

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA

April 20, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Christianson, Chairman
Charles Brower
Rhonda Pitka
Chad Padgett, Bureau of Land Management
Greg Siekaniec, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Striker, National Park Service
Gene Peltola, Bureau of Indian Affairs
David Schmid, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Teleconference - 4/20/2020)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Operator.
8 Just to check online with folks to see who's on the
9 phone call, first I'm going to go through the
10 respective Board members before I turn this over to the
11 Chair.
12
13 Is National Park Service, Donald
14 Striker, online?
15
16 MR. STRIKER: Hi, Tom.
17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Don. Do you have
19 content I see as well?
20
21 MR. STRIKER: Nothing for the screen
22 unless they're planning on putting the motions up there
23 later.
24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes. Okay. I'll have
26 Josh, who has the screen, to make sure to give you the
27 right link so by the time we get to that point of the
28 meeting you'll be connected, sir.
29
30 BLM, Chad Padgett.
31
32 MR. PADGETT: I'm here. Thanks, Tom.
33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. Good to hear
35 you.
36
37 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
38 Siekaniec.
39
40 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes, Tom, I am on.
41 When you do use the video content, it would be great if
42 you could just tell us when things come up.
43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. That I can and I
45 can read through it with you.
46
47 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.
48
49 MR. SCHMID: Good afternoon, Tom. Dave
50

1 is here. I've just got the black dark screen here on
2 the video board.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. We'll help work
5 those bugs out with you from the sidelines.

6
7 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

8
9 MR. PELTOLA: Roger, Roger 10-4. We
10 have the same black screen as Dave.

11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okey-dokey. We'll have
13 our technical folks work with you, Gene.

14
15 Public member, Rhonda Pitka.

16
17 MS. PITKA: Hi. Rhonda Pitka here.

18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Rhonda. Good to
20 hear you.

21
22 Public member, Charlie Brower.

23
24 (No response)

25
26 MR. DOOLITTLE: We're still waiting for
27 Charlie.

28
29 Chairman Anthony Christianson.

30
31 (No response)

32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. We still are
34 missing two folks and we'll give that a little time
35 waiting for both Charlie and Tony to get online.

36
37 I'll also see if our State partner Ben
38 Mulligan or Mark Burch are online as well.

39
40 (No response)

41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: I see Ben has the
43 content.

44
45 Ken Lord, are you on call?

46
47 MR. LORD: I am here, Tom. I did not
48 get a link to the screen though. If somebody could
49 send me that, that would be great.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. That we will.
2 Any legal counsel representing the U.S. Forest Service
3 from Office of General Counsel?
4

5 (No response)
6

7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.
8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello. This is
10 Anthony Christianson.
11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Christianson.
13 Good to hear your voice.
14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
16 guys. Glad we're starting.
17

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, how are
19 you guys doing?
20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Is that you, Charlie?
22

23 (No response)
24

25 MR. DOOLITTLE: So we're still waiting
26 for Charlie Brower.
27

28 MR. PADGETT: Tom, this is Chad
29 Padgett. Can I get the video link as well.
30

31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, Chad, we'll make
32 sure you have the video link as well.
33

34 MR. PELTOLA: Tom, BIA. The pass is
35 well appreciated.
36

37 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet.
38

39 MR. LORD: This is Ken. I was just
40 forwarding it too, so I'll forward it to you, Chad, and
41 to Pat as well.
42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: While we're still
44 waiting for Board member Charlie Brower at this point.
45 I'm going to see if some of the RAC Chairs are online
46 as well.
47

48 There's Southeast RAC Chair Don
49 Hernandez.
50

1 (No response)
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Southcentral Chair Greg
4 Encelewski.
5
6 (No response)
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Kodiak/Aleutians Chair
9 Della Trumble.
10
11 (No response)
12
13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bristol Bay RAC Nanci
14 Morris Lyon.
15
16 (No response)
17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
19 Alissa Rogers.
20
21 (No response)
22
23 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, I'm here.
24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Western Interior RAC
26 Jack Reakoff.
27
28 (No response)
29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Seward Peninsula RAC
31 Louie Green.
32 (No response)
33
34 OPERATOR: This is the conference
35 coordinator. All lines with the exception of speakers
36 are closed, so they're unable to answer. I'm going to
37 go ahead and open those lines for you so that they're
38 able to respond.
39
40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
41 Operator.
42
43 OPERATOR: You're welcome, sir. All
44 lines are now currently open. You may continue.
45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: I'm going to start over
47 with the Southeast RAC. Don Hernandez.
48
49 MR. HERNANDEZ: I am here.
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good to hear your
2 voice, Don. That makes it easier. I think I was
3 talking to myself for a little while.
4
5 Southcentral RAC, Greg Encelewski.
6
7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Greg Encelewski is
8 here and listening well.
9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Thank you, Greg.
11
12 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC, Della Trumble.
13
14 MS. TRUMBLE: Good afternoon. I'm
15 here.
16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Great, Della. You're
18 coming in clear.
19
20 Bristol Bay RAC, Nanci. I think I
21 heard you before.
22
23 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, you did.
24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta,
26 Alissa Rogers.
27
28 (No response)
29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: I'll get back to
31 Alissa.
32
33 Western Interior RAC, Jack Reakoff.
34
35 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff here.
36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Jack. Good to
38 hear you.
39
40 MR. REAKOFF: Good to hear you.
41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Seward Peninsula RAC,
43 Louie Green.
44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Doolittle, through
46 the Chair. This is Karen Deatherage. Louie is trying
47 to get in right now.
48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okey-doke. Thank you,
50

1 Karen.
2
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: You're welcome.
4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Northwest Arctic RAC,
6 Mike Kramer.
7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. This is
9 Zach Stevenson. Mr. Kramer will be joining us later
10 this afternoon.
11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Thank you.
13
14 Eastern Interior RAC, Sue Entsminger.
15
16 MS. ENTSMINGER: I am here. Hello.
17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Sue.
19
20 MS. ENTSMINGER: Hello.
21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: North Slope RAC, Gordon
23 Brower.
24
25 MR. G. BROWER: Good afternoon. Gordon
26 Brower is present.
27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good to hear you,
29 Gordon. Okay.
30
31 I'll go back to public Board member
32 Charlie. Are you online yet?
33
34 MR. C. BROWER: I am now. Thank you.
35 Good afternoon.
36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good, Charlie. And is
38 Ben Mulligan or Mark Burch on from Alaska Department of
39 Fish and Game?
40
41 MR. MULLIGAN: Hello. This is Ben
42 Mulligan and March Burch.
43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, good to hear you
45 guys. At this time some people will be waiting on
46 content, but there will be a while for some of you to
47 get on that, but we can commence the process of me
48 turning this meeting over to Chairman Christianson and
49 formally ask me to do a roll call of the Board.
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom,
2 for that and figuring this out second time today.
3 Appreciate everybody that's here. I know it's
4 unprecedented that we're having a Board meeting over
5 teleconference. Appreciate everybody having patience
6 with the Staff and all the processes and calling in and
7 out and all of that.

8
9 We'll do our best as we move forward in
10 the agenda to make sure we can hear everybody, get
11 through the business and still maintain some order.
12 I'll look at Tom to do that quite a bit. Again, thanks
13 everyone for signing on today and taking an interest in
14 Federal lands and management of our resources.

15
16 I'll turn it over to Tom to go ahead
17 and do roll call.

18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chairman
20 Christianson.

21
22 Let's start off with Public Member
23 Charlie Brower.

24
25 MR. C. BROWER: Here.

26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Rhonda
28 Pitka.

29
30 MS. PITKA: Hi, I'm here.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA, Gene Peltola.

33
34 MR. PELTOLA: Ii-e.

35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Ii-e. Good to hear
37 you.

38
39 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

40
41 MR. SCHMID: Here, Tom.

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.

44
45 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
46 Siekaniec.

47
48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes, Tom, I am here.

49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right.
2
3 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
4 Padgett.
5
6 MR. PADGETT: I'm here. Thanks, Tom.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
9
10 National Park Service, Don Striker.
11
12 MR. STRIKER: Happy Monday.
13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: It is. It's a dandy.
15 I'm glad to hear everybody. One thing I will remind --
16 we do have a quorum. We have all members of the
17 Federal Subsistence Board, which is great.
18
19 We have our solicitors and the State
20 both online.
21
22 I'm not sure whether Senior Advisor
23 Steven Wackowski or somebody from the Department of
24 Interior Alaska Affairs Office is online.
25
26 (No response)
27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right. That tells
29 me that they're not online. I will have one
30 housekeeping message before I turn it back over to
31 Chairman Christianson. If the public has any problem
32 with dropped calls have patience. Once somebody is
33 done speaking that you place your phone on mute to
34 avoid problems with background noise. Re-calling in
35 may happen or knowing technology will happen, so please
36 be patient and we'll try to get everybody back in,
37 making sure we have a roll call of all participating
38 Board members.
39
40 Also members of the public that are
41 listening in want to know where we are at in the
42 progress through the agenda, they can obtain
43 information by calling 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3888.
44 Those numbers Tom Kron will be online to tell people
45 where we're at on the agenda if you don't want to stay
46 on the phone for hours waiting to address an issue.
47
48 You can also find out where we're at on
49 the agenda at our website, which is
50

1 www.doi.gov/subsistence/board or on our Facebook page,
2 which is www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska. You will
3 hear me intermittently providing those numbers back out
4 to the public, so you'll be able to have that
5 information, where we are at and what progress we've
6 made to the agenda.

7
8 Also we will be taking periodic breaks
9 so people can take a break from the discussion, but
10 also please expect that as we go through the
11 deliberations there may be need for a pause. For OSM
12 Staff we need to be able to put some of our thoughts on
13 the screen so we can put things such as motions up on
14 the screen for everybody. So that's an important part.

15
16 Lastly, I am in this capacity assisting
17 the Chair. I have to announce at this time that we do
18 have a new Assistant Regional Director for OSM, Susan
19 Detwiler, who I got to meet through social distancing
20 at work for the last few weeks and what a great person
21 that we'll have heading up OSM here and into the
22 future. I know when Board Member Siekaniec gets to his
23 report he has more information about new leadership at
24 the Federal Office of Subsistence Management.

25
26 I, personally, at the beginning of this
27 meeting wanted to welcome Susan to OSM and somebody
28 that was here at the very early parts of this program.
29 With that announcement I'll turn the meeting back over
30 to you, Chairman Christianson.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thanks, Tom.
33 I'm looking at the agenda here. We'll move on to
34 review and adopt the agenda. So I'll open up the
35 floor. If everybody has reviewed it, I will get a
36 motion to.....

37
38 MR. C. BROWER: So moved, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, so moved,
41 Charlie.

42
43 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. This is Dave
44 Schmid. I'll second that and I have an agenda item I'd
45 like to move, if possible. I'll speak to that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, we have a
48 second. Go ahead.

49
50

1 MR. SCHMID: I think, Mr. Chairman, I
2 believe the Board should remove WP20-16/17 from the
3 consensus agenda based on the results from the
4 2019-2020 wolf hunting and trapping season in Unit 2 I
5 feel that we should discuss what happened and talk
6 about options for the upcoming 2020-2021 season.
7 There's been quite the media storm and a lot of
8 interest in this. I would like to insert that on our
9 agenda after WP20-07.

10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: For clarity sake, Board
12 Member Schmid would like to add to the non-consensus
13 agenda WP20-16/17 for Board discussion.

14

15 MR. SCHMID: That's correct, Tom.

16

17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.

18

19 MR. C. BROWER: Second for discussion.

20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
24 floor.

25

26 MR. C. BROWER: What was that, WP
27 16/17?

28

29 MR. DOOLITTLE: That's correct,
30 Charlie.

31

32 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.

33

34 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Greg
35 Siekaniec here.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, you have
38 the floor.

39

40 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 I would like to request that we move WP20-27 to just
42 ahead of the WP20-26. I'd just like to reverse that
43 order if we could because I think the discussion around
44 20-27 might bring some light onto the discussion around
45 20-26.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any opposition
48 to that request.

49

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
4 lets reflect that.
5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: For on the record
9 clarification, this is Tom, we would move WP20-27 to be
10 ahead of WP20-26.
11
12 MR. SIEKANIEC: Correct.
13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, sir.
15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any additional
17 discussion, changes, moves.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
22 Let's call for a roll call then, Tom.
23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Roll call to adopt the
25 agenda as amended. We'll start with National Park
26 Service, Don Striker.
27
28 MR. STRIKER: Yes.
29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: BLM, Chad Padgett.
31
32 MR. PADGETT: Yes.
33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
35 Service, Greg Siekaniec.
36
37 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes.
38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Forest Service,
40 David Schmid.
41
42 MR. SCHMID: Yes.
43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA, Gene Peltola.
45
46 MR. PELTOLA: Yes.
47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Rhonda
49 Pitka.
50

1 MS. PITKA: Yes.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Charlie
4 Brower.

5

6 MR. C. BROWER: Yes.

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Last but not least,
9 Chairman Anthony Christianson.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

12

13 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right. The
14 amendments passed unanimously. We can move forward.

15

16 Thank you, Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. At
19 this time, Tom, thank you on that one. We'll move
20 forward to the next thing on the agenda. We'll open up
21 the floor for Federal Subsistence Board information
22 sharing.

23

24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman. Greg
25 Siekaniec here.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, go ahead.
28 You have the floor.

29

30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 As Tom had noted, I just wanted to again welcome Sue
32 Detwiler, our new Assistant Regional Director for the
33 Office of Subsistence Management. I sent out in the
34 past a couple of different notices of experience. She
35 comes to us with a long career in conservation and
36 working between Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest
37 Service and the Environmental Protection Agency.

38

39 She has spent 10 years with the Office
40 of Subsistence Management and actually is even active
41 in the capacity of Assistant Regional Director during,
42 I believe, Tom Boyd's era if any of the members
43 remember Tom. We welcome her and she is coming into
44 the organization at this kind of very crazy sort of
45 time with the Covid-19 where she is introducing herself
46 to Staff and Board members with virtually telework
47 and/or videoconferencing.

48

49 She has had a great deal of experience

50

1 in subsistence, which is also included living rurally
2 and remotely with the Athabaskan family for a period of
3 time really learning kind of the landscape of
4 subsistence and the significance and the importance of
5 it. So I would encourage you all to please join me in
6 welcoming Sue if you have not already and hopefully we
7 will, during the course of this meeting for a couple of
8 days, here from Sue on and off.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
13 that, Greg. Welcome, Sue. Hopefully she's on here
14 today. I look forward to getting to know you and have
15 some things that we'll be doing in the future. Thanks,
16 Greg.

17

18 Any other information sharing.

19

20 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. This is Dave
21 with the Forest Service. Just two things I would
22 highlight, but first welcome, Sue. We got to work
23 together a little bit here in Juneau before you moved
24 off to bigger and better things.

25

26 I think first and foremost we hit a
27 milestone here after about seven years in the planning
28 process. The Chugach Land Management Plan was
29 finalized. The Record of Decision was signed this last
30 week here and published in the Federal Register and I
31 would share that a lot of the management within the
32 Chugach I think will be simplified and really recognize
33 especially the ongoing and predicted subsistence uses
34 and access to subsistence resources. So that was a
35 long and quite accomplishment.

36

37 The other, which I know is near and
38 dear to folks in Southeast Alaska's heart here is the
39 Alaska Roadless Rule. That continues forward here. I
40 did have just a brief opportunity to meet with the
41 Southeast RAC virtually here a few weeks ago to update
42 folks there, but that does continue along a path.

43

44 At this point the public comment
45 periods have closed and folks are working on the EIS,
46 the ROD, as well as the Rule itself. Again, reminding
47 folks that the Secretary of Agriculture is the
48 decision-maker on this Rule here. The Forest Service
49 has been working diligently. We have been preparing

50

1 the report from the subsistence hearings that were
2 conducted throughout Southeast Alaska into a final
3 report and a summary of that and we'll be making a
4 subsistence 810 determination when we finalize that
5 Rule.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, thank you
10 for that, Dave. Any other questions for Dave.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'd open up the
15 floor for anybody else who has anything to share.

16
17 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair. Chad Padgett
18 with BLM.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Chad.
21 You have the floor.

22
23 MR. PADGETT: I just wanted to say
24 again thank you to the Chair and members of the general
25 public for joining us today. Just to reiterate that
26 we're conducting business within BLM in a similar
27 fashion, doing a lot of things electronically and by
28 phone. So we continue that work and are continuing our
29 public service.

30
31 In that vein just wanted to say that I
32 really appreciate that folks are joining us. We know
33 how hard it is to do this by phone. So I just wanted
34 to put that out there for the general public.

35
36 Thank you, sir.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
39 Chad. Any other Board members like to share.

40
41 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. This is Gene,
42 BIA.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, Gene.

45
46 MR. PELTOLA: First off I would like to
47 thank the public for calling in and ask for their
48 patience as we go through this telephonic meeting. A
49 lot of what we're doing in government these days lately
50

1 is done via email and via teleconferences, which there
2 have been a lot of.

3
4 In addition, I'd like to point out that
5 within the Bureau we kind of have a unique situation
6 we've been presented to and a lot of our staff have not
7 had a day off with the exception of Easter over the
8 last five weeks to keep the process going. It's been a
9 challenge at times for the Bureau, probably like a lot
10 of other Federal agencies.

11
12 In addition to, Mr. Chair, I would
13 defer to your opinion, but based on some issues the
14 Board was exposed to this morning during consultation,
15 I'd like the Board to address a particular topic. I
16 could bring it up now, Mr. Chair, or I could bring up
17 at a later time on the agenda.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think now is
20 an appropriate time, Gene.

21
22 MR. PELTOLA: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair. So it was brought to the attention of the
24 Federal Subsistence Board members as we addressed the
25 consultation this morning on this agenda, in addition
26 to the last agenda, which was presented to the Board
27 when we had our last wildlife cycle. There are
28 proposals which expressed a direct conflict between
29 agency-specific regulations and those of the Federal
30 Subsistence Program.

31
32 For years this has been so. I think
33 it's a disservice to the Federal Subsistence Program to
34 continue under that light and I believe that the
35 program as a whole would be better served by having
36 clear and proper guidance.

37
38 With that being said, with your
39 concurrence and the other Board member's consideration,
40 I would like to make a motion to have the Federal
41 Subsistence Board direct or request of the Alaska
42 Solicitor's Office opinion and guidance and with the
43 conflict between agency-specific regulations and those
44 of the Federal Subsistence Program.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. This is Ken
49 Lord. May I speak.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Ken.
2 You have the floor.

3
4 MR. LORD: Just for the Board members'
5 edification, as Gene points out, this issue has been
6 around for a long time. We actually assembled a team
7 within the Solicitor's Office trying to answer that
8 question a few years back and were unable to reach an
9 affirmative conclusion. Basically it would have two
10 laws which are in conflict with each other and no
11 traditional guidance on how to resolve that conflict.
12 The Solicitor's Office can't make a decision.

13
14 What has to happen is either we need to
15 get the issue in front of a judge or -- well, actually
16 three things could happen. One needs to go in front of
17 a judge. Two, Congress could resolve it. Three, at
18 least on a temporary basis, the Secretary's Office
19 could make a decision as a matter of policy. But it's
20 not something the Solicitor's Office can resolve on its
21 own.

22
23 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, if I may.
24 This is Gene at BIA.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

27
28 MR. PELTOLA: There's several occasions
29 I've been exposed to professionally in the past where
30 the Solicitor's Office has been given guidance in the
31 absence of case law to cite. In addition to what the
32 -- we wouldn't, as a Federal Subsistence Board or a
33 member, have direct say on whether it would be
34 addressed by Congress or not. Although, if we make a
35 formal request to the Solicitor's Office for such
36 guidance and it's declined, that could help us with
37 regard to any potential policy shift in the future.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Gene.

43
44 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

47
48 MR. C. BROWER: This is Charlie. Just
49 wondering. Did BIA make a motion to something or is
50

1 there discussion on it?

2

3

Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think what's
6 happening now is Gene is looking for direction that the
7 Board as a whole to look at this situation that keeps
8 rising about agency -- when they vote on things when
9 there's a conflict between agency and ANILCA and how
10 that plays out. We haven't been able to get a straight
11 answer this morning in the testimony given during the
12 tribal consultation that was brought up with a lot of
13 intensity about getting that answer.

14

15 I think I posed the question myself in
16 the past too about how that gets voted on. We just got
17 our answer from the solicitor. I think it's something
18 that Councils and Board need to probably elevate higher
19 on the level of how do we get an answer for the public
20 because it does stymie the rural residents in trying to
21 draft regulations that help fill their needs. That's
22 where we're at, Charlie.

23

24 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Gene at BIA
25 again. I'd be more than happy to formalize a motion
26 even if -- and if we're to formalize a motion and it
27 was passed by the Board and if we add the declaration
28 from the Alaska Solicitor's Office, that could be
29 utilized as well potentially when we explore a
30 potential policy shift if that is an option.

31

32 MS. PITKA: This is Public Member
33 Rhonda Pitka. I definitely support that directive. I
34 think the tribal consultation this morning was really
35 instructive and we definitely need more guidance on
36 this.

37

38

Thank you.

39

40

MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. Ken Lord.

41

42

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, go ahead.

43

44

45 MR. LORD: I'd just like to emphasize
46 that the solicitor's Office does not resolve matters of
47 policy. In the past, what Gene is talking about when
48 we had issues to resolve, that has not been a scenario
49 like we have here when we have two laws that are
50 directly in conflict with each other. That kind of

1 ambiguity is not something the Solicitor's Office has
2 the authority to resolve.

3

4 So this really needs to be elevated up
5 to the Secretary's Office or resolved in some other
6 manner. If pointing to my saying this on the record
7 helps to accomplish that, that's great.

8

9 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Gene at BIA
10 again. I do appreciate the comments from Mr. Lord.
11 Although we have inquired in the past without any
12 proper direction, I'm just asking to formalize, which
13 has been done in the past, via motion by the Federal
14 Subsistence Board to the Solicitor's Office. If that
15 explanation is given formally, then so be it. But to
16 date, when we've inquired verbally, everything has
17 languished and come to a halt and has never been
18 resolved.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. LORD: Ken Lord here. One last
27 point if I could.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Ken.
30 You have the floor.

31

32 MR. LORD: So when we looked at this
33 before we attempted to elevate it to the Secretary's
34 Office and got no response, just like Gene didn't. So
35 I'm thinking that maybe the Board members might be in a
36 better position to try and get resolution of this than
37 the Solicitor's Office at this point.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ken,
40 for that. That brings it back to Gene. I think we'll
41 need an action for this, so I would entertain a motion
42 at this time if we could formalize it, however that
43 looks, to raise the priority of this like we had stated
44 earlier by Staff.

45

46 It wasn't on the highest priority list,
47 but some of the means and methods are on the high
48 priority list, especially with some of the proposals we
49 have before us today. It does affect the outcome of

50

1 whether we vote positive or negative on some of these
2 proposals.

3
4 I would almost at this point entertain
5 a motion that we formalize this request and do whatever
6 we need to do to move it up the chain, whether it's
7 agency-driven or comes out of the Secretary's Office.
8 Thank you.

9
10 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Gene at BIA
11 again. I have made verbal requests to the Solicitor's
12 Office where this didn't go anyway, nor was I gotten
13 back to until recently. With that being said, I'd like
14 to make a motion as previously stated.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Greg
19 Siekaniec.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, yes.

22
23 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thanks, Tony. Gene,
24 thanks for your thoughts and comments on this. I'm
25 just wondering if we formalize this in such a way that
26 we deal with the Field Special Assistant for the
27 Secretary in Alaska, Mr. Steve Wackowski. Ken, you've
28 already kind of given us the guidance from a policy
29 standpoint. It really needs to go from Interior up
30 into the Secretary's Office. If I'm hearing you right,
31 it really should probably go through the policy side,
32 which would be Steve versus the Solicitor's side. Is
33 that correct, Ken?

34
35 MR. LORD: That is correct.

36
37 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Yeah, Mr. Chair,
38 I think us entertaining a motion is perfectly great. I
39 think we need to work it up through the Field Special
40 Assistant for the Secretary here in Alaska.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MS. PITKA: This is Public Member
45 Rhonda Pitka. I would like to second the motion from
46 the BIA member.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 Rhonda. We have a motion on the floor that's been
50

1 seconded.

2

3

Any further discussion.

4

5

6

MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Point of order. I thought we had a motion already with a second. I seconded something. Something.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, we have a motion and it's seconded right now to elevate the concerns to the Secretary. Now it sounds like the Policy Office with Steve Wackowski on the issue of the difference in the regulations and how we vote on them.

15

16

17

18

19

MR. C. BROWER: What happened to the first motion made by the BIA and another motion was made over that through that questioning it and answering it, voting on it.

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, nobody had seconded that motion until Rhonda just did. If I missed your second, Charlie, I apologize, but it has been seconded now for the record, a motion by Gene. Gene, if you want to just restate your motion for the record, please.

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Mr. Chair. My motion stands as earlier to request to the Solicitor's Office an opinion on when agency-specific regulation conflicts with the Federal Subsistence Program. Since we have a second, if we had that definition from SOL that could potentially give further strength to other avenues. But my motion was specifically to request to the Solicitor's Office.

36

37

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39

40

41

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We have that motion on the record, reiterated and seconded. Any further discussion.

42

43

44

MR. SCHMID: Yeah. This is Dave Schmid.

45

46

47

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Dave, you have the floor.

48

49

50

MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Would that also include USDA in addition to the

1 Solicitor with DOI?

2

3 MR. PELTOLA: With concurrence of the
4 second, I'd be more than happy to do a friendly
5 amendment as such. Gene, BIA.

6

7 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda. You have
8 my concurrence.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There you go,
13 so amended. If no further questions, we'll do roll
14 call.

15

16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. As a future
17 point of order, if there is changes like this I'd like
18 to see agenda changes put on this. That would be part
19 of what I do on behalf of the Chair and through OSM.

20

21 In this particular situation the
22 request was to contact the Solicitor's Office for an
23 opinion reflecting on conflicting regulations between
24 ANILCA and other Federal regulations as they relate to
25 means and methods of take and this would need the
26 concurrence of the Office of General Council.

27

28 National Park Service, Don Striker.

29

30 MR. STRIKER: No. I feel this is more
31 appropriately a question directed at the Secretary than
32 the Solicitor's.

33

34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.

35

36 Bureau of Land Management, Chad

37 Padgett.

38

39 MR. PADGETT: That's a tough one. Yes.

40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
42 Service, Greg Siekaniec.

43

44 MR. SIEKANIEC: I would oppose this. I
45 do also believe it belongs with our Field Special
46 Assistant who has a direct line to the Secretary's
47 Office.

48

49 MR. DOOLITTLE: So opposed.

50

1 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

2

3 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, this is a tough one,
4 but I'm going to vote in support to try and move this
5 forward one way or another.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Indian
10 Affairs, Gene Peltola.

11

12 MR. PELTOLA: Yes.

13

14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Rhonda
15 Pitka.

16

17 MS. PITKA: Yes.

18

19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Charlie
20 Brower.

21

22 MR. C. BROWER: Ii-e.

23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Ii-e. Chairman Anthony
25 Christianson.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

28

29 MR. C. BROWER: Tom, that means yes in
30 Inupiaq.

31

32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Ie-e. Motion passes.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Apologize for
35 that, Tom. Next time we'll make sure if we have
36 something like that, it happens during the review and
37 adopt agenda portion. So that's just for clarity and
38 consistency in the process that we go through.

39

40 So duly noted.

41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 MR. STRIKER: Don Striker. Point of
45 order.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We're still on
48 the Federal Subsistence Board information sharing.
49 Gene was the last one to share. He brought up a
50

1 motion. The floor is still open for information
2 sharing from other Board members if they wish to do so.
3

4 MR. STRIKER: This is Don. I just have
5 a point of information, a question. Point of order.
6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, go ahead,
8 Don.
9

10 MR. STRIKER: In the interest of the
11 last topic, I'm not interested in slowing anything
12 down. I would also like to make a motion that we
13 simultaneously appeal to the Secretaries of both
14 agencies through the appropriate Alaska offices so
15 we're not waiting on a Solicitor response, which I
16 think we already heard, in order to get the larger
17 matter resolved with respect to the policy.
18

19 I don't know when and where it would be
20 appropriate to consider that motion. I'm happy to do
21 that as an agenda change if that's the right way to do
22 it.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Right now,
25 considering that we've already made the motion and this
26 is the same topic, if Board Member Striker would like
27 to make another motion to look at the policy directive
28 to look at remedy to the resulting regulatory conflicts
29 between ANILCA and present means and methods of take,
30 then we can address that. It seems appropriate to
31 address that now.
32

33 MR. STRIKER: I so move.
34

35 MR. C. BROWER: I second.
36

37 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair. Chad Padgett
38 with BLM.
39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, Chad, you
41 have the floor.
42

43 MR. PADGETT: Thank you, sir. I'd like
44 to offer a friendly amendment if I could to Mr.
45 Striker's and within that amendment what I'd like to
46 see is that we also ask for policy direction on the MOU
47 relative to Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission.
48

49 That's it.
50

1 MR. STRIKER: I couldn't agree more.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It sounds like
4 you have concurrence there, Chad.

5

6 MR. PADGETT: Thanks.

7

8 MR. C. BROWER: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.
9 So you're amending an amendment to that motion?

10

11 MR. PADGETT: Yes. I was offering a
12 friendly amendment to the motion that Mr. Striker just
13 put forward.

14

15 MR. C. BROWER: Just a question to the
16 Chair. Do we need a second for the amendment or what?

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think he had
19 a concurrence. We need a second so we can discuss it
20 and vote on it at this time. So the original motion
21 stands to go through the Policy Office and now to look
22 at the Ahtna MOU.

23

24 So it's a two part without a second.

25

26 MS. PITKA: I will second the
27 amendment.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So the original
30 motion was made and then with concurrence was amended
31 and now has a second. So it includes two parts so
32 everybody is aware.

33

34 Any discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. C. BROWER: Question on the
39 amendment.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
42 has been called. Tom, roll call.

43

44 MR. DOOLITTLE: This will be on the
45 amendment first, which was on the original motion,
46 which was to amend the policy to work through the
47 impacts on conflicting regulations between ANILCA and
48 other Federal regulations that affect means on take on
49 Federal lands in Alaska. The amendment to that was to

50

1 include a review of policy relative to the Memorandum
2 of Agreement with the Ahtna Intertribal Resource
3 Commission. Realize that that Memorandum of Agreement
4 is between the Department and the Ahtna Intertribal
5 Resource Commission and it's not a document between the
6 Federal Subsistence Board and Ahtna.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
9 that, Tom.

10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Let's vote on
12 the amendment to bring them both forward.

13
14 National Park Service, Don Striker.

15
16 MR. STRIKER: Yes.

17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: BLM, Chad Padgett.

19
20 MR. PADGETT: Yes.

21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
23 Service, Greg Siekaniec.

24
25 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes, I support.

26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Forest Service,
28 David Schmid.

29
30 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I support.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Indian
33 Affairs, Gene Peltola.

34
35 MR. PELTOLA: Yes.

36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member, Rhonda
38 Pitka.

39
40 MS. PITKA: Yes, I support.

41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member, Charlie
43 Brower.

44
45 MR. C. BROWER: Yes, I support.

46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: And last but not least,
48 Chairman Anthony Christianson.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support.
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Now we'll need
4 to go back to the original motion with the amendment,
5 which would again amend the policy site to solve the
6 impasse and conflicting regulations between ANILCA and
7 other Federal regulations relative to harvest means on
8 Federal lands and other Federal regulations, including
9 to have the Memorandum of Agreement also reviewed as
10 part of this process by the Department as a matter of
11 policy.
12
13 We'll start over again.
14
15 National Park Service.
16
17 MR. STRIKER: Park Service supports.
18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: BLM, Chad Padgett.
20
21 MR. PADGETT: Support
22
23 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
24 Service, Greg Siekaniec.
25
26 MR. SIEKANIEC: I support.
27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Forest Service,
29 David Schmid.
30
31 MR. SCHMID: I support.
32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Indian
34 Affairs, Gene Peltola.
35
36 MR. PELTOLA: Support.
37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.
39
40 Public Member, Rhonda Pitka.
41
42 MS. PITKA: I support.
43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
45
46 Public Member, Charlie Brower.
47
48 MR. C. BROWER: Support.
49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

2

3 Last but not least, Chairman Anthony
4 Christianson.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I support.

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: That passed
9 unanimously. Thank you, everybody.

10

11 Back to you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
14 We're still on Federal Subsistence Board information
15 sharing. I just wanted to make sure everybody has an
16 opportunity to share information they have with the
17 Board here today.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
22 We'll go ahead and move on to Regional Advisory Council
23 Chair discussion, topics of concern with the Board. I
24 don't have a list in front of me at this moment, Tom,
25 so if you just want to call on each region, recognize
26 them and we'll engage with each Regional Council Chair.

27

28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Before I start I've had one request from the outside to
30 the operator, to Christina, that Nathan Hile be added
31 to the open speaker line list, if you could do that.

32

33 OPERATOR: Yes, sir. One moment. Mr.
34 Hile's line is currently open, sir.

35

36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Thank you very
37 much for adding Mr. Hile. We'll start first with
38 Southeast Chair, Don Hernandez.

39

40 MR. HERNANDEZ: Am I coming in okay,
41 Tom, before I start speaking?

42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: You are coming in loud
44 and clear, Don. Sounds good.

45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. So
47 greetings from my living room here in Point Baker. I
48 was really looking forward to making a trip up to
49 Gakona for this spring meeting, but nevertheless here

50

1 we are. I'm glad I've got this opportunity to call in
2 on the phone anyhow.

3
4 I'll start my report with an issue that
5 has been of great concern to the folks in Southeast
6 subsistence users and that is this Roadless issue. A
7 petition from the State to make changes to the existing
8 Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest and the
9 Chugach as well.

10
11 Our Council has spent an inordinate
12 amount of time over the last three meetings listening
13 to public comments, have a lot of discussion, writing
14 letters and putting in extensive comments to this
15 process. As we heard from Regional Forester Dave
16 Schmid, it is nearing a conclusion and we're all very
17 anxious to hear the outcome of that.

18
19 It does need to be noted that the
20 subsistence community in Southeast is pretty
21 overwhelmingly -- from all of our testimony and public
22 meetings, would like to see the existing Roadless Rule
23 continue as it is with no changes. That's been a big
24 topic with us here in Southeast.

25
26 Another topic that kind of came to the
27 forefront here this winter was something that I first
28 heard mentioned more recently and this winter it has
29 become prominent and that is this issue of food
30 security.

31
32 We had a situation here in Southeast
33 Alaska where our ferry system essentially shut down for
34 a good part of the winter and some of our smaller
35 communities are very dependant on that ferry service to
36 supply needed commodities such as groceries and it
37 really brought home the fact how important our food
38 networks are and subsistence gathering became even more
39 important to some folks.

40
41 That whole situation has just been
42 exacerbated the latter part of the winter with this
43 coronavirus pandemic. Now people are even more worried
44 about their food supply and food chains. You are
45 hearing about that I'm sure from all over the state.
46 Now you're dealing with special action requests to open
47 up more opportunities for the subsistence harvest. So
48 definitely food security is the big topic.

49
50

1 For resources here in Southeast we
2 witnessed some very poor fish returns this past summer.
3 There's a lot of concern. We had major depletions of
4 pink salmon runs. Not a major subsistence food source,
5 but very concerning to a lot of people given the
6 drastic declines we saw in pinks.

7
8 A lot of our sockeye systems, which is
9 the primary subsistence resource, are doing poorly.
10 It's kind of a mixed bag. There's some, you know,
11 good, successful stream systems, but some have kind of
12 been in a period of decline.

13
14 What was kind of worrisome this year
15 was one of our largest subsistence fisheries on the
16 Stikine River, a very major sockeye producer, had a
17 very poor late run and the subsistence fishing had to
18 be curtailed there at the latter part of the season.
19 So that was very concerning.

20
21 Also kind of a mixed bag on the hunting
22 this fall. We had some good successes. Moose hunting
23 has been generally good. There are some areas in
24 Southeast where the deer populations are looking very
25 healthy, but then there's other areas that we do have
26 concerns.

27
28 Unit 2, primarily Prince of Wales
29 Island, is one of those places with concerns. As you
30 probably noticed on the non-consensus agenda, there's a
31 number of proposals dealing with hunting deer on Prince
32 of Wales Island that we'll be dealing with at this
33 meeting.

34
35 I'd like to point out that our Council
36 has kind of taken a new approach to our annual reports.
37 This year for the first time and hopefully in coming
38 years we have asked our fisheries and wildlife staff to
39 put together kind of a synopsis of what's going on with
40 some of our major hunting and fishing activities here
41 in Southeast.

42
43 We were very pleased to see what the
44 staff came up with this year. I think they did a
45 really good job of coming up with kind of a synopsis of
46 where the efforts are on both our wildlife and
47 fisheries harvest. They put together a paper that we
48 have included as sort of an attachment to our usual
49 Annual Report.

50

1 I think if you look that over you get a
2 really good idea of where some of the trends are going
3 in Southeast Alaska, both in wildlife hunting efforts
4 and success and also a good number of stream systems
5 that we've been monitoring with the Fisheries Resource
6 Monitoring projects. We've got a lot of good data on
7 escapements as well as harvest reports.
8

9 I say if you look at that in the Annual
10 Report, you'll get a pretty good idea I think of what's
11 happening here in Southeast Alaska. This is something
12 that we hope to continue in the future. Perhaps just
13 including a wildlife synopsis when we're in a wildlife
14 cycle and a fish synopsis when we're doing fisheries
15 issues.
16

17 They are both available in this year's
18 Annual Report kind of as a background and get started.
19 I think if we continue this going on in the future it
20 will be a good historical perspective on where these
21 trends are going. Something we can easily keep track
22 of and see how things are changing over time.
23

24 The last thing on my report is I'd just
25 like to kind of point out how I guess I would have to
26 say shocked and disappointed we were here in Southeast
27 with our Council appointments this year. I know
28 probably all the Councils are experiencing the same
29 thing where our Council membership has been decreased.
30

31 Here in Southeast we lost two of our
32 most valued Council members. One of them has been on
33 the Council since the Councils were first formed.
34 Patty Phillips from Pelican. Extremely valuable member
35 of our Council and actually a good asset to everyone in
36 the state, I believe. She did not get reappointed.
37 And Harvey Kitka from Sitka was not reappointed and
38 Harvey has just been a mainstay on our Council for the
39 16 years that he was on the Council. So that was very
40 disappointing.
41

42 The other thing in regards to things
43 going on with the Councils, we were kind of
44 disappointed that our Southeast Council meeting got
45 postponed this year by a whole month due to some
46 circumstance which I don't think we ever really got a
47 clear explanation of why that happened.
48

49 Had we had our meeting when it was
50

1 originally scheduled, we probably would have been
2 meeting in Juneau in the latter part of February.
3 Instead it got delayed to the latter part of March. By
4 that time the in-person meeting had to get cancelled in
5 favor of a teleconference due to the coronavirus.

6
7 I don't know. It just was a very
8 unfortunate and unsatisfactory way to hold a meeting.
9 It doesn't seem like there was any reason why that had
10 to occur. We'll just hope that doesn't become an
11 ongoing issue where meetings have to be rescheduled.

12
13 It's extremely burdensome to our
14 Coordinators who have to go through all the work of
15 setting up one meeting and then changing everything.
16 It's very disruptive to the Council members who make
17 plans in advance. It was just a lot of disappointment
18 on both of those aspects here from the Council.

19
20 With that, I think that concludes my
21 report. I look forward to being back with you when we
22 get to proposals because we've got a number of
23 proposals on the non-consensus agenda here for
24 Southeast Alaska.

25
26 Thank you very much.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don,
29 for that good report and bringing up all the issues all
30 the way out there in Southeast and appreciate your
31 input here at the Board level.

32
33 Any questions for Don.

34
35 MS. PITKA: Don, this is Rhonda Pitka.
36 I was wondering if you put those concerns about your
37 Council appointments in your annual letter. I
38 definitely look forward to reading those every year.
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you,
42 Rhonda. I'd have to take a quick look. I don't know
43 if we did include those in the annual report actually.
44 I guess consider it in our report right now this
45 afternoon.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Dave Schmid.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Dave.

2

3 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Through the
4 Chair. Don, I just really want to thank you for your
5 leadership on the Council. I know it was frustrating
6 trying to do teleconference and get things scheduled.
7 I too was looking very much forward to a face-to-face
8 meeting and that didn't happen. I'm not sure how
9 things got rescheduled, but they did.

10

11 I just really want to commend you and
12 the other members of the Southeast RAC for your
13 persistence and fortitude and hanging through long
14 conference calls. That's not an ideal situation, but I
15 know you did accomplish good work in spite of all those
16 challenges, so I thank you.

17

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Dave. Yeah,
19 our Council definitely rose to the occasion here. We
20 had excellent participation and I thought we did some
21 good work and they all have to be commended for that.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Just a
26 question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

29

30 MR. C. BROWER: I was just wondering
31 was there a proposal put in for Southeast to kind of
32 stop the commercial fishing down there somewhere down
33 the line? I had some kind of information on that. I
34 was just curious if you knew about it.

35

36 MR. HERNANDEZ: Charlie, are you
37 talking about a proposal that may have just been
38 submitted at this cycle?

39

40 MR. C. BROWER: I believe so. I heard
41 a little bit about it, but I was just curious.

42

43 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you.
44 Southeast Council put forward no proposals to the
45 Federal Board on fisheries. We did put forward a
46 number of proposals to the State Board of Fish this
47 year. None of those dealt directly with commercial
48 fishing. A lot of our concerns were with the sport
49 charter, specifically non-guided out of state sport

50

1 fishing I guess you would call it. Not exactly
2 charter. No, nothing dealing with the commercial
3 fishing this year.
4

5 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you. I think it
6 was that sport chartering issue. I may have said it
7 wrong.
8

9 Thank you.
10

11 MR. HERNANDEZ: I guess to clarify,
12 Charlie, I mean a lot of people do kind of consider
13 that a commercial enterprise basically. Not exactly
14 the same as our seine/gillnet trawl fisheries, but a
15 lot of people do consider that a commercial fishery.
16 In that regard, that might be what you're hearing, I
17 guess. Even though it affects sports fishermen, a lot
18 of people do see that as a commercial enterprise. I
19 guess I'd have to clarify it that way, yes.
20

21 MR. C. BROWER: All right. Thank you.
22 Mr. Chair, thank you.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
25 guys. Any other questions for Don.
26

27 (No comments)
28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I thank you,
30 Don, for that. We'll move on to the next Council
31 Chair.
32

33 MR. DOOLITTLE: I know that Northwest
34 Arctic Chair is under a time constraint. If Mike
35 Kramer would be on deck, that would be great.
36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
38 We'll call on Mike.
39

40 MR. KRAMER: Our season up here was
41 pretty good. A lot of the caribou that came through
42 were pretty late. Got a lot of commercial services
43 that operate up here. Quite a few hunters went out. I
44 know Noatak did very well. A lot of people there
45 harvested their caribou. I know up on the Kobuk it was
46 a little slow because a lot of the herd stayed up north
47 until October into November. So we didn't see a lot of
48 the caribou herd pass through Kotzebue. They passed
49 more east of Kotzebue as usual.
50

1 Caribou population went from 269,000, I
2 believe, now down to about 230. They say it's
3 maintaining stable, but we had a pretty rough winter
4 here. We had a lot of below zero temperatures for
5 months on end. We didn't have much for snow. I
6 believe they fared pretty well feed-wise.

7
8 Moose populations is starting to be
9 declined. Our bear numbers up here are still pretty
10 high. A lot of wolves still. The chum salmon up here,
11 the rivers were so warm in the fall time that a
12 majority of the salmon spent most of their time down in
13 Kobuk Lake and out here in Kotzebue Sound.

14
15 There were even people starting to get
16 salmon in their sheefish nets underneath the ice. That
17 had to have been around the end of October to the first
18 week of November. They were still getting some pretty
19 spawned-out salmon in their nets. In other words, they
20 were still swimming around. They didn't go upriver
21 until fairly late.

22
23 A lot of people harvested a lot of good
24 caribou, but the Kobuk was very slow. Down here on the
25 Lower Noatak pretty slow also. On the Upper Noatak
26 they did pretty well.

27
28 Other than that the Northwest Arctic
29 Region has one of the highest user conflict areas up
30 north. We're still trying to maintain and see if we
31 can try and stop a lot of that user conflict. Kind of
32 hoping our caribou herd is maintaining stable.

33
34 At our meeting it was the first time I
35 ever did a teleconference. It was pretty touch and go.
36 It's one of the shortest meetings I've ever held due to
37 the fact that trying to speak in order.

38
39 Other than that, as for me, on my own
40 personal side, I put in a special action request to
41 close all hunting to non-Federally qualified
42 subsistence users in Game Management Unit 23. I did
43 that on a personal note, for me as a person.

44
45 The COVID-19 epidemic that's going
46 throughout the world up here in Northwest Alaska we
47 don't have no cases yet in Unit 23. We're knocking on
48 wood and hope we don't get it. In the past we had
49 influenza that come up here. Killed a
50

1 thousand-something Natives. More than 80-something
2 percent were Natives that died from that. The other
3 one was TB. That killed a lot of people in this area.
4

5 One of the main reasons I'm putting in
6 this Special Action Request is for public safety. Up
7 here in Northwest Alaska I know that some of you may
8 know how some of these small clinics are and a lot of
9 these households up here in Northwest Alaska there's
10 usually an average between 5-10 people per household.
11 All it takes is one person to go in there and infect a
12 bunch of people. Trying to prevent the spread of
13 COVID-19. It's pretty good up here, but a lot of the
14 times village communities, their healthcare there, they
15 just have village clinics and they're very limited.
16 Very, very limited.
17

18 Anyway, if someone were to get
19 COVID-19, they would have to be flown to Kotzebue. In
20 the meantime, within that two-week period that that
21 person is in their own village quarantined, they could
22 be infecting more. Within these small communities a
23 lot of people go out and visit occasionally. I know
24 that they've been trying to limit the amount of
25 visiting with people in other communities around here.
26

27 One of the main reasons that we put
28 that in is because of the past epidemics up here and
29 for the future of Northwest Alaska. The reason why I'm
30 doing it is for public safety because if we get hit
31 with COVID-19 here in Northwest Alaska, it's going to
32 hit pretty hard because a lot of people are living in
33 these small residences. To protect the public, you
34 know, that's one of my main reasons for submitting that
35 Special Action Request. Just to prevent any further
36 spread of that virus.
37

38 That's about all I have to say today,
39 sir.
40

41 Is there any questions, Mr. Chairman.
42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sorry. It took
44 a second for me to unmute. Any questions there? Thank
45 you, Mike. I appreciated your report there and share
46 your struggle there. I'm also a mayor of a community
47 in rural Alaska and COVID is a real stressor on us
48 local leaders, especially in food security. So I
49 definitely appreciate you and painting a picture of
50

1 what it is that you're dealing with out there.

2

3 Any questions for Mike.

4

5 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

8

9 MR. C. BROWER: I just wanted to thank
10 Mike for his report. Thank you. It was all over the
11 Northwest and the North Slope weather-wise. I
12 appreciate his report.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. KRAMER: Thank you. The Federal
17 Subsistence Board, thank you, guys. Hopefully I can
18 call in. I'm getting back to work at the moment, but I
19 can call back in and try and listen during that Special
20 Action Request goes through and I can listen in to it.
21 If you guys have any more further questions for me when
22 that Special Action comes up, I can most likely be
23 available for it.

24

25 Thank you, Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
28 that, Mike. Any other questions.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
33 Hearing none. We'll move on to the next Council Chair.

34

35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. We'll go
36 with Greg from Southcentral.

37

38 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Can you hear me okay?

39

40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, you're loud and
41 clear, Greg. Sounds great.

42

43 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you very much.
44 I'm going to give you my report here. Last year for
45 the wildlife cycle here on the Southcentral Council we
46 made recommendations on 14 proposals at our fall
47 meeting. We made recommendations on maintaining a
48 status quo on three wildlife closures.

49

50

1 There was a pending nonrural
2 determination proposal for Moose Pass and we had met in
3 Seward and at that RAC meeting the public hearing on
4 the issue was held in the area that fall and the
5 proposal seemed to be supported by most of the
6 community. We also had a community meeting there.
7

8 I'm going to tell you the issues we
9 identified in our annual report to the Council. They
10 included the following and one of them is the need for
11 working groups on moose and caribou in Unit 13 per
12 discussion that this Board had on the recent meeting.
13 Request for the FRMP project to include monitoring on
14 the Copper River escapement and run time issue. Paying
15 particular attention was brought up for the coho
16 salmon. That's what they figure was lacking.
17

18 Issues related to climate change and
19 fishing in the region, specifically research on stress
20 to the salmon and research on wildlife parasites. The
21 last one that we had on our list for our Annual Report
22 was the impacts on the representation of the
23 communities for Regional Advisory Councils.
24

25 As a result of the Executive Order
26 evaluating and improving the utility for the Federal
27 Advisory Committees, ours went from 13 to 9. You've
28 heard a report from Don and others on that and we did
29 put it in our annual report, but that was very
30 disappointing and we lost some good people also.
31

32 There's some points around Southcentral
33 Region that the Council members shared. This is their
34 observation, things that have been brought up. Some
35 are concerns, some are good things and some are not so.
36 We had a record dry summer as well as everyone else
37 around the state. The effects of climate change on
38 various subsistence resources. We had various reports.
39 That was one of our concerns.
40

41 The Swan Lake fire here on the Kenai
42 Peninsula created poor air quality. Most of the
43 businesses in the area experienced adverse effects.
44 Also the wolves migrated up to Ninilchik
45 (indiscernible), that may be a result of that burn. I
46 will make you a footnote on that. This winter the
47 trappers here did quite well on the wolf stock, so they
48 took some of them out.
49

50

1 The first run of sockeye salmon on the
2 Kenai was great last year with the majority of the
3 subsistence users participating. I will report that
4 that was very successful. It was a very good thing.
5 Ninilchik subsistence fishery was successful and we
6 filled all the permits off the Kenai.

7
8 Chitina reported a good run of salmon,
9 both kings and reds, which was good to hear because
10 we've been having low kings, but they had good kings.

11
12 Unit 13 caribou remained an unresolved
13 issue. There was good harvest of moose in the area,
14 which might be attributed to the movement due to the
15 wildfire.

16
17 It was noted that we had a decent
18 winter with the snow pack and it was a result of a more
19 normal winter, so we can take that. I got to even
20 snowshoe anyway.

21
22 In the Cordova area people are having a
23 hard time harvesting bull moose and there was a concern
24 about the bull/cow ratio.

25
26 In the Seldovia area, the Board of Fish
27 passed three subsistence fishing proposals, which
28 increased subsistence fishing opportunities there.

29
30 In Prince William Sound and Chenega Bay
31 area, there's been significant impact on salmon runs as
32 well as clams, climate change and there's a concern
33 about jurisdiction inadequacies for the marine waters
34 and the Council has requested further information on
35 that.

36
37 Recent Council actions. The Council
38 advised at its last meeting that there are three
39 Special Actions pending. The Special Action 20-01 the
40 Council provided a formal recommendation supporting a
41 portion of that Special Action that would change the
42 harvest limit in Unit 13 remainder two caribou.
43 Opposed the elimination of the closure. The season
44 would overlap the rut. The other two we did not take
45 before the Council. We didn't take any action on it.

46
47 So that's just some of the highlights,
48 but there's a lot more going with our letter of
49 concerns. I thank you for the opportunity to give you
50

1 a heads up on what we've been up to.

2

3 If there's any concerns or questions
4 for me, shoot.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
7 Greg. Any questions for Greg on that good report.
8 Appreciate that, Greg.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, hearing
13 no questions for Greg.....

14

15 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you, Greg. This
16 is Charlie.

17

18 MR. ENCELEWSKI: You bet, Charlie.
19 I've been eating that smoked fish. Whoo-hoo, it's
20 good.

21

22 MR. C. BROWER: Okay.

23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg, for
25 that report. This is Tom. The next I have on the
26 list, Mr. Chair, is Kodiak/Aleutians by Della Trumble.

27

28 (No response)

29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Della, this is Tom.
31 I'm just trying to check in to see if you're online for
32 your Council report.

33

34 (No response)

35

36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Not hearing from Della.
37 We'll get back to her.

38

39 Looking at Bristol Bay, Nanci Lyon.

40

41 (No response)

42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Not hearing Nanci on
44 the line, I'll go to Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

45

46 (No response)

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I don't hear
49 anyone there, Tom. Let's move on to the next one.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: I'm going to ask the
2 operator. Do you see the three parties I just listed
3 still on the phone line?
4

5 OPERATOR: I show a Della. I just
6 added Della's. Her line was open. You said Nanci?
7 Her line is open now. What was the third name?
8

9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alissa Rogers,
10 Operator.
11

12 OPERATOR: Okay. So there's an Olin
13 Rogers. I have someone messaging me with the last name
14 Rogers. Hold on just a moment. Also a quick question
15 for you guys. If you could have everyone -- because I
16 have to look for them, if they just *0 when they call
17 your name, I can grab them like that.
18

19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
22 According to the Operator, if you're listening, *0 so
23 you can get patched back in if you're having problems.
24

25 OPERATOR: Della Trumble messaged me
26 and I'm opening her line now also.
27

28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you. Hi, Della.
29

30 MS. TRUMBLE: Hi. Can you hear me now?
31

32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, we can. Thank
33 you.
34

35 MS. TRUMBLE: I think they muted us all
36 is what happened. Okay. So I'll go ahead and get
37 started while they're trying to get other people back
38 online.
39

40 We held our meeting last month and I
41 think the issues expressed by the first Chair.....
42

43 MR. C. BROWER: Excuse me. Who is
44 this, from where?
45

46 MS. TRUMBLE: Della Trumble,
47 Kodiak/Aleutians.
48

49 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.
50

1 MS. TRUMBLE: You're welcome. The
2 issue expressed with the date changes, it would have
3 been nice to have the face-to-face meeting, but we did
4 do the meeting by teleconference and it went well.

5
6 (Phone cut-out) request for the survey
7 work on the Adak caribou. We were happy to see that
8 the Alaska Maritime Refuge was able to do some work
9 with the Coast Guard and getting some survey work. It
10 looks like that population has declined. The community
11 members still have concerns about I believe the guides
12 that are going in there and the amount of caribou that
13 are being taken.

14
15 We did see some photos that showed some
16 caribou that were dead, but we couldn't tell if just
17 basically the heads or antlers were removed from the
18 distance that the photos were taken. The idea of
19 trying to create a management plan for Adak is a
20 priority for our Council.

21
22 The Council requests that to maintain
23 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program at full
24 funding and they requested that that program continue.

25
26 Educational opportunities. I think one
27 of our Council
28 members or actually a couple really liked the time that
29 all the regions spent in Anchorage in 2016 and able to
30 interact with other Councils is a high priority and the
31 ability for us to continue that would be really good.

32
33 Then I think the request for
34 evaluations of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
35 Program the Council still would like to have some input
36 on that. Sorry, about that, but we're short of staff
37 here, so I'm answering three phones while being on this
38 call.

39
40 The agency reports. The continued
41 concern on the lateness that we've been getting reports
42 and we realize everyone is busy with the various
43 departments, but it's been expressed on numerous
44 occasions that it's helpful for the Council to have
45 information prior in order to make good decisions and
46 recommendations at the meeting.

47
48 Izembek and Kodiak National Wildlife
49 Refuge. We really would like to see the RIT positions
50

1 filled.

2

3 Staffing in the Refuge systems also. I
4 know we usually get a report and I know it's been a
5 problem. I'm trying to get positions filled as a whole
6 in this program, but it's also an issue of concern.
7 When you look at the limited staffing, I think
8 sometimes, especially looking at Izembek -- and I don't
9 recall if I mentioned we had a couple people about a
10 year ago come in from King Salmon with the idea that
11 they're going to combine some of the positions with
12 King Salmon and Izembek.

13

14 One of the concerns we have is how much
15 public input is being given to this because except for
16 somebody coming in to the community and asking what my
17 thoughts are and I don't know if they really talked to
18 anybody else that much. This is a pretty big concern
19 for the small communities and our region and Cold Bay.
20 There was an issue with I think some subsistence salmon
21 issues and Adak, but I think they're going to work with
22 the State.

23

24 Unalaska is hosting a Bering Sea
25 Community Conference this September and we're hopeful
26 that we're able to start traveling and be able to have
27 our meeting this fall in Unalaska if it works out. The
28 last time we were able to do that there was quite a
29 number of agencies at that conference and it's really
30 good to hear the various reports and to be able to also
31 interact with the people and Staff.

32

33 Sea otters continue to remain an issue
34 in Kodiak. I think a couple members were able to
35 attend a meeting in Southeast. Funding was paid, I
36 think, by maybe the Sun'aq Tribe, but it was helpful
37 for them. We had created a committee, but they hadn't
38 had a meeting yet. I'm hopeful they can start that
39 process.

40

41 We did have someone from the National
42 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrative Research Center
43 give a report at our meeting and it was excellent. The
44 Council recommends that their report be given to all
45 the regions. It definitely would be helpful.

46

47 Regional Council Advisory seats. Very
48 disappointing. I have to say that of all of our seats
49 right now two of the seats that are missing are from
50

1 the Aleutians. So now we have six members from Kodiak
2 and two representatives from the Aleutians. Those are
3 not very balanced as far as our Committee goes and it
4 makes it really hard.

5
6 When you look at the Aleutians and how
7 spread out we are from one end to the other and being
8 able to have good representation, this really left us
9 in a very bad spot I think. I see the list that one of
10 the Council members made up of all the regions and the
11 members that they're missing. Very discouraging.

12
13 The other piece I think I'd like to
14 say, when you're looking at the funding and maybe
15 positions not only from the various refuges but the
16 membership itself, are there changes to this that are
17 being made that maybe we're not hearing? If we're not,
18 we should because it helps us to be able to move
19 forward.

20
21 One other issue I think I'd like to
22 bring up. About the 25th of March I had received a
23 call from Tom Hoblet in False Pass wanting to do a
24 Special Action to extend the 9D caribou from March 31st
25 on to April 30th.

26
27 I was having a hard time getting back
28 and forth to him and phones kept cutting out and
29 getting information I needed to put that together. So
30 Dean Gould at the King Cove Corporation said he would
31 turn in his name. So we got everything in, but we have
32 not heard a thing. This was to extend the season to
33 the 30th of April for basically two reasons.

34
35 Number one, we had a fairly extreme bad
36 weather this winter and a lot of people weren't able to
37 get out to hunt. Number two, basically with the issue
38 with the virus I think this would be helpful to a lot
39 of the families. You know, we've lost our airlines, as
40 most places have, and just people being able to get
41 out. I think our coastal transportation that does our
42 freight is in every two weeks. It would have been nice
43 to have made some progress with that, number one. At
44 this point, if we're asking for April 30th, that's 10
45 days away. It's very discouraging.

46
47 Other than that I believe that is my
48 report.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
4 Della. Any questions for Della. That was a good
5 report. Appreciate the insight into what's going on in
6 your area. Hopefully nothing crazy with the caribou
7 going on there. Any questions for the Kodiak/Aleutians
8 RAC.

9

10 MS. PITKA: Della, thank you for
11 raising those concerns. I definitely appreciate how
12 many phones you're answering your ability to call in
13 right now. I would like a little bit more information
14 on your Special Action request. Was it just the
15 process that you found disappointing or will it not get
16 done in time?

17

18 MS. TRUMBLE: Well, I think the concern
19 is whether or not it will get done in time. We haven't
20 heard anything. If it does, we're looking at, what,
21 five days, a couple days. April 30th is coming up
22 really fast. That's one issue. It is to allow I think
23 people that weren't able to harvest their caribou that
24 got the tags and be able to have a little bit more time
25 as the weather has gotten much better. But we haven't
26 heard anything from anybody.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
29 questions, comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MR. C. BROWER: No. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
36 We'll move on to the next Regional Chair there, Tom.

37

38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Is Bristol Bay
39 online? Is Nanci Lyon online?

40

41 (No response)

42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: If Nanci's not online
44 yet, I'll move down to Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alissa
45 Rogers.

46

47 (No response)

48

49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Without her online I'll

50

1 move down to Western Interior, Jack Reakoff.

2

3 (No response)

4

5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It sounds like
8 we lost a few there, Tom. You better do a check on
9 that.

10

11 MS. ROGERS: Hello.

12

13 MR. DOOLITTLE: There's Alissa.

14

15 MS. ROGERS: Hi. Thank you. Yeah,
16 I've been trying to speak up for a while now. Thank
17 you for your patience.

18

19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you for your
20 patience.

21

22 MS. ROGERS: So I do have to say that
23 we're a little bit in a technical difficult with
24 getting these online documents and everything and
25 having communication on GCI's dialogue out here between
26 me and my coordinator. Some of the documents I'm not
27 able to open up on my end.

28

29 I'll give you a report of what I do
30 have and if you guys have any further questions or
31 would like to elaborate, please feel free to do so. I
32 do want to say thank you very much. My name is Alissa
33 Nadine Rogers. I am the Chair of the Yukon-Kuskokwim
34 Delta Regional Advisory Council. I'm very grateful for
35 my second electional term.

36

37 We are very resourceful and humble. We
38 have a lot of humbleness in our traditional way of life
39 out here and we highly really look towards subsistence
40 use out here and very greatly, about 90 percent of our
41 diet and everything that we do economically, is
42 directly involved in subsistence.

43

44 So a lot of patience and a lot of
45 conducting timely teleconferences when we had our last
46 meeting. It took a lot of patience. I'm really very
47 thankful and very generously proud and very humbled
48 with my Advisory Committee's ability to adapt at that
49 time.

50

1 I know a lot of them had a lot of
2 hearing issues and trying to connect into our meeting,
3 but they did a pretty darn well job and I applaud to
4 them and tip my hat and stand-up ovation for them
5 because they did a darn well job. A lot more than we
6 were expecting.

7
8 Starting off the fisheries season. As
9 we all know, Kuskokwim fisheries are very political.
10 For the Cin'aq salmon we definitely had a quantitative
11 success with a qualitative failure, which a lot of us
12 are not surprised due to the gillnet restrictions and
13 conservation times because we still are continuing
14 conservation times and we're not full-blown out there
15 yet first harvesting.

16
17 We did give some increase in
18 subsistence opportunity for chinook salmon while
19 increasing the gillnet restrictions, which was greatly
20 identified in a lot of subsistence communities. They
21 were grateful for what they got and the ability to
22 actually do some chinook salmon targeting this past
23 summer.

24
25 The residents not directly targeting
26 chinook salmon understand and they weren't expecting to
27 have full success at harvesting chinook salmon like we
28 used to prior to intensive restrictions.

29
30 We did have a big push from Kuskokwim
31 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to continue the
32 Federal restrictions and Federal management. One, I've
33 not directly heard these same concerns from tribes that
34 are directly not seated on the Fish Commission.
35 There's also tribal acknowledgment that these are in
36 conservation times and the concerns are that they want
37 to work with the management of whoever agency is going
38 to be taking over fisheries this season through the
39 changing regulations and participating in management
40 outreach during this upcoming season.

41
42 There was a huge push for continued
43 salmon conservation regardless of who is going to be
44 taking over management this year. There was a huge
45 loud voice from both public and tribal members. There
46 was different management strategies that were brought
47 forth to our Council that have been both successful and
48 continue to be successful based on the previous years
49 that we have used these management strategies in
50

1 regards to managing the fishery.

2

3

4 These same management strategies are
5 going to be implemented this year regardless of whoever
6 is in charge of the fishery. There's no going outside
7 of any of the current regulations that are already
8 stated within regulations both on State and Federal
9 management.

9

10

11

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50

There was a lot of support from members on our RAC for the Special Action Request due to the concerns that were brought forth in regards to the chinook salmon fishery. Currently, over the past summer we had some high temps that were not enough data or information that we had in regards to high temps and to which we could understand, so we had a lot of nervous people out here this year and also on the Yukon River seeing quite a bit of dead fish floating down. We were concerned about the amount of fish that are going to be able to escape to the spawning grounds to replenish the next coming years.

We did definitely have a late run of chum, which is a bit of an uh-oh, what are we going to do. The management did a really good job at monitoring that and keeping everyone updated. As soon as those fish hit, they definitely hit. On some of the runs we were definitely a little short on some of the runs, but I'm just thankful that we had fish coming in to replenish for the next falling stocks.

For this winter's blackfish and pike and whitefish we definitely had a phenomenal year this year. We had huge numbers of migrating blackfish, huge numbers of pike this year. Especially this year they're ginormous catches compared to the past previous 10 years. They're larger, bigger, and which I'm thankful for because if we're catching the bigger pike, that means there's less predatory fish in the river in regards to smelt and juvenile salmon that are going out to the ocean.

As for wildlife, for moose fall hunting, the success that we had out here was pretty good on the State side, but as for the Federal side and Federal land numbers we are still trying to meet those Federal numbers. I can't really say if we were able to meet it a lot better than we were last year. I don't have my notes on those.

1 As for this winter, we've definitely
2 seen a huge decline in areas where we used to see a lot
3 of moose. There's a whole bunch of environmental
4 factors, winter factors and not only that we had a high
5 increase of harvest because we had a decline in
6 caribou, in which we closed the caribou, which I'm
7 thankful for, but I really don't think we've done
8 enough. I understand caribou is a huge part of our
9 diet out here, but at the same time so is king salmon
10 and so is moose.

11
12 Once we put restrictions on those to
13 limit the harvest our population of those are starting
14 to rebuild, which is phenomenal. Especially if those
15 restrictions derive directly from the people asking for
16 these resources to be set aside so we can rebuild those
17 populations and those are great success stories to
18 always fall back on any time we come across any kind of
19 decline in our resources for our region.

20
21 We also had a decline in muskox this
22 past year, so we had a limited opportunity to go muskox
23 hunting and the majority of that muskox hunting
24 permits, et cetera, had stayed within those customary
25 and traditional areas. Not very many of them actually
26 came out of that area and were distributed throughout
27 the state. There was definitely a decline in the
28 muskox. That's all due to the decline in the
29 population estimate that we had got, so there wasn't
30 very much subsistence or any hunting on muskox this
31 year.

32
33 As for ptarmigan, I know I'd like to
34 break the record again and say that ptarmigan were bad
35 this year, but actually they were just as phenomenal as
36 our pike and blackfish this year. They were seen in
37 the largest numbers that we have ever seen. There was
38 the highest harvesting over this last few snowfalls
39 that we've had that we had never seen in a few
40 snowfalls in about more than 10 years or so.

41
42 So we had a full cycle for the first
43 time in over 10 years. The migration was successful.
44 We had birds going out during the fall time and we had
45 birds coming back in the spring time. Now we have
46 birds flying back out on their third route headed back
47 out to where they go have their babies. So I was
48 really excited to see the full cycle come back to life
49 after so many years.

50

1 As for rabbits this year we had a huge
2 decline in rabbits. Due to that we had a lot of
3 predator increased sightings, wolves coming into town,
4 bears awakening and coming into the village and killing
5 dogs and then we had a whole bunch of foxes running
6 around and coyotes continued to come back.

7
8 There was a lot of more kills on the
9 wolves this year than we had in the past year, which is
10 understandable based on how much moose population that
11 we've been growing out here and how successful the
12 moose has been in our area.

13
14 As for subsistence harvest overall this
15 past 2020, it seems to be a very successful harvest
16 with all these limited resources and regulations that
17 we have put upon ourselves to ensure that the
18 populations continue on for the next generations.

19
20 So according to that I honestly would
21 have to say the results were not the best, not the
22 greatest, but people were very happy with what they had
23 over the past years even due to the current
24 restrictions that we have.

25
26 As for the geese, we had huge
27 migrations this year. One thing I do want to specify
28 is that we've had such a huge decrease in Emperor goose
29 population that it's become quite a concern to me and
30 to a lot of other people that are on our Council that
31 highly subsist off these foods.

32
33 We did try to bring some type of
34 representation up to the Migratory Bird Council in
35 regards to taking some type of action in regards to
36 Emperor goose population so we don't go into another
37 Emperor goose moratorium.

38
39 There was also a huge die-off of murrets
40 or seabirds this year that was brought up. There was a
41 huge population dip that really concerned quite a bit
42 of my coastal folks, which I would really appreciate if
43 we could add a little bit more of my coastal folks from
44 in between the Kuskokwim and Yukon area so that we can
45 see where those migrational trends are starting to
46 happen and be able to get their subsistence information
47 rather than me having to call them every month and find
48 out, hey, how are you guys doing, how has anything
49 been, is there anything I can do to help you or what
50

1 are your concerns that you're seeing out there.

2

3 So we did also see a decline in small
4 migratory birds. For example song birds, swallows.
5 Those are some of the things that we did see this year
6 that we never see in usual years, which made an
7 increase in a lot of the insects, like hornets and
8 flies and whatnot. All these little things and bugs
9 that they usually eat. It was very interesting to see
10 how much of those little birds make a huge impact on
11 the caring of our subsistence food during the
12 summertime.

13

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As for our weather, we all know that
the weather lately has been early spring, late fall.
We are still within our cycle of 2019-2020 season,
which is still currently underway, but as far as right
now I can say it's pretty darn normal compared to what
it has been over the past years. I'm very obviously
surprised and very pleased with how it's going because
not only are the plants and the birds and everything
falling into place the way I used to remember it, it's
making for good conditions for populations to
repopulate and become more abundant.

I don't want to sound like a broken
record because we've pretty much heard it from a lot of
our Council members that climate change impacts all of
our subsistence, both fisheries and wildlife and
migratory and the birds. It continues to impact our
habitats and impact subsistence activities, traveling,
access to resources. So as a RAC we continue to
request the Federal Subsistence Board to help us with
research and finding funding so that we can get more
info to address these impacts for the Y-K Delta Region.

I'm sure all the other Councils and
regions can agree that we need more data based on this
information so that we can better manage our resources
and give more feedback to you guys so that we can help.
If we don't have data, it's kind of hard to make
decisions on what's going on.

As for our marine environment, it truly
affects our Interior environment because all our
nutrients come from the ocean and that cycle through
our lands and rivers actually derive directly from the
ocean and all the migration that happens in bringing
all those nutrients into our system.

1 I guess the last thing that I'm going
2 to emphasize on is Donlin Gold continues to be our
3 hugest threat. I can't express that enough.
4 Especially a hugest threat to our region. It's the
5 largest mine in the world and it will be the largest
6 mine in the world and it will expand all the way -- it
7 will start expanding west towards Anchorage because
8 that gold belt goes that direction right along where
9 they're planning to put this pipeline.

10
11 It scares the living crap out of me and
12 it scares a lot of people in this region because we are
13 very high on subsistence economy. If anything happens
14 to our balance of that, then you're talking about a
15 whole entire region that's going to get affected.

16
17 Another thing I wanted to address and I
18 don't know if any of you guys have seen it yet, but in
19 the EIS, due to the lack of the EIS information,
20 especially on the subsistence part for ANILCA Section
21 810 analysis, it's completely vague and it's completely
22 copy/paste almost every two to three sentences talking
23 about every species that are there.

24
25 No one actually went through it and has
26 time enough to go through it and specify how these
27 resources are important to our region or specify how
28 delicate they are or specify any type of information
29 besides the copy/paste information and that really
30 pissed me off.

31
32 I would really like to see the Federal
33 Subsistence Board help us in regards to this mine
34 because that's what we need help with. We need a lot
35 of help out here to help voice how huge subsistence is
36 in our area. I can't express that enough.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
41 for Alissa.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

48
49 MR. C. BROWER: I just wanted to thank
50

1 her for her report. Thank you.

2

3 MS. ROGERS: You're welcome.

4

5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. Let's move
6 on. Operator, I want to make sure that from Bristol
7 Bay, the Chair of Bristol Bay Council, Nanci Lyon to
8 speak next and make sure her line is open. Thank you,
9 Operator.

10

11 OPERATOR: Thank you. Your line is
12 open.

13

14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Nanci. Can you
15 hear us?

16

17 OPERATOR: Please click your mute
18 button, ma'am.

19

20 MS. MORRIS LYON:start with
21 climate change as well. It's been a big concern of our
22 area and -- can you guys hear me?

23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: We can now, Nanci. You
25 probably have to start over right at the beginning.

26

27 MS. MORRIS LYON: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay.
28 Well, I appreciate it very much. Sorry. I don't know
29 why I'm having so much trouble being heard. I tried to
30 talk to you the first time too and didn't have any
31 luck.

32

33 I appreciate the opportunity to speak.
34 I appreciate my Council voting me in as the new
35 chairperson. I must acknowledge our outgoing
36 chairperson Molly Chythlook who did just a phenomenal
37 and fantastic job for us for the last many years and we
38 really appreciated her service for us and hope that she
39 continues to be active with the Council.

40

41 I'm just going to kind of start too
42 with climate change even though I know you've already
43 been hearing about it. Our area too is extremely
44 concerned with the climate changes that we've been
45 seeing in our area. We've had bird die-offs around
46 Iliamna Lake that have been very concerning and along
47 our coastlines as well.

48

49 We would sure hope that we could get

50

1 some more agencies to develop investigative plans that
2 examine how these changes are affecting the
3 environment, our fish and wildlife populations so that
4 we can make more informed decisions as well for our
5 areas within this.

6
7 One of our bigger concerns is the
8 Chignik area fishery. For the past several years there
9 have been really poor returns of sockeye salmon in the
10 area. We've had to close even the subsistence fishing
11 for the rural residents in the Chignik area.

12
13 We'd love to have Federal and State
14 managers work together to begin investigating why these
15 returns are so poor and finding out what we might be
16 able to do to help our neighbors to the south who are
17 just desperate to get some decent fish to put up for
18 the year.

19
20 It's a big, big thing for us in Bristol
21 Bay to have three of our communities, actually five if
22 you consider all the communities down there struggling
23 to get any sockeye for their freezers for the winter,
24 and I think that's a really important thing that people
25 need to put on top of their list because it's a main
26 food source and it's a very large concern.

27
28 We're also worried with the climate
29 change on what these warmer temperatures and this
30 warmer weather might be doing to all of the
31 out-migration of our salmon species in Bristol Bay. We
32 are hoping that the warm weather isn't basically
33 cooking the eggs before they have a chance to hatch and
34 that it's not creating such low water levels that it's
35 putting the spawn at higher risk and that we still have
36 decent survival rates.

37
38 Again, we'd really like to have some
39 studies done in that area to find out what, if
40 anything, considerations we should be taking as users
41 of the resource to help these specific areas do well in
42 spite of the challenges or the new challenges that
43 they're facing with the climate change.

44
45 The Mulchatna Caribou Herd is an
46 important subsistence resource for Bristol Bay
47 residents. Recently the population has been declining
48 within its range. We have put in a Special Action
49 Request to decrease the harvest limits and we will have
50

1 an opportunity to speak on this later, but it is a big
2 concern.

3
4 We do have a larger population up on
5 what we call the west side down here, which is over by
6 Dillingham, that people can hunt off of, but for my
7 people we've been suffering for a long time on the east
8 side of the bay with the decline in the North Peninsula
9 Caribou Herd and now this.

10
11 We're all but taking caribou off of our
12 diets because we don't have accessibility to access
13 them. We do have a limited hunt now on the Northern
14 Alaska Peninsula Herd, but they're not coming very far
15 north just due to this climate change. Again, we just
16 keep turning back to that. Realizing that none of us
17 have any control over that I think that we need to get
18 a handle on what the effects of it are as soon as
19 possible.

20
21 We're also concerned about the invasive
22 species that we're seeing out here, just like was
23 recently spoken from my cohort up north. The plants
24 and insects we're seeing some being introduced to the
25 region and others that have already been here due to
26 these warmer temperatures.

27
28 It would be nice to know what kind of
29 effect that they're having on all of the region. Not
30 only as invasive species, but also the ones that are
31 already here that are having a larger life cycle
32 because of the more user-friendly climate that they're
33 being introduced into.

34
35 We have had just -- and this is more
36 just a personal observation we've had this winter with
37 a much more normal winter it's been awesome to have out
38 here. Everybody has really appreciated it and made the
39 very most of it, including our hunters and trappers,
40 and they've done a really good job in cleaning up on
41 some of our predators in the area.

42
43 It's been a really good winter for the
44 wolf and the lynx. There's been lots of catches in
45 those areas and we're hoping that that will make a big
46 difference for us when it comes to our moose and
47 caribou populations that are left here so that we can
48 have a higher rate of survival.

49
50

1 We're working real hard in our area as
2 a Subsistence Council to work with our tribal
3 organizations. We've made it a point of reaching out
4 to each and every one of them. Orville Lind has done a
5 fantastic job in making sure that each of them is
6 included in our operations and each one of our
7 meetings. We encourage each one of them to bring their
8 own reports and their own information to us. We feel
9 like this is giving us a more thorough opportunity to
10 report on concerns as well as successes in our areas.
11

12 The other thing, and I know we'll get
13 to it later, but under Section 805 of ANILCA the
14 Council is responsible for providing a public forum on
15 any matter related to subsistence and to initiate,
16 review and evaluate proposals for regulations,
17 policies, management plans, and other matters relating
18 to subsistence use. I'm just reading this because I
19 think it will be easier.
20

21 The Council provides its
22 recommendations on fish and wildlife proposals for the
23 Board to consider. The majority of actions taken by
24 the Board on regulatory proposals are in deference to
25 the Regional Advisory Council recommendations, which we
26 appreciate.
27

28 Wildlife Proposal WP18-24 requested to
29 allow the use of a snowmachine to position caribou,
30 wolves, and wolverines for harvest in Unit 17, provided
31 the animals are not shot from a moving vehicle. At its
32 November 2017 public meeting in Dillingham, Alaska the
33 Council recommended to the Board to oppose the wildlife
34 proposal noting confusion over the definitions of
35 positioning and chasing.
36

37 Then the Board of Game convened in
38 Dillingham February of 2018 and among other proposals
39 they took action on their Proposal 148 and it was
40 approved. They further defined the use of a
41 snowmachine. So then the Council met in Naknek March
42 of 2018 and was informed by the OSM Staff the Board of
43 Game had met and approved with an amendment.
44

45 So the Council made and passed a motion
46 to ask that WP18-24 be removed from the consensus
47 agenda. The Council's justification for this motion
48 was that there was strong feelings about use of
49 snowmachines for hunting and having clear guidelines to
50

1 hunters and having strong outreach and education could
2 help to make it work better because we wanted to see
3 our people being able to have another form of hunting
4 made available to them and one in which they have used
5 forever out here and they just didn't want to be
6 illegal in doing it.

7
8 So when the Board convened in April
9 2018 in Anchorage and deliberated on this Wildlife
10 Proposal WP18-24, the Board heard public testimony on
11 the proposal and the OSM conclusion was to support
12 Wildlife Proposal 18-24. The Board moved to adopt it,
13 but the motion failed.

14
15 So when specific agency regulations are
16 in conflict with ANILCA -- this is the meat of my
17 concern. When the agency regulations are in conflict
18 with ANILCA, the Council seeks a Solicitor's opinion on
19 the Board voting process.

20
21 My Bristol Bay board is very much
22 concerned about this because ANILCA permits the use of
23 snowmachines for subsistence purposes. However,
24 several members of the Board have in their agency
25 regulations a conflict with using this as a method and
26 means for us to use to subsist by.

27
28 When that happens, we'd like an
29 explanation and the reasoning behind how the Board
30 votes and how it makes its decisions because we
31 understand that you can't vote against something you're
32 in conflict with, but when we see something like that
33 happening why can't you recuse yourself, recognizing
34 that even though it's something provided in ANILCA your
35 agency rules don't allow you to support it. It's
36 something my board and I have been struggling with and
37 we'd like an explanation on it.

38
39 With that I will wrap up my concerns
40 and thank you for your time.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
43 that. I appreciate your reporting for your area. Any
44 questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome aboard
49 too as the new Chair. Appreciate your report today.

50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

2

3 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka. I'd
4 like to congratulate you on becoming a Chair. Molly
5 Chythlook was a member who was on the board for a long
6 time and I definitely appreciate her leadership. So
7 congratulations and good luck.

8

9 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Next in line,
12 this is Tom, is Western Interior, Jack Reakoff.
13 Operator, is Jack online?

14

15 OPERATOR: The line is open, sir.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. This is Jack
18 Reakoff. Can you hear me?

19

20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, we can, Jack.
21 You sound good.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. Our mics are
24 closed and then we've got to try and get into it. So I
25 was really looking forward to meeting with the Federal
26 Subsistence Board this spring, but this viral pandemic
27 has got us all bottled up as everybody knows.

28

29 The Western Interior Regional Council
30 met on the 2nd and 3rd in Fairbanks. We were going
31 over basically Board of Game proposals. There's a lot
32 of Board of Game proposals this last cycle that
33 affected our region. The Council made a lot of input
34 on specific Board of Game proposals that would affect
35 -- some of them aligned with the Federal hunt. So we
36 were successful on a couple.

37

38 I tracked those proposals and I
39 listened to the Board of Game meeting and was concerned
40 about certain aspects of the Board of Game process.
41 When the Board of Game is actually meeting, they give
42 the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, but the
43 Councils are never considered. Their position is never
44 considered. I don't even know if they look at our
45 recommendations.

46

47 The State Commissioner's Office is
48 present at the Federal Subsistence Board, actually has
49 a seat there and interacts with the Board. So I feel

50

1 that the Council recommendations to the Board of Game
2 and Board of Fish need to be looked at more seriously.
3 These Councils comprise a lot of communities within
4 their membership and they should have a more forefront
5 aspect of the Board of Game and Board of Fish process.
6 I feel that the Federal Subsistence Board should
7 actually discuss that issue.

8
9 COVID-19 is really stressing out rural
10 residents just like urban residents and it brings to
11 the forefront the extreme importance of subsistence in
12 rural Alaska especially right now. During this time
13 there's critical needs. Our people's supply train is
14 not what -- you read about it in the news.

15
16 I don't even get to a store. So we are
17 ordering things, flour and sugar and stuff, but we use
18 local resources and we grow gardens and things like
19 that. You can't hardly buy a carrot seed. So there's
20 villages that are having unanticipated shortages and
21 those are going to show up as the Special Action
22 Requests and the Federal Subsistence Board is going to
23 be looking at a lot of Special Action Requests.

24
25 Our Council was very concerned about
26 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. In McGrath we had a
27 meeting. We heard it's fallen in half and experienced
28 a significant decline. The Council investigated and
29 found that there was most likely an overharvest.

30
31 The Western Interior Advisory Council
32 is very appreciative to the Federal Subsistence Board
33 in taking the lead to conserve the Mulchatna Caribou
34 Herd. The lead over the State of Alaska. State of
35 Alaska reduced the bag limit to one, but the herd was
36 in half, so that basically did nothing.

37
38 I appreciated though Yukon Delta
39 Regional Council also supporting conservation for the
40 Mulchatna Caribou Herd and the appointment of the
41 in-season manager and actions taken to conserve that
42 herd. That herd will migrate into the southern portion
43 of our region in Unit 19 and is known historically to
44 migrate north of McGrath so they're documented
45 movements of that herd.

46
47 If the herd is maintained at higher
48 levels, it will migrate into its historic range. It
49 started to get into its historic levels of 200,000,
50

1 which everybody thought that was way too many. It's
2 like, no, that herd used to go far to the north of the
3 Yukon River. It's documented because steamboats had to
4 tie off at Ruby because caribou were migrating to the
5 north from the south. That was Mulchatna.

6
7 So I would like to see and our Council
8 would like to see that herd conserved. We got to the
9 regulatory year 2019-20, but we are out of cycle. So
10 this next year for the regulatory year 2020-21 we need
11 to reinstate an in-season manager to work with the
12 State of Alaska to conserve the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.
13 I would like the Federal Subsistence Board to consider
14 that.

15
16 The Council was very disappointed to
17 have the appointments come in late to our Council. We
18 missed our first meeting in February because of lack of
19 publishing or some technical issue. Fortunately we had
20 two Council members appointed right at the last minute
21 so that we did have -- but we lost a member.

22
23 Under 805(a) of ANILCA (3) (A), (B) and
24 (C), if a Council that's comprised of knowledgeable
25 Regional Council members throughout the entire region
26 for a platform to discuss and have a meaningful role in
27 subsistence management, Councils cannot cover huge
28 areas with a very limited number of people. We have
29 virtually no Council members in the Kuskokwim River in
30 the Western Interior Region.

31
32 I'm on the intertribal work group
33 meetings myself. We lost Ray Collins who lived in
34 McGrath. This Federal Subsistence Board needs to tell
35 the Secretary of Interior and the President that these
36 Councils are statutory. They're not just by guess and
37 by golly. These have statutory requirements for a
38 meaningful role to maintain healthy populations of fish
39 and wildlife.

40
41 I keep hearing other Chairs expressing
42 the same problem. We need to have diversity of
43 Regional Council members throughout our region so that
44 we can address various issues. We actually right now
45 don't have enough Council members.

46
47 If we keep losing one every
48 appointment, we're not going to have enough coverage to
49 cover the entire region. The region goes from just
50

1 below Holy Cross, Aniak, all the way up to the Brooks
2 Range, which is huge country. It encompasses several
3 states.

4
5 The Western Interior Region has had --
6 the northern portion has had deep snow for three years
7 in a row. Last year 2018-19 had five feet of snow.
8 There was a huge mortality on Dall sheep and moose, but
9 there was lack of snow, smoke for flying sheep
10 populations. All they did was basically get some
11 composition counts. They don't have current data.

12
13 The Board of Game was working with
14 adopting proposals in Unit 24 when they had no data on
15 the Dall sheep. They had no idea the sheep population
16 has had significant declines in the last three years.
17 We had snow on the 17th of September plastering the
18 tops of the mountains.

19
20 By the first part of October the moose
21 were to their belly in snow at tree line right here by
22 Wiseman. We've got four feet of snow south of Wiseman
23 all the way down to Koyukuk River. Anything over two
24 feet of snow is starting to get restrictive for calves.
25 We can expect more mortalities on our recruitment.

26
27 Last fall I thought I saw only 40
28 percent -- correction, 60 percent of the moose. I
29 thought we lost 40 percent of the moose and I thought
30 there was a significant decline in recruitment. There
31 were no yearlings. There was very few two-year-olds.
32 Hardly any three-year-olds. Older moose components
33 were also missing. Hardly any large bulls. So the
34 Dall sheep population has gotten hammered again.

35
36 So the South Slope Brooks Range had
37 significant impacts from weather events and you'll be
38 deliberating proposals that will encompass some of the
39 areas that have had significant declines that are
40 undocumented. Undocumented because conditions weren't
41 correct for them to fly the surveys.

42
43 The staffing for the Wildlife Refuges.
44 Kanuti and Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko there's RITs that
45 need to be giving out, disseminating information,
46 working at check stations and the various aspects of --
47 we need those biological staffing, so we need those RIT
48 staffings. That was an issue brought up.

49
50

1 The warmer water conditions last summer
2 was extremely detrimental to the Koyukuk River Drainage
3 and many other drainages in the Interior of Alaska and
4 throughout the entire state of Alaska. It was
5 documented that hundreds of summer chum salmon died on
6 progress up the Koyukuk River. Chums run closer to the
7 beach when they're moving upstream. The water got too
8 hot for them. Got over 70 degrees and killed them.

9
10 We have these climate change events.
11 They're having significant impact on salmon stocks and
12 that's an issue in our region. There should have been
13 enough chinook passing through into Canada under the
14 international agreement of 42,500 to 55,000 chinook.
15 They didn't make that. They thought that they should
16 be there. They didn't go there. Most likely there
17 were chinook that also succumbed to that.

18
19 Arctic Caribou Herd. With the climate
20 change makes caribou herds in the Arctic -- if it stays
21 warm to the Arctic Ocean coast, they don't have to
22 migrate and they stay to the north longer than they
23 normally used to. It's basically open ground. Why do
24 they have to leave. They just stay there.

25
26 So the caribou are not migrating into
27 the South Slope and Anaktuvuk Pass and communities in
28 the South Slope either have virtually no caribou like
29 here. There's no caribou on the South Slope at all.
30 The other reason is climate change brings lots of warm,
31 early temperatures in the early part of the winter. We
32 had an inch and a quarter rain in the end of October,
33 glazing the snow on the ground. Caribou will not
34 migrate to that. They have to dig down through the
35 snow.

36
37 The Interior villages rely on the
38 Arctic Caribou Herd. Western Arctic, Teshekpuk,
39 Central Arctic, Porcupine Caribou Herds, those aren't
40 getting to the Koyukuk River Drainage in our region.

41
42 Those are some of the issues I wanted
43 to bring up to the Board before your meeting.

44
45 Thank you so much.

46
47 Any questions.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you for your
2 report, Jack.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hey, Jack.
5 Thank you for that. This is Anthony Christianson. I
6 didn't know if you got cut off or if he was done with
7 his presentation for the day.

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: I was finished when I
10 asked for questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, okay. I
13 missed that part of it. Any questions for Jack. Thank
14 you, Jack, again and good to hear you.

15
16 MR. REAKOFF: Good to hear you. Wish
17 we were in person.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Me as well.
20 This COVID got me crazy. I was looking forward to
21 going out to rural Alaska so we could meet with and
22 engage with the people. I know that's been a push by
23 all of you guys, especially Regional Chairs and then
24 also the public, to get out there. We made an attempt.
25 We've just got to bear with it and hope for the best
26 and still try to get -- like you said, maintain your
27 guys's meaningful role in this process. So thank you
28 guys.

29
30 Any questions for Jack.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, Mr. Chair.
35 Through you. The next person in line, Operator, is
36 Louis Green from Seward Peninsula RAC.

37
38 OPERATOR: The line is open.

39
40 MR. GREEN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
41 Chair. Appreciate the chance to speak. Our Council
42 had a meeting here in March and I wasn't in attendance
43 at that time because I was gallivanting across the
44 state of Alaska on a snowmachine taking in all the
45 wonderful sights along the way.

46
47 I would like to read out what the
48 Council report was. I'll start with the Council met to
49 make recommendations for proposals. Can you hear me? I
50

1 want to make sure I'm being heard.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, you are. You're
4 loud and clear.

5

6 MR. GREEN: Okay, great. This is my
7 third meeting today teleconference-wise. Appreciate
8 it. The Council met to make recommendations for
9 proposals to change fish and shellfish regulations for
10 the Federal public lands (indiscernible) of the region.

11

12 Seven of eight seated members of the
13 Council were in attendance. Our Vice Chair Tom Gray
14 chaired the meeting. As I stated, I was not there.

15

16 The Office of Subsistence Management
17 Staff reported on the Fisheries Resource Management and
18 Partners Programs, and National Park Service and Bureau
19 of Land Management and Alaska Department of Fish and
20 Game. Each delivered updates on fish and wildlife
21 populations.

22

23 ADF&G also provided detailed
24 information on the Norton Sound king crab fishery. A
25 representative from Kawerak, Inc., a regional nonprofit
26 Native corporation, shared concerns over the Norton
27 Sound king crab population and the current management,
28 particularly with respect to the lack of king crab for
29 subsistence.

30

31 I've been watching this over the years
32 and seeing that subsistence has always been an issue
33 here for king crab. It was a great summer fishery for
34 a small fishing fleet here and then we had a winter
35 fishery where they fish through the ice with
36 snowmachines. That's been an issue. I was seeing that
37 there isn't enough to go around when it comes to
38 dealing with the subsistence regulation.

39

40 In fact, this last go around for the
41 commercial fishery in the wintertime -- excuse me, the
42 summertime, there was an 80,000-pound catch and the
43 quota was 150,000. So it was alarming to the managers.

44

45 There was also extensive presentation
46 on climate change impacts to the region. The Council
47 specified climate change contaminants in the Norton
48 Sound king crab fishery topics in its FY2019 Annual
49 Report provided for Section 805 of ANILCA.

50

1 Reflecting on climate change. Last
2 year in 2019 on March 11th I think the ice went out
3 right to the beach, right to the shoreline here in
4 Nome. I know there was some good hunts out there for
5 sea mammals, but then I don't know how many crews did
6 really well. I suspect there were fewer crews out
7 there that were able to go out because the ice was so
8 far out that some boats aren't able to take in -- get
9 involved in the hunt.

10

11 Last year we had 18 storms come up
12 through the Bering Sea dumping record amounts of snow
13 here in the region and around the Nome area. So our
14 rivers in the springtime had high levels of outgoing
15 waters. I've not seen it take so long to go down. It
16 was kind of interesting to watch how that took shape
17 here in the beginning of the summer.

18

19 This year what's really interesting is
20 we had a really cold snap. I think it started in
21 February and it went through March and into April. We
22 had some quite severe below zero temperatures. I was
23 just looking at the pack ice map today on the internet
24 and it was interesting to see that we've got a lot of
25 pack ice out there that we don't usually see this time
26 of year for the last several years.

27

28 It will be interesting to see how that
29 plays out when the current starts moving things around
30 and if the wind pushes it out. I doubt it's going to
31 be as fast as it has been in the past. Because of that
32 I think the crews for sea mammals will be a lot more
33 successful and maybe more crews. If you have ice out
34 there hanging out in the strait out here, you are more
35 likely to be able to get out there in smaller boats.
36 So I anticipate a better catch there.

37

38 Last fall, when it comes to moose, we
39 had like a six-day moose hunt. It brings to mind the
40 food security issue here. I heard other Chairs speak
41 of it. You need the resource so you have enough to put
42 away for the year. With this COVID-19 I think that's
43 going to be a stressful event for our animals out there
44 this year. I think the hunting pressure will be a big
45 effect on them.

46

47 Our moose population hasn't been that
48 great on the Seward Peninsula the last few years and
49 our moose hunt that we used to have here just in the
50

1 Nome area it was struck down to a two week and now it
2 only takes six days of those two weeks. You can
3 imagine how the pressure shifts from the moose to the
4 caribou. Our muskox herd I think it's maintained
5 enough to where we can keep it status quo, but the
6 caribou I know would be the prime target otherwise
7 besides moose.

8
9 I hear that from other places. The
10 Western Herd, which is depended on by the North Slope
11 and the Northwest group, including ours, the Seward
12 Peninsula and the Western Interior also, Jack's report.
13 It will be interesting to see what kind of take is
14 coming out of there this year.

15
16 At one point I heard just a few weeks
17 back we all know that the herd moves slowly down into
18 the areas coming from the North Slope in their
19 migration and the warm temperatures later in the year,
20 but also affected us too because they seem to be coming
21 later into our area. I was getting reports around the
22 beginning of March where they were finally starting to
23 get into the ancestral grounds on the northern side of
24 the Seward Peninsula from the guys who live in Koyuk.

25
26 My screen keeps changing here. Sorry.
27 So, with that, it's going to be an interesting picture
28 when it comes out to see what kind of animals were
29 harvested or actually the numbers of animals that were
30 harvested, especially the caribou this year.

31
32 I'll go on. The Council voted to send
33 a letter to the North Pacific Fishery Management
34 Council regarding declining populations in king crab
35 fisheries in Norton Sound. The letter will cite
36 concerns that king crab subsistence needs are not being
37 met, which I spoke to earlier.

38
39 There were Council member reports in a
40 section of the meeting and comments from the Council
41 members identified several items of interest. Most
42 notably the changes in the weather and the impacts to
43 the fish and wildlife.

44
45 In Unalakleet the weather was cold but
46 fishing for smelt and salmon, including king salmon,
47 was good. We had two Council members from that area.

48
49 There are many Beluga whales near Elim,
50

1 but further to the north by Kotzebue. They are scared
2 off by large motors. They push them out to sea.
3 Frequent wounding of Beluga whales was observed
4 resulting in high mortality anyways. Discussions are
5 underway to develop a hunter initiated Beluga whale
6 management plan for Norton Sound.

7
8 Marine mammal subsistence hunting of
9 walrus and bearded seal, which we call oogruks, went
10 well this season as I spoke to earlier. Some hunters
11 had to travel further from the coast to find the sea
12 ice, which is what I was talking about earlier when
13 maybe smaller vessels were unable to because of limited
14 numbers of crews out there.

15
16 One Council member remarked that again
17 the 80,000 of the 150,000 pounds commercial quota of
18 king crab was achieved before the season was closed.
19 Subsistence hunters had a very difficult time catching
20 king crab with many unsuccessful for the first time in
21 their memories.

22
23 Council members shared different
24 perspectives on bears where some areas are expecting
25 impacts to older bears due to hunters taking larger
26 bears. Boars they call them. We know that boars are
27 kind of their own patrol unit when it comes to cubs in
28 the springtime. While other areas see high populations
29 of bears, they do cause problems.

30
31 Several Council members remarked that
32 moose hunting was challenging because of the hot
33 weather. Remarked on that earlier. Forcing moose to
34 stay high in the hills until later in the season.
35 Warming temperatures, changing ice conditions and high
36 winds continue to be a concern across the Seward
37 Peninsula.

38
39 Two Council members expressed serious
40 concern with respect to potential mining on the North
41 River, which is in Unalakleet, and the effects on
42 whitefish population.

43
44 With that I think that pretty much
45 completes my report then, Mr. Chair.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
2 Charlie.

3
4 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Green, I just
5 wanted to thank you for your report.
6

7 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Charlie. Good
8 to hear you.
9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, thank you
11 too, Louie. Wish we could have been in person again
12 like everybody else. I'm glad you called and expressed
13 your region's concerns and topics.
14

15 Any other questions for Louie. Now is
16 the time.
17

18 (No comments)
19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
21 Hearing none. Thank you for that presentation again,
22 Louie. We'll move on to the next one there, Tom.
23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair. The next
25 person on deck is from Eastern Interior, Sue
26 Entsminger. Following Sue will be Gordon Brower.
27 Then, if it's okay, Mr. Chair, can we take a
28 five-minute break?
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we will
31 be able to take a break by then. It will probably be
32 close to the end.
33

34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. It will be up to
35 your discretion. Operator, is Sue Entsminger
36 available?
37

38 OPERATOR: Yes, their line is currently
39 open.
40

41 MS. ENTSMINGER: Hello? This is Sue.
42 Do you hear me?
43

44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, I do, Sue. You're
45 coming in clear.
46

47 MS. ENTSMINGER: Oh, perfect. Hello,
48 everyone. I too wish it was better than this
49 teleconference. It seems like it's more meaningful.
50

1 Thank you, Board members.

2

3 I am the Chair of the Eastern Interior
4 RAC. I'm going to first give a report and then bring
5 up some concerns. As you guys probably know, the
6 Eastern Interior RAC is kind of composed of a river
7 system along the Yukon and then the road system in
8 Eastern Interior.

9

10 There were two members, both the Chair
11 and the Vice Chair, that did not know we were
12 reappointed until days before our meeting. I believe
13 sometimes you unplug whenever that happens because you
14 don't know if you're even going to be on the Council.
15 We still maintained and had our meeting. I just want
16 to bring up a couple things that people brought up at
17 the meeting.

18

19 The Forty-Mile Caribou from the people
20 on the eastern side really was an issue about
21 overharvest and local people not getting to hunt during
22 the first hunt because of all the somewhat overcrowded
23 and dangerous situations. You'll be addressing that
24 later.

25

26 There was high water conditions on the
27 Nenana River. It was hard to launch boats to get out
28 fishing. There was low water on the Yukon River during
29 the summer king salmon season, which caused problems.
30 Many of the Council members expressed warm seasons and
31 moose hunting was difficult due to the weather being
32 warm. Several people actually had said this.

33

34 Fort Yukon noted that the moose harvest
35 was pretty decent and produced medium-size to
36 small-bodied moose. Also observed that there was proxy
37 hunting for elders and extended family was common.

38

39 The king salmon return was low,
40 probably 50 percent of the historic average and added a
41 lot more work for the users to get enough salmon to put
42 up.

43

44 Dry Creek people observed that fall
45 caribou season was slow again due to the weather
46 conditions.

47

48 Porcupine River reiterated concern for
49 hot weather conditions. Early break-up of ice on the

50

1 Sheenjek and the Colleen and then a bad fire year on
2 the Yukon Flats.

3
4 Locally here in southern Unit 12
5 there's been local wolf trapping. That's really helped
6 the success for harvesting moose in this area. I was
7 also involved in collecting hair samples for Ahtna for
8 their bear study.

9
10 The Arctic Village situation. I wanted
11 to say that there's been an ongoing report in our
12 Annual Report constantly requesting for hunter ethics
13 and hunter education. Then we had the two meetings,
14 which have occurred, but it seems like things move so
15 slowly. It was for the Eastern Interior Region. The
16 meetings were very, very helpful.

17
18 This whole issue with the Arctic
19 Village Sheep Management Area just keeps coming up,
20 coming up, coming up. There was some effort. I think
21 it was in November that I came before the Board with a
22 request to have a working group and then it was said it
23 should be not a working group but a subcommittee, but
24 nothing ever happened.

25
26 I find that really discouraging and
27 frustrating because prior to the meeting I had before
28 this past one, which would have been the spring
29 meeting, I believe. I ended up meeting with the people
30 of Arctic Village, a group of about eight or nine of
31 them, and tried to explain these proposals that keep
32 coming before us over and over and over again. Trying
33 to get something going with this hunter ethics and
34 education for the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area
35 that the Board of Game passed but never developed a
36 program.

37
38 Eastern Interior, I had two of the guys
39 with me, we took a letter to the Board of Game
40 requesting that they start developing this program. I
41 think the most frustrating thing for me as Chair. I've
42 been on this Council 19 years and this comes up almost
43 every other year.

44
45 The people from Arctic Village, once
46 you get that proposal, the amount of times that they
47 requested some type of communication with the village
48 and the managers and they report that it's never been
49 done. And it goes on and on and on. So I find it a
50

1 little bit frustrating. I feel like -- I don't know.
2 It feels like there's opportunity with the State and
3 the Federal to work together.

4
5 I have talked to Refuge staff since
6 that meeting. There's ongoing things at our level that
7 people are willing to work together. The Eastern
8 Interior on caribou and many of the Federal seasons
9 that occurred, there's a good working relationship
10 between the State and the Federal people. It just
11 seems like it's overwhelming to me that we can't
12 produce some type of subcommittee where people are
13 working together and working out some of these problems
14 where it just keeps coming up over and over again.

15
16 Another thing that's been really hard
17 on me as the Chair, there's unencumbered land becomes
18 encumbered or vice versa. I forget how it works. One
19 of the proposals that we, the Eastern Interior, put the
20 proposal in and it was on some land that just became
21 Federal land. It was not Federal land before. As I
22 read -- it takes me a while to get through all this
23 paperwork that comes to us.

24
25 As I read the Interagency Staff
26 Committee comments, I was really frustrated and I felt
27 like they were misleading the Eastern Interior in the
28 way it was written and the recommendations were -- it
29 seemed like they didn't understand exactly what this
30 proposal was doing, like the season lasted forever and
31 it did not.

32
33 I just thought why wouldn't there be a
34 system when it's proposal via RAC for someone to
35 contact a RAC member to maybe get a little handle on
36 something like this. I mean when I first saw that
37 Interagency Staff comments I was pretty upset. I just
38 didn't think it represented us at all.

39
40 So these are some of my concerns and my
41 report. I'll keep it short and we'll get into the
42 proposals when it comes up to our region.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
47 that. I appreciate that. Definitely, as the Chair
48 here, listening to the concerns about the Board seats
49 and whatnot. Any questions.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you for the
4 report.

5

6 MS. ENTSMINGER: You're welcome.

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Sue. This
9 is Tom. Through the Chair. I'll go to the final RAC,
10 which would be North Slope RAC and Mr. Gordon Brower.
11 Operator, is Mr. Brower available.

12

13 OPERATOR: The line is open, sir.

14

15 MR. G. BROWER: Good afternoon. Thanks
16 for the opportunity to be before the Board. I'm going
17 to give a little brief about our own subsistence and
18 then talk about some of the concerns that came up in
19 the RAC. Pretty much consistent with many of the other
20 RACs concerns as well.

21

22 I think most of the subsistence up here
23 from Kaktovik to Point Hope and in between has been
24 pretty good reports. Hearing from many of the village
25 representatives. We all have different takes on our
26 subsistence and some of it is different resources. I
27 think the fishing in Nuiqsut, because I trade heavy
28 over that way too, has been pretty good with qaaktaq.
29 There's still concerns about some of the whitefish
30 issues over that way.

31

32 The caribou in Anaktuvuk is always
33 concerning, but they've been pretty successful as the
34 caribou come in and out. There's some suggestions that
35 maybe some of the activities going on in that area
36 might have led to more access to those resources. It's
37 been real busy over that way this year.

38

39 Around our local rivers people have
40 been pretty successful. One of the things that I find
41 that's been alarming going on for a couple years is our
42 ability to keep like fish fresh. From the '70s and
43 '80s I've experienced the weather being our
44 refrigerator and freezer to where it flash freezes our
45 fish in a very fresh -- not an aged fish, like
46 whitefish. When we get them in their prime, there's a
47 certain prime time to get -- the type of fishing that
48 we do includes fishing enough for a community.

49

50

1 Not just myself, but other fishermen
2 had concerns about how we continue to preserve food,
3 like the fish with the eggs. You practically have to
4 harvest them. When they don't freeze you either need
5 to remove them from there and take them home somehow.
6 But when you're fishing in our traditional fishing that
7 we do, like getting 30-50 sacks of fish for
8 subsistence, and you can't readily bring that back, you
9 depend on the weather.

10

11 The climate has fluctuated sufficiently
12 in a long enough period of time to where it compromises
13 those fish. They're still edible. I mean we can eat
14 aged fish and a lot of elders like the pungent, aged to
15 a pungent taste. I don't know how else to describe it
16 other than that in English. Your nose almost gets
17 offended, but it's very -- it's a delicacy for elders
18 that I know.

19

20 In any event, I think a food security
21 issue that I really want to find ways to solve some of
22 those kinds of things. All these phones I have are
23 vibrating like mad. I need to turn them off. They're
24 distracting.

25

26 So I think caribou issues are -- I see
27 a lot of people having a lot of good success. We still
28 have concerns about health of those resources,
29 competing users and impacts. It's important to look at
30 what the region in the North Slope is within the North
31 Slope Borough and recognize some of the things that
32 have happened that are changed in the scheme and how we
33 convey that to the Federal Subsistence Board, to ADF&G.
34 I think it would be important.

35

36 Some things that are important are like
37 the -- every village on the North Slope now has a
38 village comprehensive plan that has policies,
39 statements of needs and things like that that are
40 statutory requirements of the State for a borough.
41 It's a requirement by the North Slope Borough by its
42 code of ordinances to develop these plans.

43

44 Maybe the first 30 or 40 years of the
45 Borough's existence there was a Borough Comprehensive
46 Plan, but for villages it was only accompanied by a
47 two-page village profile that somebody else wrote about
48 those villages. Now there exists by ordinance required
49 by the State of Alaska and required by the North Slope
50

1 Borough's Code of ordinances that development of these
2 comprehensive plans.

3
4 There's some key features in there that
5 I think are important to recognize and that's the
6 village area of influence. There's a description on
7 what that means. Immediate environment outside of the
8 village district boundary -- that's the city limits --
9 that supports the contemporary and traditional uses for
10 subsistence of those communities. These area of
11 influences are important because they provide for that
12 immediate environment outside of the village district
13 that villages depend on for subsistence, for putting
14 food on the table.

15
16 I think there needs to be some level of
17 acknowledgment for State of Alaska, the Federal Board
18 of Game, these newly emerging planning tools that talk
19 about subsistence and to reduce conflicts and provide
20 for that continued availability of subsistence
21 resources.

22
23 Many years have passed about the
24 bowhead whale. By the way, last year our fall bowhead
25 whale was pretty much a disaster. We don't know
26 exactly what the issues surrounding that is. It could
27 have been orcas or it could be some interference in the
28 ocean that diverted up to 20,000 whales from where
29 they're normally found. We're always finding these
30 whales in their same location, but that didn't happen
31 last fall.

32
33 Anyway, there's a story in that because
34 the North Slope Borough developed these land use
35 policies on subsistence to guide competing uses of the
36 land from residents, subsistence uses, to guides and
37 outfitters and development.

38
39 The North Slope Borough has in its own
40 ordinances the ability to stop industrial operations
41 for development of offshore for the uninterrupted
42 movement of bowhead whales for the peak subsistence
43 period. Once those quotas have been met, those
44 activities are allowed to proceed.

45
46 So there's a lot of precedence about
47 working with land managers, in this case with NOLA, and
48 about the management of the bowhead whale as a
49 co-management with AWC and how it had been ingrained in
50

1 land use on a policy on subsistence for food security
2 is an issue.

3
4 That's an issue that's been emerging
5 and something that I think the Federal Subsistence
6 Board needs to start to recognize about competing uses
7 of the land when you have to provide a rural
8 subsistence priority, which that is the law among
9 sustained yield principals and other things like that.

10
11 It's important I think to be able to
12 talk frankly about these things. So that's one thing.

13
14 The other thing, and it was mentioned
15 by some of the other Regional Chairs about the
16 inundation of State proposals that want to create like
17 regulations to align regulations to do something, but
18 it's important to recognize when you're going to make
19 the same regulation and make it the same language.

20
21 For the State it is absolutely a
22 different meaning when ANILCA has a rural subsistence
23 priority and then you develop that same language in a
24 State proposal on the State land, it's merely
25 advertising and saying, hey, this Federal land is open
26 to all residents regardless of the population or the
27 trend or the concerns and we should be careful.

28
29 If they want to make it the same
30 language and put it in their regs -- here's an example.
31 In Unit 26 to allow for harvest of moose West 156 in
32 the NPR-A to the State's proposal to include an
33 antlerless hunt in their regs and on lands where
34 there's no existing study that I can recall about
35 harvestable surplus, the trend in the population of
36 moose or something like that, but to pull it out of a
37 hat because there might be some there.

38
39 It merely advertises it to the general
40 public to have that same language that's in all Federal
41 regs, actually it should say if the State wants to do
42 that and follow what the Feds have done, their language
43 would have to be tweaked to a Tier level hunt to have
44 the same meaning. The words just can't be the same.

45
46 Those are some of the wordsmithing and
47 devil in the details that we need to be aware of and be
48 mindful. I think I'm fearful about aligning State regs
49 so that you can go from State land to Federal land and
50

1 the regs are the same, but when they're proposing over
2 Federal land we should be very diligent about what it
3 really means.

4
5 Those are some of the things I find
6 that are somewhat alarming. The other things that I
7 think are important are the food security concerns
8 along with the COVID-19 and that is a very fearful
9 climate between villages even. One village has adopted
10 visitor restrictions. You'll have to shelter in place
11 for two weeks to do anything. They're afraid of these
12 sicknesses coming to communities.

13
14 So subsistence is going to be a very
15 much needed tool for rural subsistence users like never
16 before. Right now there's concerns about store-bought
17 stuff being not available in small stores in our
18 villages up in the Arctic up here if any sickness were
19 to start. There's those kinds of concerns that are
20 going on.

21
22 There was this one clip and I don't
23 know if it was a news slip about a sick person handling
24 zoo animals and it appears a COVID-19 in a human that's
25 sick can pass it on to animals. I think it was a pair
26 of tigers or lions or something in a zoo and we should
27 be mindful of those kind of things.

28
29 I don't know what kind of food security
30 issue might develop or maybe it's not an issue, but
31 hearing something like that is an alarming thing, if a
32 human can pass it on to an animal, but it's
33 transmittable that way as well.

34
35 Anyway, it's been I think important
36 because on the North Slope RAC we go into debate for
37 considerable periods of time and we want to do I think
38 the best for those that depend on these resources to
39 put food on the table.

40
41 I just wanted to also add one thing.
42 There was a lady that mentioned from one of the other
43 regions about a crowded area -- I'm not saying it's
44 crowded up here in the Arctic, it's a vast land -- but
45 when competing users of the land, there's the resident
46 and then there's the rural subsistence users, they're
47 two different things. When the State of Alaska
48 resident knows where the prime hunting locations are,
49 often maybe was shared by traditional user groups as
50

1 this is where we hunt, and then those kind of places
2 become areas where competing users start to congregate.
3

4 One of the concerns that have been
5 raised is when you have different competing users,
6 guides, residents, rural subsistence users, and let's
7 just describe the area of influence in a village as
8 giving more preference to that village on that
9 subsistence user, like how ANILCA mandates, right, now
10 there is an area of influence identified.
11

12 But if you're lining up guides and
13 residents that come in from all across the state and
14 that competing use area effectively disrupts a
15 migration from where they're normally found, it's easy
16 to be concluded as depleted of that resource from that
17 area because it's been diverted. Then a village has
18 cried foul because something, maybe it's nature, maybe
19 it's something else, who knows, but the normal
20 migration paths have been altered sufficiently where
21 it's not gracing where they're normally found.
22

23 The North Slope Borough has made those
24 kind of real determinations in developing mitigation
25 for an advisory board for the mayor, I would have to
26 talk a long time to talk about that, but I'm just
27 saying there's already a precedence, existence, about
28 the competing uses of the land and being very mindful
29 that you can deplete a resource without a detrimental
30 decline to the population of that resource by mere
31 deflecting it away from where they're normally found
32 for subsistence.
33

34 In any event, I talk way too much on
35 these things and I'll stop at that. Those are the
36 important things I thought were coming from our
37 Regional Council and some of the dialogue about State
38 proposals and I think we tried to make a comment on the
39 State proposal from the RAC. I think we're allowed to
40 do those things, but that would have been in line with
41 what we were expressing.
42

43 Thank you very much.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
46 Gordon. Appreciate your good presentation and taking
47 the time to make sure we get a clear picture of what's
48 happening in your region. Appreciate that very much.
49

50

1 Is there any questions for Gordon.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.
6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.
8
9 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you for a good
10 report. Keep it up.
11
12 MR. G. BROWER: Aarigaa.
13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. Was
15 there anybody else, Tom? I think you said that
16 concluded all the.....
17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, that concluded all
19 the RAC Chairs. The next part of the agenda would be
20 the public comment on non-agenda items.
21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, first I
23 just want to take this time to thank all the Council
24 Chairs. I know it seems like this section of the
25 meeting kind of got a little bit long, but you
26 represent the Councils. I mean we're here to
27 deliberate on proposals and to hear the concerns of all
28 of you who called in today. Albeit this isn't the best
29 means or methods to which we can convey to our rural
30 members and our constituents out there on the land base
31 and all of their concerns, we hope that everybody here
32 got to gist from your reports.
33
34 So really truly appreciate all of you
35 taking the time to have patience with the system to
36 clearly articulate your points of view having both
37 written and then spoken into the record and allowing us
38 to have time to hear it come out of your mouth and all
39 of the volunteer work that it really takes for you as
40 Chairs to be involved and to be as educated as you are
41 about the needs of our people. I commend you for that.
42 So truly appreciate all of you and the effort today.
43
44 Thank you to the Staff. With that,
45 Tom, we didn't take any breaks today. It is almost
46 quarter to 5:00 right now. I think if we had my magic
47 two breaks for this afternoon, we would have run into
48 about a half an hour of breaks. So I'm going to
49 recommend at this time we recess for the day before we
50

1 get into the public non-agenda item testimony.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, Mr. Chair. That
4 sounds good. We'll start with that and old business
5 and get into proposals in the morning if that's okay
6 with you and the rest of the Board.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Do I hear any
9 opposition from the rest of the Board to break for the
10 day.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MR. STRIKER: Park Service says I don't
15 think you need a second to dismiss.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, yeah.
18 I'm just making sure there's nothing pressing anybody
19 has on the table they want to talk about. Hearing
20 none, let's go ahead and recess this meeting until 9:00
21 a.m. tomorrow. We'll start off the morning with old
22 business and we will then -- I mean public comment on
23 non-agenda items and jump into old business.

24

25 So tomorrow we'll be able to start off
26 in the morning with a little bit of information sharing
27 and then involve our public comment period on
28 non-agenda items and then move on.

29

30 At this moment I'll recess the meeting
31 until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

32

33 OPERATOR: This concludes today's
34 conference. Thank you for your participation.

35

36 (Off record)

37

38 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 4th day of May 2019.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22