management Challenges slide.

22

23 So, you know, we've had the RC907 and

24 800 registration permits in place for a couple of years

25 now but participation from the subsistence community is

26 pretty low and so we're just struggling to get a clear

27 picture of harvest. And our harvest model is honestly

28 too course to provide meaningful data for management

29 because if we move on to the -- the harvest model slide

30 you'll see that in red we get -- these are -- these are

31 the harvest that is -- that's the amount of the harvest

32 that's reported and all of the grey is not reported.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sorry -- I'm sorry to

35 break in there. You're on the harvest model page?

36

37 MS. EDMISON: Yeah. Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just making sure

40 everybody.....

41

42 MS. EDMISON: Yeah, harvest model,

43 yeah, uh-huh, and then.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I'm making sure

46 everybody follows you, I missed it.....

47

48 MS. EDMISON: Yeah, I'm sorry about

49 that.

50

0041

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: that you changed
2 the page.

3
4 MS. EDMISON: I'm kind of -- I'm kind
5 of whipping along here.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's okay.

8
9 MS. EDMISON: But I think the slide
10 that -- however -- you know, it depends on how your
11 brain works I suppose, but I think the next slide,
12 harvest reporting, is pretty indicative of what we're
13 up against here, right. So we have reported harvest in
14 blue on these little bars on the bottom and then we
15 have a very, very course harvest estimate up here at
16 12,000 for this orange line. And all that nothingness
17 in the middle, we really just don't know what's going
18 on with harvest. We don't know if our harvest --
19 harvest estimate is even -- you know, we don't know how
20 correct it is, and that's a real problem, obviously.

21
22 So that kind of ties into the next
23 slide of Annual Variation.

24
25 This is a -- this is a difficult graph
26 to kind of wrap your brain around, so you have to stare
27 at it for a minute to see what it's -- you know, see
28 what -- what it's trying to represent. But it's
29 representing the winter range use of the Western Arctic
30 Herd since the '90s -- since the early '90s. And each
31 color is a different part of the winter range and
32 you'll see that there's not a really clear pattern. So
33 annual variation as everyone knows is a serious wild
34 card in terms of the availability of harvest for each
35 group of people. And -- and that plays into the -- the
36 harvest estimate problem too, right.

37
38 So if we go on to the next graph -- I
39 mean the next slide called Availability, you'll see --
40 you'll see between the winters of 2019 -- the 2019/2020
41 winter, animals were pretty available for kind of a lot
42 of the communities that use them for subsistence and
43 then 2020/2021 winter, last winter, they all stuck up
44 in the Brooks Range and almost nobody got caribou,
45 right. So that -- that's -- just that variability is
46 really -- kind of puts a monkey range in -- in having
47 -- in a lot of our estimates.

48
49 So in summary.

50

0042

1 Biological concerns. We're hovering at
2 that critical thresholds of recommendations for changes
3 in management. Short-yearling recruitment has been
4 average. Calving is a bit below average. Adult cow
5 mortality is a bit below average. And we really need
6 data for the -- we really need harvest data for the
7 subsistence aspect of it. So biological conclusions,
8 sorry, I already went over some of that. Calving rates
9 and cow survival rates is slightly below average, we're
10 definitely keeping an eye on that. And then non-
11 Federally-qualified subsistence harvest is a pretty
12 well known and pretty small part of the total harvest.
13 Fall migration is heavily tied to temperature and snow
14 so climate variability is a real wild card there too.
15 And caribou winter range constantly shifts.

16
17 So, you know, from a management
18 perspective we have to think about the variables that
19 we can actually do something about and obviously the
20 number 1 variable that we can do something about is
21 harvest. And that's just something we need better
22 numbers on and we're struggling with that. But we did
23 have some really good discussions during the working
24 group meeting about just kind of grassroots efforts in
25 the communities to just get people to -- to report more
26 and -- and coming up with other ways of reporting. You
27 know we don't even need them to be tied to an
28 individual, we just need numbers, you know, we don't
29 need to know like so and so got 10 caribou this winter,
30 that's not important, we just need numbers at this
31 point.

32
33 And, yeah, that's where we're at and
34 we're trying to come up with new and creative ways of
35 getting at this problem and trying to figure out what
36 variables are the most important and, again, what we
37 control -- what we can control. And, yeah, with that I
38 can move on to questions and discussions and I will try
39 my best to answer any questions but I also appreciate
40 anybody else jumping in like they have been. That's
41 really helpful.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. AUKONGAK: Mr. Louis, this is
46 Martin.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, go ahead,
49 Martin.

50

0043

1 MR. AUKONGAK: Is the Baird (ph) region
2 and the Kotzebue region, are they seeing the same
3 numbers as we are, are we going against each other and
4 we don't know it. And in the '90s, you know, it was a
5 spike, and I guess go back to the '90s and see whatever
6 worked back then, and we could do that now, you don't
7 need to reinvent the wheel. I guess we just got to go
8 turn some pages back and see what the regulations were
9 and kind of go back to that so we could get some
10 caribou in the Seward Peninsula for our hunters and our
11 people can harvest caribou.

12
13 And then the second question is, you
14 know, Menard, you know, he calls everybody who catch
15 fish, of if they don't catch fish, he wants to know and
16 then he calls again. Whoever hunts, I guess we need
17 somebody from Fish and Game call the hunters and if,
18 you know, let's say they went out today and they didn't
19 catch any, they go out tomorrow or the following
20 weekend and then they catch caribou and then call
21 again. So just followup. You know just don't make one
22 call and then there you go, you'll get your numbers.

23
24 MS. EDMISON: Your first question about
25 the numbers 30 years ago, so, yeah, I -- I agree with
26 that from a management perspective in terms of things
27 that we can maybe control but that -- the last 30 years
28 -- one thing that has stuck out in mind is that the
29 last 30 years has coincided with big changes in Arctic
30 weather and with those changes in weather there are all
31 kinds of changes in vegetation and insects and
32 pathogens as well that kind of creep north with
33 increasing temperatures and just the variability with
34 -- with climate. And that's something that we've
35 definitely been thinking about a lot and trying to come
36 up with ways to measure variables that will help us
37 out. And so -- yeah, I mean we can't control that part
38 of it but at least we could -- we're trying to figure
39 out ways to at least know what's going on in that
40 respect.

41
42 As far as reporting, we do -- it's been
43 a real struggle the last couple years, obviously with
44 Covid, because as you know it's -- you really have to
45 have an in-person relationship with people in the
46 villages and gain trust with people in that way and we
47 just haven't been able to get out there and have our
48 faces known and kind of have a presence there that's --
49 that's positive and it's just been -- it's been a real
50

0044

1 struggle and we're trying to work with our subsistence
2 -- ADF&G Subsistence to do some more surveys, to get
3 numbers like that and we're working on that as well.

4
5 MR. AUKONGAK: You know for -- I'm not
6 a football fan but, you know, put this out there for
7 everybody who watched the football Superbowl, that
8 stadium was packed and, you know, we're over two years
9 into this, I think you can try and have an in-person
10 meeting and, you know, everybody's different but my
11 recommendation is to have an in-person meeting. It
12 seems like we're going in circles for the past hour and
13 a half. So I highly recommend for an in-person
14 meeting. And, you know, I've been traveling to
15 Anchorage every month from Golovin so, you know, I
16 think the time is now. And I'm a little bit irritated
17 like Louis, I do hope we get our caribou back down this
18 way.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Martin. So
21 the human factor basically, it's like what a farmer
22 does. A farmer knows how many animals they're going to
23 need. So we're speculating there's up to 12,000 needed
24 to feed people along the route. Okay, that's a given.
25 But look for the problems and where they're at
26 biologically, is there predation, is there food sources
27 limited, that's stuff that takes field work and it
28 doesn't sound like we have much of that going on. And
29 every time we think there should be -- the farmer
30 should be doing the field work and taking care of the
31 animals, they're not doing it because they don't have
32 enough money. So how do we go about getting people
33 enough money to do the research that's necessary to
34 find out what's going on with these critters. The
35 farmer is taking care of his cows and his pigs and he
36 knows how many he's going to sell in the falltime, or
37 whenever the appropriate time of year to go to market.
38 The State and the Feds are managing this herd without
39 any information on why it's in decline and it's been
40 going on for some time. So I just fail to understand
41 how that becomes the excuse.

42
43 You know Covid doesn't have anything to
44 do with that. I'm like Martin, it's time to have a
45 face to face. The other one is it's been time, for
46 over two years, the field work needs to be done.
47 There's been a number of changes in the herd and we
48 need to have money to have people out there in the
49 field figuring this thing out. So I mean how else is
50

0045

1 the farmer going to know what's going on with his stock
2 if he doesn't get out there and take part in being
3 active around the stock.

4
5 You know reindeer herders had a
6 problem, they were out there with their animals, of
7 course, the other thing is the caribou herd explodes in
8 the '90s and kind of wipes out every herd out there but
9 then you had predation come in here, the wolves
10 followed them to the Seward Peninsula and then you got
11 bears, which are already making themselves the
12 dominant apex predator, from the '80s on, following the
13 moose.

14
15 So anyway there's got to be some logic
16 to finding out how to manage these animals -- or excuse
17 me, finding out what's going on with the herd. I don't
18 want to dwell on this much longer, we need to move
19 ahead. But if there's any other Council that has
20 comments or questions or concerns, could you please go
21 ahead.

22
23 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk,
24 Stebbins.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron. And
27 there's somebody after you, I guess, trying to chime in
28 there, who is that.

29
30 MS. FREYTAG: Mary.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Mary. So Ron
33 and then Mary, thank you.

34
35 MR. KIRK: Hi. This is directed
36 towards Fish and Game and whoever's in charge. As
37 you're aware, Mr. Chair, I've been on this climate
38 change since it started. What I want to know is there
39 a possibility for Fish and Game or the State or the
40 Federal to send a scientist out there to maybe gather
41 some lichen or grass that caribou feed on because with
42 this climate change, like I've been stating over the
43 years, I've been concerned about mercury coming out
44 from the bottom of the ocean, and now I'm concerned
45 about mercury coming out from the land into the lichen
46 that the caribou and our other animals eat in this
47 state that's going to be affecting our animals and
48 making -- you know, they could be getting these boils
49 and sores from this mercury that's coming out of the
50

0046

1 ground and going into the lichens that the animals feed
2 off, and that's also a big factor that we need to think
3 about, is, what's coming out of our ground with this
4 climate change because the permafrost is no longer two
5 feet down, it's probably four feet down now with this
6 climate change and a lot of heat coming out. So we got
7 this factor that we need to think about besides
8 predators and people wasting caribou, you know, like
9 going out there and shooting them and just leaving them
10 like they did with our reindeer recently. So that's a
11 big factor we need to think about, is what's coming out
12 of our ground that could affect a decline of the
13 caribou besides how hunters are abusing it and the
14 animals, predators are getting into them.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 I'd like to see scientists check into
19 their lichen and see what kind of chemicals are coming
20 out from the ground.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Yeah,
23 that's kind of what I'm talking about when I'm talking
24 about when I talk about field work when the farmer
25 needs to get out there and see what the cause of the
26 herd starts declining, he wants to know what's going on
27 with the food sources for these animals, what's going
28 on with the biological side of these animals, are there
29 diseases that are happening. The other one is
30 predation. So that's why I raised the question.

31

32 Is there somebody there from the
33 Department. Go ahead.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't sound like
38 it, maybe it is a Council member trying to.....

39

40 MS. EDMISON: Hi, Mr. Chair, sorry. I
41 was a little slow there.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

44

45 MS. EDMISON: This is Nicole. Yeah,
46 so, what you're talking about in terms of -- well, one
47 -- one issue is that the farm is just so darn big,
48 right. The range of these caribou is so enormous and
49 it's really difficult to access a lot of the places

50

0047

1 that they're at on a very regular scale -- schedule,
2 and you're right, you know, we just don't have enough
3 people to do all the science that we would love to do
4 and we're trying to ramp up efforts for monitoring,
5 trying to figure out if there are new -- new -- kind of
6 new threats to caribou emerging because of the changing
7 climate. And, yeah, I mean honestly we're doing our
8 best on that front and we definitely will keep people
9 posted on what we find.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, are there any
12 other Council comments, questions or concerns.

13

14 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary
15 Freytag.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mary.

18

19 MS. FREYTAG: I just wanted to point
20 out and let it be known on the record, with the climate
21 change, we did have a bunch of rain at the end of
22 December, first part of January, and I don't know if
23 any other villages were really hampered with ice but we
24 didn't have big planes land on our paved runway because
25 of the ice buildup that had built up on our runway. So
26 my concern was for our animals, you know, the ones that
27 have to eat the lichen, is there -- you know I'm
28 thinking ice had built up and, you know, they had to
29 work harder or maybe even starve to death because of
30 that. So I just wanted to point out that, thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary. And
33 I -- you know, climate change or whatever you want to
34 call it, it's happening, it's called weather, we deal
35 with weather, these animals deal with the weather, if
36 it's warm, is it causing icing over the lichen that
37 they can't get to, what would tip me off is if we have
38 an event like that, a guy in a Supercub with a guy in
39 the backseat to do the sampling goes out to where these
40 herds are at, they know where they're at, and just fly
41 out there and land and take an accounting of what's
42 going on with the food source. That's on the spot
43 management. Get out there, see it as it's happening.
44 Not speculating. Just seeing it. I've flown all over
45 this Seward Peninsula and I know how easy it is get
46 around.

47

48 Just an event that took place up in the
49 Kobuk River here a few years ago about salmon. Salmon

50

0048

1 were dying. Oh, everybody's saying it's there's no
2 oxygen in the water, they're dying because there's no
3 oxygen, that's what the State said. It's like, well,
4 how did you know that, you didn't even go there and
5 sample anything, you just said it. So, you know,
6 without getting right out there in the field and
7 getting on the ground right when an event takes place
8 ASAP, you're not going to have anything but
9 speculation. I've seen pictures of sockeye salmon
10 swimming up creek size river, bank to bank totally
11 healthy, how did they -- that take all the oxygen out
12 of the water, I don't know.

13

14 But the point being is on the spot
15 observation is more important than speculation.

16

17 We got an issue with a declining herd
18 here, how come we're not doing these little things that
19 add up to big things when it comes to information
20 gathering on what's going on, and that's my problem.
21 I'm not trying to take it out on anybody here at the
22 table right now, I'm just saying, why aren't we doing
23 more and why aren't we taking into consideration the
24 management. You know I understand it's a big area but
25 these animals are only in so many places.

26

27 So anyway, with that, I don't want to
28 dwell on this anymore. I'd open it to Council one more
29 time to see if anybody has anymore comments.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
32 Mission.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

35

36 MR. SEETOT: Pretty much all morning
37 I'm getting just bits of information whenever I was
38 able to get on. TEK, traditional ecological knowledge
39 from our people was that the natural resources would
40 rebound before fading away. I think we're pretty much
41 at that point with climate change, with pollution, with
42 stuff like that. More emphasis should be placed on the
43 ecosystem since that's where the animals are born and
44 that's where they go give birth and then a lot of
45 things have changed, in the past, more heat into our
46 atmosphere, more water pollution. I'm situated in
47 Seward Peninsula area where majority of the low
48 pressure systems come into our area, what do these
49 clouds carry from the Russian side. We know that many
50

0049

1 areas are contaminated on the Western side, which very
2 few people know. Human harvest numbers are known but
3 predation numbers are estimated or guessed. And I do
4 know and witness where the reindeer were slaughtered by
5 the wolves just to drink their blood and then I seen
6 that happen in some places.

7

8 So more emphasis should be on the
9 ecosystem, not on the numbers, the numbers will take
10 care of themselves once the status of the ecosystem is
11 known and that's like me going to the grocery store and
12 not finding any food so I have to go to another place,
13 or do some other things to, you know, maintain my
14 subsistence activities. So that's pretty much I think
15 that's the thinking mood that we should be in that
16 animal harvest are known but other factors I think we
17 have to put into consideration for this.

18

19 Like Martin said I think we've spent a
20 lot of time this morning on the caribou situation that
21 is for those different units but discussion is always
22 appreciated, and hopefully I can get into more but my
23 phone system has not been working very good.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
28 Elmer. Pretty much the same questions I got. And it
29 has to do with the ecology and what's causing the
30 problem for these animals besides the human factor, we
31 already know we're going to hunt them because that's
32 why we're managing them. We're managing them so we can
33 hunt them. I just don't understand why we're not
34 putting enough money into field work to understand, the
35 economy.

36

37 So any other Council. I want to move
38 on.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, thank
43 you, Nicole, for your presentation. And I would like
44 to move on to Item B, under old business, which is
45 Western Arctic Caribou Herd update with National Park
46 Service, Letty Hughes. Letty, you have the floor,
47 thank you.

48

49 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya

50

0050

1 Wessels.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

4

5

6 MS. WESSELS: And I got a message
7 actually from the Park Service that Kyle was going to
8 present this update and this update is in the Council
9 meeting materials, it's Tab No. 9, I believe -- yeah,
10 it's Tab No. 9 and it's also on the website but Kyle
11 was not available to present it. Letty doesn't know
12 all the details of this report but she's available to
13 take any questions that the Council might have. So
14 perhaps you would consider the Council review that
15 report really quickly and see if there is any
16 questions. So please look under Tab 9.

16

17

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

REPORTER: Okay.

31

32

CHAIRMAN GREEN: 11:15.

33

34

(Off record)

35

36

(On record)

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, it's Katya.
Do you want me to do the roll call.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, just make sure
the Council's here. Thank you.

MS. WESSELS: Okay. Mary Freytag, are
you online.

0051

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MS. FREYTAG: Yes, I am, thank you.

MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.

Let's see Leland Oyoumick.

MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

Martin Aukongak.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: Martin, are you back.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: We'll come back to
Martin.

Elmer, are you back online.

MR. SEETOT: I'm back online.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Robert Moses.

MR. MOSES: Yes, I'm here.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

Ronald Kirk.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: Ronald, are you back.

(No comments)

MS. WESSELS: So, Mr. Chair, we are
missing Leland and Ronald at the moment but you still
have a quorum because you have five people, Mary,
yourself, Martin, Elmer and Robert. You can proceed.

MR. OYOUMICK: This is Leland.

MS. WESSELS: Oh, Leland is back so we
have six Council members online.

0052

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is it Ron that's
2 missing, I didn't quite get that.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Ron is missing.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So good to have
7 a break once in awhile, anybody that feels they need to
8 take a break feel free to take it, just let us know at
9 the table here that you'll be out for a minute or two.
10 Sometimes we go a little bit too long so it's
11 acceptable if somebody needs to step away for a minute.

12
13 So we're at the old business, Item B,
14 and I think we have a presenter and I think we're to
15 look at Tab 9 for the Council's information. I think I
16 got the name Kyle down to do the presentation because
17 Letty's not there, Western Arctic Caribou Herd update
18 from the Park Service.

19
20 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I guess
21 I should let Park Service speak for themselves but my
22 understanding is that Kyle was going to present this
23 but he is not available and then Letty is not very
24 familiar with the presentation so she can take the
25 Council's questions. And I don't really know if Letty
26 is online currently. Is Letty online?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. WESSELS: It looks like she might
31 not.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Doesn't seem to be.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, my
36 suggestion.....

37
38 MS. KOELSCH: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there.....

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN:somebody else on
45 here.

46
47 MS. KOELSCH: Hi. Through the Chair,
48 this is Jeanette Koelsch.

49
50

0053

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Jeanette,
2 Superintendent.

3
4 MS. KOELSCH: I just wanted to let you
5 know that Kyle did go out into the field for some
6 research and there was a miscommunication when Letty
7 submitted the presentation. She can't -- even if she
8 were to read the slide, like word for word for
9 everybody, she wouldn't be able to answer specific
10 questions about Kyle's research.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you for
13 that Jeanette. So when did this meeting get scheduled.

14
15 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's my hardship.
18 Right now I'm having a hardship and I'm sure there's a
19 couple others out there. If we're going to have these
20 meetings we need to have our Staff at the meeting and
21 giving these presentations so that we can make a
22 decision on some of these items we have to cover here.
23 So, yes, I know I'm sounding grumpy -- I don't do this
24 normally but this is kind of unprecedented today
25 because there's people that -- and they're getting
26 thrown in the fire, don't get me wrong, I'm not holding
27 anybody individually responsible but if we're going to
28 have these meetings we need to have presentations by
29 people that can give them to us and we need to be able
30 to deliberate on anything, if we got to vote on
31 something, or take action on anything, we need to have
32 this stuff. So I'm not going to say it anymore, I'm
33 going to hold up.

34
35 I mean we've got volunteer workers on
36 this phone line and I'm one of them, we've got paid
37 Staff on the other side and we've got people missing,
38 we're not knowledgeable enough with the information
39 that's.....

40
41 MS. KOELSCH: Well, I apologize Chair
42 for his absence at this meeting. The field work that
43 he's doing is in relationship to caribou and the
44 weather and other options were very good at this for
45 him to go out and do the work. He is not Staff here in
46 Nome, but is actually in Staff in Fairbanks, or works
47 through the Fairbanks office. And so when I discuss
48 this with him I'll let him know that if the next time,
49 if there's an issue with him being able to be present
50

0054

1 to do presentation that that presentation not be
2 included.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you,
5 Jeanette.

6

7 MS. KOELSCH: So I'll do that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. And it's
10 not.....

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, and this
13 is Katya.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN:just -- it's not
16 just him specifically, it's about the whole thing here
17 today that I'm raising -- I'm raising questions here
18 and I'm not getting any answers, there's other people
19 that are bringing stuff to the table here. But as
20 volunteers we're here. I have other things I need to
21 be taking care of but I'm taking my time here because I
22 accept that responsibility. And I just think it's
23 courteous to the Council to make sure all the ducks are
24 in a row when we got to go through this stuff so that
25 we have enough information to make determinations on
26 decisions and take actions on items here. It's
27 imperative that we have everything here. I understand
28 that sometimes Council has to step away from the table
29 and can't be here.

30

31 But, anyway, enough of that, I'm not
32 trying to pick on any one thing here, Jeanette, I was
33 talking about as a whole today, how things are shaping
34 up.

35

36 MS. KOELSCH: Uh-huh, no, I understand
37 Louis. And thank you for the feedback.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I'm really happy
40 that this guy -- I'm happy that there's somebody doing
41 field work I just got through talking about that a few
42 minutes ago so thank you for that and thank him for
43 being out there.

44

45 Okay, Katya.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I just also wanted
48 to apologize on behalf of the Office of Subsistence
49 Management. We had some unprecedented circumstances

50

0055

1 when your previous Council Coordinator retired on short
2 notice and we were trying to pull this agenda together
3 and we didn't know all the details for trying to
4 communicate with all the presenters. But, you know,
5 there was some miscommunication about it, we apologize
6 for this. Now, we have new Staff, new Coordinators and
7 I think by the next meeting we will have everything
8 pulled together nicely and there won't be such lapses
9 in the meeting. And we also appreciate your feedback.
10 And we really respect the Council member's work, we
11 know that you're volunteers, we admire you and we need
12 your expertise so thank you for your time.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Katya. So
15 we're at that Western Arctic Caribou Herd update. I
16 didn't -- Jeanette, I didn't know if you're going to do
17 something with that or we were going to have to pass it
18 up, or if there was somebody else, Katya.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: I think, Mr. Chair, if
21 there is any questions on behalf of the Council when
22 they looked at that report we can write them down, Park
23 Service can write them down and they can get back to
24 the Council members with answers, otherwise we can move
25 -- if there's no questions we can move on to No. 10C
26 the Wildlife Special Action 21-01(a).

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. I
31 think we asked a lot of questions and brought things to
32 the table about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, and
33 since we're going to do without the update I don't know
34 if there's any more discussion we need to have on that.
35 If there's other Council members that do want to bring
36 something up, please, at this time do that.

37

38 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.

39

40 MR. HANSEN: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, I got two
43 people, is that Mary.

44

45 MS. FREYTAG: Yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, and I didn't
48 hear who the other one was but go ahead, Mary, go
49 first.

50

0056

1 MS. FREYTAG: I just wanted to thank
2 you for bringing up the non-present Staff members to be
3 giving out the information that we need and answering
4 the questions. I really think that it's vital and
5 important also. I just wanted to share that, thank
6 you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary.
9 Whoever was speaking up, please.

10
11 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
12 Alex Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm
13 just a little bit late to the table so just wanted to
14 let folks know that I'm here on the line and available
15 to answer any questions.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Alex Hansen, thank
18 you.

19
20 MR. HANSEN: Yep.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any other Council.

23
24 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, this is
25 Leland.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Leland.

28
29 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, you know how our
30 weather's been so maybe it's a good thing that the guy
31 is out there and looking at things and see what's going
32 on. If he's like me, he'd much rather be out there
33 than in a meeting.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.
36 Any other Council.

37
38 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, this is Ron,
39 Stebbins.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

42
43 MR. KIRK: Since we don't have anyone
44 from National Park Service to give us an update on this
45 I suggest we move on with the agenda.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's where we're at.
48 I'm just going through Council to make sure nobody has
49 anything to add. Thank you. Hearing no more we're
50

0057

1 going to move on to C, Special Action 21-01(a), alpha.

2

3 MR. PLANK: Hello, Mr. Chair. Members
4 of the Council. This is Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist
5 with the Office of Subsistence Management. Can you all
6 hear me.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're coming in loud
9 and clear.

10

11 MR. PLANK: All right. And also
12 Wildlife Division Supervisor, Lisa Grediagin is on the
13 call as well today if we have more questions on this.
14 So I'm here to give you an update on the deferred
15 Wildlife Special Action Request WSA21-01 and seek your
16 formal recommendation based on revisions to the
17 analysis that was conducted at the request of the
18 Federal Subsistence Board.

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22

23 MR. PLANK: The Northwest Arctic
24 Council submitted Temporary Wildlife Special Action,
25 WSA21-01 in February of last year. The Council
26 requested closure of Federal public -- yes?

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry, where are
29 you at on -- what tab are you at so I can make sure
30 everybody's on the same page.

31

32 MR. PLANK: We're on Tab 4.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go, thank
35 you. I just wanted to make sure everybody was on the
36 same page.

37

38 REPORTER: Okay, and before.....

39

40 MR. PLANK: Not a problem.

41

42 REPORTER:you -- Tom before you
43 -- this is Tina, the court reporter. Before you
44 continue on, Tom, everybody take a second, look at your
45 device, make sure you're on mute, either star, six, or
46 the mute button. There's quite a bit of background
47 noise. Just so the Council members can hear the
48 presentation and I can record the presentation. So go
49 ahead, Tom.

50

0058

1 Thanks, Louis.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tina.

4

5 MR. PLANK: All right.

6

7 REPORTER: You're welcome.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, you got the
10 floor Tom.

11

12 MR. PLANK: Okay. Let's see where I
13 was at. So the Council requested closure of Federal
14 public lands in Unit 23 and 26A to caribou and moose
15 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users from August
16 1st to September 30th. And for clarity and simplicity,
17 the analysis has now been divided into WSA21-01(a) for
18 caribou and (b) for moose.

19

20 Because communities in your region have
21 a customary and traditional use determination for
22 caribou in Unit 23, but not for moose, only WSA21-01(a)
23 is coming before the Council. And like I said earlier,
24 you could find that behind Tab 4.

25

26 When the Northwest Arctic Council
27 submitted this request expressed concern about the late
28 migration of caribou through Unit 23, the effect that
29 transporters and non-local hunters are having on the
30 timing of the caribou migration is of particular
31 concern. This request was also supported by the North
32 Slope Council.

33

34 In June 2021 the Board deferred WSA21-
35 01 to the 2022/23 regulatory year and requested that
36 the Office of Subsistence Management seek additional
37 input on concerns related to caribou from multiple
38 entities. The Office of Subsistence management has now
39 followed up on the Board's direction, and if you
40 remember this topic was brought up at your fall 2021
41 meeting when Hannah Voorhees asked you a series of
42 questions related to caribou availability. Feedback
43 from local subsistence users gathered since the Board
44 deferred this request has come from Regional Councils,
45 such as this one, testimony received during public
46 hearings, correspondence submitted during an earlier
47 written public comment period and Subsistence Resource
48 Commissions, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
49 Group members also gave input at their December meeting
50

1 and the group voted to oppose WSA21-01, in part due to
2 the fact that the moose and caribou were combined in
3 one special action request. Working group members also
4 noted that they were more concerned about cow harvest
5 at this time.

6
7 The Board meeting on deferred Wildlife
8 Special Action WSA21-01 is scheduled for March 30th at
9 1:00 p.m., via teleconference. The meeting will be
10 open for the public to listen in and a news release
11 will announce the call-in information.

12
13 The biological background section of
14 this analysis begins on Page 20. And as Nicole had
15 pointed out, the Western Arctic Herd peaked near
16 500,000 caribou in 2003, declining to about 200,000
17 caribou in 2016. In recent years the herd seemed to be
18 recovering with approximately 2,044 -- sorry -- 244,000
19 caribou in 2019 but the most recent photo census in
20 2021 estimated that the herd population at only 188,000
21 caribou. The new estimate came out following the
22 Board's deferral of this request.

23
24 The timing of fall migration has become
25 more variable in recent years. Since 2017 there has
26 been substantial delay before caribou cross the Kobuk
27 and Selawik River but crossing the Noatak River has
28 remained average. The percentage of caribou crossing
29 all three rivers has also declined in recent years.
30 The proportion of caribou using certain migration paths
31 also vary each year. Additionally, caribou demonstrate
32 low fidelity to wintering grounds, which have shifted
33 over the past decade from the Seward Peninsula to the
34 Brooks Range. Changes in wintering locations, herd
35 size, vegetation and weather likely influenced these
36 recent changes in fall migration.

37
38 The harvest history section of the
39 analysis begins on Page 37. And given the current
40 population estimate of 188,000 caribou the harvestable
41 surplus is currently 11,280 caribou. While there is
42 much uncertainty in harvest estimate for the herd total
43 harvest has generally been estimated at 12,000 caribou
44 per year. Historically, local hunters account for
45 approximately 95 percent of the total Western Arctic
46 Caribou Herd harvest and local community harvest
47 parallels caribou availability rather than population
48 trends. Between 1998 and 2020, harvested -- reported
49 harvest by non-Federally-qualified users ranged from
50

0060

1 131 to 657 caribou each year and 85 to 95 percent of
2 non-local harvest occurs between August 25th and
3 October 7th.

4

5 Feedback from local subsistence users
6 begins on Page 57 of the analysis.

7

8 OSM documented input on caribou
9 availability in Units 23 in -- in Unit 23 communities
10 in 2021. In summary, very late migration and lack of
11 local caribou availability has continued for all
12 communities except for Noatak and Point Hope. The
13 situation is particularly critical in the Southwestern
14 portion of the unit. There is agreement between
15 traditional ecological knowledge and scientific
16 literature that changes in temperature, wind direction,
17 snow depth and vegetation affect caribou migration. In
18 addition, the Red Dog Mine Road does appear to delay or
19 deflect the migration for at least a portion of the
20 herd.

21

22 Whether caused by one, or a combination
23 of these factors, testimony shows that the reduced
24 availability of caribou in Unit 23 is negatively
25 impacting Federally-qualified subsistence users
26 nutritional, economic, cultural, social and spiritual
27 well-being.

28

29 The OSM's preliminary conclusion for
30 the following deferral and revised analysis on WSA21-
31 01(a) is neutral. The analysis outlines two main
32 actions for consideration.

33

34 No. 1. Approve WSA21-01(a) with
35 modification to close caribou hunting to non-Federally-
36 qualified users in Noatak National Preserve and BLM
37 managed lands between the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers only
38 August 1st through September 30th 2022, or;

39

40 No. 2. Reject WSA21-01(a) resulting in
41 maintenance of the status quo.

42

43 First I will give you the OSM's points
44 to consider under the approve with modification option.

45

46 Testimony about lack of local caribou
47 availability in the Northwest Arctic converges with
48 recent evidence of Western Arctic Herd population
49 decline. The most recent population estimate indicates
50

0061

1 that the herd has declined 24 percent from 2019 to
2 2021. The population decline may be contributing to
3 lack of caribou availability in Unit 23.

4

5 The herd is now being managed at the
6 conservative declining level and under the Western
7 Arctic Caribou Herd Caribou Working Group Management
8 Plan, management recommendations at this level include
9 closure of the non-resident season under State
10 regulations as well as possible closure of some Federal
11 public lands to non-Federally-qualified users.
12 Furthermore, the best available data suggests that the
13 harvestable surplus may be being exceeded.

14

15 Although the population decline affects
16 the herd throughout its range, closing Noatak National
17 Preserve and BLM managed lands between the Noatak and
18 Kobuk Rivers would have the most direct benefit for
19 those communities in Unit 23 who have been unable to
20 continue their subsistence hunting for caribou as well
21 as for the herd itself.

22

23 The delay in caribou migration has
24 primarily occurred between the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers
25 and based on local testimony and GPS collar caribou
26 data.

27

28 Closing lands north of the Noatak River
29 within Noatak National Preserve may be necessary for
30 the conservation of caribou population as this is where
31 most of the non-local harvest is concentrated.

32

33 OSM does not support a full closure of
34 Federal public lands in Units 23 and 26A. Non-
35 Federally-qualified users rarely harvest caribou in
36 Federal public lands and other portions of Unit 23.
37 Additionally, closing hunting to non-Federally-
38 qualified users on Federal public lands in Unit 26A is
39 not warranted at this time. Testimony gathered through
40 the outreach process shows that Federally-qualified
41 subsistence users in Unit 26A are meeting their
42 subsistence needs for caribou and are not facing the
43 same challenges as those in Unit 23.

44

45 And then next I will give you the OSM's
46 points to consider under the reject option.

47

48 Currently it cannot be demonstrated
49 that the requested closure alone would result in the

50

0062

1 desired effects of restoring the historical timing and
2 extent of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd migration as
3 other factors are likely at play. If Units 23 and 26A
4 are closed to the harvest of caribou by non-Federally-
5 qualified subsistence users for August and September
6 2022, user conflicts and disruption of caribou movement
7 may increase on State lands, particularly on State
8 lands surrounding Upper Kobuk River villages.
9 Additionally, non-Federally-qualified users would still
10 be able to access and harvest caribou on gravel bars
11 below the mean high water mark and in navigable waters
12 within Federal public lands as these areas fall under
13 State jurisdiction.

14
15 While the Western Arctic Herd Working
16 Group's Management Plan recommends possible closure of
17 Federal public lands to non-Federally-qualified users
18 under the current preservative declining management
19 level, as Lisa has mentioned, the working group members
20 did not think immediate regulatory action was
21 necessary, in part, due to sufficient calf recruitment.

22
23 Additionally, non-Federally-qualified
24 user harvest accounts for only five percent of the
25 total estimated Western Arctic Caribou Herd harvest and
26 they could still harvest caribou on State managed lands
27 if Federal lands were closed.

28
29 On February 14th the Northwest Arctic
30 Council voted to support WSA21-01(a) as originally
31 submitted. And on February 16th the Western Interior
32 Council voted to defer to the Northwest Arctic and
33 North Slope Councils on this request.

34
35 And I will now turn over consideration
36 of WSA21-01(a) to the Council and I'm available to
37 answer any questions.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom. Are
42 there any questions, comments or concerns from Council,
43 you have the floor.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm not hearing --
48 hello -- is somebody.....

49
50

0063

1 MS. WESSELS: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
2 Katya. I think we're all online, I think they're just
3 not saying anything. I just want to remind the Council
4 that this is an action item, this agenda item is an
5 action item and this will be the Council's
6 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board on
7 WSA21-01(a).

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Katya.
10 Tom, could you tell me who was in support of this
11 again. I know that the Northwest is probably.....

12
13 MR. PLANK: Of course, Mr. Chair. The
14 Northwest Arctic Council supported it and then the
15 Western Interior Council deferred it and those are the
16 only ones I have right now.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

19
20 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, North
21 Slope Council did not have a chance to take this agenda
22 item yet because they're meeting next week.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. That's what I
25 was going to ask you, what was going on with North
26 Slope, they're not in here. And who put it up, I'm
27 trying to follow here -- Tom, who submitted it again?

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Northwest Arctic Council.

30
31 MR. PLANK: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, okay, it was
34 Northwest. Somebody speak up -- was somebody trying to
35 talk.

36
37 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, I think it was
38 Tom Plank who was trying to answer the same question
39 that I answered.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. I
42 just wanted to make sure.

43
44 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mary.

47
48 MS. FREYTAG: I know the lady stated
49 that I have a big learning curve but the
50

0064

1 recommendations by the working groups and committees
2 and stuff, are those different than actual different
3 proposals and when do those get worked on, are they the
4 same as the proposals.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I believe that's a
9 Staff question.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair.
This is Lisa Grediagin. Right now you're considering a
special action request, which is a temporary change to
regulation. And last fall the Council considered
proposals that are the permanent changes to the
codified regulations. And the Council -- so the
Regional Advisory Councils, like right now the Seward
Peninsula Council, makes recommendations to the Federal
Subsistence Board on how to act on these proposals, or
special action requests. And the Federal Subsistence
Board seriously considers the Council's recommendation
because the Council has deference, meaning the Board
follows the recommendations of the Councils unless
there's a really good reason not to. Whereas the
recommendations by other groups, such as the State ACs,
or the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, those
are more treated like public comments to the Federal
Subsistence Board, where they consider them, but they
don't carry the same weight as recommendations by the
Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

So I hope that made sense and let me
know if you have any followup questions.

Thank you.

MS. FREYTAG: Thank you for explaining
that a little better. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. So
are there any other Council members with questions,
comments or concerns on this special action 21-01(a)
alpha. I think we should continue a little bit
discussion on this and make sure everybody's aware of
the details.

MR. SEETOT: Elmer, Brevig Mission.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

0065

1 MR. SEETOT: Even though I've been
2 (indiscernible - cuts out)

3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're cutting in and
5 out really bad, Elmer, we can't make it out so if
6 you're on a speaker phone you need to change it to just
7 doing it on the phone without the speaker phone.

8
9 MR. SEETOT: Even though I'm in close
10 proximity to the Unit 23, you know, I don't have the
11 resources, snowmachine or the terrain to go up and
12 harvest caribou. (Indiscernible - cuts out) but as of
13 right now I'm waiting for conditions to improve to go
14 after the bull caribou because once they grow nubs on
15 their antler part their meat starts tasting sweet and
16 then the meat quantity is a lot more than the female,
17 so that would be my preference. But I would allow that
18 that issue be, you know, determined by those residents
19 since they have regulations and stuff in place for
20 those areas. I do not frequent those areas, but I would
21 still be in support of the residents in the area.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. So
26 you're in support of the special action.

27
28 MR. OYOUMICK: Louis, this is Leland.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland, go ahead.

31
32 MR. OYOUMICK: I'm with (indiscernible
33 - cuts out)

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You cut out, sorry,
36 say that again please.

37
38 MR. OYOUMICK: I'm with Elmer.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Ron.

41
42 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I'm with Elmer in
43 supporting those guys up there, they're closer to the
44 caribou so we can -- I can support their decision.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. We live
47 off the same herd. Mary.

48
49 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, after reading
50

0066

1 everything, I am in full support of this. Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. I know I'm
4 going to miss somebody here. I got my list here.
5 Robert and Martin.

6

7 MR. MOSES: Yeah, I am in support of
8 Elmer also. Thank you.

9

10 MR. AUKONGAK: I'm in favor, Mr. Chair,
11 thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, it sounds like
14 we don't need any more discussion, maybe we want to
15 move into a motion.

16

17 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk moves to support.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Western -- Wildlife
20 Special Action 21-01(a) alpha. Ron has moved to
21 support. Is there a second.

22

23 MR. AUKONGAK: Martin seconds.

24

25 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary, I second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I heard Martin and
28 then I heard Mary so Martin's the second.

29

30 MR. AUKONGAK: Yes.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any discussion.

33

34 MS. FREYTAG: Question.

35

36 MR. KIRK: Question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's 'been
39 called. All those in favor of support of Wildlife
40 Special Action 21-01(a) alpha, say aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against,
45 same sign.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none,

50

0067

1 unanimous to pass. Katya, what.....

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, go ahead.

6

7 MS. GREDIAGIN:this is Lisa. And
8 if the Council could just clarify your justification.
9 It sounded like most of the Council members were in
10 support of the Northwest Arctic Council's
11 recommendation but if you could just clarify on the
12 record the justification. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's the
15 justification. We live off the same herd and we're
16 backing our neighbors. Was that clear enough.

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. Just wanted to make sure we had that on the
20 record and it was clear. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No problem. So that
23 puts us to the next item under D, under old business.
24 What have we got for that section there, Katya.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Mr.
27 Chair. I am going to present on this topic. The topic
28 is the draft joint Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Western
29 Interior and Eastern Interior and Seward Peninsula
30 letter to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
31 on bycatch. And.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Let's make sure
34 everybody's on the same tab, could we make sure, what
35 tab number?

36

37 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, it's actually not
38 in a tab, that was a supplemental material.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: And this draft letter was
43 snail mailed to the Council members and also emailed to
44 the Council members who don't have email -- I mean
45 emailed to the Council members who have email -- sorry,
46 I misspoke. So it also can be found on the Program's
47 website under the Seward Peninsula materials in the
48 supplemental part of the materials list. And, Mr.
49 Chair, I emailed to you that letter as well a few
50

0068

1 minutes ago, again, so.....

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep, I got it.

4

5

6

MS. WESSELS: Yeah. So I just want to talk about this letter a little bit with the Council. Hopefully you have the draft in front of you.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

This letter was first proposed by the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council and they thought that to make the message stronger and present a unified voice across the Yukon River, they wanted to invite the other three Yukon Councils, Western Interior, Seward Peninsula and Eastern Interior to sign on to this letter. Your Council has C&T determination on the Yukon and it is considered one of the Yukon Councils. And the Unalakleet River Norton Sound region also is affected by the Bering Sea bycatch.

20

21

22

So now I would like to touch upon the current situation.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

In 2021 chinook and chum salmon runs failed. This resulted in a complete closure or severe restrictions of subsistence salmon fishing for all communities along the Yukon and Kuskokwim River tributaries and coastal areas. Severe closures are expected this year again in Western Alaska. And subsistence communities are currently bearing the majority of the conservation burden and subsistence needs are not being met in many communities. But the Bering Sea trawl fleet, the pollock fishery continues unabated.

35

36

37

38

39

40

So the North Pacific Fishery Management Council reports that the Bering Sea, Aleutian Chain cum salmon bycatch is upward of 570,000 chum. So -- and chinook salmon bycatch limit hardcap is currently set at 45,000.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So what this letter requests, there are several requests that the Councils are asking jointly from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. So the first request is to significantly reduce chinook and chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island commercial fishery. The proposal is that chinook salmon bycatch to be reduced to 16,000 upper limit hardcap, which is approximately half of the chinook bycatch caught last year. And then chum salmon

0069

1 bycatch to be reduced to less than half. And here
2 we're also asking all the Councils recommendations.
3 Western Interior, when they took this letter and
4 discussed it, they recommended 250,000 upper limit and
5 when Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council discussed it within
6 the last couple of days they also supported 250,000
7 hardcap for the chum salmon bycatch.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Did you have more
12 there Katya.

13

14 MS. PILCHER: It looks like -- this is
15 Nissa Pilcher for the record. It looks like Katya's
16 phone got cut off she's doing her best right now to
17 call back in.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's what I was
20 making sure of, yep, we're standing by.

21

22 MS. PILCHER: Yep, thanks.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It sounds like I hear
27 open mics somewhere.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya,
30 I'm back, I got dropped.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep. Go ahead.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So I stopped at
35 talking about the first Council's request to reduce the
36 bycatch cap for chinook and chum.

37

38 So this request and, you know, if these
39 requests are granted that would mean that the trawl
40 fisheries would be closed when these caps are met. In
41 the Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch, that's -- just as a
42 note, it's predominately Asian stocks and hatchery
43 origins, and the North Pacific Fishery Management
44 Council says that only approximately two to three is
45 Western Alaska chum salmon, but this is just like a
46 side note.

47

48 And the second request in this.....

49

50

0070

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Katya.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Yes, go ahead.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, you said that
6 there was an Asian component of the chums, I heard
7 that. You also said there was another component which
8 was hatchery.

9

10 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: They must know where
13 the hatchery fish are coming from so what is that?

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Unfortunately, Mr. Chair,
16 I don't have this information. This question would
17 need to be addressed to the North Pacific Fishery
18 Management Council and they're -- I don't think they're
19 online. I don't know if anyone at OSM, perhaps the
20 Fisheries Division has any information on that, if they
21 do please -- okay, they just sent me a note that they
22 do not have this information. So, sorry, I can't
23 answer this question. But we can find out and we can
24 get back to you when we have it. We can try to find
25 out about this during this meeting.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So the reason why I
28 ask the question is, Asian fish, there's a lot of Asian
29 stock out there, they're claiming, well Asian stock out
30 of Japan is a lot of hatchery fish. So when you say
31 Asian stock and then you say hatchery fish, who's
32 hatchery fish is that, is it American hatchery fish and
33 so if that's the case then we're robbing American
34 fisheries. So, yeah, that's why I bring that -- just
35 pointed it out and bring it to light.

36

37 MS. WESSELS: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So we could use the
40 information. Thank you. When you get it.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Well, I asked the
43 Staff to try to find the answer to the question right
44 now, they will try. Okay. So that was the first ask,
45 reduce the bycatch and setting the lower bycatch
46 limits.

47

48 So there's a second ask. The Councils
49 in this letter, the ones that are signed on, which is,

50

0071

1 by now YKDelta, Western Interior and Eastern Interior
2 did not take this letter yet, the Eastern Interior is
3 meeting next week, but they're going to have the same
4 information presented to them next week. So the second
5 request is to establish two subsistence or tribal seats
6 on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to
7 represent subsistence users. And, you know, right now
8 the Magnuson-Stevens Act is being reauthorized and one
9 of the representatives from California, specifically,
10 asked that two individuals are appointed from Indian
11 tribes in Alaska to strengthen the transparency of this
12 Act. So basically the Councils are asking for these
13 two seats because subsistence needs to be considered
14 when making management decisions for the Bering Sea
15 commercial fisheries. Right now it is not really being
16 considered. So TEK is critical for successful salmon
17 conservation management. And it's not really being
18 considered now as well. The other fisheries management
19 councils, like for example, Pacific Fisheries
20 Management Council, they already have these types of
21 seats added to their councils. And, you know, with not
22 having these seats on the North Pacific Fishery
23 Management Council and with low salmon returns, you
24 know, the subsistence priority which is granted in
25 ANILCA is effectively being eliminated.

26
27 So what we ask from your Council,
28 specifically, does the Council want to support this
29 letter. Do you want to sign on, one of the signatories
30 on this letter. And then also, you know, this way if
31 you sign on this letter you will join the other
32 Councils in advocating for subsistence priority and
33 fulfillment of subsistence needs. So the second ask
34 from this Council is if you decide to join this letter,
35 it would be great if we could include your views and
36 additional points to this letter. Just consider that
37 the Unalakleet Rivers is one of the rivers which is
38 included in the calculation of the North Pacific
39 Fishery Management Council conservation management
40 trigger of overall estimates of the total amount of
41 salmon returning to Western Alaska. You know, and the
42 Unalakleet River and the Norton Sound communities, they
43 are affected by the low salmon returns. But if you
44 have any kind of, you know, other issues that you want
45 to add to this letter, just please speak up, or
46 alternatively you can also write your own letter to the
47 North Pacific Fishery Management Council or to the
48 Federal Subsistence Board if you wish.

49
50

0072

1 So this concludes my presentation and I
2 will try to answer any questions. Actually I'm getting
3 some messages from Staff here. Let's see, let me read
4 it, just one second.

5
6 (Pause)

7
8 MS. WESSELS: One message say here, the
9 2019 chum salmon samples indicate that most salmon
10 bycatch is from Asia, 57 percent and primarily hatchery
11 fish followed by Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Pacific
12 Northwest 23 percent, Coastal Western Alaska 16
13 percent, Southwest Alaska 4 percent, and less than one
14 percent from the Middle and Upper Yukon River. So
15 that's from 2019 and they're still looking for the
16 newer information.

17
18 And there's just one other message, let
19 me just read it here.

20
21 (Pause)

22
23 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So the Western
24 Interior was speaking that the hatchery component is
25 the both domestic and international but a lot of them
26 are Asian origin. So I guess there's some information
27 that -- about the Asian component that is not very
28 known. And I'm sorry, , you know, like I'm not a
29 specialist necessarily on the bycatch and this issue,
30 I'm just doing this since the person who was the author
31 of this letter, the Coordinator, for the YKDelta, the
32 YKDelta meeting is happening right now so she is not
33 able to present so I am doing my best trying to answer
34 the questions and present this information to the
35 Council.

36
37 Okay.

38
39 And another note that I got here that
40 Japan, Russia, China and U.S. and others are major
41 producers of hatchery fish, they mix in the Bering Sea.
42 So that's all the information I have at the moment.

43
44 So the two asks of the Council, if the
45 Council wants to support this letter -- oh, I got a
46 message from the Chair that he just dropped so I guess
47 he'll be calling back -- so I say until Mr. Chair
48 rejoins us we'll just be on hold and we'll let you to
49 process the information that I presented.
50

0073

1 MR. OYOUMICK: Excuse me, this is
2 Leland.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: Okay. In the absence of
5 the Chair, go ahead.

6
7 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, you mentioned
8 before that you're able to differentiate that most of
9 the chums that you got were Asian fish or hatchery, how
10 are you able to differentiate one species, one from the
11 other, is there a way to do that?

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Thank you for the
14 question, Leland. I am not a fisheries biologist so I
15 do not know how they do it. I will ask one of the
16 fisheries biologist present online, Jarred, are you
17 able to answer this question.

18
19 MR. STONE: Thank you, Katya. Council
20 member, Mr. Leland. This is Jarred Stone, Fisheries
21 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.
22 And there are agencies that collect tissue from the
23 salmon while at sea and they perform what we call
24 genetic mixed stock analysis. They essentially have
25 special allele or special markers of the genetics of
26 the fish that they can determine exactly where the fish
27 comes from, however, it is -- I should preface that by
28 saying that what's needed prior is a proper baseline of
29 the fish from their home stocks. And so it's kind of a
30 two part recipe you have to have genetic information
31 from the region, or the fisheries stocks that you're
32 interested in and then you have to go out into the
33 mixed fishery out into the Bering Sea and then collect
34 these samples and then perform the analysis. And so
35 the genetic work that has been done over the last 10,
36 15 years has been very substantial and they're getting
37 better and better each year. And, again, it boils
38 down to having the necessary baseline genetic data from
39 the home stocks in these different regions and having
40 collaborators work with each other to share this
41 information.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Jarred. I
46 believe that Mr. Chairman has rejoined us on the phone
47 call so I'm just going to repeat request from the
48 originating Council YKDelta Regional Advisory Council.
49 That they are asking if your Council would like to be
50

0074

1 one of the signatories of this letter and join the
2 other Councils in advocating for subsistence priority
3 and fulfillment of subsistence needs. And the other
4 ask is if the Council would like to add any of their
5 views or points to this letter. This would be the time
6 for you to speak up and talk about it. And like I said
7 this is an action item only if the Council decides to
8 sign up on this letter.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Katya. So
13 it says.....

14

15 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What's that.

18

19 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mary, go ahead.

22

23 MS. FREYTAG: Before you had dropped
24 off line for a moment, we were getting some information
25 from another gentleman concerning the bycatch and then
26 all of a sudden she jumped back to you when you got on
27 board, we weren't done with the questions from the
28 gentleman but hopefully we'll get back to him later if
29 that's okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, if you've got a
32 question just please bring it up, anybody on the
33 Council.

34

35 MS. FREYTAG: Okay, thank you. Yes,
36 Leland Oyoumick had brought up about the hatchery
37 fisheries and how they come up with a determination on
38 where those fish do come from and the gentleman stated
39 that they need to -- that it would be wise to have a
40 baseline and also genetic information from each
41 tributary that the salmon come from before making any
42 major big determinations.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
47 Mary. What's interesting is that there has been a
48 western -- so this stuff has already been done, there's
49 been two studies about the genetics of our Western
50

0075

1 Alaska stocks, so they already have that information.

2

3 Just a little bit of an FYI here. I
4 see that 16,000 chinook, that's what they want to take
5 it down to, the chinook bycatch of 16,000 and then
6 they're talking about the 300,000 cap that I guess
7 exists that really doesn't matter because they don't
8 get to that point. So if you put 300,000 chum cap and
9 the trawlers don't even come close to that, what's the
10 point of the 300,000 cap. And I see they want to
11 reduce it down to 150. So for the FYI for Council
12 members that weren't a part of it, we, as a Council, a
13 few years ago, Tim Smith wrote up a resolution of a
14 30,000 chum cap and it was debated and discussed over
15 here in the Nome area with the North Pacific Fishery
16 Management Council at the time and the National
17 Fisheries Management was commenting, and engaged on it.
18 And the tribes around the region also submitted
19 resolution of a chum salmon bycatch of 30,000 and for
20 some reason it got dropped and turned into a 50,000,
21 acceptance of 50,000 chum cap. So I don't know where
22 that went. But now we're here and they're talking
23 150,000.

24

25 The fact of the matter, it doesn't
26 matter where these fish are coming from, they're still
27 catching fish and wasting them and it's somebody's
28 fish. And there's a lot of things going on in the
29 Bering Sea that ain't adding up. And when our
30 subsistence fishermen throughout Western Alaska, not
31 just Nome, Unalakleet, Koyuk or whatever, people are
32 sitting on the beach and the trawler industry is still
33 out hammering out there, they're knocking the crabs
34 down, they're knocking the halibut down, I know several
35 years ago when they were starting in the pollock
36 fishery, those pollock fish were big. I longlined them
37 in the late '90s in front of Nome and they were big.
38 Back then you're tackling a fish and the tonnage is,
39 let's say, 300 metric tons you get to catch, bycatch
40 and waste it, when they're big fish, say six pounds --
41 I'm using that as an example, you're not catching very
42 -- you know you're catching a few fish, when they're
43 only one pound and they're really small now and you
44 catch one fish, you need to catch a whole bunch of
45 those, a lot more what you need to make up that
46 tonnage, so you're really -- you're dipping into your
47 future stocks. So, you know, taking that into
48 consideration, they're killing more pollock out there
49 to meet their demands for their quota than they did in
50

0076

1 the past.

2

3

Okay.

4

5

6 So now they're allowed to knock out the
7 king crab, opilio crab, tonnage of halibut, maybe they
8 were 30 pounds on the average in the old days, they're
9 down to 4.85 per fish pounds. And, again, like I just
10 said about the pollock, if you're tackling smaller fish
11 you're killing more fish every time you waste their
12 bycatch quota.

12

13

14

So you got to really consider what's
going on out there.

15

16

17

I am an advocate for signing on to this
letter. We need to send a message.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So having said that I'll yield the
floor to any other Council that wants to put in.

0077

1 MR. MOSES: This is Robert Moses.

2

3 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary Freytag. Go
4 ahead, Robert.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Robert.

7

8 MR. MOSES: Speaking to Louis' bycatch
9 down south below Yukon, say they catch so much bycatch
10 and that's all wasted food for families down in
11 YKDelta, why can't the big processors that harvest the
12 groundfish, why can't they process the king salmon and
13 salmon and fillet them also on those boats if they have
14 enough to trawl and take that much fish off the ground
15 floor they should have enough people on big enough
16 boats that process the king salmon and chum and process
17 it, filet it and freeze it and give them to YKDelta
18 people. It'd be just as fresh and good as having fish
19 from the fish being filet and frozen, that would be
20 better than nothing and at least they get to eat
21 something during the summer. Wouldn't that help them
22 out down there somehow.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, and I hear you.
25 At home when they were passing out fish, people were
26 taking the fish but there was other people that were
27 saying is we're still letting them kill them and waste
28 them. We're only getting a small percent of them. So
29 that's just to consider. Not saying that your idea's
30 bad Moses, Mr. Moses, just the idea that we're allowing
31 somebody else to exploit what should be coming up our
32 rivers to us and we take our own. And I'm just passing
33 on what I know from other people from the past on this.

34

35 MR. MOSES: I understand.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep.

38

39 MR. MOSES: But I know Yukon Delta has
40 been having real hardships, either that or stop the
41 trawling fishing for the groundfish so they could have
42 fish too and we could get our fish up this way also.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Okay. So I got
45 a tip here, this Council, if we don't agree with the
46 chum salmon or the chinook salmon numbers we could
47 change those numbers. And so just passing on that.
48 And thank you Robert for your comments, they're not
49 taken lightly, I wasn't trying to blow it off, I just
50

0078

1 wanted to let you know that there are other views of
2 that and understand that, you know, it's better not to
3 waste it completely and still provide somebody the use
4 of it for their food. Our food security is really in
5 jeopardy these days and so these discussions are coming
6 to the table because of that.

7

8 Recall back in the days in the early
9 '90s when we were dealing with the chum salmon bycatch
10 and Area M, we were never able to talk at the State
11 level about what was going on in the Federal fisheries,
12 we knew there was something going on with the trawl,
13 you know, trawlers were taking fish and wasting them
14 but like I said, we weren't allowed to talk about it.
15 But people were very much aware of what was going on
16 out there at the time.

17

18 Anyway I'd stand down and let other
19 Council make comment. Thank you, Robert.

20

21 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary
22 Freytag.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mary.

25

26 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, I really do
27 appreciate everyone's point of view in all of these
28 discussions. You know when we see on social media and
29 also State news about the hardship along the Lower
30 Yukon, you know, concerning their harvest of, you know,
31 their sustenance, the fish, I was just curious, maybe
32 this is a question to the Fish and Game, how far does
33 the jurisdiction up the Yukon River, does that go.
34 Does that -- are those restrictions, do they
35 automatically follow up all the way up to the spawning
36 grounds because in past years it seems that the Lower
37 Yukon residents were restricted but in like TV shows
38 we're seeing, you know, non-Natives on the Upper Yukon,
39 way Upper Yukon having a grand 'ol time taking some
40 king salmon and, you know, that really irked me. So
41 I'm just curious on how far that jurisdiction goes.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for the
46 question Mary. Anybody from Staff have an answer for
47 her.

48

49 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya.

50

0079

1 I would have to defer to our fisheries biologist and
2 see if he knows the answer to Mary's question. Jarred,
3 would you be able to help with this.

4

5 MR. STONE: Thank you, Katya. Through
6 the Chair. Council Member Mary. So for your question,
7 just for clarification, are you asking who has
8 jurisdiction for the salmon as they enter the Yukon
9 River?

10

11 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, when there are
12 restrictions for the Lower Yukon residents, does that
13 -- are those restrictions for the whole Yukon River all
14 the way up to the salmon spawning grounds?

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. STONE: Thank you. That's a good
19 question. And the answer is complex, to say the least.
20 You know there's a myriad of both State and Federal
21 waters and so it all depends on the location. I know
22 that's maybe not as great of an answer as what you're
23 looking for but it does depend on the location of the
24 area. You know if there's closures in Federal waters,
25 a person can definitely put on their State hat and go
26 and fish in State portions of the waters. So it just
27 depends on the location. I hope that answers your
28 question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Jarred.

31

32 MS. FREYTAG: Actually it didn't.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oops, go ahead, Mary.

35

36 MS. FREYTAG: On the spawning ground
37 for the Yukon salmon, is that over in Canada or is that
38 in the State of Alaska?

39

40 MR. STONE: Thank you for the question,
41 it is both. For the chinook salmon they are known to
42 spawn in both the mainstem of the Yukon and other
43 portions of the Yukon drainages and the U.S. and Alaska
44 portion of the drainage as well as portions of the
45 Yukon. And I'm a bit rusty on the stat numbers of the
46 Yukon fish but I want to say roughly 50 percent of the
47 fish that enter the Yukon make their way towards the
48 border and cross the border into Canada and spawn in
49 the Canadian portion.

50

0080

1 MS. FREYTAG: So it's safe to say that
2 the Alaska jurisdiction is all the way up to the
3 border, that the restrictions will follow suit like say
4 for the Lower Yukon residents, when they are restricted
5 at harvesting what they need and then it just follows
6 suit for all the other residents along that corridor;
7 is that correct?

8
9 MR. STONE: Again, I'm not too versed
10 on the management practices of -- for Yukon River
11 salmon. And what I do understand is that sometimes
12 they are managed in what they're calling, in pulses, so
13 as the fish move through portions of the river there
14 might be temporary restrictions to allow fish to pass.
15 But in essence, your question of the boundaries of
16 where the boundary applies for Federal and State
17 waters, yes, you are correct that that does end at the
18 Canadian border.

19
20 MS. FREYTAG: Thank you for that
21 clarification.

22
23 MR. STONE: And I would add.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Does that answer your
26 -- go ahead Jarred.

27
28 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Through the Chair, Jarred Stone here again. I would
30 add that, you know, there's a great deal of
31 collaboration between both the Federal and the State
32 in-season managers during this, what I'm calling, pulse
33 management, but I think there's kind of a more accurate
34 term for that. And so they work together and they look
35 at the numbers any of these restrictions, you know,
36 they're generally held in concert with each other at
37 times where the in-season manager feels its necessary
38 and so, again, you know the in-season managers have the
39 flexibility to manage these fisheries, you know, to
40 ensure both subsistence needs are met but then also
41 biological escapements are also met.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Does that answer your
44 questions, Mary.

45
46 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, it does, thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for the
49 questions. Thank you, Jarred. Other Council members,
50

0081

1 any comments, questions or concerns while Jarred's on
2 the phone.

3

4 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk,
5 Stebbins.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You have the floor.

8

9 MR. KIRK: We're looking at this letter
10 to reduce the bycatch to 16,000 fish, how do we know
11 that the Bering Sea trawl fisheries will get -- will
12 abide by a letter of recommendation of 16,000 and not
13 go over, what if they go over and they don't report
14 that, you know, we can recommend that it be reduced to
15 16,000 but we don't know if they're actually following
16 our recommendation.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. One
21 of the things that it didn't bring up was the coverage
22 to make sure they're following the rules. We could put
23 in this letter from ourselves, 24/7 camera coverage
24 throughout the fishery to make sure they're doing their
25 job. That's not going on right now. Coverage is
26 limited. Cameras don't lie.

27

28 The other thing I want to say is that
29 this is a real touchy subject for us in the Norton
30 Sound area because we are CDQ people, we have trawlers
31 that are doing what we're talking and speaking about.
32 So it makes it -- there's a lot of money being pumped
33 into our region because of it, but at what cost do you
34 start taking the money over your subsistence is a good
35 question. I know where I'm going with it. My
36 subsistence is worth more than all that money.

37

38 So I know it weighs on people talking
39 about this. And so I understand why somebody wouldn't
40 want to speak but then again it's an opportunity right
41 now to speak whichever way you feel so, again, I'm
42 opening to the Council.

43

44 MR. KIRK: I got cut off, this is Ron
45 Kirk. I'm back again.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, okay, you're
48 there.

49

50

0082

1 MR. MOSES: This is Robert again, I had
2 another question.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Robert.

5
6 MR. MOSES: Fish and Game talked about
7 salmon overseas, hatchery and we've been hearing over
8 the '80s, '90s about bycatch, below Yukon Kuskokwim,
9 and then Fish and Game comes up with the other fish
10 that are hatchery fish and when did they know -- and
11 when did they know that overseas people were knowing
12 their own fishing (indiscernible - echo) Bering Sea,
13 did the other side let our Fish and Game people know
14 about them hatcheries being released in the Bering Sea,
15 did it affect -- affect all of our fish?

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do you have any
18 comments to that Jarred.

19
20 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. I
21 apologize, I did not catch all of that question. For
22 clarification, could you ask me again?

23
24 MR. MOSES: When did overseas, like
25 Russian and Japan, when did they start making their own
26 fish by hatchery, when did they start letting them go
27 and when did Fish and Game find out, and if they know
28 that if their fish is causing our fish to deplete or
29 take over or be a dominant species over ours.

30
31 MR. STONE: Thank you for the question.
32 Through the Chair. That -- various countries have been
33 supplying hatchery produced fish for ages. I can look
34 back and see when exactly different countries have been
35 doing this but from my understanding it's been for some
36 time and, additionally, over the years the amount of
37 fish being put into the ocean has increased,
38 significantly. And so, you know, there is some
39 questioning about, you know, if putting too many fish
40 into the pond is causing the problem. So, you know, I
41 can't answer to that but that is some discussion that
42 is happening behind, you know, some of the concerns
43 that are going on with the fisheries.

44
45 MR. MOSES: Okay, thank you.

46
47 MR. STONE: Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that.

50

0083

1 About the hatcheries. Japan's had hatcheries since we
2 closed off and put in the 200 mile limit, and that was
3 back in the '70s.

4

5 One of the things I would say about
6 hatchery fish is there was a hatchery stock that was in
7 the Bering Sea and that was a hatchery that was
8 operated by the fisheries, ADF&G Department --
9 Department of Fish and Game for 14 years on the Noatak
10 River and I'm very familiar with the place, I've been
11 there, it was a hatchery on the Sikusuilaq Spring water
12 supply there. And I've heard 10 million chum salmon
13 fry released and that's what Fish and Game says. But
14 my very good friend that lives there, and it was his
15 dad's Native allotment that Fish and Game used for 14
16 years said they upped it to 20 million chum salmon
17 released. So having said that there's never been any
18 talk about environmental impact study after the fact of
19 what they did. Those salmon are running in that river
20 and they became wild salmon basically after '94, last
21 release. And their commercial fishery was doing really
22 well here a while back. I know they caught almost
23 700,000 one time about three or four years ago, you
24 know, skiff fishery, incredible, and really good fish.

25

26 So anyway hatchery stock, we're not
27 allowed to do any of that anymore in Western Alaska so
28 we don't have any feedback from any hatchery stock.
29 That would give us some biological science data there
30 to prove that somebody was intercepting our fish. But
31 we are talking about somebody else's fish getting
32 caught. They know they're catching somebody else's
33 fish. They know they're catching somebody else's fish
34 and wasting it. Somebody is investing and they're
35 trashing fish.

36

37 One question I had, what was Western
38 Alaska's component, I didn't write it down, Jarred,
39 what did you have for that.

40

41 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. The
42 Western Alaska's portion of bycatch?

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Correct. Chum salmon,
45 I think it was.

46

47 MR. STONE: Let me look at my notes h
48 ere. It looks like -- and this is from 2019 in regards
49 to chum salmon and I'm looking for more newer
50

0084

1 information but from what I'm seeing here it looks like
2 from Asia 57 percent and primarily hatchery fish,
3 followed by Eastern Gulf of Alaska Pacific Northwest
4 only three percent, Coastal Western Alaska 16 percent,
5 stocks West Alaska four percent, and less than a one
6 percent from the Middle and Upper Yukon River. And I'm
7 not sure if that's coming from the hatchery that is in
8 Whitehorse, if that's still in production.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go. See
11 they have hatcheries up there don't they.

12
13 MR. STONE: Yes. And the numbers of
14 fish that they put out are very small. But from my
15 understanding, yes, there is still a hatchery in
16 operation in Whitehorse.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: How many -- is it just
19 one?

20
21 MR. STONE: I believe so, yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. One Canadian
24 hatchery on the Yukon for I think you said, chum.

25
26 MR. STONE: What they release I am not
27 clear -- I want to say it's only chinook.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh.

30
31 MR. STONE:and -- but maybe it is
32 some chum. They're saying here one percent from the
33 Middle and Upper, and I'm just assuming that that's
34 maybe coming from that hatchery but I need to look into
35 that to be sure.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That'd be some good
38 information for us to know. Council.....

39
40 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk,
41 Stebbins.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

44
45 MR. KIRK: This question is directed
46 towards Jarred. Jarred, this is Ron Kirk, Stebbins.
47 You had stated that 50 percent of the salmon go up the
48 Yukon into Canada, does the other 50 percent stay in
49 the Yukon in Alaska, and if so are there spawning
50

0085

1 grounds being affected by the mining that is happening
2 in the Yukon area by outside entities, personal
3 individuals that are claiming Native lots and mining
4 along the Yukon, are they affecting the salmon that are
5 spawning within our Alaska waters, rivers, right there
6 in the Yukon River.

7

8 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. To
9 answer your question, that's the trillion dollar
10 question, you know, everybody would love to know the
11 answer to that and I think -- you know, I can't speak
12 to that in that regard. I'm not very knowledgeable on
13 the effects of the mining activity on the Yukon River
14 in regards to salmon production. There are agencies
15 that look into that, shooting from the hip, I want to
16 say, you know, USGS, sometimes the State will get
17 involved with projects, researching water quality and
18 the effects of poor water quality on salmon. And so
19 with that said, sir, I wish I could answer that
20 question but unfortunately I cannot.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. KIRK: I think our salmon would be
25 affected, especially in the spawning areas in the Yukon
26 River there. They would be affected by this mining
27 going on because you never know what -- they may say
28 they clean up their -- whatever they're doing, they may
29 say they are cleaning it up and it's pure water going
30 back into the Yukon but they'll miss a few here and
31 there and it's not pure water. So it's got to affect
32 our salmon that are going up the Yukon River to spawn
33 in our Yukon River here in Alaska. So we need to have
34 someone look into that.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. You
39 know we hear things about mining, somebody's always
40 questioning mining. You don't hear too many people
41 talking about the car tires that are running up and
42 down the roads and the water running down into the
43 creek that runs down into the river that has salmon.
44 There's all kinds of pollutants that are coming off of
45 our own roads and world wide, basically. Those are
46 some really good questions that I've heard before, too,
47 and there isn't really a good answer.

48

49 On the mining I would say that the

50

1 Seward Peninsula, just as an example, the Seward
2 Peninsula, at the turn of the century, the Twentieth
3 Century, was every river, every tributary to a river,
4 every place there was water and they could be mining,
5 they were mining and they were pumping mud and silt and
6 everything into those streams, which was going all the
7 way to the ocean. There was an old-timer that brought
8 that up to me a few years ago and said, you know, for
9 all the mining that took place on the Seward Peninsula
10 and all of that mud and silt going out in those rivers,
11 after 1945 when there were more people in the area
12 that, you know, were subsistence were -- they noticed
13 -- I mean there was no salmon issues, there was no --
14 everybody had plenty of fish. Of course there wasn't
15 as many people living there then, around the area but
16 the fish resource was there. And one time I spoke to
17 Jacob Ellenona (ph), he was a winchman on a bucket line
18 dredge and he said, you know, I seen go up the bucket
19 line and go all the way through, out the tail chute, we
20 have lots of salmon, it didn't bother them in his
21 opinion at the time. So I know mining is a big issue
22 to people and it's contentious. I just bring that
23 other side of that, being the Devil's advocate, putting
24 that out there so people understand that there's more
25 to it and at those times -- mining stopped in during
26 WWII and there was only a couple of operators here and
27 there around the state because of the control of the --
28 gold and what not, that the government wanted to have
29 over mining. So from that period on, I grew up in
30 rivers that were full of salmon at a young age, through
31 the '60s and into the '70s. And then when we got
32 towards the '80s that's when we started seeing problems
33 in the Nome area.

34
35 So there's a lot to be said about what
36 caused it.

37
38 We had commercial fishing introduced
39 into Norton Sound in the '70s. I asked Len Schwartz,
40 who was the biologist over at Fish and Game when they
41 did that, I said, did you guys go in there and look at
42 the carrying capacity of the observer systems, did you
43 look at the biomass or whatever you want to call it,
44 like the numbers and have like a five year study on
45 there before you did anything, and he said, nope, I was
46 told by my superiors to open up commercial fishing and
47 that's what I did. There was no data to go with it.

48
49 So lots to be said about commercial
50

0087

1 fishing and mining, you know, there's two sides to the
2 story so I just kind of wanted to offer that to the
3 table here. I know we're discussing things.

4

5 So anyway I'd like to hear from other
6 Council members unless, Ron, you had something to
7 follow up with.

8

9 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mary.

12

13 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, I wanted to go back
14 to the 2019 bycatch chum numbers that were presented
15 earlier and how they came up with those numbers and
16 where the fish came up. Is there a baseline that they,
17 or DNA, how did they come up with that determination
18 for those numbers, and is there DNA to back that up?

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary. I
23 think she's calling on you Jarred.

24

25 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
26 Chair. Council Member Mary, that's a great question.
27 So, again, to have a proper understanding of the
28 genetics for these fish it all begins with having the
29 baseline data, or the baseline genetics from the
30 respective regions. And so I mentioned earlier some
31 numbers from Asia and Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Pacific
32 Northwest, Coastal Western Alaska, Southwest Alaska and
33 portions of the Middle and Upper Yukon River. And so
34 to do that researchers had to go out into the field and
35 collect samples from fish in their natal streams and
36 that gave them the baseline data that they needed to
37 discern the differences between the fish when they're
38 captured out at sea in the mixed sort of environment,
39 you know, when they're out in the ocean, you pluck a
40 fish from the ocean you can't really tell, you know,
41 where is this fish from and so -- but when you pull a
42 fish out of the Yukon River you know it's from the
43 Yukon. And so it all starts with that baseline data
44 and then the second component of the needed component
45 would be to sample the fish out at sea while they're
46 all mixed and the genetics then takes the next stage in
47 helping researchers discern the difference between the
48 fish while at sea. I hope that answers your question.

49

50

0088

1 MS. FREYTAG: So you're saying that the
2 DNA sampling stopped at the Yukon River and for the
3 northern tributaries with salmon in them they were
4 never DNA tested as the other ones?

5
6 MR. STONE: No, there's -- through the
7 Chair. There's been a great deal of work that's been
8 done over the last, I can't remember how many years,
9 but they've done a fairly substantial attempt at trying
10 to document a lot of the genetics of these fish
11 particularly chinook and chum throughout the Yukon
12 drainage and actually throughout a lot of the state.
13 And so that's really leveraged us the ability to, you
14 know, catch the -- you know, go out and look at these
15 fish in a mixed population, such as when they sample
16 fish from commercial fisheries or as bycatch and we
17 want to know exactly what percentage of the fish that's
18 being represented in that catch, where it's being taken
19 from.

20
21 So for example, if a particular trawl,
22 you know, trawls up let's say, for example, a thousand
23 chinook salmon with genetics we can look at those one
24 thousand salmon that were caught at sea and say, hey,
25 you know, 50 percent of these were from the Yukon and
26 25 percent were from the Norton Sound area and the rest
27 were Asian stocks. And so that's how it's used. We
28 essentially use the baseline information to assess
29 catches of fish that are mixed.

30
31 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hang on, Ron, did you
34 get an answer there Mary.

35
36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody's mic is
40 open.

41
42 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, I did kind of,
43 partially, but thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. And just
46 to fill in for Jarred, that I'm familiar with. The
47 1990 studies were done by Jim and Lisa Seeb, they did
48 genetics on all our stocks, even up to Kotzebue. And
49 then in the 2000s there's the WASSIP genetic studies.
50

0089

1 So there's two studies that have been done but never
2 seemed to be enough to actually be a contender at the
3 floor when it comes to the North Pacific Fishery
4 Management Council intercept basically and bycatch.

5

6 So I think I heard somebody else.

7

8 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, this is Ron.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

11

12 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, we're on this
13 issue of supporting this letter on the North Pacific
14 Fishery Management Council. What I'm going to get at
15 is we could be going around and around this table for
16 another two hours on this issue, what I want to do is
17 move on and support the recommendation of reducing
18 bycatch to 16,000 fish and move on with this issue
19 otherwise we're going to be on this issue concerning
20 fish for another two hours.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And, thank you, Ron,
25 for your concern. And, of course, we want to get
26 through this. There have been questions and there have
27 been comments and I think it's all important to the
28 discussion. And it's a tender discussion to have.
29 It's controversial in our region because we're part of
30 the trawl industry, I mean we take millions of dollars
31 from that but we're also seeing a loss at our
32 subsistence level and it's starting to affect the Yukon
33 and the Kuskokwim. It's just going to keep going
34 south. I mentioned that in the '90s and here it's
35 happening.

36

37 So I tried to fill some gaps in there
38 by throwing some stuff as a devil's advocate in there
39 to give a little bit of an overview of things. I am
40 also in favor of getting on to the letter.

41

42 The question I have of the Council is
43 do we want to put our own numbers in there. Do we want
44 to recommend if there's any seats to be filled at the
45 North Pacific Fishery Management Council that they be
46 -- although we're asking for tribal seats or whatever,
47 that they're non-CDQ affiliated seats. They got
48 several people on there with the trawler industry. So
49 that's why I bring that up. Coverage. Somebody
50

0090

1 brought up coverage. I mentioned 24/7 camera coverage,
2 you can't mess with camera coverage. Do we want to put
3 that in there and give it some teeth. The number of
4 chum intercept. I'm good with the 16,000 chinook. I'm
5 not okay with the 150, but that's my personal, I think
6 it should be a lot lower so I just.....

7

8 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN:think that the
11 discussion.....

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya,
14 can I.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The discussion is good
17 to have and so those are the questions that I brought
18 to the table in comment, so go ahead Katya.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: Sorry for interrupting
21 you. I just want to make a small clarification here.
22 So both Western Interior and YKDelta were supporting
23 250 hard cap for chum salmon bycatch, not 150. They
24 were -- but your Council can propose a different cap.
25 Sorry for this interruption.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for making
28 that correction because I wrote it down at 150. So I'd
29 like to hear what Council members have to say about the
30 numbers, are they okay with the numbers or do they have
31 their own numbers they want to bring to the table. Go
32 right ahead and speak up.

33

34 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, this is
35 Leland.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, go ahead, Leland.

38

39 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, until the stock's
40 rebounding in our area and come back to where they were
41 I like the number zero for bycatch.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, I agree with
44 you. Pick a number, though, we can't -- we're never
45 going to get zero, do you have another number Leland.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, may I interrupt,
48 Mr. Chair.

49

50

0091

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. WESSELS: I just wanted to also bring additional information. So the YKDelta, also were discussing zero bycatch catch and so they were sympathetic to that, establishing that, but they felt that it was likely to be rejected out right so submitting this letter in requesting a reduction of bycatch by half is a substantial starting point. And then the other piece of information is that many tribes that are participants of -- Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission and Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission submitted a letter of request to the Secretary of Commerce to close the Bering Sea fishery and that request was rejected. So I would just like to caution this Council about requesting the zero bycatch.

So, thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Katya. So Leland, do you have anymore to add.

MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I'd like the number to zero until the stocks rebound at least that'll give us a little bit of fish to at least hope for.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, thanks. So you're okay with the numbers that are in the letter now or did you want to change.

MR. OYOUMICK: No, they're okay.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, we'll leave -- okay, so that's a check for you. So then there's Mary.

MS. FREYTAG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to see it just a little bit lower and also I -- on a second note I wanted to bring up what Robert Moses had mentioned about the bycatch, how they just throw away that delicious fish, you know, that's our sustenance. I don't think it would be too much problem for the fishermen to process that fish and deliver -- or send them off to the needed tribes or, you know, the ones that are being affected by all of this.

Yeah, I just wanted to bring that up about Robert Moses, that's a great idea. Because

0092

1 that's a lot of good stuff being thrown away.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, thanks, Mary.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya. You know, I just wanted to mention that we can add these suggestions to the letter, to say that your Council suggested that as one of the possible solutions as well as that other stipulation that you have regarding the two seats, if the two seats are established on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, for them not to be affiliated. We can add that as a specific request from the Seward Peninsula Council. We can add that verbiage to the letter.

And when this draft is finalized, of course, you know, we are going to send copies of this draft to the Chair and to the Council members before it's all signed.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, thank you.....

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

CHAIRMAN GREEN:Katya. What I'm doing is I'm going around the table with the Council to get a temperature check here and also get their individual comments. So that's why I'm going around the table so we can finish up and move on to the next. So somebody's trying to speak, go ahead.

MR. AUKONGAK: It's Martin. That is a great idea from Robert and Mary, but then, again, you think about it, they're going to think we're a little bit lenient and then they're going to keep on doing it and then we're going to be back where we're at right now.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do you have any other additions there to bring up Martin.

MR. AUKONGAK: No.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. So in other words, you're okay signing on to the letter as it is and maybe you have -- you've reflected Robert and Mary's comment. And I would say this, I think that the retention of fish is -- it's a low percentage, maybe up

0093

1 to 30 percent that they retain that they can actually
2 pass out to people that's edible at a certain point.
3 That number sticks out to me like it's a 30 percent
4 number or lower of the salmon that are retained that
5 they actually package up and give out to the villages
6 so I just wanted to make that comment.

7

8 So the next -- let's see, how about
9 Elmer, how do you feel Elmer.

10

11 MR. SEETOT: I've been in and out of
12 the phone and I really didn't hear all the information.
13 I've been having phone problems all morning. And
14 anyways on the bycatch numbers, that they be reduced,
15 and such but without all that information being
16 absorbed by me between the phone drops, whatever the
17 Council decides on.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. So
22 right now it's at the 16,000 chinook, which is half, 50
23 percent, for 50 percent on the cap. And then the other
24 one is the 250 of the 500,000 chum salmon bycatch, they
25 want to reduce it by half, to 250. And then on TEK,
26 advocating for two members to be picked out of the
27 tribes. I think I covered that correctly there, Katya.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So Leland,
32 Mary, Robert, Martin, Elmer. Ron.

33

34 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron. I'm not
35 comfortable with this 250,000, I would like that to be
36 cut down in half. And also the 16,000, I'd like to see
37 it cut down about a quarter, like 4,000 or even --
38 yeah, even 4,000 would be better than 16,000 because
39 that's a lot of bycatch, especially that 250,000. I'd
40 like to see them cut down.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your
45 comment, Ron. That's kind of -- I guess that could get
46 entered in there somewhere, Katya, these additions. I
47 feel the same. I think that any bycatch is way too
48 much. But I don't think the numbers are low enough, I
49 kind of said that earlier. I kind of agreed with the

50

0094

1 16, but I'm not feeling comfortable with that, I think
2 it should be less, like you. I don't feel comfortable
3 with the 500,000 being reduced to 250,000 on the chum
4 salmon. I spend a lot of time, a lot of hours in the
5 chum wars in the '90s arguing that same point with the
6 Board of Fish. So I think the numbers -- we could come
7 up with a number and plug it in there if we wanted to
8 as a group, add it to there, so if somebody has a range
9 that they want to look at we could put it in there.

10

11 But, Ron, you made your comment at
12 4,000 chinook and what did you say about chum salmon.

13

14 MR. KIRK: I was thinking more like --
15 well, I was thinking about 125,000 but I could even go
16 lower to about 75,000 on that, or even lower than that
17 because that's a lot of fish. That's more than
18 commercial fishermen catch.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, I agree with you.
21 The one defense they'll come up with is the doggone
22 hatchery fish, they're Asian stocks, they'll throw
23 that. The Area M fishermen did the same thing, same
24 tactics. But anyway, just want to find out where we
25 got a baseline of numbers, kind of realistic that we
26 would want to plug in on our additions to the letter.

27

28 So did I miss -- I didn't miss anybody,
29 did I. Is there -- we got seven of us here, right --
30 or, yeah. Okay, so mine -- I think I already made my
31 comment and Katya noted that.

32

33 The one question I have is are there
34 anybody in favor of 24/7 camera coverage.

35

36 MR. KIRK: I'm in favor of that, Ron.

37

38 MR. MOSES: This is Robert, I'm in
39 favor of that too. That's a good idea.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else.

42

43 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chairman, this is
44 Mary.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

47

48 MS. FREYTAG: Are you saying that they
49 don't have observers on the fishery trawling boats

50

0095

1 anymore and those are needed, is that the question?

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, there's -- it's
4 not full coverage. There's a lack of coverage. One of
5 the other problems they have is if there is an observer
6 on there, people feel that they've been paid off and so
7 the numbers they're getting, people aren't believing in
8 these numbers. So what I'm saying is that camera
9 coverage, you can't stop a recording, any time you stop
10 a recording there's a problem there. So if these
11 cameras are tied into something that notifies the
12 managers that this boat is fishing without camera
13 coverage they get shut down. That's why I'm bringing
14 the camera coverage into play.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. FREYTAG: Just to specify that,
would that be the fishery fishers camera or one that is
put on to the boat by the State or the Federal
government?

CHAIRMAN GREEN: It would be the
Federal government. I think that that would be one way
of policing this.

MS. FREYTAG: That'd be an awesome
idea, I'm in favor, thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Anybody else.

MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron. I would
recommend we throw that in with the letter, that we
recommend -- that we request that camera be put on
board.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So the easier
way to ask this question is is there anybody that feels
different that any of these seats that we recommend
when they change the -- and add two seats from the
tribal or Native side of things, subsistence side of
things, that they're not affiliated with any CDQ, any
of that type of fishing.

MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.
I think that's a great idea because at the moment, like
you were stating about the Chairman of the North
Pacific, there is conflict of interest him being a
former part of a CDQ. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that

0096

1 Mary. If there's no other objection, Katya, you can
2 add that to the comments.

3
4 (No objections)

5
6 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Unless somebody else--
9 if somebody contests it, I can back off.

10
11 (No objections)

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. Okay. So is
14 there any other important discussion on this bycatch
15 letter thing, this letter that we're going to take part
16 in. It sounds like we're going to vote for it and
17 we're going to put our additional recommendations to
18 it. Katya.

19
20 MR. MOSES: Mr. Chair, this is Robert
21 again. I got one more suggestion.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

24
25 MR. MOSES: We all know that the Alaska
26 fishing industry is a billion dollar industry and all
27 these companies, they got money put aside, you know, to
28 go buy fish and send their fish along with their boats
29 and their big boats, this is just a suggestion, why
30 can't by the big trawling boats that are catching the
31 bycatch, why can't they take one year off and let all
32 of the fish pass. Just one year. And let all the fish
33 pass and if the stocks come back up after that, maybe
34 that'd be a suggestion. And if that worked have every
35 three to four years, stop fishing like that again for
36 another year and then when the stocks come back up --
37 is that possible, and they could -- big companies could
38 pay their workers from their company to let their boat
39 stand idle for one year. Is that a suggestion or would
40 that help in the long run?

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, I would go along
43 with that and I would say a five year moratorium on any
44 trawling in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska but
45 the power -- the lobbying power they have is -- it's
46 probably unattainable, it doesn't mean it's not a good
47 idea. The thing about it is if they stop for five
48 years and our salmon started coming back then that
49 would point a big finger on them and they wouldn't want
50

0097

1 that black eye because they probably would never be
2 able to come back from that. The idea of trawl
3 fisheries -- the Grand Banks -- they fished the East
4 Coast out, they fished the Gulf of Mexico out, they
5 fished out in front of California -- California banned
6 trawlers by law. They moved up the Coast, and then
7 they got into Southwestern Alaska and those guys banned
8 them out of Southwestern Alaska, and then they moved
9 into the Gulf and the Bering so -- over time. They've
10 been a part of fisheries depletions on record.

11

12 So understanding where you're coming
13 from, you know, you'd like to see them park them and
14 wait but unfortunately that's not going to happen. All
15 we can do is plug in what we want to plug in on this
16 letter and sign off on it, I think.

17

18 Anybody else -- is that you Robert.

19

20 MR. MOSES: Yeah, that was me, thank
21 you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're welcome. I'm
24 not trying to be negative I just wanted to point out
25 the obvious. I think Katya even brought it up.

26

27 MR. MOSES: Yeah, I know that. I said
28 it was just a suggestion, is all.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep. Yep. It doesn't
31 hurt. Okay, so temperature's been taken, we're all
32 going to vote. There's additions for Katya to add into
33 the letter and everybody sounds good with that.

34

35 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya.
36 I have a question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: So what is the Council's
41 final recommendation on the cap for chinook and chum.
42 You know, I heard a lot of different numbers, one of
43 the last numbers recommended for chinook was 4,000 and
44 for chum there were two numbers, 125,000 or 75,000. So
45 you know if you could maybe put it in the motion when
46 you vote to sign on this letter that would be the best
47 for clarification, what the Council agrees to.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, for that,

50

0098

1 that's one I didn't get a definite on, thanks, Katya.
2 Martin, you got a number.

3

4 MR. AUKONGAK: No, I got no number.
5 I'll agree with the majority.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mary. Thank you.

8

9 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair. I don't have
10 that letter in front of me. I just got done checking
11 my emails, is there a draft of this letter to actually
12 read physically or is it.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, there is a
15 letter.

16

17 MS. FREYTAG: Where is it at?

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya.
20 We can email this letter to Mary right now if that's
21 okay.

22

23 MS. FREYTAG: Thank you. I'd
24 appreciate that very much. I was just going on what --
25 I was hearing what everyone was stating and I thought
26 it was emailed to me earlier so I just got done
27 checking and I don't have it. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary. So
30 it says in this letter, the Councils recommend that the
31 chinook salmon bycatch cap at the Bering Sea/Aleutians
32 Island commercial fishery be reduced to at most 16,000
33 fish. And then the non-chinook chum salmon bycatch
34 should be reduced at least by half, and they're saying
35 that it's 300,000 [sic] chum salmon that is the cap and
36 then this letter says it needs to be -- some of them
37 say 250, and I think that's where I got the 150. So
38 I'm going to say if you're going to reduce both of
39 them, reduce them by 50 percent at least. If we got a
40 number like that, everybody agrees on it, we can at
41 least get it in the letter.

42

43 MS. FREYTAG: I do agree with you on
44 that, by at least 50 percent. That's a good starting
45 point number.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I'm -- the
48 500,000 is the chum salmon bycatch, sorry I got a
49 different number here, but I say half of less -- less

50

0099

1 than half. So anyway we need to move on this. So on
2 the numbers of the chinook we can agree with the 50
3 percent on that one and 50 percent on the chum, to at
4 least send that message.

5

6 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, that sounds real
7 good.

8

9 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, this is Leland.
10 That sounds good.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you
13 Leland. Thank you, Mary. So Katya you got that.

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So 50 percent on
16 the chinook. So what number is that, I'm just trying
17 to -- I don't know what the chinook cap is now.

18

19 MR. OYOUMICK: What is the number?

20

21 MS. WESSELS: Sorry.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What's that. Okay, so
24 the chum salmon -- let's get this one down. The chum
25 salmon bycatch level is upwards of 300,000 fish.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I think that's
28 right.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: In this letter. Okay,
31 so what I'm saying is it should be at least 50 percent
32 of that 300,000 because then they'll bump up against
33 it. They're not bumping up against it at the 300,000,
34 that's -- that's just a high mark where they come up
35 and touch it every once in awhile, like a guy dunking a
36 ball in a basketball game, doesn't happen very often.

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Okay, so 150 then.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm going to rest at
41 150. If anybody has any objection, please raise it.

42

43 (No objections)

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, hearing none,
46 Katya, it's 150 for the chum.

47

48 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

49

50

0100

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And on the chinook
2 bycatch limit it is the -- current chinook bycatch
3 limit is set at 45,000, I think it should be 16,000.
4 Anybody have any objection.

5

6 MS. FREYTAG: Just a personal thing. I
7 feel 10,000 is good but that's just me personally but
8 your 16,000 sounds good too.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. The other thing
11 is is if there is anybody has an objection to 10,000,
12 please raise it now, if not we'll put it down as
13 10,000.

14

15 (No objections)

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing no objection
18 on that, 10,000 for chinook, 150,000 for chum.

19

20 MR. KIRK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. That's our
23 addition to the letter. We have to vote on the draft
24 and we're adding our stuff in there. The other one is
25 the 24/7 camera and on the appointments for the North
26 Pacific Fishery Management for tribal seats, non-
27 affiliation -- no affiliation with any CDQ fisheries.
28 Anybody object to any of those.

29

30 REPORTER: And get a second, Louis.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody object to any
33 of those.

34

35 REPORTER: Get a second, Louis.

36

37 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, we need to
38 second the motion.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we had a first
41 and a second earlier, didn't we.

42

43 REPORTER: No, we need a second, Louis.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Okay, second.
46 Is there a second. Anybody. Ron made the motion,
47 right.

48

49 REPORTER: Yes.

50

0101

1 MR. KIRK: Yes. The motion is for the
2 bycatch half, the camera and the seating of council
3 members.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And the chinook.
6 Chinook, chum salmon, we actually knocked it -- Mary
7 brought up 10,000 on the chinook so that's a little
8 different.

9
10 MR. KIRK: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'm aware of
11 that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. All right, so
14 10,000 on the chinook, 150,000 on the chum. The camera
15 and the non-affiliation of CDQ on the tribal seats on
16 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; those are
17 four items.

18
19 Any objections.

20
21 (No objections)

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The motion has to be
24 made, I think Ron's made the motion with the intent of
25 covering those four, Katya.

26
27 MS. WESSELS: Yes. But we need a
28 second.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. And I'm asking
31 for a second from Council.

32
33 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary, I'll
34 second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary. A
37 first and a second. Any discussion, further.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, all
42 those in favor of signing on with the joint draft with
43 other RACs with our inclusion of the four points we
44 made say aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against,
49 same sign.

50

0102

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, against,
4 passes unanimous, Katya. Okay, let's take a five
5 minute break, it's 1:20. Is that okay with people.

6

7

MR. KIRK: How about a lunch break.

8

9

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, my goodness, you
10 know, I don't even think like that anymore.

11

12

(Laughter)

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Katya, what do you
think, we got -- what are we looking for for a lunch
break?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Did we lose her.

MR. KIRK: Half an hour, Louis.

MS. WESSELS: I'm sorry, I had myself
on mute. 30 minutes I was going to suggest if it's
okay with the Council members, this way we can move
faster through the agenda.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. All right, so
that's good, well, let's just pick it up at 2:00.

MS. WESSELS: Okay.

MR. KIRK: Okay, 2:00 o'clock, fine.

MS. FREYTAG: 2:00 o'clock sounds good.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: 2:00 o'clock. Thank
you, bye, call back.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: This is Louis, I'm on.

MS. WESSELS: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
Katya, I'm on as well. Would you like me to do the
roll call.

0103

1

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, please.

2

3

4

are you on.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Mary Freytag,

5

6

MS. FREYTAG: Present.

7

8

MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

9

10

Deahl Katchatag.

11

12

(No comments)

13

14

15

not on currently.

MS. WESSELS: Okay, it looks like he's

16

17

Leland Oyoumick.

18

19

MR. OYOUNICK: Here.

20

21

MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

22

23

Martin Aukongak.

24

25

MR. AUKONGAK: Good afternoon.

26

27

MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

28

29

Elmer Seetot.

30

31

MR. SEETOT: Present.

32

33

MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

34

35

Robert Moses.

36

37

MR. MOSES: I'm here.

38

39

MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

40

41

Ronald Kirk.

42

43

MR. KIRK: I'm here.

44

45

MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.....

46

47

MR. KIRK: I'm here.

48

49

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, thank you. We have

50

0104

1 seven members present, we have a quorum.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Katya. So
4 I guess our next, under old business would be our next
5 item under the letter E, is the 2021 Council charter
6 changes overview. And, Katya, that's for you.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. For the record, my name is Katya Wessels and
10 I'm with OSM. This agenda item is just an information
11 agenda item. There's no action needed. I will be
12 really brief and you can find your new charters, the
13 Council 2021 charters under Tab No. 5. The charter is
14 also posted on our website, the Federal Subsistence
15 Management Program website.

16

17 So as you might know that all 10
18 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils were chartered
19 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and the
20 Council charters are renewed every two years. Last
21 year the Councils reviewed the charters and proposed
22 some changes. The Federal Subsistence Board supported
23 most of the Council proposed changes and forwarded its
24 recommendations to the Secretaries of the Interior and
25 Agriculture for review and approval and renewal of the
26 charters.

27

28 Nine out of 10 Councils requested to
29 add a carryover terms clause to all 10 Council charters
30 to avoid temporary vacancies on the Councils that
31 occur between the expiration of the current member
32 terms and the annual set of Secretarial appointments.
33 The Secretaries supported these change request. The
34 clause on the carryover terms was added to your charter
35 and can be found under Section 12 which is titled,
36 Membership and Designation. And the added language
37 reads, and I will read it verbatim:

38

39 If appointments for a given year have
40 not yet been announced, a member may continue to serve
41 on the Council following the expiration of his or her
42 term until such appointments have been made. Unless
43 reappointed, the members service ends on the date of
44 announcement, even if that member specific seat remains
45 unfilled.

46

47 So meaning, like let's say, one of your
48 terms expires in December and the appointments have not
49 been made, so if your term expired last December you

50

0105

1 still could have served on the Council and attended
2 this meeting until the Secretarial appointments are
3 made. This is a very great addition to the charters
4 that allows us and the Councils more flexibility and
5 eliminates a lot of vacant seats for the winter
6 meeting.

7
8 So the Board, the Federal Subsistence
9 Board, also supported the North Slope Council's
10 recommendation to strike out subsection 4(h) and 4(i),
11 of Section 4, description of duties, from all Council
12 charters. The Board agreed with the Council's opinion
13 that the language of these subsections was irrelevant
14 to the Council mission and ANILCA mandates. These
15 subsections were inserted in the Council charters
16 during 2017 charter renewal by the previous
17 Administration. The Executive Orders cited in these
18 subsections were either irrelevant or revoked by the
19 newly issued Executive Order. So the Secretaries
20 approved this change request as well. And the section
21 for (h) and for (i) were removed.

22
23 So that concludes my presentation on
24 the Council charter updates.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
29 Katya. Any questions, comments or concerns from
30 Council.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, it
35 sounds like we're moving into Item 11 under new
36 business. Under Item A Fisheries Resource Monitoring
37 Program information update with Jarred Stone.

38
39 MR. STONE: Thank you. Good afternoon,
40 Mr. Chair and members of the Council. For the record,
41 my name is Jarred Stone and I'm a Fisheries Biologist
42 here at the Office of Subsistence Management. It's
43 been a few years since I last worked with your Council
44 and as we begin to get Staffed up again at our office
45 we are settling in to our new regions and I will be
46 working here with you at the Seward Peninsula region
47 and just wanted to let you know that I'll be your new
48 fisheries biologist. And Karen Hyer, who you have
49 worked with in the past, will also be my sort of
50

0106

1 sidekick here in the Seward Peninsula region.

2

3 So with that said, I look forward to
4 working with you once again.

5

6 So to begin I'll be providing an update
7 on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. This
8 will be a brief update but, please, feel free to ask
9 questions as we move along and we will do our best to
10 help answer them.

11

12 For the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
13 Program update, this is not an action item for today.
14 There are no associated materials for this discussion
15 in your Council meeting books.

16

17 Just to begin, I know we have some new
18 members and I thought it would be good to just give a
19 real quick overview of the Fisheries Resource
20 Monitoring Program before we begin the update.

21

22 The Office of Subsistence Management
23 implements a program called the Fisheries Resource
24 Monitoring Program. The program funds research and
25 monitoring projects that provide information to Federal
26 subsistence managers. These projects are funded on a
27 two year cycle. The cycle starts when we meet with the
28 Council to determine the research needs of the area. We
29 call these needs the priority information needs. The
30 priority information needs are the Council's
31 opportunity to direct the research on the Seward
32 Peninsula. Investigators develop proposals based on
33 this list. Those proposals are reviewed by the U.S.
34 Fish and Wildlife Service Staff and the Technical
35 Review Committee and your Council. All the input
36 generated from the proposal reviews is presented to the
37 Federal Subsistence Board. They make a recommendation
38 on which projects to fund and then the Office of
39 Subsistence Management funds as many projects as
40 possible based on their budget.

41

42 And we are currently in the final phase
43 of the 2022 Monitoring Program funding cycle. The
44 Federal Subsistence Board met in early February and
45 made recommendations about the Monitoring Plan. The
46 Assistant Regional Director of OSM just approved the
47 funding plan and all of the applicants have been
48 notified of the status of their submissions.

49

50

0107

1 With the 2022 coming to an end it's
2 time for Councils to begin developing priority
3 information needs for the 2024 Fisheries Resource
4 Monitoring Program, which will happen at your next
5 meeting in the fall.

6

7 We are asking for Council members to
8 consider volunteering and to meet by telephone this
9 summer to identify knowledge gaps and information
10 needed for the management of subsistence fisheries for
11 the northern region. The draft list of priority
12 information needs will then be presented to the
13 Councils for final approval during their fall 2022
14 meeting.

15

16 If the Council wishes, I can provide
17 the list of priority information needs that was
18 finalized by your Council during the last funding cycle
19 for projects beginning in 2022. If that's the wish of
20 the Council I can work through this list.

21

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, please, Jarred.

26

27 MR. STONE: Okay, thank you. So in
28 2022, notice of funding opportunity for the Northern
29 Alaska region.....

30

31 MS. FREYTAG: You have an echo on your
32 line.

33

34 MR. STONE:identified.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Jarred, you.....

37

38 REPORTER: Okay, hold on. Hold on.
39 Jarred, could you hold on please.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Jarred, you have a bad
42 echo.

43

44 REPORTER: Jarred.

45

46 MR. STONE: Yes.

47

48 REPORTER: Okay, I'm sorry, could you
49 hold on just one moment. So we have a really loud echo
50

0108

1 and that means that there's several lines unmuted. If
2 everybody could take a second and check your phone, put
3 it on star, six, or use your mute button because the
4 only person that should be unmuted right now is Jarred,
5 and that way the Council can hear what he's saying, and
6 I can record it.

7

8 Okay, thank you.

9

10 Jarred, go ahead.

11

12 MR. STONE: Thank you, Tina. Okay, so
13 I'll just briefly go over the list of priority
14 information needs that the Council had developed during
15 the last cycle for the Seward Peninsula area. And
16 please forgive me if I do not pronounce some of the
17 names correctly, and maybe stop me and help me out.

18

19 Okay, the first one is chinook, chum
20 and coho salmon abundance estimates for Boston, Fish,
21 Paragon and Wagonwheel Rivers.

22

23 The second one is, summer and fall chum
24 salmon abundance estimates for the Agiapuk River
25 drainage including American River and Igloo Creek.

26

27 The third is chinook salmon abundance
28 estimates for the Unalakleet River.

29

30 The fourth is chinook, chum and coho
31 abundance estimates for the Pikmiktalik River.

32

33 And the last one, the fifth one, is,
34 changes in grayling, Dolly Varden and sheefish
35 populations related to climate change.

36

37 Currently in the Seward Peninsula
38 region there is one project that is funded by our
39 program and that's a project run by the National Park
40 Service looking at the fish assemblages and genetic
41 stock determination of salmon in Bering Land Bridge
42 National Preserve.

43

44 This concludes my presentation
45 regarding the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
46 Are there any questions or volunteers who would like to
47 sign up and help draft a list of priority information
48 needs for consideration at the fall 2022 meeting.

49

50

0109

1 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mary.

4

5 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, Jarred, out of those
6 recommendations, how many of those proposals were
7 worked on?

8

9 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 There were -- and I'd have to go back and look at how
11 many were submitted for the northern region. As a
12 reminder, the northern region is made up of three
13 Councils. The Seward Peninsula Council, the Northwest
14 Arctic Regional Advisory Council and lastly the North
15 Slope Council, and so together the three Councils
16 helped draft this list and project investigators then
17 can sort of look at that list and pick and choose which
18 projects they want to submit proposals for for funding.
19 And for the northern region as a whole, there are four
20 projects that are going to be funded for the 2022
21 cycle, and unfortunately none of these projects were in
22 the Seward Peninsula region. They are mostly all in
23 the Northwest Arctic and North Slope region. If you'd
24 like I could give you a list of those projects.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think that's
27 question for you, Mary.

28

29 MS. FREYTAG: No thank you for that
30 information for Northwest. I was just curious on what
31 was, you know, the people meet and then they make these
32 suggestions on projects and then we make the
33 recommendations and I was just curious -- because you
34 guys pick and choose what you guys want to do, what's
35 the use in us making the recommendations if you guys
36 are just going to pick and choose the projects you want
37 to work on?

38

39 MR. STONE: Through the Chair, I can
40 help answer that question. So when we -- really it's
41 an opportunity for the Council to direct which types of
42 projects can occur. And so it sort of starts from the
43 ground up and we first start the conversations with
44 you, the Council, and we look to you to give us advice
45 as to what types of research needs are needed in your
46 region and that really sets the stage for what type of
47 research can happen. And, you know, from there OSM
48 will then put out a call for proposals and
49 investigators can then pick and choose which research
50

0110

1 topics they want to address. And at that time
2 proposals roll into us and we have what's called a
3 Technical Review Committee. It's made up of various
4 agency Staff experts that is not made up of just OSM
5 Staff, it's kind of a multi-agency approach, and these
6 experts look at five criteria to basically score and
7 determine which projects should be funded. And those
8 criteria are based off of strategic importance, cost
9 benefit analysis, the types of partnerships that they
10 have with their local communities or with other
11 agencies and so we want to ensure that we're funding
12 the very best projects.

13

14 And so, yeah, I'll leave it there and
15 if you have any other questions about the FRMP or the
16 process I would be happy to give you more.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is that all for you,
19 Mary?

20

21 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, thank you, Mr.
22 Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Are there
25 any other Council comments, questions or concerns of
26 Jarred on this funding.

27

28 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

31

32 MR. KIRK: Jarred, this is Ron from
33 Stebbins. You mentioned Pikmiktalik, what was about
34 Pikmiktalik, are you guys going to be funding that
35 project?

36

37 MR. STONE: Thank you for the question.
38 Through the Chair. No, so this was a priority
39 information need that was identified by the Council and
40 it specifically was looking at chinook, chum and coho
41 abundance estimates for the Pikmiktalik. And I have to
42 go back and look at my notes but I do not believe an
43 investigator had submitted any proposal for that
44 research question.

45

46 MR. KIRK: Okay. I've been bringing up
47 Pikmiktalik for the past number of years, since I've
48 been on the Board, and I'd like to see a counting tower
49 brought back up to Pikmiktalik. I brought this issue
50

0111

1 up with the tribe, the Stebbins Community Association
2 President but I don't think he responded. I tried
3 talking with him, and I also tried talking with Kawarek
4 so I don't.....

5
6 MR. STONE: Okay.

7
8 MR. KIRK:know if they made a
9 proposal or not.

10
11 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
12 Chair. Yeah, I believe that's correct. I believe there
13 was no proposal that was submitted for the Pikmiktalik.
14 And, you know, conversations like this really help
15 investigators learn about the importance. You know on
16 the phone line today I'm sure there's a number of local
17 investigators that are interested in putting in for
18 proposals in the future, and so these types of
19 conversations really set the stage for what types of
20 research questions folks should consider, you know,
21 submitting an application for funding. So, again, in
22 the fall when we meet next fall we'll sit down with a
23 finalized list of priority information needs and that
24 list of research questions, again, will really set the
25 stage for what types of projects can happen in the
26 fall.

27
28 And if there's any volunteers that
29 would like to meet this summer, it would likely be for
30 a morning or an afternoon and it would take maybe one
31 to two hours of your time and we would sit down and
32 look at past priority information needs from past
33 cycles and then just sit down and have a discussion
34 about research concerns, or local concerns that you
35 might have regarding various fisheries in your neck of
36 the woods.

37
38 And so I hope that answers your
39 question, thank you.

40
41 MR. KIRK: Yes, it does. I'm willing
42 to sit down for a couple hours and volunteer sometime
43 this summer if you guys are willing to discuss
44 Pikmiktalik with me. Because I believe that we have
45 our own abundance of fish going up the Pikmiktalik
46 River and we had a counting tower there probably 2017
47 or so, way back, and I'd like to see it brought back so
48 we can know the abundance of fish going into our
49 freshwater down here at the Pikmiktalik River.

50

0112

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. STONE: Thank you. And through the
4 Chair, just to be sure, so that was Ron, correct?

5

6 MR. KIRK: Correct. Ron Kirk,
7 Stebbins. My number is (907) 434-0981.

8

9 MR. STONE: Thank you, sir. I
10 appreciate it. And I'll work with you and get a hold
11 of you and we'll figure out a time that works for you
12 and try to do this before summer. I know things get
13 busy during summer and so I appreciate your offer. If
14 there's anyone else that would like to volunteer during
15 this time, again, it would be just a brief get
16 together, very informal, probably take less than two
17 hours.

18

19 MR. KIRK: Okay. I'll throw it in the
20 air and see who's willing to sit down with me from the
21 village here because we have -- Pigmiktalik is where we
22 get our fish from and I'd like to know the abundance
23 going in.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Jarred, this is Louis.
28 You can throw my phone number in there, too, it's (907)
29 202-1389.

30

31 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Appreciate it, will do.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Anybody
35 else.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, come on,
40 everybody likes volunteer work.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

45

46 MR. KIRK: Right, Mr. Chair, we're all
47 voluntary, right.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

0113

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, so that
2 ends our discussion with Jarred on the Fisheries
3 Resource Monitoring Program. So Mr. Jared I think we
4 can go ahead and move on to B, are you going to inform
5 us of a couple of things.

6
7 MR. STONE: Thank you. Yep. Good
8 afternoon, again, Mr. Chair and members of the Council.
9 Again, for the record, my name is Jarred Stone and I am
10 a Fisheries Biologist with OSM.

11
12 Today I'll give a brief update on our
13 call for Federal fish and shellfish proposals. This is
14 an action item and you can find the materials on how to
15 submit a regulatory proposal on Tab 6 of your meeting
16 books.

17
18 The Federal Subsistence Board will be
19 accepting proposals this winter and into the spring to
20 change Federal regulations for the subsistence take of
21 fish and shellfish on Federal public lands and waters
22 for the 2023 through 2025 regulatory cycle. The Board
23 will consider proposals to change Federal fish and
24 shellfish seasons, harvest limits, methods and means
25 and customary and traditional use determinations. The
26 current window of opportunity, however, to submit
27 proposals is not open yet. However, as a Council, you
28 may vote on fisheries proposals and then submit the
29 proposals to the Council Coordinator during your
30 Council meeting. Council Coordinators will hold on to
31 the proposals until the window for the fisheries
32 proposal is officially opened and then submit them.
33 The general public will need to wait until the window
34 for fisheries proposals has officially opened which
35 should be sometime soon and stay open for a period of
36 at least 30 days. Proposals need to be submitted to
37 the regulations website by going to
38 www.regulations.gov. There will be also news releases
39 from OSM announcing the call for proposals window once
40 the dates are set and once they are known. The
41 proposals will be analyzed and presented to the
42 Councils during the upcoming fall 2022 meetings for
43 Council recommendations. Proposal analysis and Council
44 recommendations will be presented to the Federal
45 Subsistence Board for their action at their January
46 2023 fisheries regulatory meeting.

47
48 That concludes my presentation.

49
50

0114

1 Are there any questions related to the
2 fisheries regulatory cycle or proposals that you would
3 like to put forward.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I lost track of where
6 I was at here, sorry about that. Any Council members
7 wish to speak on anything here.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, I guess
12 we have another item for you to cover, Jarred, under
13 Item C.

14
15 MR. STONE: Yes. Good, moving right
16 along. Good afternoon, again, Mr. Chair and members of
17 the Council. This is Jarred Stone, Fisheries Biologist
18 with OSM. In addition to the Federal fish and
19 shellfish call for proposals, OSM Staff will continue
20 conducting reviews of closures of the Federal
21 subsistence regulations, similar to what the wildlife
22 cycle has done this last round. This is not an action
23 item for today. And there are no associated materials
24 in your Council books for this discussion.

25
26 Title VIII of ANILCA establishes a
27 priority for the taking of fish and wildlife on Federal
28 public lands and waters for non-wasteful subsistence
29 uses of the taking of fish and wildlife on such lands
30 for other purposes. Under certain circumstances
31 specified in Title VIII, the Board is authorized to
32 restrict, close and reopen Federal public lands and
33 waters to the taking of fish and wildlife. Like other
34 Board established rules closures are subject to change
35 during the regulatory cycle. It is the Board's policy
36 that Federal public lands and waters should be reopened
37 as soon as practicable once the conditions that
38 originally justified the closure have changed to such
39 an extent that the closure is no longer necessary. To
40 help ensure that closures do not remain in place longer
41 than necessary, the Board has directed OSM to review
42 existing closures.

43
44 OSM will review half of all closures
45 during each applicable regulatory cycle. Closure
46 reviews will include analysis of all relevant
47 considerations and OSM will recommend an action for the
48 Council's consideration on the closure. The types of
49 actions that the Council can recommend include, to
50

0115

1 retain, which means the closure remains in the
2 regulations unchanged. The second option is to modify,
3 which means a change directly related to the actual
4 closure. Some examples of this would be adjusting the
5 dates the closure's effective, or perhaps assigning an
6 expiration date or broadening a closure to both
7 subsistence and non-subsistence users. A third option
8 is to rescind, which means to remove the closure from
9 the regulations. If a season or harvest limit exists
10 in the regulations that season or harvest limit will
11 once again become effective. And the last option is to
12 defer, which means that the closure remain in place
13 until that time the Board takes up the closure again,
14 normally no longer than the next applicable regulatory
15 cycle.

16

17 There are currently fisheries closures
18 statewide under review for this upcoming fisheries
19 regulatory cycle. Of the 20 closure reviews, four will
20 be considered for the Seward Peninsula Regional
21 Advisory Council during the fall 2022 Council meeting.

22

23 The four fisheries closure reviews will
24 be -- will include closures on the Yukon for all fish.
25 None of these closure reviews are located within the
26 Seward Peninsula region. These will be coming before
27 the Seward Peninsula RAC because the community of
28 Stebbins has customary and traditional use
29 determination for salmon in the Yukon River drainage
30 within the Yukon northern area. For that reason,
31 you'll have a chance to provide your recommendations to
32 the Board on these if you choose. If you like I can
33 give you a brief list of the fisheries closures that
34 will be under review for the fall cycle.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Jarred, please do
37 that.

38

39 MR. STONE: Okay. For the Yukon
40 northern area, OSM will be reviewing three closures
41 that are located in the Western Interior region. The
42 three closures will include No. 1., the Jim River; No.
43 2 Bonanza Creek; and No. 3 the Kanuti River. OSM will
44 also be reviewing one closure in the Eastern Interior
45 region, which includes the Delta River.

46

47 This includes my updates on the
48 fisheries closure review process and the status of the
49 upcoming closure reviews to be considered for the fall
50

0116

1 2022 meeting.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair. This concludes
4 my presentation. Are there any questions.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Council, any
7 questions.

8

9 MR. KIRK: Just one, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

12

13 MR. KIRK: Jarred, you mentioned
14 Stebbins. What were you talking about, a closure for
15 Stebbins.

16

17 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
18 Chair. Council Member Ron. Yeah, so Stebbins is --
19 has positive customary and traditional use
20 determinations for fish and for salmon on the Yukon
21 River. And similar to how we handle fisheries
22 proposals, whenever there's what we call a crossover
23 region, regions along the Yukon then will weigh in on
24 those proposals and because Stebbins has customary and
25 traditional use determination for salmon on the Yukon,
26 you'll have a chance to consider some of the closures
27 that are happening up river. And does that answer your
28 question, Council member?

29

30 MR. KIRK: Yes, it does. That's the
31 reason why I've been trying to get a counting tower on
32 Pikmiktalik. We have our own resource there. Thank
33 you.

34

35 MR. STONE: Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Let's
38 see if there's anybody else.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, I think
43 that ends your stuff, Jarred, your presentations. And
44 that brings us to under new business, Item D, and that
45 would be Brent Vickers or Hannah Voorhees.

46

47 MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
48 name is Brent Vickers. I'm an Anthropologist at the
49 Office of Subsistence Management here in Anchorage. Am
50

0117

1 I loud and clear.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're five by five.

4

5

MR. VICKERS: All right, thank you very much. Today I'm here to tell you -- to provide you with a brief overview of the current call for proposals for nonrural determinations in the Federal regulations. This is an action item. These materials are not in your Council book.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

A nonrural determination is the process for formally changing in Federal regulation a community's status from nonrural to rural or from rural to nonrural. This is the second call for proposals for nonrural determinations since 2018. Any valid nonrural determination proposals submitted this year will be acted on by the Board in 2025. The call for nonrural determination proposals occurs every four years concurrent with every other fisheries regulatory cycle. The next call for proposals for nonrural determinations will be in 2026.

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

As you just heard from our colleague, Jarred, in the Fisheries Division, the call for proposals has not yet published due to the lengthy clearance process in Washington, D.C. When it gets published the public comment proposal to change the regulations period will be open for at least 30 days.

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

There's a flier on our website on how to submit proposals to change nonrural determinations. The flier includes information on where to submit a proposal and lists items a proposal must contain to be accepted for consideration by the Board. The website address is <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/faqs>, and that's faqs. This flier can be found near the bottom of the frequently asked questions page. Additional information may be found in the soon to be published proposed rule for the 2023 to 2025 subsistence fish and shellfish proposed rule.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Again, this is an action item. Thank you very much for your attention and I will try to answer any of your questions.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brent.

0118

1 Council, any questions, comments or concerns, feel
2 free.

3

4

(No comments)

5

6

7

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, Brent, I
think that does it for your section there. That brings
us up to Item F, excuse me, E, Katya.

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Thank you,
Mr. Chair. Yes, this is my item. So the Council
members you can find your draft fiscal year 2021 annual
report in Tab No. 7. It's also posted on our website.
So today is an opportunity for the Council to review
this draft and if you have any edits, corrections, we
can take that into consideration before the annual
report is finalized.

18

19

20

Right now the Council has two topics on
their annual report.

21

22

23

1. Resident caribou herd in the
northern Seward Peninsula.

24

25

26

2. Bering Sea Western Interior
Planning Area environmental impact statement.

27

28

29

30

31

32

I hope the Council members had a chance
to review this report prior to this meeting but if you
did not perhaps, Mr. Chair, you might want to consider
giving the Council a few minutes to review it, it's
only two pages long.

33

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Katya.
And, yes, a couple minutes here, at 2:45 we'll come
back, that gives us three minutes or so, under Tab 7.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

(Off record)
(On record)
CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so it's 2:46.
Does anybody have anything to bring up on this.

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't sound like
it. I don't have anything to add. I don't see any -- I
didn't catch any corrections that needed to be made.

0119

1 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, if the Council
2 doesn't have any corrections or additions then if you
3 can entertain a motion to approve the report.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. I guess I'll
6 entertain a motion to accept the report as stated. I
7 need a first and a second, it's an action item.

8
9 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, move.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

12
13 MR. MOSES: Second by Robert.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Robert is second.
16 Questions, comments, concerns, discussion.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, put it
21 to a vote.

22
23 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair.

24
25 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.
26 On that first annual report, on that resident caribou,
27 they might finally have moved around, one is, how long
28 can they survive on winter lichen that is up around
29 that range. I would assume and think that most of the
30 winter food has been eaten for those caribou and
31 reindeer. And down toward Cape Douglas, south of
32 Brevig Mission in that spit, you know, five to eight
33 winters ago, the tussocks that were showing on the
34 tundra, they were pretty much stripped of lichen.
35 Every tussock that we ran into down there stripped of
36 lichen from reindeer and from muskox. So my question
37 was, how long do they survive in the winter, you know,
38 without lichen or similar food such as that in that
39 part of the Seward Peninsula.

40
41 Last spring I had a chance to ride to
42 the Yert Mountains west of Brevig Mission and I did see
43 genuine caribou along with the local herds that are kid
44 of dispersing. They -- they do -- they have been
45 showing up recently and I really haven't seen them over
46 the last few -- over the past years being so -- so far
47 down here.

48
49 And that would just be my comment,

50

0120

1 thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your
4 comment, Elmer. So there was a first and a second, any
5 further discussion.

6

7 MS. FREYTAG: Question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been
10 called. All those in favor of approving the annual
11 report say aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against,
16 same sign.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, motion
21 passes. That brings us down to Wildlife Special Action
22 22-01 Federal muskox permit system. I think Lisa has
23 the floor. Lisa.

24

25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, thank you, Mr.
26 Chair. And the special action request can be found
27 under Tab 8 of your binders. So for the record my name
28 is Lisa Grediagin and I'm the Wildlife Division
29 Supervisor for the Office of Subsistence Management.
30 I'll be presenting the request for temporary Wildlife
31 Special Action WSA22-01. This special action has been
32 separated into two WSA22-01(a) pertaining to the Seward
33 Peninsula muskox population in Unit 22 and 23 and
34 WSA22-01(b) for the Cape Thompson muskox population in
35 northern Unit 23. And, again, this special action
36 request is found under Tab 8 of your meeting books.

37

38 Temporary special action WSA22-01(a)
39 submitted by the National Park Service and the Bureau
40 of Land Management request the Federal Subsistence
41 Board change the Federal muskox permit in Units 22 and
42 23 from a registration permit to a drawing permit
43 system for the 2022/24 regulatory cycle. This is a
44 housekeeping request as these permits have been
45 distributed via draw since about 1998. The proponents
46 also request to standardize the language in the
47 delegation of authority letters and to change the in-
48 season manager from the Western Arctic National
49 Parklands Superintendent to the Anchorage Field Office

50

0121

1 Manager for the Federal muskox hunt in the Southwestern
2 portion of Unit 23.

3
4 The Seward Peninsula population of
5 muskox have been managed under a shared quota system
6 with the state of Alaska since 1998. The Alaska
7 Department of Fish and Game has issued permits under a
8 Tier II restriction and Federal permits have been
9 issued using a drawing system since about the same
10 time. Federal in-season managers use a draw system to
11 distribute permits because unclear language in the
12 delegation of authority letter led them believe that
13 they could. The Federal in-season managers considered
14 a draw permit to be the best management strategy for
15 conserving natural and healthy muskox populations while
16 still allowing for subsistence use by Federally-
17 qualified subsistence users. If this request is
18 approved there will be no change to the process of
19 awarding Federal permits, the only change will be
20 standardizing language in the delegation of authority
21 letters and the in-season manager for the one hunt area
22 in the southern Unit 23.

23
24 The Office of Subsistence Management
25 will be holding a public hearing regarding WSA22-01 on
26 March 15th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

27
28 The Northwest Arctic Council considered
29 and supported this special action at their meeting last
30 month and the North Slope also will be acting on this
31 request at their winter meeting next week.

32
33 The Federal Subsistence Board will be
34 acting on these proposals at their April 2022
35 regulatory meeting.

36
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
38 Council. That concludes my presentation but I'd be
39 happy to answer any questions.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: When was the Federal
42 Subsistence Board going to act on this?

43
44 MS. GREDIAGIN: At their regulatory
45 meeting in April.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So.....

48
49 MS. GREDIAGIN: So that's, yeah, April
50

0122

1 12th through 15th is the Board meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you.

4 Anybody on the Council have any comments, questions or
5 concerns.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Councilman Gray had
10 concerns with this, like it's being rushed and so I
11 guess what my question is, is how -- did this just come
12 up, I don't remember any of this, it's like you're
13 going to do it and it's next month it's going to happen
14 and, bang, we're done. What's the reason for doing
15 this now, just because of the cycle?

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 This is Lisa for the record. And I think some Park
19 Service and BLM Staff are online that may also want to
20 address this question. But basically this special
21 action request won't -- we consider it a housekeeping
22 request because it isn't really changing anything, it's
23 more trying to maintain doing things the way they have
24 been done. So basically at another Council meeting it
25 came to the attention of OSM that the in-season manager
26 has been administrating these muskox hunts as a draw
27 permit, you know, they were drawing the permits to
28 decide who received them and technically they're
29 registration permits. So they should not be
30 administered through a drawing system. But that's how
31 they have been administered and as I mentioned in my
32 presentation, some of this confusion came because the
33 language in the delegation of authority letter was
34 unclear so they kind of misinterpreted what, you know,
35 determining the method of allocation, permitting, what
36 that meant and so -- and according to the in-season
37 managers, the way they've been doing this for the past
38 several years administering it as a draw permit is what
39 they think is the best system, you know, for equitable
40 permit distribution to the Federally-qualified user and
41 for the, you know, muskox population conservation
42 because there's just not enough muskox to be, you know,
43 have unlimited permits so you have to limit the number
44 of permits somehow.

45

46 And so I think there may have been a
47 little confusion on Member Gray's part on exactly what
48 this request was about because there really is no
49 functional material change to the muskox hunt, it's
50

0123

1 mostly trying to maintain the way the muskox hunts have
2 been administered, you know, past 10 years or however
3 long they've been doing them this way.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Well, I might
6 have missed something there, but something to do with
7 the Federal Register, is this in any way part of that?

8
9 MS. GREDIAGIN: Well, this is a special
10 action request, so there'll be temporary regulation
11 changes for the next two years and then it is the
12 intent of the proponent, so the Park Service and BLM to
13 submit a proposal next year during the wildlife cycle
14 to codify these regulations and make it a permanent
15 change and then it would be in the Federal Register.
16 But right now since it's a special action it's just
17 temporary.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So it's
20 temporary, nothing's in stone yet, we have another
21 meeting next fall, did you say -- this fall?

22
23 MS. GREDIAGIN: Well, this -- the
24 intent of the proponents is so at your next meeting in
25 the winter 2023, so a year from now, would be the call
26 for wildlife proposals and during that time the
27 proponents of this special action, the Park Service and
28 BLM would submit this as a proposal and so you would
29 see that proposal at your fall 2023 meeting.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: October or whatever.

32
33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Uh-huh.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And that's when we
36 decide if we want it in the registry if everything
37 fits. Right now you're just trying to align with
38 what's taking place basically is it status quo and
39 you're just cleaning up the verbiage?

40
41 MS. GREDIAGIN: Exactly, yep, pretty --
42 uh-huh.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. So there's
45 nothing in stone so we got to get into this in October
46 or whenever the fall meeting is to make a decision from
47 this Council.

48
49 MS. GREDIAGIN: Well, for the special
50

0124

1 action request for asking the Council to take action
2 now because the Board will be acting on this at their
3 April meeting and the season -- or they generally draw
4 the permits in July and advertise it in June so this
5 meeting right now would be the opportunity for this
6 Council to act on this special action request, to make
7 a recommendation to the Board on this special action.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So just spell
10 it out, the permit system and the draw system, just so
11 even I'm clear on it. There might be others. Can you
12 explain that again.

13
14 MS. GREDIAGIN: Sure. Yeah, I'll
15 explain it again. So currently Federal regulations
16 specify a Federal registration permit or sometimes just
17 a Federal permit. And the Federal managers have been
18 using a drawing permit for the hunt even though the
19 Federal regulations do not specify that this is a
20 drawing permit hunt. So basically this special action
21 is just trying to clarify that this is a drawing -- a
22 Federal drawing permit hunt, not a Federal registration
23 permit hunt. And so that's why it's really more of a
24 housekeeping thing. It's just like you said, cleaning
25 up the verbiage of the Federal regulations so that the
26 Federal managers can continue administering the hunt
27 the way they have been doing it in the past years. And
28 then to go along with that.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

31
32 MS. GREDIAGIN:it's just
33 standardizing the language in the delegation of
34 authority letters to make it -- to clarify it so the
35 in-season managers understand exactly what it means,
36 what their authority is, you know, to set the harvest
37 quotas, to close the season, things like that, and then
38 to make sure that authority is the same across all
39 eight of these Unit 22 and 23 muskox hunts. Because
40 right now some of the letters say you can set the
41 number of permits and some don't, you know, but really
42 all the hunts need to have the same authority to
43 effectively manage these muskox hunts.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So we got.....

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair -- sorry.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, go ahead.

50

0125

1 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I just wanted to
2 say that the -- I got a message that the National Park
3 Service would like also to add a little bit to this
4 explanation if you entertain that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I was just going
7 to call on, maybe Ken, or whomever from the Park
8 Service.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, it was Letty
11 Hughes.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, Letty's in there,
14 okay. Go ahead, Letty.

15
16 MS. HUGHES: Hi. For the record, this
17 is Letty Hughes, Bering Land Bridge. Through the
18 Chair. So, you know, this -- or what Lisa was talking
19 about in terms of the registration permit in Federal as
20 it relates to the verbiage in the Register, that came
21 up at the Northwest Arctic RAC meeting this past fall.
22 So what -- right now, because of the language, if we
23 were to do the registration permit as are supposed to,
24 what that means, basically giving unlimited number of
25 muskox -- registration muskox permits out and then
26 having to try to close the Federal hunt by like an
27 emergency order for a hunt that is like two animals.
28 And there's a couple reasons why, you know, we just
29 can't have that -- that language. So it's been going
30 -- you know, we didn't realize that that language was
31 in there. You know, this is a dual managed harvest
32 quota with the State, BLM, Park Service and as you and
33 the rest of the Council know, you know, the Seward
34 Peninsula population and even Cape Thompson is, you
35 know, two percent harvest rate, you know, it's managed
36 very, you know, very, very conservatively and to issue
37 unlimited registration permits and then to try to
38 manage that based on the number of two animals, then it
39 just becomes very difficult.

40
41 So all this does is it keeps us in
42 continuously conserving that muskox population while
43 allowing a drawing permit to be done and also in terms
44 of creating a little bit more user friendly so permits
45 are going to like, Shishmaref, Wales, you know, folks
46 in other areas, not just all like Nome or Kotzebue per
47 se.

48
49 So it's keeping the exact same thing
50

0126

1 that we have been doing for a decade plus. If we don't
2 do it then we have to revert to this registration
3 permit and that's just something that the population
4 cannot handle.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you,
7 Letty.

8

9 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

12

13 MS. FREYTAG: Is it possible to make
14 that restricted permits per usage area per area instead
15 of wide open for any other Alaskan resident to apply
16 for the permit and be granted it and come and harvest.
17 If there was a restriction on the permit then we
18 wouldn't have to keep going back and forth to this each
19 and every year to make an emergency closure. That's
20 just my way of thinking.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary.

25

26 Letty.

27

28 MS. HUGHES: So yes, this is Letty
29 through the Chair. So we do have specific areas that
30 in terms of Federal public lands for like muskox are
31 closed to that except for Federally-qualified users.
32 So a good example of that would be up in Shishmaref,
33 Wales area. You need to be a resident of Shishmaref or
34 Wales, that community to obtain a Federal muskox
35 permit, even put in for it. So there are restrictions
36 in place based on the conservation of the herd and also
37 for subsistence user needs.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Does that answer your
39 question, Mary.

40

41 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, it does, thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya.
46 Letty just let me know that her call dropped so she
47 might want to contribute something else to this
48 discussion so if we can wait a second for her to call
49 in.

50

0127

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Is Ken Adkisson
2 on there.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is Ken onboard with us
7 here.

8
9 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I'm here, what's
10 up.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I just wanted to see
13 if you had any input also.

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: No, I'm fine with that.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ken. So
18 we're waiting for Letty.

19
20 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, it clarifies --
21 you know, nobody ever thought about it before because
22 everything just worked fine until later on a question
23 came up somewhere so it clears all that up so that's
24 good.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, so sweep it
27 under the rug.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, we're waiting
32 for Letty.

33
34 MS. HUGHES: Hi, I just.....

35
36 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is.....

37
38 MS. HUGHES:got back.....

39
40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
41 is Lisa, I'm happy to answer any questions too.

42
43 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Letty is back on as
44 well, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It sounds like a
47 competition going on.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

0128

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So Letty.

2

3 MS. HUGHES: Yeah, this is Letty. So
4 it sounds like Lisa, as I came on, she had something
5 that she wanted to add on so I'm just going to let her
6 speak.

7

8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, this is Lisa.
9 Louis was asking for questions and I just wanted to let
10 the Chair know that I'm available for questions, too,
11 so I didn't want to hold up the meeting when people get
12 their calls dropped. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Lisa. Any
15 other Council questions, comments or concerns for Letty
16 or Lisa.

17

18 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair, this is Chris
19 McKee with BLM.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Chris.

22

23 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I certainly don't
24 want to add any more confusion but I just wanted to
25 make clear that the issue of registration permits are
26 done on a first come, first serve basis, so drawing
27 permits are done, obviously, on a random draw, so
28 there's a more equitable chance for, you know,
29 Federally-qualified users to get the permit, hence,
30 that's why that's been done that way already. This
31 would simply just make sure that that's clear in the
32 actual regulations. And then when the proposal comes
33 through, that will ask for the same thing and then, you
34 know, the way that they're administering it will be the
35 way they're actually described in regulations. So
36 that's really the big difference. IT really is just a
37 housecleaning proposal.

38

39 Thanks.

40

41 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Chris.

44

45 MS. FREYTAG: One other question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

48

49 MS. FREYTAG: Is there a quota, is

50

0129

1 there a quota on these permits or is it open ended?

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, through the
4 Chair, this is Lisa. And, yes, there is a muskox quota
5 for each hunt area that is established each year by the
6 Federal in-season manager and then it's in conjunction
7 or coordination with ADF&G.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What is it that ADF&G
10 does here again with this.

11

12 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa for the
13 record. The Federal manager manages the hunt on the
14 Federal lands and then there's a separate State hunt on
15 the State lands under a Tier II permit system. And so
16 I was just saying that harvest quota for muskox is
17 usually a joint quota that the Federal and State
18 managers coordinate on that quota and decide how many
19 will be allocated for the Federal side and how many for
20 the Federal side.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. Any
23 other Council comments.

24

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, I think
29 this is an action item so we're going to need a motion
30 and a second unless there's further discussion.

31

32 MR. KIRK: So moved.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron moves.

35

36 MR. KIRK: Yes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Need a second. I
39 thought I heard a second but I didn't hear who it was.
40 Did somebody make a second.

41

42 MR. MOSES: Second by Robert.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robert.

45 Thank you.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, is that a
48 motion to support the special action request, just to
49 clarify.

50

0130

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, that's how I'm
2 interpreting it.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: Okay, just clarifying it
5 for the record.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, so clarifying it
8 for the record, a vote in favor -- a positive motion to
9 be made, in favor. We have a first and a second, any
10 further discussion.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. KIRK: Question.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been
17 called. All those in favor of supporting the Wildlife
18 Special Action 22-01 Federal muskox permit system say
19 aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against,
24 same sign.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, it
29 passes unanimously.

30
31 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

34
35 MR. KIRK: Didn't Jarred, from OSM,
36 have an action item on nonrural determination
37 proposals, we didn't act on.

38
39 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya,
40 I can clarify this.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry, I'm just
43 backtracking in my mind, was there no information for
44 it or what are we doing, Katya.

45
46 MS. WESSELS: No, Brent Vickers with
47 OSM presented the information on the call for nonrural
48 determination proposals. And this is for the Council
49 to decide if they want to submit nonrural determination
50

0131

1 proposals or rural determination proposals, for that
2 matter. If the Council doesn't have any proposals at
3 the moment then it's not an action item. It's only an
4 action item if you have any proposals.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: And it's basically asking
9 the Board to determine if some of the communities are
10 rural or nonrural. If you want that change of that
11 designation that's when you submit a proposal. If you
12 don't want to change any designations of any
13 communities in the Seward Peninsula region there's no
14 need to submit a proposal.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Ron, are
19 you good.

20

21 MR. KIRK: Yes, sir, thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Okay.
24 So the item under new business, Item G.

25

26 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

29

30 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa, and could
31 you please just clarify for the record the Council's
32 justification for your support of WSA22-01, and it can
33 be simply, you know, you support the housekeeping
34 proposal or something like that. But just to make sure
35 we understand the justification. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Justification. We
38 swept it under the rug.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Housekeeping.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.

47

48 MR. KIRK: Yeah, we did, housekeeping.

49

50

0132

1 (Laughter)

2

3

MS. FREYTAG: Without a drawing permit system in place the overharvest of both populations would be so easy, you know, anyone would be able to because of the behavior of the animal and not running and it's just -- yeah, that would be the justification.

8

9

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are we clear on that.

10

11

12

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

13

14

15

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I heard something but I didn't hear any -- Lisa, we're good.

16

17

18

19

20

MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I'm sorry, Mr. Chair. Mary, could you please repeat that. I heard the overharvest of muskox populations would be really easy but I think I missed something before that.

21

22

23

MS. FREYTAG: You didn't miss a thing, you got it all, thank you.

24

25

26

MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, okay, all right, thank you, Council members.

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, even when you were sleeping over there, I heard you snoring.

30

31

32

(Laughter)

33

34

35

36

37

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so Lisa's happy. We're moving on to under new business, Item G. Fisheries temporary Special Action 22-01, 02, 03, wasn't there a 04, request for Yukon River chinook and chum salmon fisheries. Brent Vickers.

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. VICKERS: Yes, hello, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. You are correct, as of last night or this morning, is now FSA22-01, 02, 03 and 04. For the record this is Brent Vickers again, Anthropologist for the Office -- at the Office of Subsistence Management. As I said I'll be presenting on these four special actions. They are submitted by four different proponents but they are the same request, containing the same verbiage. So for simplicity sake I'm just going to refer to it as FSA22-01, even though it is the whole dash 02, 03 and 04, so

0133

1 I hope that's okay with you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, you got to read
4 them all.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. VICKERS: FSA22.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm kidding. I'm
11 kidding.

12

13 MR. VICKERS: What's that?

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I said, no, you got to
16 read them all.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, whatever you like
21 but that's the easiest but I'll stick to 22-01 unless
22 there's confusion.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm kidding.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. VICKERS: But I am talking --
29 they're all the same thing and we will be acting on
30 them as one group at the end, just so you guys are all
31 clear on that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We got it.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. VICKERS: Thank you. Okay, FSA22-
38 01 requests that the Federal Subsistence Board to close
39 the Yukon River drainage to the harvest of chinook, and
40 summer and fall chum salmon except by Federally-
41 qualified subsistence users, and to further reduce the
42 pool of eligible Federally-qualified subsistence users
43 based on an ANILCA Section .804 analysis.

44

45 Today we are requesting your Council to
46 make a recommendation to the Board regarding these
47 special action requests. The special action requests
48 were submitted by a resident of Rampart, Holy Cross
49 Tribe, Eagle Village Tribe and a resident of Huslia.

50

0134

1 OSM received these requests over the
2 last couple of weeks. We don't have them -- I'm
3 sorry, so we don't have them prepared for you in a
4 notebook, meeting book because we didn't have it at
5 that point but we do have them available for you on our
6 website under your region.

7

8 But I will read you the proponents
9 justification for all for of the requests.

10

11 The proponent says that they are asking
12 the Board to uphold the conservation and priority,
13 consumptive uses provision under Title VIII of ANILCA
14 by assuming management of Yukon River drainage chinook,
15 summer and fall chum salmon throughout the 2022 season.

16

17 They say that: Significant changes
18 have occurred since the Board last considered the Yukon
19 River drainage salmon special action request in 2015.

20

21 Yukon chinook and chum salmon
22 populations have suffered catastrophic declines in
23 abundance in recent years. In the 2021 season there
24 were no opportunities to harvest Yukon chinook and chum
25 salmon creating significant food security concerns
26 along the Yukon River tribes and residents. In the
27 proposal, and the proponent explains: "The current
28 Yukon River salmon management system wherein the State
29 manages the chinook and chum salmon fisheries with
30 passive consent, but no direct intervention by the
31 Federal in-season managers for over a decade is not
32 working and has repeatedly failed to uphold the
33 provisions of ANILCA. Over the past decade this
34 pattern of passive and ineffective Federal oversight of
35 State management has allowed:

36

37 1. Other uses, including commercial
38 fishing to have priority over subsistence harvesting
39 [sic] by Federally-qualified subsistence users
40 including during years when our long-term average
41 customary harvest amounts of chinook salmon were not
42 achieved.

43

44 2. Escapement goals necessary for
45 conservation and rebuilding our declined chinook salmon
46 runs have not been met in a number of years, including
47 the failure to meet escapement goals in Canada in 2007,
48 2008, 2010, 2011, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

49

50

1 3. Inequity of harvest where some
2 portions of the Yukon River drainage were open for
3 chinook salmon harvest while other portions were
4 arbitrarily closed to harvest."
5

6 The proponent finishes the request by
7 saying: "Federal management is necessary to ensure the
8 healthy conservation of chinook and chum salmon stocks
9 as required by ANILCA in order to support future
10 subsistence harvest. Without Federal management, when
11 a sustainable harvest of chinook and chum salmon is
12 available in the future, Federally-qualified users will
13 not be insured the priority and opportunity for
14 customary and traditional uses of the Yukon chinook,
15 chum salmon that is required by Title VIII of ANILCA.
16 Our customary and traditional subsistence uses will be
17 compromised by other regulatory regimes that do not
18 prioritize subsistence uses."
19

20 So there we have the proponents
21 justification for submitting these four special action
22 requests.
23

24 The next steps are to receive
25 recommendations from the four Councils, which are the
26 Western Interior, Eastern Interior, Yukon Kuskokwim
27 Delta and Seward Peninsula Councils. The last of these
28 Council meetings will end on March 9th. Western
29 Interior met and acted on one special action request we
30 had received at that point. The Western Interior
31 Council supported the special action request with
32 modification to include coho salmon. Yukon Kuskokwim
33 Delta Council meeting met and, just yesterday, acted on
34 the special action requests that we had received at the
35 time, which were 01, 02, 03 and the Yukon Kuskokwim
36 Delta Council supported all three of those action
37 requests with modification to exclude the Black River.
38

39 OSM is also in the process of
40 organizing hearings to hear from the public and for
41 tribal consultation. These public hearings will be
42 announced in news releases and information will be
43 posted at OSM's web page, Council Coordinators will
44 send these announcements to Council members. At this
45 point public hearings are scheduled on Tuesday March
46 29th, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m, and Thursday March 31st
47 6:00 p.m., to 9:00 p.m. I can give you those
48 teleconference numbers and participation codes if you
49 would like.
50

0136

1 The last step of the process OSM will
2 be scheduling a public meeting of the Board to act on
3 these special action requests. This meeting is
4 anticipated to occur in early May. Again, Council
5 Coordinators will send this announcement to Council
6 members.

7

8 Thank you for your time, Mr. Chair and
9 members of the Council. Again, this is an action item
10 on the Council's agenda. We're asking you to make a
11 recommendation to the Board to either approve, reject,
12 modify or defer the special action request to the next
13 fisheries regulatory cycle. Again, these special
14 action requests are to close Yukon River drainage to
15 the harvest of chinook, summer and fall chum salmon
16 except by Federally-qualified subsistence users and to
17 further reduce the pool of eligible Federally-qualified
18 subsistence users based on an ANILCA, Section .804
19 analysis.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
24 Brent. We got some guys down there in Stebbins that
25 might want to make a comment. Ron.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Maybe he's not on.
30 Anybody else on the Council have any comments,
31 questions or concerns on this.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there anybody
36 online?

37

38 REPORTER: I'm here.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hello.

41

42 MR. AUKONGAK: Martin is here.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tina, okay.

45

46 MS. WESSELS: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is
47 Katya. I want to clarify, you know, a couple of points
48 here for the Council. This fisheries special action
49 request for the Yukon is being brought to your Council
50

0137

1 because, you know, the Council is considered to be one
2 of the four Yukon Councils, that's one thing. And the
3 other thing is that the Council can not just defer the
4 special actions to the next cycle, but they could also
5 defer to the recommendations of any other Yukon
6 Councils. And as Brent said, that so far only two
7 Councils provided recommendations on that, which is
8 Western Interior and YKDelta.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Katya.
13 Just a question on this, what was that -- there was an
14 exclusion of a river, Black River, or something, what
15 was that for?

16

17 MR. VICKERS: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
18 Brent Vickers. And it was for the Black River, and the
19 YKDelta made that exception.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What was the reasoning
22 behind it?

23

24 MR. VICKERS: I'm not sure if I have
25 the correct justification. But from my memory.....

26

27 MS. KENNER: Brent, this is Pippa, can
28 I help?

29

30 MR. VICKERS: If you would like to help
31 then I appreciate it.

32

33 MS. KENNER: Well, yeah, sure. This is
34 Pippa Kenner, and I work with Brent at the Office of
35 Subsistence Management. So the mouth of the Black
36 River is quite a ways south of the Yukon Delta and it
37 is considered a tributary of the Yukon because -- and
38 people from Scammon and Chevak and Hooper Bay go up to
39 the River to harvest fish and so the Council was asked
40 to remove the Black River from consideration so that
41 people from those three communities can still access
42 fish in the Black River, it's their traditional
43 harvesting area.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Pippa. I
48 guess that answered my question, anybody else have any
49 questions.

50

0138

1 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is
2 dealing with four proposals, is that what you're
3 saying.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: They're all the same,
6 the wordage is all the same on every one of them
7 according to Brent. Then there's one exception in
8 there that I asked the question about, the Black River,
9 why it was excluded. And my.....

10

11 MR. VICKERS: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
12 Brent Vickers again. Just to clarify you are correct.
13 All the proposals, all the requests submitted by the
14 proponents were the same. The Council.....

15

16 MS. FREYTAG: Okay. And under what tab
17 is that in our book?

18

19 MR. VICKERS: Oh, it -- I'm sorry if I
20 -- if you missed it. It's not included in the meeting
21 book because these just came in within the last --
22 started coming in with the last two weeks. The first
23 request came in about two weeks ago, the fourth
24 request, which, again, is the same request just by a
25 different proponent, came in last night. So they've
26 been kind of coming in, trickling in here and there
27 over the last two weeks and that did not give us enough
28 time to put it on -- in the meeting materials.
29 However, we did provide it on our web page for your
30 region under the materials -- meeting materials.
31 There's supplemental materials and you can see that the
32 proponent.....

33

34 MS. FREYTAG: Okay.

35

36 MR. VICKERS:or the request is
37 listed there.

38

39 MS. FREYTAG: Okay, thank you.

40

41 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Temperature reading
44 here. Council members.

45

46 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, this is Ron Kirk.
47 This proposal was submitted by the Kuskokwim Yukon
48 Delta?

49

50

0139

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Brent.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. VICKERS: Hello. Yes, this is Brent Vickers again. The submit -- no Council submitted this request. It was first requested -- submitted by a resident of Rampart. The second request came from the Holy Cross Tribe. The third request from the Eagle Village Tribe. And the request, which came in yesterday, was from a resident of Huslia.

I hope that answers your question, thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: My question would be.....

MR. KIRK: This is Ron, thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you, Ron. And my question would be just to make sure it's clean, is that, are there other RACs that have responded to this and I think there was, was there two?

MR. VICKERS: Yes, Mr. Chair, you're correct. The Western Interior RAC met last week. This is just after -- it was either last week or the week before, I'm sorry, I can't remember exactly, but they had just the first request which, again, it's the same as all four requests, and they supported the special action with a modification to include coho salmon. The Yukon -- the YKDelta Council met yesterday -- well, they're actually still in a meeting today, but yesterday they acted on this request and they supported it with a modification to exclude the Black River.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Brent, if we were going to vote for it, what about the additions on there, the coho and the Black River.

MR. VICKERS: Katya -- well, I'm pretty sure I have an answer but Katya would be best to answer it. Katya.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Katya.

MS. WESSELS: Would you please repeat your question, I could not hear you very well.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Katya, thanks.

0140

1 So there were two RACs that responded and they amended
2 it basically. One was to include coho and the other
3 one was to exclude the Black River. So I'm just saying
4 if we were to vote to support, because we are one of
5 the, I think it's four that are included in the Yukon,
6 what's the cleanest way we could do it.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: You can either support
9 the Western Interior and YKDelta recommendations, if
10 the Council agrees, just have a motion to support these
11 four special action requests with the changes, with the
12 modifications made by the Western Interior and YKDelta,
13 or you can support four special action requests with a
14 modification made by either one of those Councils, if
15 you disagree with a recommendation made by the other
16 Council, or you can just plainly support the four
17 special action requests and do not address the
18 modifications proposed by other Councils.

19

20 Basically all of these special action
21 requests, all the fisheries special action requests,
22 they are practically identical and asking for the same
23 thing. And the Councils, both Western Interior and
24 YKDelta made recommendations that were, you know,
25 looked better for their specific regions. Another
26 option is also you can vote to support all the special
27 action requests with your own modification.

28

29 So I'm sure I didn't answer very
30 simply. So there is all these options depending on
31 what the Council wants to do.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: More fun, complicated.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, sorry.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's okay. So we
40 could just adopt -- or excuse me, adopt, we could vote
41 to.....

42

43 MS. WESSELS: Support.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN:support all, 1
46 through 4. How say the Council, anybody got any
47 comments. Ron.

48

49 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, Louis, this is

50

0141

1 Leland.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep, Leland, go ahead.

4

5 MR. OYOUMICK: I think we should
6 support them folks, at least that much. Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep, thank you. Ron.

9

10 MR. KIRK: No comments. I'd just like
11 to go ahead and entertain a motion to support all four
12 proposals.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

15

16 MR. OYOUMICK: Second, this is Leland.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I got a first and
19 second, any further discussion.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. FREYTAG: Question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been
26 called. All those in favor of support of 1 through 4
27 say aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against,
32 same sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, motion
37 passes unanimously. What's' next.

38

39 MR. VICKERS: Mr. Chair, this is Brent
40 Vickers.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

43

44 MR. VICKERS: And I'm sorry to have to
45 do this but we need clarification if you are supporting
46 all proposals as they were written or if you're
47 supporting the modifications, either both or one
48 modification presented by those two RACs earlier to
49 include coho salmon.....
50

0142

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right. So.....

2

3 MR. VICKERS: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN:coho salmon and
6 the exclusion of the Black River. So the maker of the
7 motion and the second.

8

9 MR. KIRK: Supporting those two RACs
10 with their modifications.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland.

13

14 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes, I second that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So it's clear
17 now Brent.

18

19 MR. VICKERS: Yes. I -- I'm -- just
20 want to make sure. And the justification for your
21 support.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Justification for the
24 support. We have folks with C&T. Anybody else want to
25 add anything.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds like that's it,
30 Brent.

31

32 MR. VICKERS: Sounds good to me, thank
33 you so much.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Okay, that
36 one's done. 3:40, anybody need a break.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Doesn't sound like it.
41 Okay, so we're on new business Item H, Federal
42 Subsistence Board annual report reply process, review
43 and revision. What do we do on that there, Katya.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: Just a second, I closed
46 that tab.

47

48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, yeah, Mr. Chair, I
49 think that's my item.

50

0143

1 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So yeah that's
2 Lisa Grediagin presenting that item.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, yeah, yeah I
5 missed it, I read the line but didn't go down to the
6 next line.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Lisa.

11
12 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thanks. Mr.
13 Chair. Members of the Council. Again, for the record,
14 my name is Lisa Grediagin and I'm the Wildlife Division
15 Supervisor for OSM. And this is an action item.

16
17 So this briefing is about your annual
18 reports and Board reply process.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

21
22 MS. GREDIAGIN: During the Federal
23 Subsistence Board's.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I forgot to ask you to
26 -- is there a tab for us on that just for everybody
27 to.....

28
29 MS. GREDIAGIN: There is not a tab for
30 this but I think this was emailed to you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, just making
33 sure.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: This has also been posted
36 online under the Seward Peninsula meeting materials in
37 the supplemental materials. There is supplemental
38 material No. 7 and the supplemental material No. 7
39 covers Items H, I, J and K for this meeting. So, you
40 know, you can find the information on Item 11H that
41 Lisa is presenting now in that posting, it will be the
42 first part of that document.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. What's it under
45 on the email, I'm trying to find it.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: I don't know if it was
48 emailed but we can email it to the Council members now
49 if we need to.

50

0144

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we should just
2 so that we've got something.....

3
4 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN:in front of us.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: Okay. All right, I'm
9 going to do that.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody maybe need a
12 three to five minute break.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, we're
17 just standing by.

18
19 (Pause)

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya.
22 The Staff is telling me that the document has just been
23 sent to you, to everyone who has an email address and
24 an email.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Roger.

27
28 (Pause)

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This is Louis, I don't
31 know why I'm not seeing it.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Yes, potentially the
34 email is slow.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, I found mine.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Everybody else.

41
42 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk, I don't
43 have an email so I won't get anything.

44
45 MR. AUKONGAK: This is Martin, I got
46 mine.

47
48 MS. FREYTAG: Is that under the
49 supplemental information on No. 7 on the website?
50

0145

1 MS. WESSELS: Yes, it is on the website
2 under No. 7.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is everybody on the
5 same page that can get it?

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mary you found it on
14 the -- Mary found it on the web.

15
16 MR. SEETOT: Everybody on the same page
17 except Elmer. No email like Ron, we're old school.

18
19 MR. OYOUNICK: I'm in that same boat,
20 this is Leland.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I just licked three
23 stamps, I'll send them to you.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, wait a minute
28 man, you don't lick stamps anymore, I guess I'm old
29 school too.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, let's go with
34 it. Item H.

35
36 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
37 Mr. Chair. This is Lisa, again, and I'll just -- I
38 didn't get very far but I'll just start over here.

39
40 So, again, this is the Federal
41 Subsistence Board annual report reply process review
42 and revision guided discussion. And this briefing is
43 about your annual report and Board reply process.

44
45 During the Federal Subsistence Board's
46 August 2021 work session, the InterAgency Staff
47 Committee briefed the Board on the annual report reply
48 process and possible revisions to improve
49 responsiveness to Regional Advisory Council concerns.
50

0146

1 This ISC briefing is part of a larger ISC effort to
2 improve workload efficiencies within the Federal
3 Subsistence Management Program. The Board reviewed and
4 discussed the report reply process and agreed to
5 forward this topic to the Councils for your input on
6 the suggested revisions, including possible ideas of
7 your own.

8

9 As you are aware, ANILCA Section .805
10 authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual report
11 containing information related to important subsistence
12 resource issues within their regions. These reports
13 are invaluable as they provide the Board with a broad
14 holistic picture of local resource conditions and the
15 most up to date subsistence issues facing communities
16 across rural Alaska. With this knowledge the Board can
17 make informed decisions.

18

19 Historically, the Board has strived to
20 provide responses to every topic listed in annual
21 reports regardless of its authority to address the
22 issues raised. However, it is unclear if Board
23 responses on all annual report topics are helpful to
24 the Councils while also taking considerable Staff time
25 to complete. The ISC has suggested process revisions.

26

27 1. To maintain annual reports as a way
28 to inform the Board of local conditions, issues and
29 needs, and

30

31 2. To propose letter writing be a way
32 to request a response from the Board on topics of
33 concerns.

34

35 We do recognize that Councils already
36 write letters to the Board and to other agencies
37 outside of the annual report process. Under the ISC
38 scenario the only change is how the Board responds to
39 issues within your annual report. This change might
40 allow for more substantive and timely responses from
41 the Board on topics of critical concern to the Council,
42 for example, a separate letter requesting Board
43 response could be written and submitted to the Board
44 more quickly than including the issue in the annual
45 report as the annual report requires a longer time for
46 both preparation of the report as well as for
47 preparation of the Board's response.

48

49 These suggested revisions are not

50

0147

1 intended to diminish the ability of the Councils to
2 communicate with the Board. The Board relies upon your
3 knowledge and expertise and annual reports are a way to
4 ensure the Board remains up to date on important
5 developments in your region.

6
7 To that end, we are asking you to think
8 about what you want from the Board in response to your
9 annual report. To help guide your discussion I suggest
10 that; 1, we first review the ISC's suggestions; 2, open
11 the floor to questions and Council discussions, and,
12 then; 3, ask you to take action developing your
13 comments to forward to the Board.

14
15 So at this point I'll review the ISC's
16 suggestions, which are again, that annual reports are a
17 means to keep the Board informed of important
18 conditions, issues and needs, and letter writing would
19 be a way to request Board response on important topics
20 and concerns.

21
22 And so those are the ISC's suggestions
23 and at this time if the Council has any questions or
24 clarifications about this I'll try to answer them and
25 then, again, this is an action item. We're looking for
26 the Council to make a motion and take a vote, you know,
27 to forward your comments and recommendations on this
28 topic to the Board. And just one more point of
29 clarification that I really want to emphasize here is
30 this is focused on the responses to your annual report.
31 So it's not suggesting any changes to the annual
32 reports themselves, it's discussion on the responses
33 from the Board on your annual reports.

34
35 So, thank you, Mr. Chair, and again I'd
36 be happy to address any questions.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mary.

43
44 MS. FREYTAG: Do we have last year's
45 annual report to kind of look upon and help us to make
46 decisions on?

47
48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair.
49 Mary, the annual report replies were included in the
50

0148

1 fall meeting books so I recognize this is your first
2 meeting so you did not see the annual report responses
3 that were presented to the Council in the fall but
4 that's kind of how the cycle works, is, the winter
5 meetings the Council finalizes and submits their annual
6 report and then the Board works on their responses
7 over, you know, the spring and summer and then at the
8 fall meeting each year the Council's receive the
9 responses from the Board. So I'm not sure if there is
10 -- it's probably still online somewhere if you wanted
11 to refer to an annual report response from last year.

12

13 MS. FREYTAG: It would be really
14 helpful to have that previous report but thank you for
15 your answer.

16

17 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya. We can
18 email the previous annual report and the Federal
19 Subsistence Board reply to you here in a few
20 moments.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I was going to
23 say.....

24

25 MS. WESSELS:Mary so.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's on Page 16 of the
28 fall book.

29

30 MS. FREYTAG: Okay, thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Page 16 through 21,
33 sorry go ahead.

34

35 MS. WESSELS: Mary might not have that
36 book.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

39

40 (Pause)

41

42 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
43 Mr. Chair. So, yeah, Mary, it sounds like you should
44 be looking in your email for that annual report from
45 last year and I guess if there are any more Council
46 questions about this topic or if you have any comments
47 on how you'd like to see the Board's responses to your
48 annual reports, if there are any changes or your
49 thoughts about the ISC's suggestion to write letters if
50

0149

1 you want a response from the Board instead of including
2 it in your annual report.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: When you say write
5 letters, what were you meaning by that?

6

7 MS. GREDIAGIN: Basically to -- I mean
8 you've done this -- like you just wrote, you know,
9 that joint letter to the North Pacific Management
10 Council, you know, on bycatch and so, you know, instead
11 of including some topic in your annual report, if you
12 want a response to the Board you would write a letter
13 on that topic, you know, directly to the Board.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. At a current
16 meeting, right?

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya.
19 I was just going to say this is just a suggestion. You
20 know if you feel that you're not getting the adequate
21 responses from the Board through the annual process of
22 annual report replies you might consider that option.
23 But if you think that, you know, you get the adequate
24 responses from the Board through the annual report
25 reply process, you know, you might want to recommend to
26 not change anything. It just depends totally on what
27 the Council thinks about this matter. This is just an
28 effort to improve the reply process to the Councils, to
29 make it more meaningful to the Councils on how, you
30 know, the Board replies to the Council issues that are
31 brought up. You know, it's just like -- we just want
32 to hear back from the Councils what they think. There
33 is no decision is going to be made, it's just the
34 Federal Subsistence Board requested that we seek this
35 feedback from the Councils. And we're going to
36 summarize the feedback from all the Councils and
37 provide it to the Board probably during their summer
38 work session. So just this Council's opinion, it's not
39 -- it's an action item but it's not really, you know, I
40 don't think you need to have a motion just you need to
41 provide feedback and then we will provide this
42 information -- summarize and provide it to the Board.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So it says, to that
45 end, we are asking you to think about what you want
46 from the Board in response to your annual report. To
47 help guide your discussion, OSM suggests the Council,
48 under 1, review the ISC's suggestions; No. 2, open the
49 floor for questions and the Council discussion; and, 3

50

0150

1 take action developing Council comments to forward to
2 the Board.

3

4 Does anybody have anything to suggest.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't have anything.
9 I think it's better that we can -- I would say that at
10 a current meeting we could send a letter directly out,
11 right, is that what that means Katya?

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Well, you can send a
14 letter directly to the Board even now. It's just, you
15 know, I guess we just -- they're just trying to see if
16 there's any way the reply process can be improved, that
17 maybe some issues do not need to be put into the annual
18 report, maybe some issues will need to be addressed
19 through letter writing. But it's up to the Council
20 basically.

21

22 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
23 is.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So basically -- go
26 ahead.

27

28 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, yeah, this is Lisa.
29 I was just going to add to that, that some of the
30 topics in the annual report, you know, it's great for
31 the Board to be informed but their authority to do
32 something is pretty limited. So a lot of the time
33 their responses are something like, thank you for this
34 information, we could discuss this at a Council meeting
35 or, you know, like that's about it, so their response
36 doesn't seem to be that meaningful to the Council. And
37 so I think we're just trying to make sure that, A, the
38 Councils are getting useful responses from the Board,
39 and, B, if there's any improvements the Councils
40 suggest on the process because, you know, the annual
41 reports are required, you know, by law, that the
42 Councils have to submit an annual report but there's no
43 requirement that the Board has to respond to them. So
44 if we are responding we just want to make sure it's
45 useful to the Councils and, you know, if there's a
46 better way to address Councils concerns that need a
47 response because, you know, it does take a lot of Staff
48 time to write all these responses and if they're not
49 even useful to the Councils then maybe there's a better
50

0151

1 way to do that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, this is Louis.
4 I'm fine with what's done now. I don't see any -- I
5 don't have any suggestions except don't send me, I
6 don't know, we can't do it.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I'm trying to think
15 of how -- we're voting on this, correct?

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
18 is an action item but it sounded like from what Katya
19 said you don't have to make an official motion. And,
20 you know, honestly if the Council doesn't have any
21 feedback or comments, you know, that's fine so we can
22 just relay that to the Board that this Council didn't
23 have any specific feedback.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think that's fine,
26 let's move on to the next thing.

27

28 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. All right, thank
29 you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're getting close to
32 the -- not only close to the end of the day, we're
33 getting close to the end of the agenda and so I think
34 we're all liking that.

35

36 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
37 Mr. Chair. And, yeah, you're going to get sick of me
38 here, I have the next couple topics that are all
39 equally a little confusing so let me find my notes here
40 again.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So, yeah, give us a
43 kind of -- summarize what we're going to do with it and
44 then talk to us about it.

45

46 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, so the next topic
47 is receiving public testimony protocol guided
48 discussion. And, again, I think you pretty much were
49 emailed the talking points that I'm about to read here.

50

0152

1 It's, jeez, I guess about three pages long, or at least
2 two, so I guess there are a number of questions
3 regarding public testimony and how the Council would
4 like to receive public comments and testimony at their
5 meetings or, you know, before their meetings. But I
6 guess before I launch into this whole topic maybe leave
7 it up to the Council whether you want me to go through
8 each of these questions or if you just want to look
9 through this document on your own.

10

11 MS. FREYTAG: Lisa, this is Mary -- or
12 Chairman.

13

14 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yep.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mary.

17

18 MS. FREYTAG: There's three Council
19 members that don't have that information so maybe we'd
20 find that helpful.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good point.

23

24 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right. Well, if
25 it's okay with you.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: If you just want to
28 summarize it.....

29

30 MS. GREDIAGIN:Mr. Chair, I'll
31 just -- I'll just go ahead and read this so bear with
32 me here and then when I'm done you can decide whether
33 you want to address these questions individually or
34 just move on.

35

36 So, again, this is about receiving
37 public testimony at Council meetings and so for the
38 purpose of this briefing I'm going to focus on the
39 opportunity to provide public comments on regulatory
40 proposals during Regional Advisory Council meetings.
41 And so public comments on proposals accepted during
42 Council meetings inform the Council to making their
43 recommendations to the Board. The Council Chair or
44 your Council Coordinator the Council recommendations
45 and any supporting data to the Board at its regulatory
46 meeting. This round of public comments and proposals
47 are part of the record for the Council meeting, not the
48 Board of meeting. Public comments on proposals are
49 accepted after the presentation of each proposal
50

0153

1 analysis. These include oral comments provided by the
2 public attending the meeting and written comments
3 provided by the public during their meeting. Written
4 comments are read or summarized for the Council.
5 Again, these comments inform the Council and will not
6 be included in the Board proposal analysis. Public
7 comments on non-agenda items are accepted at the start
8 of each day of a Council meeting. In the past when the
9 Councils met in person, the public brought their
10 written public comments to the meeting to be
11 distributed to the Council members and other meeting
12 participants. During the fall 2021 meeting cycle since
13 all the meetings were held via teleconference, OSM
14 leadership deemed it necessary to establish a temporary
15 procedure for submission of written public comments
16 during the Council meeting. The public was directed to
17 submit written comments to the centralized OSM email
18 during the meeting as it was indicated in that years
19 proposed rule published in the Federal Register. The
20 OSM Staff read these comments into the record verbatim
21 during the meeting. This was an interim procedure.

22
23 Now, prior to the Councils fall 2022
24 meeting cycle, when the Councils are going to discuss
25 fisheries proposals and closure reviews we are
26 requesting the Councils input on how the Councils would
27 prefer receiving written public comments submitted to
28 them after the proposed rule deadline. These are
29 comments that the Council may want to consider in
30 formulating their recommendations to the Board. Once
31 OSM receives input from the Councils on permanent
32 guidance, we will then update the written framework
33 accordingly. This is not an action item but the
34 Council's discussion is encouraged.

35
36 And, again, I have a number of
37 questions for you all to respond to but I guess I'll
38 pause here and see if the Council is interested in
39 providing any feedback on receiving public comments at
40 Council meetings or not.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any Council have any
43 comments, questions or concerns.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, move on.

48
49 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, Brevig Mission.

50

0154

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, go ahead, Elmer.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.

4 I've been on the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
5 Council for a number of years and we have invited
6 public whenever -- whenever we are in their community.
7 And my understanding or my opinion on public testimony
8 in the communities other than Nome is that we are the
9 elected representatives of a particular Council or
10 Board and that they have the necessary information to
11 answer or discuss items of importance. That was pretty
12 much the feedback that I have kind of observed or
13 gotten from people that wanted to, you know, provide
14 public testimony. So that's pretty much it in a
15 nutshell, they -- the public, since we're elected
16 representatives of a Council or a Board, that we
17 should, you know, provide answers even though -- even
18 though their answers might be different than -- or what
19 we present to a particular meeting.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else. Anybody
26 else.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, I think we can
31 carry on.

32

33 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
34 Mr. Chair. The next briefing is on automating Federal
35 subsistence permits and this is not an action item,
36 this is information and if the Council would like to
37 provide any feedback or comments you're welcome to,
38 but, again, it's optional. And let's see you should
39 have -- this document was emailed to you as well and
40 I'm going to attempt to shorten this up a bit.

41

42 So basically the Office of Management
43 and Budget is looking to automate Federal permits
44 because of the Paperwork Reduction Act and the
45 Egovernment Act. So after the most recent OMB, Office
46 of Management and Budget clearance to collect
47 information from the public, OMB tasked us with
48 exploring the use of automated permits within our
49 Program. We recognize that many issues would accompany
50

0155

1 the use of automated permits and these issues must be
2 addressed before any attempt is made to use internet
3 permits. That's why we are asking the Councils and the
4 public for ideas on issuing permits in the future. Any
5 and all ideas are welcome. There are several
6 overriding factors that must be understood. All
7 Federal permits must be issued by a Federal agency and
8 cannot be delegated to a non-Federal entity, such as a
9 local or State entity or a tribal government. The cost
10 must be considered because our Program has a limited
11 budget and we prioritize support for Board and Council
12 meetings and funding for the FRMP. A paper permit will
13 still need to be carried into the field for proof when
14 addressing law enforcement or field Staff.

15

16 And, again, this is not a formal
17 request for comment and anyone is able to submit
18 comments on this issue before November 15th. November
19 15th is the deadline for submitting comments. And if
20 any individual would like to submit comments about
21 automating Federal permits you can send it to our
22 general email address at subsistence@fws.gov.

23

24 I have some specific questions if the
25 Council's interested in addressing this topic any
26 further. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Any
29 Council have any comments, questions or concerns.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: One comment, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

34

35 MR. SEETOT: Something like that,
36 automated Federal subsistence or the Alaska Department
37 of Fish and Game, like some of the Council members do
38 not have any access to a computer or stuff other than,
39 even the Native Village of Brevig Mission or other
40 entities that are willing to help residents in their
41 communities. And that was just a comment I just wanted
42 to make. When they try an automated system, not
43 everyone has the luxury or equipment to do that.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Any
48 other Council.

49

50

0156

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, Lisa --

4 now, I'm calling you Lisa -- yeah, Lisa, I'm right --

5 darn.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anyway, go ahead,

10 Lisa.

11

12 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,

13 Mr. Chair. So it sounds like you're ready to move on

14 to the next agenda item.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, ma'am.

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. So this

19 last.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: While I can still

22 remember your name.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, it's been a long

27 day. So this last -- again, Lisa Grediagin for the

28 record. And this last agenda item is on the Tongass

29 National Forest and submerged lands. So this topic

30 really does not affect the Seward Peninsula region at

31 all but we are asked to just provide a briefing to all

32 the Councils.

33

34 And basically to comply with a court

35 order, the Secretaries looked at potential submerged

36 lands in the Tongass National Forest to see if they

37 were actually Federal public lands instead of under

38 State jurisdiction. And these submerged lands are, you

39 know, small rocks -- or large rocks and small islands

40 that appear at low tide sort of thing. So basically as

41 a result of this court case a number of submerged lands

42 in the Tongass National Forest because Federal public

43 lands. And if the Council wants to submit any comments

44 on this there is ways to do that, both hard copy by

45 mail or electronically online and we can provide you

46 more information.

47

48 So, again, this has to do with the

49 Tongass National Forest in Southeast and doesn't really

50

0157

1 affect the Seward Peninsula region but in case you're
2 interested this is for your information.

3

4 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. So this
7 court case, was that Elizabeth Peratrovich or was that
8 her husband or?

9

10 MS. GREDIAGIN: The only information I
11 have is Peratrovich, et al., versus United States and
12 the state of Alaska.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What year? Don't
15 know?

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I do not have
18 that information.

19

20 MR. OYOUMICK: 1945.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What was it, somebody
23 said.

24

25 MR. OYOUMICK: 1945 or something like
26 that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Interestingly
29 enough I got my BIA card signed by the daughter of that
30 lady. Interesting. Okay, I think we've gone through
31 all of these, what else do we have. Lisa, we're done,
32 right.

33

34 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yep, I am done. You're
35 done with me, so thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Okay, Lisa
38 has left the building.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, I was kidding.
43 So we have agency reports, Katya, so do we have
44 anybody, tribal governments out there online that have
45 anything, any reports.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Not hearing any. Item

50

0158

1 B, under 12, agency reports, Native organizations
2 online.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none we'll
7 move to Item C under 12, agency reports and National
8 Park Service, Bering Land Bridge Preserve update, Letty
9 Hughes and Nikki Braem.

10

11 MS. HUGHES: Hi, this is Letty with
12 Park Service, Bering Land Bridge, through the Chair.
13 So I will keep this short and brief for my side before
14 Nikki goes.

15

16 So this spring in cooperation with
17 Alaska Department of Fish and Game we will be
18 conducting a moose browse removal survey up in within
19 the Game Management Unit 22E so that would be up near
20 Shishmaref, Wales area, that northern portion. This has
21 been a project that we have been trying to get for a
22 couple years now going in place and also listening to
23 what this particular Council has asked in terms of a
24 little bit more enhanced moose management and
25 understanding about habitat and what's going on. This
26 is a start to that. The work will be basing out of
27 Kotzebue, just because it's closer to get over to that
28 area, the survey work. And that is to take place the
29 last part of March, early part of April, weather
30 dependent, of course. And that is the timeframe. So
31 hopefully by the time we meet again in the fall we will
32 be able to provide that information for you and have an
33 update.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good, thank you. Like
36 that news. I guess Nikki you're up -- anybody have any
37 questions of Letty.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Letty.

42

43 MS. HUGHES: The other thing I will add
44 in here too just so folks know what we're doing up at
45 -- the plan is for Serpentine Hot Springs, is we're
46 going to be bringing in a contractor to help put in --
47 they're called beaver deceivers, but most folks know
48 them as flow devices. It's very similar -- actually
49 the exact same individual who came up to help Pilgrim
50

0159

1 Hot Springs out with all of their flooding as a result
2 of the beaver ponds and dams. So we are working on
3 that right now and that will take place, hopefully, in
4 July if weather allows that to get in and out of
5 Serpentine. And so we're pretty excited about that.
6 And one of the reasons to try this method is just
7 because -- especially the amount of rain we received
8 this past year and the late spring melt off of snow,
9 the runway at Serpentine Hot Springs is being eroded
10 and hindered by -- is being hindered by some of the --
11 (dog barking) sorry about that, my dog has a lot to say
12 -- the pond -- the beaver ponds are flooding and coming
13 up on to the Serpentine Hot Springs runway so this is
14 one way we're hoping to mitigate the issue.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just a question,
19 Letty. How many beavers are you talking about?

20

21 MS. HUGHES: That is a good question.
22 You know with myself and other Bering Land Bridge Staff
23 being there this fall, you know, when you can walk up
24 on some of the higher areas of the (indiscernible -
25 muffled) and you can look down over, you know,
26 Serpentine Hot Springs, that portion of the tributary
27 and there's actually quite a bit of new dams that have
28 been built up over the last couple years so, you know,
29 how many beavers, we really don't know.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I guess my
32 curiosity lies in why there isn't anybody trapping
33 them. There sounds like there's enough to trap.

34

35 MS. HUGHES: So to the Chair. So
36 Federal regulations, you know, you can harvest beavers
37 out of that area and as you know, I mean it's quite the
38 trek for someone, for fuel and timewise to go up there
39 and harvest them. Not saying that it doesn't occur,
40 there might be definitely some folks being
41 opportunistic about it but it's not really mitigating
42 the flooding issues and what can occur with the runway
43 and possibly the hot springs itself.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you.
46 Anybody else on the Council.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0160

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, Letty, I
2 guess that brings yourself to a close on that. And
3 that would bring us to Nikki unless you have something
4 else.

5
6 MS. HUGHES: Thank you, I am done.
7 Nikki can go.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

10

11 MS. BRAEM: Okay. Just for the record
12 this is Nikki Braem and I am the Cultural
13 Anthropologist with additional duties as the Research
14 Permit Coordinator here at Bering Land Bridge in Nome.
15 I think probably what you're most interested in is some
16 of the proposed activities within the Preserve
17 boundaries.

18

19 This year -- it's been pretty light the
20 last couple of years because of Covid restrictions, but
21 as things are beginning to loosen up again, we're
22 having more applications to do field work. These --
23 when you talk about this, you know, it's happening out
24 in the Preserve itself, not in the communities, even
25 around the Preserve necessarily so, you know, there's
26 always the concern about risk with people coming in.
27 So, you know, the usual stuff, long-term vital sign
28 monitoring, we call that, you know, lakes monitoring,
29 streams monitoring. Of particular interest of this
30 group may be, one of the -- one of our researchers
31 actually has what are called grazing exclosures and
32 they're meant to sort of understand the condition of
33 vegetation of plant communities. And I can't be more
34 detailed than that because I'm not an ecologist. But
35 they're proposing to revisit some of the exclosures out
36 there which prevent animals from getting in and grazing
37 essentially this summer. And if it's of interest to
38 this group -- I recall some earlier talk about range
39 condition and stuff like that, maybe we could arrange
40 for a report or at least a summary at the fall meeting,
41 if that would be of interest to you all.

42

43 We also have a proposal there's --
44 there's updates to the National Wetlands Inventory,
45 they've been doing imaging of the actual ground cover
46 of the Preserve. I don't know if that relates to your
47 topic of lichen and food availability stuff out on the
48 landscape there on the northern Seward Penn, but we
49 could inquire.

50

0161

1 The other thing that might be of
2 interest to this group is -- it's come up in the past
3 at meetings, we've had mortality events with seabirds
4 and that's something that's happened across coastal
5 Alaska in the last few years, the researcher, Sasha
6 Bakansto (ph) will hopefully be able to do the surveys
7 in case there are seabird mortality events again where
8 they wash up, and hopefully get an idea of how many and
9 perhaps some research as to what may be causing these,
10 whether it's starvation or harmful algae blooms, or a
11 combination of both. And this is an ongoing project
12 that has been taking place for the last couple of
13 years.

14
15 With that, unless you have any specific
16 questions I'll conclude my report.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Nikki.
19 Anybody from the Council.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I haven't got
24 anything. Hearing none thank you for your report.

25
26 MS. BRAEM: Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That was shorter than
29 Lettys. So let's see where we're at here.

30
31 MS. WESSELS: BLM report.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: BLM.

34
35 MR. SPARKS: Chairman Green, this is
36 Tom Sparks on the phone. I know we gave a report and
37 also Bruce Seppi's on the phone, I believe, as well.
38 But anyway the report's there. I really don't have
39 much to add. I know we got weathered out in some
40 surveys, we're going to try to conduct with Fish and
41 Game this spring, and those are kind of on indefinite
42 hold. But the main reason I called in is just to
43 answer, be available for questions that any of the
44 members may have.

45
46 I'll keep it at that, Mr. Chair, thank
47 you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: When am I going to get
50

0162

1 my title to my land.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Kidding. How you
6 doing Tom.

7

8 MR. SPARKS: Very good, thank you sir.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, we're
13 moving on. Is Bruce going to speak.

14

15 MR. KIRK: Be safe Tom.

16

17 MR. SPARKS: Thank you. Unless there's
18 questions for Bruce directly, I know he was hanging out
19 for most of the day. I'm actually down in Anchorage,
20 I'm Acting Field Manager for 120 days so I had to come
21 down here for some work. But, anyway, I wanted to call
22 in and make myself available so thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Tom, thanks.
25 Anybody have any comments, questions or concerns for
26 Tom from the BLM.

27

28 MS. FREYTAG: What tab was that BLM
29 information on?

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't have anything
32 specific, Tom.

33

34 MR. SPARKS: We gave a written report
35 to OSM for all the RACs, it's just kind of an activity
36 for all the things that BLM does, kind of a summary
37 report. So we've been doing that for a couple years
38 now. Mr. Chair. Over.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

41

42 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary.
43 I'd really like to see that, thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Katya, is there -- I'm
46 looking at it under tab, what is it?

47

48 MS. WESSELS: Are you talking about the
49 BLM report, Mr. Chair?

50

0163

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. Is it under,
2 what, 10?

3
4 MS. WESSELS: I am looking for it
5 myself, the BLM report is under Tab 10, that's
6 Anchorage Field Office. That's the only one that we
7 have.

8
9 MR. SPARKS: Yep, that's the report I
10 was referring to, Mr. Chair. Thank you, this is Tom
11 again.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.
14 Mary, did you copy that?

15
16 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, I did and I did find
17 it. I'm just skimming over it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Is that good
20 for you then.

21
22 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank
23 you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary.
26 Thank you, Tom.

27
28 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Say again.

31
32 MR. SPARKS: I said, thank you, Mr.
33 Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're welcome, Mr.
36 Tom, be good because, you know, Christmas only comes
37 once a year.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. KIRK: Yeah, Tom.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, very much.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So we'll go
48 ahead and move into -- if there's nothing further from
49 any of the Council members I'll move to Item E, OSM,
50

0164

1 Lisa.

2

3

4 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
5 Mr. Chair. This is Lisa, back for my encore
6 performance. So, again, for the record, this is Lisa
7 Grediagin, the Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM.

7

8 On behalf of OSM, I'd like to thank all
9 Council members for your exceptional work on behalf of
10 your communities and user groups during these trying
11 times. We value your expertise and the contribution of
12 your knowledge and experience to the regulatory
13 process.

14

15 It has been very difficult for all of
16 us dealing with the Covid-19 environment.

17

18 We are holding all 10 winter 2022
19 Council meetings via teleconference. The DOI
20 guidelines advises that people avoid travel and refrain
21 from meeting in person to minimize risk and help
22 prevent the spread of Covid-19. OSM received
23 directions from the Department of Interior that no
24 Federal Advisory, FACA Committee meetings would be held
25 in person during winter 2022 meeting cycle, and all
26 Regional Advisory Councils are FACA Committees. The
27 Federal Subsistence Management Program recognizes that
28 in-person meetings are preferable, however, until we
29 can ensure the safety of all participants, we will
30 follow the current guidance and hold all meetings via
31 teleconference. We thank you again for being willing
32 to participate in the lengthy teleconference and
33 appreciate your patience as we deal with the various
34 technical issues that arise from the poor telephonic
35 connections, the vast distances involved, and differing
36 communication systems throughout the state of Alaska.

37

38 And now some OSM Staff updates.

39

40 We are very pleased to announce the
41 following OSM Staffing changes that have occurred since
42 your last Council meeting in fall 2021.

43

44 Scott Ayers was hired as the OSM
45 Fisheries Division Supervisor in January. Scott worked
46 for three years as a Fisheries Biologist for OSM
47 several years ago before he took a job with the U.S.
48 Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish
49 Restoration Program. We welcome Scott back to OSM.

50

0165

1 Jarred Stone and Cory Graham have both
2 been promoted within the Fisheries Division. Two
3 additional Fisheries Biologists, Kevin Foley and Justin
4 Koller have just been hired and officially started with
5 OSM this week. Kevin came to us from the Ecological
6 Services branch of Fish and Wildlife here in Alaska,
7 while Justin is moving over from a position with the
8 Forest Service in Southeast Alaska. We are very excited
9 to have a full fisheries Staff.

10
11 In January, Sherri Gould-Fehrs, OSM
12 Administrative Support Assistant was temporarily
13 promoted to the ARD Secretary position.

14
15 Kayla McKinney stepped up to
16 temporarily serve as Subsistence Outreach Coordinator.

17
18 In December and January, Liz Williams
19 and Jason Roberts were hired as OSM Anthropologists.
20 Liz worked for OSM about 12 years ago and is returning.
21 Welcome back Liz.

22
23 OSM is pleased to welcome three newly
24 hired Subsistence Council Coordinators, Nissa Bate
25 Pilcher, Leigh Honig, and Brooke McDavid, all with a
26 wealth of knowledge and experience in working with
27 rural users and communities as well as Alaska
28 subsistence issues.

29
30 We also had departures at OSM through
31 retirement and new opportunities.

32
33 We bid a fond farewell to
34 Administrative Staff Catherine Avery and Ricky Cabugao.

35
36 The OSM Team continues to work on
37 rebuilding our capacity and hope to advertise positions
38 in our regulatory and administrative support functions
39 soon.

40
41 The U.S. Departments of Interior and
42 Agriculture conducted virtual listening sessions and
43 Tribal consultations on January 10th, 20th, 21st and
44 28th, 2022 on Federal Subsistence Policy. The
45 Secretaries requested input from Tribes, Tribal
46 consortia, and Alaska Native Organizations and
47 Corporations. The DOI Senior Advisor for Alaska
48 Affairs and Strategic Priorities met with Federal
49 Subsistence Board members prior to the consultations to
50

1 introduce Board members and Department of Interior
2 leadership and to provide Board members with an update
3 on DOI activities related to subsistence management.

4

5 Over the past two years we have been
6 reminding Council members about the change in
7 requirements for IDS at airports. Beginning May 3rd,
8 2023, every air traveler will need to present a RealID-
9 complaint driver's license, or other acceptable form of
10 identification, such as a passport, to fly within the
11 United States. This is applicable even when you fly on
12 small Bush carriers. Please note that all Council
13 members will need to make sure that they have the
14 required RealID for travel to the fall 2023 Council
15 meetings.

16

17 An update on the lawsuit from the State
18 of Alaska.

19

20 As you were previously briefed, on
21 August 10th, 2020 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit
22 against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted
23 Emergency Special Action WSA19-14. This special action
24 allowed the Village of Kake to engage in a community
25 harvest of up to four bull moose and 10 male Sitka
26 black-tailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit was
27 temporary special action WSA20-3 which closed Federal
28 public lands in Units 13A and 13B to moose and caribou
29 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users for the 2020-
30 2022 regulatory cycles. As part of the lawsuit the
31 State asked the court to issue two preliminary
32 injunctions. One to prevent the Unit 13 closure from
33 taking effect and another vacating the Kake hunt and
34 prohibiting the Board from allowing any additional
35 emergency hunts related to the impacts of Covid19.

36

37 On December 3rd, 2021, the U.S.
38 District Court denied the State's request for a
39 declaratory and permanent injunctive relief finding in
40 favor of the Federal Subsistence Board on both matters.

41

42 The court found that, first, it lacks
43 jurisdiction over the issues associated with the Kake
44 hunt because that portion of the State's claims are
45 moot. And, two, the FSB's decision to close Unit 13
46 and 13B to non-subsistence was both legally permissible
47 and supported by the information on record. The State
48 recently filed an appeal of the District Court's
49 decision but the Ninth Circuit has not yet scheduled a
50

0167

1 briefing.

2

3 Finally, the art contest. The Federal
4 Subsistence Management Program is sponsoring its annual
5 art contest for all students in Alaska, grades K
6 through 12. Deadline for submission is April 1st,
7 2022. This year entries may focus on either
8 subsistence, wildlife or fish and two winners will be
9 selected. The winners artwork will be published on
10 either the 2022/24 subsistence management regulations
11 for the harvest of wildlife on Federal public lands in
12 Alaska book or the 2023/22-25 subsistence management
13 regulations for the harvest of fish and shellfish on
14 Federal public lands in Alaska book. Both distributed
15 statewide. The art contest offers an exciting
16 opportunity for students to express their talent and
17 creativity while sharing their knowledge of subsistence
18 resources. You can find directions on how to direct
19 your artwork and further information on our website.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Council members.
22 That concludes my report and I'd be happy to answer any
23 questions.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Lisa. Do we
26 have anybody on the Council, comments, questions or
27 concerns for Lisa on her report.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, I think
32 that's done and over, Lisa. So I guess that brings us
33 to No. 12 under future meeting dates.

34

35 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
36 Katya.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Katya.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: So the first dates to
41 confirm is the fall 2022, this year's date. So
42 currently your Council has October 4th and 5th
43 selected, and, assuming that we're going to have it in
44 person, which we really hope we are, this meeting is
45 scheduled to be in Nome. So at this point Council can
46 either confirm these dates and the location or change
47 it and we'll try to accommodate it if it's possible.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Council,

50

0168

1 anybody got any comments on this.

2

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, I guess
7 it's -- I don't know, we got a calendar in the back of
8 our book.

9

10 MS. WESSELS: Yes, and for the winter
11 2023 the Council needs to select the meeting dates and
12 the location. And the open period for the meeting is
13 open between February 21st and April 7th, 2023 and only
14 one week that is no longer available is the week of
15 March 13th because there are already two Councils that
16 are meeting during that week.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody got any
19 timeframe they want to look at, I'm open.

20

21 MS. FREYTAG: Which one are we
22 discussing, this fall's or next spring or next fall?
23 Are we in the year 2022 or 2023.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, this fall is --
26 yeah, fall of 2022 is already on the 4th of October and
27 5th of October in Nome and nobody spoke up so I assumed
28 that everybody was good with that and so we went to the
29 winter 2023 meeting calendar, and Katya just stated
30 that March 13th through March 17th is already taken up
31 and that we have a choice of February 21st through
32 March 10th?

33

34 MS. WESSELS: No, April 7th.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: April 7th is another
37 one -- oh, window closes, yeah. So there's just the
38 one week March 13th that's already taken up by two
39 Councils. So we have all that between the 21st of
40 February and the 7th of April. Anybody got any
41 opinions on this.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: March 21st, that week,
46 the 20th of March? We usually have two day meetings so
47 we don't want one on a Friday, so there's March 22nd
48 and 23rd, March 1st, March 2nd, March 29 and 30th, and
49 April 5th, April 16th. Anybody out there? I don't

50

0169

1 think we want to do anything during the week of
2 Iditarod.

3

4 MR. AUKONGAK: Nope, Nome's going to be
5 too packed.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That would be March
8 6th and then March 13th, so those two weeks -- the one
9 March 13th is taken up, that's when everybody's in
10 town, but the race is on, already by the 6th so people
11 will be participating during that week throughout
12 Norton Sound that are volunteering and stuff.

13

14 Anyway, I was just drawing circles
15 around.....

16

17 MS. FREYTAG: You mentioned March 21
18 and 22.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Not the 21st but the
21 22nd and 23rd I said.

22

23 MS. FREYTAG: Oh, okay.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Does that sound
26 appealing it some people.

27

28 MR. KIRK: Sounds good.

29

30 MS. FREYTAG: Appealing.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's two of you.

33

34 MR. MOSES: That sounds fine.

35

36 MR. OYOUMICK: Sounds good to me,
37 Leland.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Leland.

40

41 Elmer.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: Any time will do, whatever
44 the Council selects.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I'm just going
47 to throw March 22nd and 23rd in the fire and see if
48 it's -- it's a little later in the month. It's either
49 that one or it's -- yeah, March 22nd and March 23rd, I
50

0170

1 hope I don't miss something.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't sound like
6 there's any objections, Katya.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: So the Council's decision
9 is to hold it over March 22nd and 23rd and where at,
10 Nome or any other community.

11

12 MR. KIRK: Nome.

13

14 MR. OYOUMICK: Nome.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I hear Nome.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Okay, we heard you, thank
19 you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. So we've
22 confirmed the fall 2022 dates, October -- what was it
23 3rd and 4th.

24

25 MS. WESSELS: 4th and 5th.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: 4th and 5th, excuse
28 me. And selected the winter meeting for the 22nd and
29 23rd of March. So we're done with that. And so we're
30 on Item 13, closing comments.

31

32 Elmer.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
35 was looking at the Federal subsistence regulation
36 books, that's good artwork there. I'd like to thank
37 Karen for her dedication and commitment to us, the
38 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory RAC while she was
39 there. I would like to welcome the new members since
40 the last time we met via virtual. And I know that OSM,
41 U.S. Federal government has dedicated and knowledgeable
42 Staff that know the insides of the -- the workings of
43 the Federal Subsistence Board. I would like to thank
44 Katya and Lisa, they called me a couple days ago asking
45 me if I would Chair the meeting since they couldn't
46 locate -- or since they didn't have any word from Louis
47 or from Tom, this morning when I heard Louis was going
48 to Chair I did double-somersaults in my room to show my
49 joy. I'm grateful for him to conduct the meeting.

50

0171

1 He's very knowledgeable in many issues that affect the
2 Seward Peninsula and the state of Alaska. I know that
3 I would be limited in my comments if I were to Chair
4 the Board since I'm not really in that aspect of trying
5 to conduct meetings. I like to present my ideas to
6 people.

7
8 I've been doing a lot of bartering with
9 the food that I have gathered, pretty much salmon
10 related, salmonberries, dried salmon, pressure cooked,
11 smoked salmon, I've been able to trade or barter
12 sheefish from Kotzebue, muktuk from Barrow, herring
13 eggs from Stebbins. I've been able to send, also,
14 fermented walrus flippers to Anchorage to make sure I
15 eat good with bartered goods.

16
17 I had many dropped calls this morning.
18 This afternoon was a little better.

19
20 And I would like to thank, you know,
21 the presenters and the Staff for bering with us and for
22 providing information so that we could make decisions
23 on these issues.

24
25 Have a good spring season and hopefully
26 everyone will be safe.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, thank you,
31 Elmer. And thanks for your comments about your doing
32 the jig in your house in celebration.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for your
37 comments about me, too.

38
39 So that brings us to Leland.

40
41 MR. OYOUNICK: Quyana, Elmer. Your
42 report had everything I wanted to say and then some but
43 I never did a somersault. So anyway it was a pretty
44 good meeting. I didn't know too much about bycatch and
45 why, you know, why we have low fish. I don't think
46 it's totally the only reason that bycatch is taking all
47 the fish, it's got to be some other reason, we just got
48 to go with whoever is trying to figure it out and help
49 them out if we can and try not to point too many
50

0172

1 fingers at everybody until we figure it out. We can
2 get it going again.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland,
7 appreciate your comments. And I agree with you, it's
8 better not to point fingers as much as we can.

9

10 Next on there is Mary, our new Council
11 members. Congratulations.

12

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

14 And.....

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Mary, did you drop off.

17

18 MS. FREYTAG: Sorry about that. Sorry
19 about that. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to thank all
20 the agencies for providing their information to us so
21 that we're able to digest and think about that, you
22 know, in our heads and minds and help contribute to
23 everything.

24

25 One of the things I wanted to point out
26 is we -- there was a couple of times during the meeting
27 where we didn't have the needed materials. I know
28 they're -- it's important to have all of the -- since
29 we only meet this one day, or twice a year, it's
30 important that we have all of the information available
31 to us that we were able to make a refined decision on
32 what we're dealing with and talking about on certain
33 issues.

34

35 But, again, I want to thank everyone
36 for my first subsistence RAC meeting. Thank you, and
37 have a good spring.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary. You
40 have a good spring too. Let's go to Robert, you there
41 Robert.

42

43 MR. MOSES: Yeah. I'd like to thank
44 everybody and especially you, Louis, and all the
45 entities that were able to call in. And just to all
46 the Board members out there, remember we're the eyes
47 and ears, we live in the Bush to see wildlife every day
48 and fish and all the other animals, like they're right
49 in our backyard and the differences we see, don't be
50

0173

1 scared to report them or talk to other people that have
2 concerns about the animals we eat and harvest around
3 here. And I hope we'll keep going along good with
4 everybody else in the fishing industry along with the
5 workers in the field also and the people that are in
6 the office that write up papers and make phone calls
7 and set up meetings.

8

9 Thank you guys very much.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robert.
12 I'd like to call on Martin.

13

14 MR. AUKONGAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
15 for Chairing the meeting today. It was a long day.
16 You know we got a lot covered. Sometimes we inherit
17 some problems and we take care of them and sometimes yo
18 inherit progress. You know in the '90s, you know,
19 there's either no harvest or harvest of the caribous;
20 that's kind of what I was getting at earlier this
21 morning. You know everybody could talk about the
22 climate change and everything but, you know, back then,
23 was there no harvest at all or was there reduced of
24 harvest. There's two differences there. So I'm sure
25 we'll get our caribou back if we do a little bit of
26 homework and kind of get our caribou back this way.

27

28 And another thing with BLM, real quick,
29 you know, I'm not sure where we're at with the Ambler
30 Road. I know Louis talked about, you know, stuff
31 coming off the roads and if that road is built we got a
32 lot of construction, there's fuel, there's glycol, you
33 know, there's grease, that's all going to drain into
34 the tundra but then, you know, again reducing fuel for
35 the villages up north and out west this way, something
36 to think about. It's not built right now but if it
37 does get built we're definitely going to have a
38 different agenda so keep that on the radar.

39

40 That's about all my comments.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.
43 Aukongak.

44

45 Ron, our southern man.

46

47 MR. KIRK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're
48 making history since I got on the Board. Look at that,
49 we conducted a meeting in one day, and amazing we're

50

0174

1 almost done at 5:00. It was a good meeting. But I'd
2 like to have a meeting face to face where we can see
3 everybody and we will have all our material with us,
4 that's how we get all our material is when we have a
5 face to face meeting. It's been a productive meeting.
6 I'm glad we got it done today. We had a lot of ups and
7 downs but we're on the right track and let's keep
8 going.

9

10 Everybody be safe this spring.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Captain
15 Kirk, from Stebbins. I guess it's my turn.

16

17 I'd like to thank the Council for
18 taking part in this today. We have one missing seat
19 and, of course, Mr. Gray wasn't there but I did touch
20 base with him the other day and went over a few things.
21 Appreciated the time with him on the phone.

22

23 So I'm thankful for the Council's
24 participation today. I made sure to sweep a few things
25 out of my way to sit at the table with you guys, so
26 appreciate your vote of confidence and your comments
27 towards me, it goes a long ways.

28

29 One of my -- one of the people that was
30 really important to me during this time that I've had
31 to deal with this was Karen Deatherage. She did a lot
32 of schooling in helping me get through meetings and I
33 wish she would have been here for that record run
34 today.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: But appreciated her
39 help greatly through the years that she's been there
40 with us. I really wish her well in her new endeavors,
41 whatever they might be.

42

43 I appreciate the Staff. We were a
44 little rough today and I got a little grumpy and
45 apologize for that. I think in the future we'll
46 probably shape ourselves up a little bit better and as
47 Mary said, we need to have our information there. And
48 what I wanted to add to that was when we have all our
49 information, that's good, but we need to be able to ask
50

0175

1 questions and have answers to help us make those
2 important decisions on behalf of our constituency
3 there. They are counting on us. I think it was Elmer
4 that made the point of saying they get us there, they
5 want us -- they give us their blessing to do their
6 bidding and to do the best we can for them.

7

8 So I'd like to thank the new crew,
9 welcome aboard, you're in for it now.

10

11 Reflecting on bycatch. It's a really
12 important thing to us, it's a touchy subject, we're
13 part of the trawler industry. My most important thing
14 and the reason why I'm here is protecting subsistence
15 for the residents of our region, every last one of
16 them, it doesn't matter where they come from. I just
17 want to make sure that that opportunity is there. I was
18 raised on a river by my grandmother. Heck, I go back
19 with Joe Garnie to age six, my grandmother Elsie camped
20 next to Gussie (Indiscernible), that's where I met Joe.
21 Going to Teller on a boat from the Kuzitrin Bridge with
22 a nine horse motor on a 22 foot boat with my
23 grandmother was quite the experience and it didn't just
24 happen once when I was little. So I got great feelings
25 towards the people there and the countryside that I was
26 raised in.

27

28 So bycatch issue, like I said is
29 contentious. I was glad that people stepped up today
30 in the name of subsistence and it's very much
31 appreciated by myself.

32

33 One other folk -- let's see, thanks to
34 Katya, we made it Katya, we got through this one.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: All right.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The first one of many,
39 maybe, yeah. So I didn't want to leave you out there.

40

41 And to our hidden person that spoke
42 strongly but quietly today a couple different times,
43 thank you, Tina.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 REPORTER: You are welcome. I think
48 you mean the nag on the microphone, yep, that's me.

49

50

0176

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're not the nag.

2

3 REPORTER: Yes, I am. I'll have to
4 retrain everybody when we meet in person. Okay, good
5 day.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, well, we're
8 expecting that.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So anyway thanks to
13 all that attended today, we got it put together and got
14 it done. And so I guess with no further adieu, I don't
15 think I missed anybody, if I did -- Big Deahl, he
16 wasn't there but was missed because I kept wanting to
17 call him on questions I had.

18

19 Thanks again to everybody.

20

21 Motion to adjourn.

22

23 MR. KIRK: So moved.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron moves. Do we need
26 a second.

27

28 MR. MOSES: Second by Robert.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: How about a minute --
31 I'm kidding -- all right.

32

33 MS. FREYTAG: Question is called.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor say
36 aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Meeting is adjourned.

41

42 MR. KIRK: Be safe Louis.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You bet, everybody be
45 safe this spring. Maybe we'll see some of you
46 somewhere along the trail.

47

48 MS. FREYTAG: Qu yana, for all your
49 goodness.

50

0177

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MR. OYOUNICK: Qujana, Elmer.

MS. FREYTAG: You too, Elmer.

MR. AUKONGAK: Goodnight everybody.

MR. KIRK: Thanks everybody.

MR. SEETOT: Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you.

MS. FREYTAG: Captain Kirk, thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Be careful, yep,
thanks to all. Bye now.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

