

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME II

Egan Convention Center
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

April 16, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 4/16/2019)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning, everybody. Welcome back to day two of the Federal Subsistence Board meeting. Again, thank everybody yesterday for your patience in us getting through the day. We're excited to get started with today's agenda. First off this morning we're going to just ask the operator if you can please just give clear instructions to anybody on the line who might want to testify this morning on how to star 9 or whatever they have to do for instructions.

I'd appreciate that.

Thank you.

OPERATOR: I would be more than happy to, sir. Thank you all for standing by. Again, those on the phone lines, if you have a question or comment, please press star 1 and I will go ahead and open up your line into the conference.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Appreciate that. All right. First off this morning we're going to call on Zach. He's going to come up and do a presentation for the Regional Advisory Council Chair, who's unfortunately not here for personal reasons. Then we'll move on to non-agenda items and an opportunity for the public to come up and speak to non-agenda items this morning.

So that's the blue card.

Thank you.

MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. My name is Zach Stevenson. I work with the Federal Office of Subsistence Management where I serve as the coordinator for the Northwest Arctic and Kodiak/Aleutians Councils.

I am providing per the direction of

1 Michael Chad Kramer, the Chair of the Northwest Arctic
2 Council a brief synopsis of the Council's FY or fiscal
3 year 2018 annual report to the Board. The Council had
4 identified four items in its annual report summarized
5 as follows:
6

7 The Council had requested more research
8 to better understand wildlife populations and
9 distributions in their region. Specifically, the
10 Council identified the need for research to better
11 understand the distribution abundance of caribou. The
12 Council identified the Western Arctic Caribou Herd or
13 WACH as providing important subsistence resources to
14 provide for the sustenance of people throughout the
15 region and corresponding with a need for current and
16 updated research data on caribou distribution and
17 abundance to better assist decision makers in managing
18 this important subsistence resource.
19

20 Additionally, the Council identified
21 the need for updated information on beavers as a need
22 for the region, citing the encroachment of beavers into
23 the region where they had not previously been seen as a
24 result of changing weather and climatic conditions.
25 Citing concerns resulting from beaver to both human
26 health and subsistence resources in the region.
27

28 Additionally, regarding caribou, the
29 Council identified the need for updated information on
30 population trends, citing that most recently the
31 population survey for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
32 was not able to be collected in the past year due to
33 weather conditions and the Council emphasized the
34 importance of that population data again to assist
35 decision makers in managing the herd.
36

37 Thirdly, the Council cited the need for
38 resource managers to minimize disturbances to the
39 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, specifically leaders
40 migration, and the need for helping users as well as
41 agencies to understand the need for maintaining the
42 migration of the herd so as to enable local users to
43 maintain access to that important subsistence resource.
44

45 Lastly, the Council identified the need
46 for updated population data on Dall sheep to better
47 understand their distribution and population
48 trajectories so as to provide local users with more
49 access to this important subsistence resource.
50

1 That concludes the summary of the
2 Council's FY2018 annual report.

3
4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
7 the update Zach. Appreciate it.

8
9 Any questions for Zach.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
14 Thank you. Appreciate it. All right. We'll begin the
15 public testimony this morning for non-agenda items.

16
17 First we have Mr. Paul Williams, Sr.

18
19 MR. WILLIAMS, SR.: Good morning. Mr.
20 Chair, members of the Subsistence Board. My name is
21 Paul Williams from Beaver. Traditional chief. I was
22 born 83 years ago up in a place called Salmon Village.

23
24 I just want to testify about how I
25 lived these 82 years and what happened to us as people
26 that survived through all these things that we were
27 required to do. From the start we had respect for
28 people. We had respect for one another. We had
29 respect for the land. We knew our Creator. We were
30 happy to see every morning through humbleness and
31 respect for children and the land.

32
33 We learned to speak to the land itself
34 and to the animals for the management purpose to keep
35 it productive, but a little bit at a time that's been
36 taken away. Through living in villages 1940 I remember
37 we moved down from Salmon Village. I was born in
38 Salmon Village 1936. 1940, four years later, we moved
39 to Chalkyitsik. They said that -- I heard them,
40 people, chiefs, talk. We had a little meeting. They
41 said (in Yup'ik). That means new people coming around
42 on our country.

43
44 They told us we've got to live in the
45 village for the purpose of learning how to speak
46 English for the children. Moving us away from the land
47 and into a village where we could all stay together.
48 After two or three years of living like that I remember
49 we start dying. I didn't know why, but now looking
50

1 back we had poor sanitation and then we had a strange
2 disease coming in killing our people.

3
4 They had us go down to the hospital in
5 Fort Yukon and they died down there. In 1946 both of
6 my parents got sick and we had to move to Fort Yukon.
7 My mom survived but my father died March 1947 and
8 that's how we ended up in Beaver. There was no
9 welfare. Mom had to get married to a man, so she
10 picked a guy from Beaver. His name was John Sam and
11 that's how we ended up down there.

12
13 Then we lived out in the woods again
14 and we didn't hardly learn English. We tried, but we
15 know we had to make a living. Otherwise there's no way
16 to survive in the village. She had to go out there and
17 make a living. It was a hard way to live, but you know
18 you've got moose there and you could eat and make a
19 good living that way, but there was no money, hardly
20 any money. There was no use for money. We had it, but
21 there was nothing to buy. So that's the way we lived
22 and that's where we come from.

23
24 Then finally we're Americans, you know.
25 During World War II a lot of young boys they went to
26 war. Some of them didn't come back, but a lot of them
27 did, you know. We didn't know that we were not nice.
28 You know, we're all Americans, you know. We were proud
29 to be in America, being Americans. Then we start to
30 forget what we are. We leave our language. We start
31 to leave our language and we forgot to manage the land.
32 We even forgot about our spirituality, our Maker. We
33 forgot about that.

34
35 Then we start to forget about our
36 language and with that, you know, we forget about our
37 manners, the way that people live. We forgot about
38 that. We start to live like everybody else, you know,
39 and we change our clothes and we don't wear the skins
40 anymore. We forgot about the management of fish, the
41 management of water, we forgot our prayers, we forgot
42 our songs and our language.

43
44 And then the land claims came and they
45 discovered oil up in Prudhoe Bay. They said, oh,
46 you're going to have a land claim, you know. I said
47 land claim? I thought this land was ours according to
48 the Treaty of Cession of 1865. We bought all of Alaska
49 for two cents an acre was the answer. All right.

50

1 We've got nothing to fight back with. We've got no
2 lawyer. We hardly spoke English.

3
4 Now we're getting to a place where we
5 can start to understand each other, you know. Truly,
6 now that that's been handed down to us through
7 thousands of years of living on the land. I see us
8 going back to our language and our way of life and we
9 have something to offer to you and I hope that you
10 would accept that. You would see us as different
11 people that have different values.

12
13 But you know the common value of life
14 and courtesy is still there as people, but we need to
15 stick together and be as one to be united and we want
16 to be part of you and you guys be part of us and you
17 accept us for what we are. We're not going to let you
18 down, you know. Instead of acting like conquered
19 people we want to be one people. That's what we feel
20 like, conquered, you know, without any fighting or war
21 going on. That's what I feel like.

22
23 Today, you know, I want to say this to
24 you and that this is the way I feel and this is where
25 I'm coming from to offer friendship, you know. The
26 first time I see this in the public way, I'm happy that
27 this load I've been carrying, you know, is going to be
28 let go and I'll be free.

29
30 Thank you for letting me speak.

31
32 If there's no questions, then I guess
33 I'll be a free man now.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I want to thank
38 you personally for that, Paul. I think that brings a
39 lot of context to what it is we're here working on and
40 why we need to really weigh in heavy on all these
41 proposals and way of life that come in front of us. So
42 having your valuable knowledge and what you bring to
43 the room we truly appreciate that.

44
45 So thank you.

46
47 MR. WILLIAMS, SR.: Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Karen Linnell.

50

1 MS. LINNELL: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
2 Members of the Board. Thank you for your time and the
3 ability to report on Inter-Tribal Resource Commission
4 and our activities. Can we get to the next slide,
5 please. Who has the controller for the.....
6

7 REPORTER: (Pointing).
8

9 MS. LINNELL: Oh, okay. Thank you. So
10 this is our organization. As you can see, the eight
11 pie pieces those are our tribes. They're the core of
12 our organization and give us our authority through
13 their government-to-government relationship and only by
14 their authority are we able to act.
15

16 On the right-hand side you see two
17 slices on the outer ring. That's Ahtna, Incorporated
18 and Chitina Native Corporation. They are partners with
19 us as the landowners and partners with the tribes.
20 That's what comprises Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource
21 Commission.
22

23 We're a body that works together. I'm
24 sorry I failed to introduce and thank my chairman of my
25 board. I have here with me Shirley Smelcer and my
26 staff as wells, Nicole Farnham, Kevin Bartley.
27

28 So our purpose and our mission. We
29 were formed to be the regional coordinating body for
30 subsistence and cultural and traditional natural
31 resource management using traditional resource
32 stewardship.
33

34 This is the Ahtna region. It's fairly
35 large. We've got five mountain ranges, 500 miles of
36 highway that is a blessing and a curse, and then we're
37 the fourth largest river in Alaska. So a little bit
38 about our region. We have eight Federally recognized
39 tribes. We have about 3,700 residents in the Ahtna
40 traditional territory. Of that, about 900 are tribal
41 members. In our tribal communities, we have about
42 1,500 people.
43

44 We have a median household income that
45 ranges anywhere from 13,000 to 104,000 and that's
46 according to the 2010 census. In Gakona, that was
47 because we had HARP staff there. All the scientists
48 that run the HARP facility. So it's skewed quite a bit
49 because it's a pretty small population.
50

1 Then we pay anywhere from 17 cents a
2 kilowatt hour to 65 cents a kilowatt hour even though
3 we're on the highway system we still have high energy
4 costs. As a matter of fact, in Glennallen you can get
5 a five-pound sack of sugar for \$18.99. Yeah,
6 expensive.
7

8 So this is the land ownership pattern.
9 I'm sorry to forestry, but we didn't color in the
10 bottom half there that's gray. As you can see the
11 yellow is Federal lands. The pink on the left and
12 right are our National Park and Preserve for Denali and
13 Wrangell-St. Elias. So when we're talking about Unit
14 13, we're talking about the yellow in the center. The
15 mountain tops for a majority of it, but there's a
16 narrow strip that follows Richardson Highway and you'll
17 hear more about that at some point.
18

19 These are our stakeholders who have an
20 influence or say in what happens in our region. You
21 can see the number one stakeholder there is God. We
22 have an elder that talked to us about it. When we were
23 coming up with this list, he said God put us here for a
24 reason, we're here to take care of the land. So that's
25 what we do and it's taught to us. You take care of it,
26 it takes care of you. We're working on stewardship and
27 habitat projects so that we can take care of the land
28 and it can take care of us.
29

30 We're competing for our resources.
31 This is opening day a couple years ago. When I blew
32 this picture up, there were 165 rigs there with two and
33 four place trailers. This is just one of the parking
34 lots at Eureka. This doesn't include the one up on
35 Denali Highway or near Paxson and it doesn't include
36 what happens near Cantwell.
37

38 We have an inter-dependency on the land
39 and the water. It's part of our spiritual well-being.
40 It's not just putting food on the table. It's part of
41 who we are. It's so deeply ingrained in who we are.
42 We believe that we would have healthier communities and
43 healthier families if we were more connected to the
44 land. Having our resources regulated out from under us
45 is causing a disconnect. It's just part of who we are.
46 It's a part of our spirituality.
47

48 Tribal stewardship is one of the things
49 that we've been working on and it's not new. The man
50

1 on the left is Sam George. He's working on land
2 selections for ANCSA and Copper Center is Native
3 Village of Kluti-kaah. In the center we have an elder
4 sharing with folks during our tribal stewardship
5 planning and the little yellow stickies are family
6 names of where families come from.
7

8 I think for a lot of the folks we had
9 at our tribal stewardship training and the mapping
10 effort that really brought home our connection to the
11 land and how come our traditional territory is so big.
12 We didn't always stay on the highway. We didn't always
13 stay in the villages we have now. That's why we're
14 related to the folks at Cantwell and it may seem like
15 they're farther away, but we would meet in the middle,
16 which is now all that blue territory or lands that have
17 been conveyed to the State.
18

19 On the right-hand side we did an
20 exercise with some children from Native Village of
21 Tazlina and had them mark what they knew. So on this
22 layer of maps they're putting where they know they go
23 look for caribou, where they go berry picking where
24 they go fishing, where they can find their resources
25 and it was all them. Pretty powerful moment as well.
26

27 We have been working on wildlife and
28 habitat projects. We're still continuing to work on
29 our DOI MOA implementation. Still waiting to see our
30 charter get sent to Washington D.C. The charter you
31 folks approved two years ago is still floating around
32 in Alaska. We met with Bert Frost on the community
33 harvest framework. Mr. Padgett just got appointed, so
34 we're working on setting up a meeting with him so that
35 we can get that done as well.
36

37 We're working in partnership with Ahtna
38 and Chitina Native Corporation on habitat improvement
39 projects. Much like our friend that spoke from St.
40 Mary's yesterday, we're working to improve the moose
41 population. Like him, I don't want to see us work to
42 rebuild that moose population and then have it
43 delegated and given to sport hunters. We're working on
44 this to improve our chances of harvest.
45

46 Then we're working with our tribes on
47 fire protection. We're integrating that fuel reduction
48 there with our habitat projects and then creating jobs.
49 So we're marrying creating habitat for moose to
50

1 bio-fuels and fire reduction and creating some
2 employment as well.

3
4 We partnered with Ahtna, Incorporated
5 on a carnivore study. Ahtna applied for a permit with
6 the State of Alaska to do a bear density study. We
7 captured hair samples. On the permit the State wrote
8 that they thought we might see one bear. We think we
9 saw 16 to 22 different bears just based on the cam
10 photos. We're still waiting on the DNA samples.

11
12 On the right-hand side there's a
13 contraption up in the tree. That one was a hair snare.
14 It actually triggered and took one sample. The other
15 on the bottom you can see a couple tufts of hair.
16 That's barbed wire that we put nearby and it captures
17 the hair samples just as well. It's not as labor
18 intensive. You don't have to go back out and reset it
19 all the time.

20
21 We had 26 non-caloric lure stations set
22 up in a 26 square mile area and we captured we believe
23 up to 22 bears there. We're
24 working on doing it again. Filling information gaps
25 that the State and the Feds aren't doing. We're not
26 duplicating efforts here. I know that was a concern
27 for some folks that we would be duplicating what's
28 already being done. We're not. We're looking at how
29 can we help by providing additional information.

30
31 We have a Partners for Fisheries
32 Management grant. Some of the goals and objectives are
33 to get people more engaged in management. This is a
34 picture at Katie John's native allotment at
35 Batzulnetas. There we have the Tanada weir near there
36 between hers and Gene Henry's Native allotments. We
37 were able to visit with some elders there.

38
39 There was a pretty defining moment
40 there with Kevin. We were introducing our
41 anthropologist to our tribes. He'd been on board for a
42 couple months at this point. Our elder Ben Albert,
43 Katie's brother, talked about how hard a life it was,
44 but it was a good life living on the land there.

45
46 So we're working in partnership with
47 National Park Service at this point trying to keep the
48 weir going at Tanada Creek this year so that we can
49 keep the data consistent. They didn't get funding for
50

1 this, so we're also seeking additional funding so that
2 we can manage that weir this summer. We're looking at
3 where can we pull this together to keep that going.
4 This is a lynch pin to why some of you folks are here,
5 is this Katie John case. So having that information
6 and keeping it consistent is important.

7
8 We partnered with the Native Village of
9 Eyak and built a fishwheel for them for their
10 mark/recapture. We also worked with our local
11 representative and made recommendations on the priority
12 information needs for the FRMP that's coming up. We
13 held a Fisheries Search Conference and then we got
14 staffing.

15
16 So recruiting for us was difficult.
17 When we got the Partners grant we were a one-man
18 office, me. We had no benefits because nobody would
19 talk to us when you only have one person on staff. So
20 recruiting was hard. We just got going and we've got a
21 staff of five and we've got health insurance now and
22 retirement. So we're starting to move and get going.

23
24 That was a bit of a struggle for us at
25 the beginning, but we got down to two candidates for
26 our partners and then they both withdrew, got jobs
27 elsewhere or decided to stay where they're at. So we
28 had to recruit again, but we got a good guy working for
29 us now and a lot has happened since then.

30
31 This is our partners when we did our
32 Search Conference, what is the future of Copper River
33 salmon. We had dipnetters there, we had sport fish
34 guides, subsistence users, the State fisheries
35 management, Comm Fish, Sport Fish, our local fisheries
36 biologist. We had the National Park Service, the
37 superintendent, the fisheries biologist, their
38 biometrician, and subsistence coordinator all got to
39 participate in this conference.

40
41 In this conference there were no hats,
42 no titles, no nothing. We were people interested in
43 Copper River salmon and we were able to talk. I've got
44 to tell you we went through quite a few exercises, but
45 we also had a parking lot for if we had any contentious
46 items that sat there and not one item got put on there.
47 We were able to talk through everything, so we were
48 pretty happy with that. I think we built some
49 partnerships and built relationships.

1 A lot of folks come and go, but the
2 tribal members, the local folks, we're not going
3 anywhere. So getting these folks in -- I think our
4 biometricianist has been on staff for maybe six months
5 at this point. Just getting folks together like this
6 we had, again, like Comm Fish and Sport Fish there as
7 well and we all have the same concern. What's going on
8 with the Copper River salmon, why did we have a low
9 return last year, how can we work together to ensure
10 that we don't end up in crisis mode and restricting
11 anybody's fishery. Oh, and Prince William Sound
12 Aquaculture Corporation was there as well.

13
14 Some of our programs that we're working
15 on and our partners here. We have Department of
16 Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park
17 Service, Department of Energy. They're actually
18 funding our tribal stewardship planning because looking
19 at biofuels and how we can incorporate that in.
20 They're really anxious to see what our plan comes out
21 to. And RCS, we work with the landowners and that's
22 where we get some of the funding to do our habitat
23 improvement projects. Then University of Alaska
24 Fairbanks actually helps with coordinating our training
25 for our tribes.

26
27 We have a Moose Habitat Management Plan
28 for the next 10 years and that's what we're working
29 with Ahtna Incorporated on. We have the food fuels and
30 jobs initiative that we're partnering with Gulkana
31 Village Council on, their pellet mill project and how
32 we can move that forward. The Carnivore Stewardship
33 Plan we're moving to Mentasta this year. We're hoping
34 to get a study done there.

35
36 The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
37 Council we have the grant with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
38 Service to coordinate that and the committee and keep
39 their activities going for them. The Salmon Search
40 Conference again. Everybody wants to see a follow up
41 in a couple years, so we're working on that as well.
42 Then again working to implement the MOA.

43
44 We're also part of a caribou working
45 group, which was started by Ben Bobowski at
46 Wrangell-St. Elias. He's the superintendent there. He
47 invited AITRC, Wrangell-St. Elias SRC members. Sue
48 Entsminger participates there. Also invited the Alaska
49 Department of Fish and Game, Tetlin Wildlife Refuge and
50

1 then with our Park staff to look at the caribou
2 management because the caribou cross through all of our
3 lands.
4

5 We're looking at not just the Nelchina
6 Herd, but the Mentasta and Chisana as well. We haven't
7 been able to hunt caribou in Unit 11 since the late
8 '80s and we want to know why. It's all based on the
9 population of the Mentasta Herd. So we're working with
10 them, with the Park Service on this so that we can make
11 sure we have all the information, the data. We offered
12 to buy collars because they were down to five collars
13 on the herd. We're waiting on them and whether they
14 want to continue moving forward with that or not.
15

16 Then we're also part of this -- we
17 started talking about what's the predation, is that a
18 factor. We talked about trapping and this is the
19 access issue. Because the rivers aren't staying frozen
20 we're not able to snowmachine across the river and set
21 traps. So we have to -- and you can't fly and subsist
22 as a Park regulation, which I think is crazy.
23

24 My dad was flying in the '60s and '70s.
25 I think he got rid of his plane in mid '70s, '77, but
26 he was flying over there and hunting and trapping. Now
27 there's a regulation that says you cannot fly for
28 subsistence uses but they sure fly over there for
29 everything else, including videography and things like
30 that and tours.
31

32 We're talking about access. We're
33 going to be interviewing some folks, some trappers,
34 both tribal and non-tribal members in regards to their
35 access across the river and how it's changed and what
36 can we do to adapt.
37

38 We're also working on an Ahtna
39 ethnography for the Park. The ethnography that was
40 done was kind of just slapped together and not well
41 written and not very thick, not very detailed, so we're
42 going to be working with them on revising that and
43 improving that.
44

45 I think that's it. I just want to
46 again thank our partners and Bert for sticking with me
47 and getting through that community harvest framework
48 from our last meeting. We're still trying to get it
49 done. I think we're very close in our definitions to
50

1 meet the requirements of this Board with the Federally
2 qualified users, but still stick within what we -- it's
3 a good compromise and I think we're close to having
4 that ready to go.

5

6 I think that's about it, sir.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
11 Karen. That was a really good presentation there. I
12 really appreciate the slide. Good job on all the work
13 you've got going on there to fill those gaps.

14

15 I can really appreciate that.

16

17 Tim, you have a question.

18

19 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
20 Chair. Good morning, Karen. This is Tim Gervais from
21 Western Interior. Thank you for your presentation.
22 The Western Interior is interested in the interaction
23 between wild fish stocks and hatchery fish programs. I
24 would like to get Ahtna's position or opinion or your
25 personal opinion or position on the high volume of
26 aquaculture production that's occurring in Prince
27 William Sound.

28

29 MS. LINNELL: Thank you for asking. We
30 have an incubation unit on the Gulkana River for reds,
31 for sockeye, and that's all they do is they hatch the
32 eggs and they release them. In Prince William Sound
33 they're increasing the amount of pinks that they have
34 in their hatchery and what they release and they're
35 competing for food sources and they're voracious eaters
36 and they're probably eating a lot of our little salmon.
37 I think they're creating an imbalance and that's
38 affecting the return of the natural stock.

39

40 I feel like there's -- we have six
41 plans for the Copper River and I think that they're not
42 speaking to each other and looking at the effects that
43 they have. The hatchery management is a separate plan
44 and looking at the impacts that they have on the other
45 resources is something to be of concern.

46

47 Last year we got this report of the
48 blob. I don't know if you're heard of the blob.
49 Rather than saying they don't know they create a

50

1 fictitious creature, being, thing, that the blob,
2 something in the ocean, the blob, is having an effect
3 on the salmon return. Just say you don't know and
4 we're going to look into it. It's not that hard. But
5 I think that too much hatchery fish isn't good for the
6 ocean as a whole.

7
8 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
11 questions for Karen, discussion.

12
13 Alissa.

14
15 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Karen. I
16 really enjoyed your presentation. I had one quick
17 question in regards to -- I don't know how far you guys
18 go up. I was trying to look in the fish regulations,
19 but it says that you guys have a one permit system for
20 subdistricts will be issued to each household per year.
21 It says your population per permit and then your
22 fishwheel and dipnet only and then you get an
23 allocation of your permit system. How is that working
24 for your tribes for your people?

25
26 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. Through the
27 Chair. The Federal Management System seems to be
28 working fairly well for us. We go to the Park, we get
29 a permit. It's based on your household size. If you
30 have four or more, it increases it from 200 to 500.
31 Then the dipnetting they do. I'm not a Federal
32 dipnetter, but they're allowed a couple hundred fish as
33 well throughout the year. It seems to be working for
34 us.

35
36 Where we have problems is that parking
37 lot that I showed you, is the same in Chitina at the
38 O'Brien Creek with the personal use fishery. It gets
39 just as crowded throughout Chitina. On the weekends
40 you've got folks up and down the river. You have 100
41 boats, dipnetting from boats.

42
43 It used to be that the folks would drop
44 folks off on the bank so that they could dipnet. Now
45 they're dipnetting even during high water. Before it
46 would be during high water there wouldn't be any
47 dipnetting, but now they're dipnetting in the middle of
48 the river during high water and that's changing the
49 harvest.

1 We went from 2,000-something dipnetters
2 to 9,000 to 10,000 permits issued a year, but the
3 number of reports and the number of fish harvest hasn't
4 really grown as much as the permits that they're
5 issuing.

6
7 One of the things that concerns me with
8 the management in that is that with -- and the
9 dipnetters are allowed 20, 35 fish and then they add 10
10 per household member. But when there's what they call
11 a record return, they increase the allowable take per
12 dipnetter. So instead of letting them get by, they
13 take them and they talk about more than what the river
14 can sustain, but I don't know that anybody has ever
15 done a study on what the river can sustain.

16
17 So technology has improved and their
18 sonar is getting clearer and clearer, so they're
19 starting to capture more and be able to count what's
20 happening. I think there's additional information
21 needed and that was one of the things that came out of
22 our Search Conference. We need to know what's
23 happening in the spawning beds. So that's one of the
24 proposals that we're working on in partnership with
25 Native Village of Eyak and Alaska Department of Fish
26 and Game to try and find out more of what's happening
27 on the spawning beds.

28
29
30 MS. ROGERS: Through the Chair. One
31 more question. I was wondering how long have you been
32 under this permit system.

33
34 MS. LINNELL: I think it's been since
35 the '80s. It's been a long time.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
38 Karen. Appreciate to see all the collaboration and
39 continued success there. Hopefully we can get you sent
40 off to D.C.

41
42 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Next we'll call
45 up Tom Kriska.

46
47 MR. KRISKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 Board members and everyone in this room. Again, like I
49 did yesterday, I came up and wrote a lot of things down

1 here and kind of confused myself more than things.
2 Just about the system and regulations, time. Climate
3 change is a big one. I wrote down things that I hear,
4 but a lot of it has kind of put me back to where I'm
5 not even in a place to really talk about the things.

6
7 Everything that we're doing in this
8 room and you do other places, Board of Game, Board of
9 Fish, Federal Subsistence Board and many other boards
10 not pertaining to anything with fish and game. We're
11 always pushing each other and I've seen that happening
12 for the last 30 years, like I said yesterday. I'm
13 getting tired of it because all this stuff is already
14 written, it's all planned. Nothing against you guys.
15 I have a big place in my heart for the place that you
16 have to sit on those seats taking all these proposals,
17 which you're flooded with proposals, and is going to
18 continue to be flooded with proposals unless we all
19 agree on something.

20
21 Even as well as back at our home
22 amongst each other as well as we're butting heads here
23 and we shouldn't be. Back at home in between the
24 communities, the villages, we butt each other. Then it
25 comes to, no, we need each other. So we're starting
26 the gathering, the men's gathering. It started last
27 year. What we're doing is going to bounce it around in
28 different village, trying to get together to help each
29 other. Not to fight with anyone, just to help each
30 other and our kids and everything.

31
32 So that's going to wind up to be a big
33 deal in between our villages because we really do need
34 each other and not only in this hunting and all this
35 fishing and other things, there's a lot of drugs,
36 alcohol, other ways that we need to get a hold of our
37 kids as well as our stomachs.

38
39 I was really thinking about it just
40 today. You know, right in this room we do have a lot
41 of regulation people here. Understanding people have
42 been here, some of them from what I just talked to
43 them, not mentioning no names, but it was really
44 overwhelming for me to meet some people here right out
45 in the hall, not in this room. I mean they're in here
46 now. But it was really great to talk to some people.
47 You know, him finally running into somebody with an
48 open mind and for me the same as well.

49
50

1 It was great to talk about things with
2 this guy. It was kind of funny. You know, all the
3 rules and regulations written in those books, if you
4 really wanted to, you could have threw that out the
5 door and rewrote it. But that's not the thing here.
6 We're not in here to fight about a lot of these things
7 in the Federal management and you go to ANILCA. You
8 start all kinds of other things when we're all here for
9 this reason to make things work amongst us.

10
11 The bad thing for what I see and the
12 predictions in the state of Alaska and what's going to
13 happen within the next 20 years. Right now there's
14 400,000 of us. Possibly in 20 years the prediction
15 there's going to be 750,000 and then what. So there's
16 a lot more. Look farther down the road than what we're
17 trying to do for the next year and keep on fighting.
18 It's just useless.

19
20 I'm just saying these things are -- I
21 don't know. Some of the people said it's like a
22 preacher, which kind of gets to me a little bit, but
23 then you start really thinking about it and it comes
24 back to a lot of things, not just little things around
25 us. The fish and game and all of that. Like I said
26 out in our village when we have to manage stuff and we
27 do manage it and not only that area. We're talking on
28 the phones up and down that whole region in our hunting
29 region.

30
31 It goes all the way from way up around
32 the Huslia, Allakaket area, all the way down to the
33 Holy Cross area, all the way over to McGrath. It's a
34 big area and we're managing that on our own.
35 Technically, because if you really think about it, in
36 heart I have to say something about it because it cost
37 me a lot. If you get out there and run around and try
38 to help the situation for your moose, things like that,
39 at 7 bucks a gallon, you can imagine how much fuel we
40 really spent and money and everything like that.
41 Nobody is there to help us. We're doing this
42 ourselves.

43
44 Then to read all this stuff in here
45 like what everybody else is doing, I applaud them for
46 all of that, but still I really wouldn't mind if they
47 come live out there with me for a month or two and see
48 what I eat, see what I do. I'm pretty sure they'll be
49 skin and bones like me at the end of the two months.

50

1 So I really do have a lot of things
2 here that I wrote down and it goes to the same thing.
3 It goes back to proposals and all of this stuff. I
4 don't know if I should even mention anything on
5 what I wrote because it's probably a waste of time. I
6 always thought of being there where these books were
7 actually -- maybe not all, but there's a lot of great
8 things that you have in this book as well as like the
9 State, the Feds, everybody, the Fish Board, all those
10 people, they have a lot in here.

11
12 Instead of keep on flooding you guys
13 with proposals and all of that, I think one of the
14 better things that we should be doing is maybe possibly
15 modifying what's in this book already rather than
16 trying to change it. You're not going to change it. A
17 lot of what's in here works for me. Just little
18 changes.

19
20 The big problem is what I see you live
21 different than me. We still hunt the moose, but we're
22 hunting in different strategies, different tactics and
23 different areas. So, for me, hunting in Koyukuk and
24 then Ruby they hunt different than McGrath hunt
25 different. The people in the Lower Yukon hunt
26 different as well as people over there in Fort Yukon.

27
28 So being handed a book like this for
29 the whole state it's sort of hard to -- some of the
30 people you're looking at them and it's like, well,
31 we've got to go way over to this area. But just to
32 maybe possibly really think about it and to modify this
33 book per -- it's kind of hard. Maybe districts or
34 different regions. There's Tlingit, there's Eskimos
35 way up, there's us, the Athabascans, there's the
36 Gwich'in.

37
38 It's probably a lot to really think
39 about, but it's just something possibly we need to do
40 rather than getting into wasting your money, wasting my
41 money, wasting everyone's time, money. I know that's
42 what we're all here for, but it seems like this has
43 been going on and on and on and on and then I'll be
44 dead and what about the kids.

45
46 The thing is I've seen a lot of strong
47 people, stronger than me, way stronger than me,
48 probably smarter than me, they lived the tough life.
49 Sidney Huntington, Jimmy. A lot of those guys. They
50

1 were sitting here I'm sure. I think Sidney sat on the
2 Board of Game once. Those people fought for a long
3 time and now they're gone and now I'm here and as well
4 as our kids are going to be here and it's just going to
5 keep on going.

6
7 It changes. A lot of the people that I
8 seen in the Boards at those times were different. The
9 Board and our rules and regulations change from the
10 characteristic of the people that are sitting up there
11 and their mentality. If they were racists, it's kind
12 of hard. Sometimes they're great, sometimes they're
13 bad. It all comes back to this book here.

14
15 We have a great team and great guys.
16 I'm really comfortable with you guys. Like I said,
17 it's hard for me to even sit up there if I was you
18 because of all the -- just all the crap you have to put
19 up with and then kind of hash it out. Maybe we won't
20 get it right even if you try your best. I don't know.

21
22 For me, I always try to figure out the
23 best way to go about things and how to get through it.
24 If I can't get through it, I always look up to the Lord
25 and what he did. How would he go about this. Even if
26 it's tough there's always a way out of it if you think
27 about it.

28
29 So I really don't want to get into some
30 of this because it just goes back to proposals and
31 doing all this other stuff when I think we have the
32 resources here. We have everything here to make it
33 work.

34
35 With that I thank you and I'm really
36 happy to be here and I will be back and maybe there
37 will be 100 of us next year, maybe 1,000 the next year
38 after that. I don't know, but still even with that
39 we're still fighting for what. Let's just fix these
40 problems today so it won't waste anymore money or all
41 of this kind of stuff.

42
43 We thank you and thanks for your time
44 and I really respect everyone in this room. Like I
45 said, you took time and money away from whatever you're
46 doing, your kids, which is really valuable. I really
47 thank you for that. I'm done preaching.

48
49 Thank you for your time.

1 Any questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
4 It sounds like you're in my head.

5

6 Welcome to this side.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. KRISKA: Yep. Well, that's the
11 thing. I mean I'm not scared to sit up there, but like
12 I said I would feel the same way. I mean we've just
13 got to work on this, figure it out and that's just the
14 thing. We have a lot of RACs, a lot of other people we
15 go to there and it seems like you're always looking
16 uphill, looking uphill.

17

18 I don't know.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, good luck
21 and keep on educating everybody in your area and we'll
22 look forward to modifying those proposals to your need
23 if you submit them.

24

25 So thank you.

26

27 MR. KRISKA: Thank you very much.
28 That's kind of what I wanted to hear.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, got a
31 question, Tom.

32

33 Greg.

34

35 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Tom, thank you very much for your thoughts and your
37 comments. One thing you said that does sort of rise to
38 my level of interest is that you're not going to say
39 some things because you feel it's a waste of time.
40 That does concern me if there's that kind of
41 perspective out there because that's what this
42 opportunity is truly meant to be.

43

44 I think everyone on this Board would
45 agree that that's what we're actually looking for,
46 that type of engagement and thought. So I hope you
47 don't just feel it's a waste of time to provide your
48 input and your thoughts. If you have something that
49 you've written down that you want us to hear, I'm

50

1 particularly interested in hearing it.

2

3 MR. KRISKA: Well, now that you said
4 that I'll probably sit here another hour.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MS. PITKA: Briefly read your
9 testimony.

10

11 MR. KRISKA: I know.

12

13 MS. PITKA: Thank you.

14

15 MR. KRISKA: Anyway, like the deadlines
16 during the shutdown and everything like that and you
17 know as well this meeting was kind of put back because
18 of -- not only this meeting, a lot of things pertaining
19 to the Natives. Once the Federal shut down, everything
20 was pushed back. It kind of limited us -- I don't know
21 if it limited us to time, but it kind of pushed all of
22 us back and wondering what the heck is going to happen.
23 We don't really know.

24

25 So one of the things that it did push
26 back as well is the deadline for proposals, which is
27 May 1st, and it's a few more days. You know, since
28 they pushed everything back I was just kind of thinking
29 about maybe you can push that deadline back itself,
30 maybe a month or two, to give us more time. Not only
31 Ahtna, not only the TCC, but others to give them a
32 little more time to turn in these proposals. That's
33 one of the things I had out there.

34

35 There was like the positioning that
36 they were talking about yesterday. That positioning,
37 from what they did, it's great, but it goes back to a
38 lot of other hunting techniques with other bears and
39 moose and a lot of other things.

40

41 Another thing here why I mentioned
42 climate change is like the dates and within the next
43 year -- I know it can't happen overnight. It will
44 probably take a few years, but maybe we sit back and
45 just watch the climate change and what happens in the
46 next few years and maybe possibly change those hunting
47 dates for moose and things.

48

49 We work on this system and it works for

50

1 everyone because if the people out there had those
2 dates and we're watching them and then the moose start
3 moving right at the last minute and then they didn't
4 get their moose. That's one of the reasons that the
5 winter hunt comes on because it's trying to help the
6 people that didn't get the moose.

7
8 So if we can maybe just watch what
9 happens with the climate change and then maybe on the
10 spot or maybe within -- I don't know. Just act on it
11 in that time and say, okay, we give you another week
12 because some of the people -- and it weighs it out, you
13 know, like I said. You don't have no people hunting in
14 the winter then and don't have all these little issues.
15 So it works.

16
17 I was really thinking about the
18 qualifications that I see to be fit to sit up there
19 with you guys. For me, as long as I'm here, I probably
20 wouldn't be educated enough to be sitting up there, but
21 still I have more education than you out there. So it
22 works both ways.

23
24 Let me see here.

25
26 Just a lot of what I'm saying is
27 possibly just a lot of understanding each other more
28 and better. I'll just go that far. Otherwise, there's
29 a lot of people here. I know we don't -- I'm not going
30 to sit up here all day and list a few of the things
31 that we do work on and if they work, kind of solve the
32 rest of it.

33
34 So thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
37 Just for clarification, I did ask about the deadline
38 and moving it. It's posted in the Federal Register, so
39 we're kind of tied to the deadline. But at any time
40 you can submit a special action if there is an issue in
41 your area that we can consider at any time. So if
42 there is something that arises with the take of
43 wildlife and fish and stuff, you could always submit a
44 special action for us to consider at any time.

45
46 The other Tom will add a little bit to
47 that.

48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Tom, for

50

1 your comments. Tom Doolittle, Acting Assistant
2 Regional Director of OSM. One of the things obviously
3 with the lapse in funding and the furlough did delay
4 some things, but also we needed to accommodate the
5 RACs. So our last two RAC meetings are actually next
6 week for the Seward Pen and Kodiak/Aleutians.
7

8 The designated Federal officer at those
9 meetings can still accept proposals even from other
10 regions from any person or entity. So that was one
11 concession that we made because of the delay relative
12 to the RAC meetings and then also our ability to be
13 able to provide that opportunity to get proposals in
14 considering the furlough.
15

16 MR. KRISKA: Okay, thank you. So
17 you're saying that we possibly still have time for some
18 proposals that we can maybe at a later date that could
19 be sent in or the deadline is the deadline?
20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: That date would be next
22 week at those two RAC meetings. So somebody would
23 actually have to present at that RAC to the designated
24 Federal officer, like Zach, and be able to present
25 that. So that does provide an opportunity that anybody
26 could submit the proposal, but we needed to obviously
27 make the concession for the RACs to function and
28 provide proposals and allow that process which is
29 allowable.
30

31 If any Staff would like to correct me
32 on that, but I'm pretty sure I've got that one pegged
33 down. So that is almost another week that's been added
34 to the equation.
35

36 MR. KRISKA: Okay. That would probably
37 help.
38

39 Thank you.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
42 questions or discussion with Tom.
43

44 (No comments)
45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
47 I think you're pretty smart, partner, for the record.
48

49 (Laughter)
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Ricko
2 DeWilde.

3
4 MR. DEWILDE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Members of the Board. My name is Ricko DeWilde. I'm
6 from Huslia, Alaska. I was born and raised in camp
7 until I was 18. I'm 43 now, but until I was 18 years
8 old I lived in the woods. Basically, if you didn't
9 know how to hunt or fish or you couldn't do it, you're
10 not going to eat.

11
12 That's a lot of reality today for rural
13 Alaskans, you know. We have our own way to basically
14 adapt and be stewards of the land. You know, take care
15 of our land and adapt to it. I think a lot of divide
16 can happen with people living out there and Board
17 members such as yourself that are making laws because
18 sometimes it doesn't always come together.

19
20 There's climate change now, so geese --
21 some educated lady she asked me does this date right
22 here coincide with when you guys want to hunt geese.
23 She gave me basically the hunting -- what would you
24 call -- when we're supposed to hunt them. To me, we go
25 by in Huslia, our people, we go by like when the birch
26 tree leaves are as big as beaver ears. That coincides
27 with when they're sitting on their eggs and they're
28 pretty skinny by then. So we always go by that. It's
29 a little different.

30
31 When these laws come in, sometimes they
32 always don't come in at the right time because of
33 global weather change. In a way, people get mad.
34 Especially like the caribou, shooting from a moving
35 vessel or whatever you want to call it. Growing up, if
36 we're hungry and we're going to eat and we see this
37 caribou, we're not going to stop. Oh, they're moving,
38 we've got to go the other way or whatever. We're just
39 going to follow them. It's not realistic to say we're
40 harassing them or anything because the chase doesn't go
41 for miles and miles.

42
43 I understand the concern from the Board
44 because you don't want these people out there in like
45 hovercrafts chasing them for miles or whatever. That's
46 not the same world. Rural Alaska is a different world.
47 Sometimes these laws can build division I think with
48 our people and the people on the Board and the people
49 that are living not in rural Alaska.

50

1 It's almost like -- you know, we've
2 been there -- it is for a fact that our people have
3 been there for thousands of years and we use this
4 ancient knowledge to help preserve the land and help to
5 live with the land and off the land. Sometimes all
6 these laws and all this development can make us feel
7 like guests on our own land and that's not a feeling
8 that we want to have. We're not guests.
9

10 The people that are making these laws
11 and the people that are wanting to develop they're the
12 guests on the land. We're going to be here for another
13 thousand years in our mind and we want to preserve it
14 for our people. When these laws are not in the right
15 interest for our people and our land, it creates a lot
16 of division.
17

18 I'm not here to cuss at nobody. I just
19 want to kind of show the anatomy of where the anger
20 comes in. Maybe there's a misunderstanding on our part
21 too.
22

23 With that being said, I want to talk
24 about the grizzly bear problems. We have a lot of
25 predators now and a lot of grizzly bears. At my cabin
26 I come in with my kids and the cabin is tore up, a very
27 dangerous situation for my kids. Especially before the
28 salmon run hits and before the berries, it's life and
29 death. Even to go to the outhouse I'm carrying a rifle
30 with me. You know, my kid needs to go pee or do a
31 number two or whatever and that's like -- you know, a
32 lot of grass, I've got to cut the grass. It's a very
33 dangerous situation.
34

35 It happens in the villages too.
36 Especially in fall time when those big bears don't have
37 enough food. There's a lot more bears now, so you have
38 a lot more problems. Grizzlies that are coming in and
39 sneaking around the smokehouses. Not really the black
40 bear because they're just going to kind of show
41 themselves and you could just shoot them, but grizzly
42 is a different animal. It's real smart.
43

44 So I think bear snares is really
45 important in that situation. If I'm going to be in
46 camp for a while with my kids, I'm going to put these
47 snares up in the area and that's illegal. I think there
48 needs to be a solution. I'm not saying let us snare
49 bears. It's not that simple. I just want people to
50

1 start considering what's going to happen with this huge
2 numbers of bears that are coming around and how to
3 resolve that.

4
5 Maybe traps or snares or some way as
6 first line of defense when you're sleeping. At least
7 you have something in the area. If they're sneaking
8 in, they're going to hit that before they hit the
9 cabin. It's happening in the villages a lot, so it's
10 something that needs to be addressed is just these
11 nuisance grizzlies with the bigger numbers that are
12 happening today.

13
14 I think that's about all I had to talk
15 about. There's more but I've forgotten. Probably a
16 good thing. I don't want to take up the mic all day
17 here. I really appreciate this opportunity to speak
18 and I really appreciate the open mind. That's what I
19 kind of want to push is for us to have an open mind and
20 for the Board to have an open mind and see where we're
21 coming from and see where this divide happens and just
22 understand the anatomy of it so we all get along and we
23 make the laws right because there's enough for
24 everybody to eat.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I just wanted
29 to say -- I know, again, I told the last guy about
30 special action and with the climate changing, ice
31 issues, break-ups, no access, I know we've been trying
32 to respond to the user groups in that regard. So if
33 there are issues with the timing that's off, I think
34 that's a prime example of when. This Board I know
35 really wants to make sure that the people get their
36 needs met and we respond to those requests pretty
37 timely.

38
39 So if there are times and windows that
40 are changing or access has been an issue, contact your
41 Regional Advisory Council or our office and we can try
42 to work through how to gain new access to that resource
43 if it is extending windows or changing the timeframes
44 to make sure that the people get their needs met,
45 that's our job is to help you on the land and managing
46 and making sure you meet your needs.

47
48 Appreciate your presentation. Again,
49 grizzly bears are also a big issue. We've heard it at
50

1 the last meeting and we're hearing it again. So I
2 don't know how we'll manage that. I know that's
3 outside sometimes the purview of this Board because
4 predator management isn't considered one of the things,
5 but increasing opportunity is. So maybe somebody eats
6 bears. I mean these guys eat bears but I don't.

7
8 MR. DEWILDE: We eat them, but the time
9 that we have a lot of trouble is either a starving one
10 in the fall or it's fishy. We don't eat them before
11 the berries come out. We wait for a month after the
12 berries come out and start eating them. So we're having
13 a problem with them when they're real hungry and
14 they're not edible.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank
17 you. I appreciate your testimony.

18
19 Any other questions.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
24 coming out here today.

25
26 MR. DEWILDE: Yes.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You look pretty
29 young for 43. Holy cow. I was like maybe 28.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Alissa's got a
34 question.

35
36 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Through the
37 Chair. My name is Alissa Rogers and I hear you on your
38 bear problem. We've been having an issue with bear
39 problems in my region ever since the salmon quit
40 running up to the spawning grounds in high numbers like
41 they used to. It has really affected their learning
42 about our foods, resources and how we put away our
43 food. So they've been coming down a lot more
44 frequently. I think it was like ever since 2011, 2012
45 when they really hit our area and it has to do with
46 conservation.

47
48 If you would like, we can definitely
49 work with you guys if you guys want to put together

1 like an adjoining proposal where your area, my area and
2 other areas in the state if they have the same issue,
3 we can come together and make one big, giant proposal
4 from all of us. If you would be interested in doing
5 so.

6
7 MR. DEWILDE: Very much. That's a very
8 good idea.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
13 Have a good day. Appreciate it.

14
15 Next we have Steve Kakaruk.

16
17 MR. KAKARUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Again, my name is Steve Kakaruk. I live in Fairbanks
19 and I've been there for 29 years. Originally my family
20 comes from the Seward Peninsula, Nome and
21 Teller. My wife is from the Yukon River and the
22 village of Kaltag.

23
24 I'm here today just to talk about
25 ceremonial moose and some of the issues in Fairbanks
26 regarding the process. Some of the problems I see, Mr.
27 Chair, with harvesting some of these moose for
28 religious, ceremonial and more importantly probably
29 spiritual purposes. So members from the Interior can
30 respectfully take care of their family members.

31
32 I say spiritually because it's always
33 been taught by our elders to thank our Creator and
34 spiritually remember where these animals come from, to
35 give thanks to these animals for giving themselves to
36 feed the families that are going through hard times.
37 That's what the people of the Interior do and I've
38 adopted that because that's where I live now.

39
40 A lot of these same kind of issues
41 happen no matter where you are from. Culturally, I
42 believe sooner morals and values happen no matter where
43 you are from and you adopt these values and you respect
44 them.

45
46 One of the things that I have witnessed
47 and seen in the Fairbanks area there seems to be a
48 targeting of cow moose by sportsmen especially through
49 means of muzzle loading season, archery season, winter

50

1 hunts and the like for sportsmen only.

2

3 As a recipient of living in the city, I
4 myself have adopted and tried to be within the legalese
5 of methods of taking these animals myself and educated
6 myself to use archery equipment and get the proper
7 documents to hunt those animals.

8

9 Yet, as a man that comes from a
10 cultural background of a Native hunter, even though I
11 grew up in an urban setting, it's difficult because as
12 the aforementioned ways of hunting they are depleting
13 the seed of these moose by having so many methods of
14 harvesting cow moose. Therefore, when the Fish and
15 Game or whomever say if you want to hunt moose for your
16 respected loved ones when they pass and honor them, you
17 must hunt a certain animal, which is primarily the cow
18 moose.

19

20 So, there again, I described to you and
21 I hope you see the big picture here where there needs
22 to be a solution. I bring this to you because I know
23 it's a State issue; however, we are all in this problem
24 together because no matter where you come from
25 spiritually we are all trying to take care of our
26 family, take care of the animals in a respectful way
27 and I just wanted to say this.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
32 Steve.

33

34 Any questions for Steve.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And this hunt,
39 Steve, takes place around the Fairbanks area you said?

40

41 MR. KAKARUK: Yes, primarily in the
42 Fairbanks area. There are a lot of people that live in
43 the Fairbanks area, Native people, some that moved
44 there for economic reasons, may be buried there or some
45 may go back to their home village, be it on the Yukon
46 or Tanana or Koyukuk Rivers and they may as well have
47 the same problem or issue of only harvesting cow moose.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for

50

1 that. Appreciate your testimony this morning. Have a
2 good day.

3

4

Next we'll call Mike Williams.

5

6

Welcome.

7

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. I'm going
10 to be brief this morning. My name is Mike Williams.
11 I'm secretary/treasurer for the Akiak Native Community
12 and the commissioner for Kuskokwim River Intertribal
13 Fish Commission and the past chair, currently serving
14 as vice chair, for the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish
15 Commission.

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First and foremost I'm a hunter, fisher
and gatherer for my family and grew up in that way in
the days that we regulated ourselves at home for our
food and for our needs for our families. So I had a
good, solid upbringing in that way and I still cherish
those days when we got what we needed for our families
without anybody bothering us or to regulate us and to
deal with those outside forces.

So I cherish those days.

The statement by Louis Green from up
north stuck in my mind what he said. He said he's seen
from those days of plenty to the point of depletion of
our resources, especially the fishery. So I just
wanted to commend you for opening that eye that it can
happen in the Yukon and elsewhere where it's happening.

I think in looking at our Kuskokwim
River and I was fortunate to have been living there
with all my relatives all the way from Nikolai to the
mouth of the Kuskokwim River. It's a very good river
that provided for us for thousands of years. In that
way we're confident that we're going to sustain that
fishery, especially the chinook that is in place that
we are concerned about now in recent times.

So in the recent times we had submitted
a special action request to close the river off, only
for the Federally qualified users from June 1 to June
30. That's the time when our chinook are swimming
mainly on the river. I think with that timeframe and
with our special action which came from the community
and also we shared it with all of the 33 tribes and

1 that was a public hearing and also tribal consultation
2 on our SAR.

3
4 My question is are those tribal
5 consultations and public hearings recorded and put on
6 record and those statements yesterday that we made are
7 on record?
8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that gets
10 presented to us and it's on the record. That's why we
11 hold a consultation process is to.....
12

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you so much. I
14 just wanted to make sure that those comments are looked
15 into. I think one of the main things that I wanted to
16 reiterate, the 2015 program that we had, especially the
17 issue of designated fisherman. We had that because of
18 the grave conservation concern that we had. We
19 instituted that program because of the concern that we
20 wanted to make sure those 7,000 fish were counted
21 accurately.
22

23 I commend all of our tribes up and down
24 the river for providing that number to you as Fish and
25 Wildlife Service in Bethel when we did that and those
26 numbers were very accurate. I commend the tribal
27 governments that were charged with that that gave that
28 accurate number.
29

30 My concern with windows is that we
31 cannot really have those accurate numbers. It's just
32 not going to happen. But once we engage each tribe and
33 I think that engagement with our tribes in working
34 relationship with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to
35 manage our fishery on the river will make sure that the
36 same thing doesn't happen with the Kawerak people.
37

38 That is what I think we can do on the
39 river. Placing a partnership together in good faith,
40 working together, I think we can fully achieve those.
41 Of course, like I said, we've been living there for
42 thousands and thousands of years and managed that. We
43 are not a liability. We are an asset in each
44 community.
45

46 We continue to reach out to you. We
47 continue to reach out to Alaska Department of Fish and
48 Game. We continue to reach out to the U.S. Fish and
49 Wildlife Service managers. When we come into
50

1 agreements, we trust them and we deserve the same
2 treatment because we trust those managers to come out
3 with what they are going to do. So I just wanted to
4 say that.

5
6 With those front-end closures, those
7 fish camps are ghost towns. Not like before where we
8 come in from spring camps to our fish camps and that
9 doesn't happen anymore because there's no reason to be
10 in the fish camp when we can't fish. I'll put away
11 some whitefish or pike or whatever other species, but
12 those fish camps where we take care of our families and
13 our food are ghost towns. So it's pretty sad to see
14 that. But I think with these decisions engaging the
15 villages, I think the tribes -- I think we can sustain
16 those and to revive those.

17
18 So I just wanted to make those brief
19 comments this morning.

20
21 Quyana.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
24 Mike.

25
26 Any questions for Mike, comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I just want to
31 say I deeply appreciated my trip down there with you
32 guys and going to the fish camps. It opened my eyes to
33 just the sacrifice the people on the river made to buy
34 in and build that trust with the agencies and it was
35 quite apparent when I was there. Like I said there, I
36 don't know if I could do that. So my hat is off to you
37 and everybody on the river for conserving the stock for
38 the future generations and then developing a solid
39 management plan that all of you can appreciate down on
40 the river.

41
42 Like I said, I really appreciated that
43 visit and was thankful to you and the hosts and just
44 the experience itself was mind-boggling. With these
45 resources dwindling, like we've heard this morning,
46 it's going to get more serious I think in the long run
47 with all the climate shifts and increasing population
48 and demand and stuff. These agreements and trust are
49 going to be, I think, critical to the future success of

50

1 programs and conservation.

2

3

Thank you, Mike.

4

5

6

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you so much. I just wanted to cordially invite all of you to come to our community, to my community or to our communities on the river. And we continue to invite you to make a visit not just for an hour. Bring your sleeping bag and we'll feed you some good fish.

10

11

12

Thanks.

13

14

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mike.

16

17

We'll move on to Ivan Ivan.

18

19

20

MR. IVAN: Thank you very much for the opportunity. Again, I was before you yesterday in the tribal consultation portion of your commission work.

21

22

23

I'm here to relay through you -- my name is Ivan Ivan, tribal chief, Akiak Native Community, also known as Akiak IRA Council. I talked with you yesterday and I've been doing this for many years, I sound like a broken record when I hear my comments to myself. I speak without notes in the past, and as a former legislator, I served six years in the State House of Representatives, 1990 to 1998 and I did what I could to represent my house district in the Bethel area. And our normal procedure is to make sure that we're on record, every work spoken, it'll be recorded, in my opinion, as we've done it at that level.

35

36

37

When we talk about issues that affect public members, be they are Alaska Natives or citizens, we're dual citizenship here. I'm going to be talking about the Native side of myself and the question I ask myself, why do I testify, why do I testify before you. the body, I understand, and I just got used to the Federal Subsistence Board, that's my understanding. And on my Native side, I will speak to you as a Federal government agency and Federal government that has worked with my father -- early, in the 1900s, and how they did government to government relationships, right in the wilderness or in the community. They have a signed agreement, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, gave us

50

1 recognition with the tribal consultation that they
2 promised to us, written, signed by Secretary James
3 Warner, Assistant Secretary, and they went by that
4 document to have government to government relationships
5 with Secretary of Interior, and their charge was the
6 social well-being of these Alaska Natives, social well-
7 being and health and economic opportunities that could
8 be described as hunting and fishing resources on our
9 land area.

10

11 That's who we are.

12

13 We are, of course, a minority in the
14 State government system and I served in Juneau as such,
15 but as a Bush caucus we were able to put together, all
16 the way from Barrow to Kodiak, Aleutian Islands,
17 Interior, we got together to further our issue and work
18 with the Anchorage or Fairbanks delegations as much as
19 we can. And our charge in the community, as our
20 Constitution says, to save our culture, that's the
21 instructions of our elders. Teach our children to hunt
22 and fish and exist. We are doing that today, we are
23 stepping up teach them our way of life so they cannot
24 be compromised or hurt by alcohol or drugs, the next
25 thing coming over to us is opiates, I don't know what
26 it is but I'm scared of it. We need to get back these
27 elders and I will participate in my community to begin
28 to teach my children, who are now parents and their
29 grandchildren to be a good citizen, tribal citizen, a
30 State and American citizen, and to take care of
31 themselves to be healthy.

32

33 Those are the challenges we have.

34

35 Since looking back the many years, and
36 it's been mentioned by myself and I've heard it in
37 these conversations, conservation issues started
38 thousands of years ago, never ever to waste fish and
39 wildlife resources, but to take what we need to feed us
40 throughout the hard long winters. And they would walk
41 around the community to make sure we followed the
42 tradition otherwise you would get a confidential
43 meeting with them and they would tell us what not to do
44 and they've done it for thousands of years. Today our
45 government -- and I said yesterday, everything is
46 upside down in my village of Akiak, today, with State
47 of Alaska governing us, subsistence issues, they're
48 impacting us. I can't say anything more, this could be
49 my last testimony, I've done it as much as I can. Our

50

1 people need to eat. Not just from the store shelf.
2 The fish and wildlife resources are healthy, the fish
3 is good for our blood, the heart, and muskrats, you
4 name it, otters, beavers, moose, caribou, that's what's
5 kept us alive for thousands of years. Our stomach
6 needs something in there, what we eat, our traditional
7 foods. We have been advocating, testifying, of our
8 hunting and fishing rights. Look at -- if we look back
9 to Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, in Section
10 4(b), it says that my aboriginal hunting and fishing
11 rights are hereby extinguished, how could that be done
12 to a human race, that's not right, it's got to be fixed
13 somehow. It's politics that can fix it I guess, but
14 we'll do our best to get it off that law, that law
15 amended, so that our people can live in harmony with
16 our environment, our people, and be happy to hunt and
17 fish and not have to look back behind them, where's
18 that Fish and Game warden, where's that -- no, that's
19 not such a good way. We look to you and I say, I'm
20 tried of testifying, we look to you year after year and
21 bring you these comments and issues and I'm relaying
22 some of our elders, that only know their way of life,
23 the food that they live on, they express to me in
24 confidence and in public to speak on their behalf, I'm
25 sitting here before you on their behalf because I can
26 take care of myself as best as I can. We look to you
27 to help us eat our traditional healthy foods.

28
29 Side from their -- everybody wants to
30 govern us. The Federal government, the State
31 government, you go to my region and you'll see
32 Kuskokwim Fishing Working Group, those are cities and
33 groups that get together, we started that whether our
34 people were going to go fishing, we wanted to preserve
35 subsistence fishing rights and told our own people,
36 take enough, don't go nuts on the river because of the
37 dollar, and they did hear us. That working group
38 consisted of our folks and today it's got other
39 citizens that really go against our effort to go on
40 with our way of life. Why. What is wrong with all of
41 a sudden 10, 15 years conservation that work came over
42 to us to say you can't take any more than so much
43 amount, we got to conserve, we did nothing ever wrong
44 on the Kuskokwim River to hurt that fish, Kiseralik,
45 Aniak, Tuluksak, Kwethluk, those were pristine, there
46 is little green grass around pebble rocks where they
47 spawn and we try to keep it healthy and tell our
48 boaters, don't go up there and mess around in that
49 area, that's the spawning area. We treat it as such.
50

1 We conserve the fish. We need to
2 conserve our human beings too, us out there that need
3 to eat the food, we're just like them. We're a part of
4 brown bears, we're a part of other animals that make
5 sure there's no -- what's the word they use -- in
6 headwaters, a lot of too much fish up there, I forgot
7 the word that they use, we're part of natural
8 protection of their survival, not over stock -- that's
9 the word, over stock, up there. And I've heard hearsay
10 that the fishing in Bering Sea sometimes, that they
11 throw fish overboard and I think chinook was part of it
12 over many years, it's not our fault in the villages,
13 but we're part of that resource to keep it going.
14 We're not asking -- we don't -- when we go down to
15 fish, we don't go nuts and get everything on the river,
16 no, we take enough just for us to dry fish. The early
17 part of the season is what we're looking for because
18 they dry easy with the sun and the breeze, that dries
19 them up fast. There's king salmon that go under the
20 ice and also under the snow, the early ones, we don't
21 bother with that, we just use them for eating only, we
22 don't try to hang it and dry it, but the main ones we
23 do our best -- our elders walk around where cutting
24 areas are and look at us and make sure we're doing
25 good, but these people are hungry, I don't know what
26 else more to say.

27

28 But these people are hungry.

29

30 They need fish.

31

32 We have this long winter, the long
33 winter is what we're always afraid of, especially this
34 time of year when we begin to be depleted, we look for
35 salmon roe that we prepare to deal with the long 22
36 hour daylight but please help us, I'm begging you. I
37 set aside my pride, please, have us fish. The so-
38 called tribal village governments, we are not there for
39 nothing, we're there to govern ourselves, we do that,
40 since time immemorial. Respect them, they do their
41 job, that's why we have all the abundance of resources
42 around us.

43

44 I used to be ashamed to talk like this
45 before public bodies but no more. But I don't intend
46 to hurt you personally in any way, shape or form, with
47 my comments, I only look to you to help us. We've been
48 sending proposals. We established that Kuskokwim River
49 InterTribal Fish Commission with hope of conserving --

50

1 feed our families, conserve the resource as much as we
2 can, Federalize it, the Federal government has been the
3 easier part for us to work with, the State of Alaska,
4 they don't work with us, they're just trying to put us
5 in jail as far as I'm concerned, cite us.

6
7 But those are my -- I'm 73 and I should
8 quit testifying, I'm getting bad, I mean, I apologize
9 if I hurt you. But we do need help.

10
11 I don't know what more to tell you,
12 these folks that come before you last -- yesterday and
13 today, they have the same message, we need your help to
14 manage our fishery.

15
16 We'll help. We'll do a good job, we've
17 done it for thousands of years, please trust us and let
18 us eat that fish. There's a lot of fish we see, I
19 don't know about the data, where they got it from, how
20 they got it from, we see it with our eyes on the river,
21 when the salmon is in abundance, we see it. When we
22 get worried -- I've said this before, get worried,
23 please help us, I don't want to use these words, but
24 I'm forced to represent my elders at home, especially
25 my wife who is ready with her (In Native) to put away
26 fish. We can't hurt our fish, we depend on them for so
27 long. Help us. Find a way. And I just want to ask for
28 -- we're on record, I hope, and -- because my
29 constituents at home might need to look at it and see
30 if I really testified coming here.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. IVAN: And make sure their comments
35 are on the record. Like I said yesterday they might do
36 something to me, but God Bless you all and we can
37 survive together, helping each other, that's our
38 tradition.

39
40 If you have any questions, I'll do my
41 best to answer, if I can't now, if it takes me a week,
42 I'll have Mike Williams electronic mail it to you or
43 fax it in, or whatever.

44
45 Thank you, very much.

46
47 And thank you for where you're at
48 today, to look out for our interests.

49
50

1 MR. IVAN: But I can't, I'm still in
2 the cave man state.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. IVAN: So thank you again.

7
8 MS. PITKA: One more thing. I'd really
9 like to thank everyone for their testimony today. The
10 testimony of the public and tribal members is very
11 useful to this process. Everything that you say gets
12 written down for the administrative record and it stays
13 in the Federal government for a long time. Everything
14 that you say will be used.

15
16 When I was growing up, personally, my
17 grandma told me, if I have to tell you more than once
18 you're in trouble, but some of these folks don't have
19 that same instruction so you have to tell them several
20 times, so keep on saying it, okay.

21
22 MR. IVAN: Quyana. Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We also had a
25 question about the -- sorry, I'm eating caribou here.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The
30 consultation process part, you know, some of you guys
31 spoke yesterday, that is being summarized and does get
32 presented to the Board on the agenda and it's in the
33 form of summarization so we can pull it forward and
34 consider it as we make our decisionmaking throughout
35 the meeting.

36
37 So just a point of clarification there.

38
39 All right, we'll move on to Shirley
40 Smelcer.

41
42 MS. SMELCER: Hi, I'm Shirley Smelcer.
43 Everybody knows me by Tursy. I was born and raised in
44 the Native Village of Klutika, aka Copper Center.

45
46 I've been there at fish camp, I'd say
47 from age 7 and I've got my connection through my
48 grandparents, my auntie, she had her fishwheel and my
49 grandmother had hers and then when I went down to fish
50

1 camp with them when I was like 7 I had to cut off the
2 heads, there was like 200 or 300 fish in the morning
3 catch, and that's not including all day and until
4 evening catch. It was a lot of fish then, I thought it
5 was a lot of fish. It was beautiful.

6
7 Then I moved away and I came back after
8 probably about 15 years and I got that connection again
9 and it just gave me a passion to start fighting for my
10 salmon and my wildlife. I want my grandbabies -- I
11 have a grandson, I'm going to take him out -- he's 12,
12 he's going to go out and get his first caribou this
13 fall, and I got a new gun, and we're going to go out
14 and try and go and get used to it and I want him to do
15 the same thing I'm doing with his grandkids.

16
17 And to manage fish and wildlife, it's
18 not working out very well. I got less than 100 fish in
19 my fishwheel last summer, and the personal use was
20 going on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, they
21 were closing it the rest of the week, but the only time
22 that was going on was when the fish were running, so we
23 got skunked either way. I think -- I don't think -- we
24 have somebody there going down and checking and talking
25 with them, the people, the dipnetters, but I don't
26 think you can figure out how many they're taking home
27 by just talking, you know, I think they need to -- I
28 think somebody needs to do a little more. I mean I'm a
29 Federal fishwheel operator, I go through Federal
30 because I live there. Yeah, I camp out down at my
31 fishwheel every summer, I stay, I live down there,
32 that's my thing. I got ran off by a bear last summer.
33 The first time I got a king and I hung it up on this
34 little rack that I made, it's a fish rack so I wanted
35 to get it air dried, not smoked or brine. I put it up
36 there, hung it up and there's a bear across the river
37 going back and forth and I'm going oh, my gosh, I threw
38 my dog -- I don't only have me down there, I have my
39 family down there, my three daughters and their kids
40 and their husbands, so it's a family thing we do. And
41 I'm teaching them what my grandmother and my aunt
42 taught me, and hopefully they do the same thing with
43 their kids. I'm pretty sure they will. But the bear
44 came around, and jumped -- came out and he was swimming
45 over across to the -- got halfway across and went into
46 rapids, got back to the beach and he walked on and then
47 he got in the river where the water's not so swift and
48 he almost got to my fishwheel, and so we packed up and
49 we went home, that just killed our summer. We just
50

1 said -- and then about a week later my wheel got lost
2 because the water was so high. So I got less than 100
3 fish last summer, I was really sad. Because I really
4 wanted some fish this winter and I didn't get my
5 portion.
6

7 So I don't know if you guys can do
8 anything about personal use or -- oh, and the boaters,
9 the boat with the dipnetters, there's another thing. I
10 got my eye-spies on, anybody that goes by the river, I
11 got my binoculars and I'm watching them and they're
12 dipnetting and what I'm watching for is if they're
13 moving and they're not. I mean they're coasting but I
14 don't think their motor -- I don't think it's going.
15 But this one guy likes to come over and does a brodie
16 there and waves my fishwheel, it's so annoying, I wish
17 I could throw rocks at him. But that's another problem
18 there, why don't they keep the boats with the
19 dipnetters -- and that's not subsistence because he's a
20 guide, right, that's not a -- you don't subsistence
21 fish on a guide, do you, I never heard that. But,
22 anyways, they should keep the boats on the lower
23 Tonsina side, down that way and let the fishwheels go.
24 That's what I think.
25

26 What else did I want to tell you guys
27 here.
28

29 I just got pointers down.
30

31 I figured I was going to talk from my
32 heart today, I am not going to write down and read off
33 the paper, so I got a bunch of pointers down. I almost
34 said them all already, though.
35

36 Yeah, that was my first king salmon
37 that I hung up on there and I had to take it home and
38 smoke it anyways, but it was good.
39

40 Oh, wait, let me look.
41

42 Yeah, I've basically said pretty much
43 everything.
44

45 You know, I love my wildlife and my
46 salmon, it's just a really deep passion for me and I
47 think we need to try a little harder, maybe work
48 together a little more, try to -- like everybody's been
49 saying, we got to do something, we got to help each
50

1 other out. Tell us what you think, we're telling you
2 what we think, you know, I mean that's the only thing I
3 could say, what do you expect, I mean I don't -- I just
4 want it to be plentiful again because we had a hard
5 time last summer on the Copper River, it was really
6 low, a low count.

7

8

Thank you.

9

10

Any questions.

11

12

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Anyone have any
questions for Tursy.

14

15

(No comments)

16

17

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So one of your
main points, Tursy, I guess you're saying is the
competition was affecting your ability to meet your
need.

21

22

MS. SMELCER: Yeah.

23

24

25

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Or was that
something that happened river-wide or was that.....

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MS. SMELCER: Well, the river was high,
but I got some of the runs -- when the runs would come
by, but the last one that went through and that's when
they opened it up, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and
Sunday for the personal use, I got like two or three in
the morning, that's not -- that's unusual, but the
river was a little high. I still get fish when it's
high.

35

36

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, I was
just trying to see was it common for other users who
are running fishwheels or.....

40

41

MS. SMELCER: Yes.

42

43

44

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:other
operations, that they had low runs as well.

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. SMELCER: They had low, yeah, it
was pretty -- they really thought somebody was taking
fish out of their fishwheel at night time because it
was so low in the morning. Your morning count is your
big count.

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, well,
2 thank you for that.

3
4 MS. SMELCER: All right, thank you
5 guys.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, we have a
8 question over here for you from Tim.

9
10 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Tursy, I'm trying to learn more about your fishery; is
12 that mostly sockeye and a fair amount of kings or what
13 species are you.....

14
15 MS. SMELCER: When you mean like when I
16 was with my grandmother when it was a lot, a lot of
17 sockeye. They had kings too. I don't -- like I
18 couldn't work with, they wouldn't let me touch the
19 kings, but I cut all the heads off the salmon, the
20 sockeyes, and back then -- oh, and another thing is,
21 you know, the pussywillows were out really early this
22 year, that means salmons are coming, they're going to
23 be coming here soon, so it's -- that's from an elder I
24 heard too. What we used to do is, you dig a big hole
25 there and sit in the -- by the river where it's cold,
26 and the sand will -- there'll be an area eventually rub
27 off all the slime and then the next day we'll cut it
28 up, but I'll cut the heads off. But, yeah, it's quite
29 a bit of sockeyes. I don't know how many kings there
30 were.

31
32 MR. GERVAIS: Okay, thank you.

33
34 MS. SMELCER: I'm sure it was pretty
35 plentiful too.

36
37 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

38
39 MS. SMELCER: Okay, is that it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
46 thank you Tursy.

47
48 MS. SMELCER: All right.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, we do
2 have three more for public testimony but at this time
3 I'm going to take a five, to 10 minute break so we can
4 stand up and stretch out and use the bathroom, whatever
5 we got to do. So I was trying to get through the
6 public testimony and they keep adding up, which is
7 important, so I want to make sure we have our
8 attention.

9
10 (Off record)

11
12 (On record)

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, we'll get
15 started here in a minute.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So we're going
20 to go ahead and start this meeting back and we're going
21 to resume with our testimony from the public.

22
23 Next, we have Brooke Woods, and I'd
24 just like to remind everybody these are for non-agenda
25 items. I really like to hear everything everybody says
26 but, again, there's a time for testimony for both
27 what's on the agenda and what's non-agenda items. And
28 so appreciate all the good testimony today but, again,
29 we're going to try to stick to non-agenda items if we
30 can, please.

31
32 So, Brooke, welcome.

33
34 MS. WOODS: Good morning, or good
35 afternoon. Thank you for this time, my name is Brooke
36 Woods. I am from Rampart, it is a very small fishing
37 community on the Yukon River.

38
39 I am a mother of five children. I'm a
40 student and I'm also getting an education at the
41 University of Alaska-Fairbanks. When I say student, I
42 am learning my ancestral and cultural ways of life from
43 my matriarchs. And in order to sustain that way of
44 life I have to learn these systems, which are yours.

45
46 I've learned a lot. This is my first
47 time testifying at the FSB so I've learned a lot while
48 being here. So I don't think any of my public
49 testimony is, what did you say, non.....

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, there's
2 agenda items, which is mostly fisheries proposals and
3 then non-agenda items. And so we try to keep the
4 testimony to non-agenda items so in case.....
5

6 MS. WOODS: Okay, great.
7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:there's
9 some things we can catch that are happening on the
10 ground that are important for us to take note of.
11

12 MS. WOODS: One thing that I wanted to
13 recommend to the Board is I really encourage you to
14 have proper notification to the tribes on tribal
15 consultation and the importance of the Federal
16 Subsistence Board and that you're doing all that you
17 can for the tribes to engage with the Board. I realize
18 how important your work is and I'm not sure if all the
19 tribes are aware of that so maybe you can have a
20 notification to the tribes on the meetings, what tribal
21 consultation is and maybe some background about FSB so
22 they're comfortable coming to the meeting.
23

24 Another thing that I wanted to talk
25 about was the trust responsibility and the importance
26 of subsistence statewide.
27

28 And I think that you've heard it
29 throughout the meeting on how important subsistence is.
30 We have to say subsistence is but it's ancestral and
31 cultural ways of life. How important it is to our
32 people. You have elders telling you how important it
33 is to them, please help them, and I feel that is your
34 responsibility and really want you to know that and put
35 your work into what people are saying with their
36 testimony.
37

38 I learned a lot about ANILCA this week.
39 It was very interesting to me to hear the testimony
40 about positioning and how ANILCA did not prevail and
41 then the divide on the vote for that situation.
42

43 And I'm going to be kind of skipping
44 around here and there because I actually have ANILCA
45 here in front of me and I'm learning about each section
46 and how important they are. And when you heard Stanley
47 Pete testify yesterday, that was powerful and
48 important, and I commended him at the Board of
49 Fisheries on the intent of his proposal that he was
50

1 speaking about. And then also to come here and make
2 his statement about it, and that's how we all feel.
3 That's how every Alaska Native feels in Alaska, that's
4 how important hunting and fishing is to us.

5
6 And another issue that -- so I'm
7 learning a lot about what issues people are facing
8 statewide, and how I'm connected to some of these
9 issues, like positioning. Traditionally we were
10 nomadic, we followed the animals, we know their
11 patterns, so positioning is very important, it provides
12 for a successful opportunity to provide for your
13 family.

14
15 Another issue that I learned about was
16 the potlatch moose hunt that was taken away in the
17 Minto Flats area. And I was looking at Section .809,
18 and I'm wondering if there was enough engagement and
19 involvement from the tribe there, in Minto, and if
20 there's something that you can do to support them, on
21 protecting their ways of life. And also learning from
22 them on what are the real issues and how they can
23 preserve traditional practices with the potlatch moose.
24 And, you know, we lose our family members but it's not
25 a given, but when that time does come, this potlatch
26 moose is so important because we're helping the
27 families provide, grieve, and put away their family
28 member in a very respectful manner, and also those are
29 teaching moments for our children. And a lot of our
30 cultural ties are to the land and animals and we are
31 having this time where are children are learning their
32 cultural practice with their language with immersion,
33 and also with these continued practices with hunting
34 and fishing.

35
36 And I don't know the system. Like I
37 said I'm a student, so to sustain my traditional ways
38 of life and my ancestral ways of life I have to learn
39 these systems so I might not always be correct here
40 while I'm testifying but I am making an effort.

41
42 And one thing that I -- another thing
43 that really resonated here with me was Pebble Mine, the
44 Arctic Refuge and Donlin. These -- you know that these
45 impact subsistence, and the people are telling you,
46 please help, and I feel that the Federal Subsistence
47 Board has the ability to do that and the agencies that
48 are sitting here today.

49
50

1 So, again, that's a responsibility that
2 you all have to uphold.
3

4 One of the classes that I'm taking at
5 the University of Alaska is history of colonization of
6 Alaska and if you have not taken that class yet I
7 really encourage you to do so. We were talking about
8 -- we were learning about ANCSA and ANILCA actually
9 last week and so I wanted to share a little more about
10 my understanding, interpretations and recommendations
11 to you.
12

13 So the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
14 Act was intended to quickly meet the real economic and
15 social needs for Alaska Native people and this couldn't
16 be done by the State so the Federal government
17 responsibility, ANCSA -- with ANCSA, there was no
18 compensation for the extinguished aboriginal hunting
19 and fishing rights and the Alaska -- I mean -- yeah,
20 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act,
21 ANILCA, was created for the promise of continued
22 opportunity for rural Alaskan, both Native and non-
23 Native that reside on public Alaska Native lands, but I
24 realize ANILCA was not the fix. It's somewhat of a
25 broken promise as I sit here and listen to people
26 testify. And one thing that I really notice is there
27 can be one amendment to ANILCA and that is having
28 Alaska Native preference, and I know that's not my
29 responsibility to figure out how to make that happen,
30 but it's definitely something that you all could work
31 on.
32

33 So the intent of ANILCA, and I wrote
34 notes so I'm going to be reading from my computer if
35 you don't mind.
36

37 The intent of ANILCA is to protect
38 subsistence use and I'm going to be speaking about the
39 Arctic Refuge. So the Section .810 process has the
40 ultimate goal of identifying ways in which impacts to
41 subsistence can be minimized through the notice and
42 hearing process. BLM has not used this process in the
43 .810 analysis and with the scoping and the EIS process
44 it has continued to marginalize and silence the
45 indigenous voices and the indigenous ways and that is
46 not the intent of ANILCA, especially if you have read
47 through Section .801.
48

49 The coastal plan, oil and gas and lease
50

1 program draft environmental impact statement is
2 inadequate in researching, identifying and analyzing in
3 planning for mitigation for potential impacts as a
4 result of the proposed three action alternatives for
5 the Bureau of Land Management implementation of an oil
6 and gas program in the coastal plain. And I feel --
7 some of the things that BLM is failing to do is to make
8 a positive ANILCA .810 determination for Arctic
9 Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon and other Gwich'in
10 communities that rely on the Porcupine Caribou Herd.
11 Their proposed action alternatives by BLM would result
12 in displacement impacts on calving, increased calf
13 mortality, impacts of migration patterns that impacts
14 those communities, that impacts subsistence and that's
15 the same for Donlin and Pebble. What are the people
16 going to do when the impacts are there in place. Where
17 are we going to go, who is going to help us, what are
18 we going to be hunting and fishing.

19
20 And we are out on the land and we're
21 with our families, we have purpose, we have roles, we
22 have well-being, and that's why we do the work that we
23 do around here, to represent myself, but I am a part of
24 so many organizations because I care, and I want to be
25 educated and I want to sustain my cultural and
26 traditional, ancestral well-being far beyond me. Far
27 beyond my children's generation.

28
29 And I think that is all I have for you
30 today.

31
32 Thank you so much for listening to me.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
35 Brooke. I'm glad you're educating yourself in the
36 process, the more people know the better they can do to
37 help regulate and change and continue, like we heard
38 earlier, flood us with proposals to make it fit the
39 activity of the people, you know, so we can consider
40 those things. So definitely appreciate your educating
41 yourself.

42
43 MS. WOODS: You just reminded me of
44 something.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MS. WOODS: Thank you. So I was told
49 that you do not have many proposals in place due to the
50

1 deadline and we also -- for myself to attend, we had to
2 wait for the new meeting date, so I do encourage you to
3 actually reconsider the deadline and have people be
4 able to submit proposals. Because there might, you
5 know, from this meeting, and with summer coming, and
6 fall, there might be ideas generating on proposals and
7 with the learning process there is probably the
8 potential for people to be able to do that.
9

10 Thank you so much.
11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
13 Brooke. And we can have Staff give you an idea, again,
14 we discussed earlier about still opportunity to submit
15 proposals to the next two RAC meetings, in person or to
16 one of the delegated officials. So there still is an
17 opportunity but with the deadline, it's hard fixed in
18 the public register and so we're kind of strapped to
19 the date that they posted, which is, you know, isn't
20 the answer we want to have to tell you but it's the
21 answer we're stuck with. And so within that we have
22 also special actions, if something is drastically
23 impacting your needs in subsistence window
24 opportunities.
25

26 MS. WOODS: Thank you, Anthony. And I
27 appreciate all the work that you do and one of the
28 things that I wanted to applaud you on is increasing
29 the public membership on the Board here. And that
30 might be something you might have to do again soon
31 because it's very important that we have those seats
32 open.
33

34 Thank you.
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
37 questions for Brooke.
38

39 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Alissa.
42

43 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Through the
44 Chair. Thank you, Brooke on your testimony, I really
45 greatly appreciate it.
46

47 I did want to tell you that if you
48 would like to increase public proposals to the Board, a
49 good thing is to have, host, or hold community meetings
50

1 or talk to the natural resources department in the
2 tribes and I know how difficult it can be because I do
3 it every month, I try to keep in touch with them. So
4 one of the things that would be a good suggestion,
5 would be, talk about these issues, make note of them,
6 keep really, really good notes and then as the years
7 progress, when the call comes in, you already have
8 something ready to go and you can submit it right then
9 and there. That's how I take care of my region, is I
10 hear the people out at all of the meetings that I
11 attend, I write the notes down and I keep them in my
12 house in a notebook that's specifically fish
13 regulations, specifically wildlife regulations and when
14 the time comes up, as to a proposal, because our time
15 is limited due to the Federal Register, we have these
16 things already ready to go and then we submit them.

17
18 MS. WOODS: Thank you.

19
20 MS. ROGERS: You're very welcome.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
23 that encouragement, Alissa.

24
25 Thank you, Brooke for -- oh, we have
26 one more.

27
28 MS. PITKA: The Council coordinator for
29 Bristol Bay approached me earlier and he said that he
30 would be willing to sit down with anybody and write
31 temporary special actions and proposals at this
32 meeting. I don't see him right now but he was out in
33 the hallway a few minutes ago so if you want to waylay
34 him with all of your proposals, that would be awesome.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
37 Rhonda.

38
39 Thank you, Brooke.

40
41 We'll move on to Darrel Vent, or
42 Darnel Vent.

43
44 MS. PITKA: Darrel.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Darren -- no,
47 Darrel, oh, I just met him out there, hey, I'm trying
48 to work through handwriting.

49
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. VENT: All right, good afternoon
4 Chair, Board Members and RAC members, and Staff.

5

6 I'm just here presenting a little bit
7 for individual feelings on some topics that were
8 brought before us.

9

10 One was the ceremonial use of animals.
11 As far as I could remember when our elders were telling
12 us stories about how we utilize animals, how we respect
13 them, I imagine it's like that with all Natives all
14 over Alaska that, you know, you have certain ways that
15 you treat them because we treat our animals with
16 respect. We learn to use them and what's unfortunately
17 happening around the Minto area is affecting a lot of
18 our areas and that's concerning.

19

20 We need to start dialogue to make sure
21 that something like this doesn't happen in the future
22 to other areas. It makes us worry because right now we
23 have some news that, you know, there's these people
24 that shot a black bear, a sow with some cubs, and this
25 was brought to us before and we had some people from
26 Florida approach us and say we don't agree with the way
27 you hunt. But the problem is with miss-information.
28 We hunt a certain way with animals. We treat them with
29 respect. We do not catch the sow with young cubs
30 because in our belief, if you take that life, it's
31 going to take a life from your family and that's true,
32 that's our belief. So we avoid those kind of
33 situations. But what this guy did on the news is going
34 to affect us in a different way. Our people, you know,
35 like I said we all need to live and eat and provide for
36 our kids and so it's something that I just wanted to
37 bring it out there and make sure you guys are aware of
38 what kind of things that's going to happen because of
39 what this father and son did to these animals out
40 there. We do not disrespect animals like that. We
41 want to make a point that, you know, this is us living
42 off the land, that's not what they were doing, they
43 were brought up to do things -- we do things a lot
44 different.

45

46 And on that note I'd like to talk about
47 predation a little bit, you know, we have a big problem
48 up here in Alaska that nobody understands our unique
49 system. We have animals out there like a moose, okay,

50

1 you got an animal which is a breeder, it's a big moose,
2 some of them maybe up to 80 inches, but the breed up
3 and they make good calves. Those calves are -- easy
4 out run a predator, but now we got another situation
5 with this problem, we got people who want that big
6 horn. They want to keep that horn, they're not doing
7 much with the meat sometimes we notice that because we
8 go to Galena, Fairbanks, Anchorage and some people are
9 saying down in Seattle, they're starting to see these
10 meats just sitting there spoiling in the dumpsters, you
11 know, it's not how we treat our animals but, you know,
12 it's unfortunate this happens. And now, I'm talking
13 about breeder bulls. What it does is that we're
14 allowing younger moose to breed because the breeder
15 bulls are going away.

16
17 It's like with the fish, you get the
18 big fish, those big fish go ahead, you get predation,
19 same thing. It all works together. That's our
20 livelihood. It's a cycle out there. We learn to take
21 care of things but we can't, if they take too much and
22 we end up with big packs of wolves. Like, for
23 instance, outside of Huslia, we got a pack that's 18,
24 you know, that's a big pack and this year they're
25 having trouble running through that snow because it's
26 got that crust now so it's cutting up their arms and
27 stuff, the moose. So, you know, it's an easier chance
28 for the wolves to catch them because they run right up
29 on top. Now, you know, the predation is high. We know
30 it's not only in the wolves but what we call the big
31 animal, which is the grizzly and the brown bears.
32 Those we have respect for, we don't try to bother them
33 but now we're forced to try to work and, you know, do
34 the predation thing -- it's not predation it's just
35 maintenance because nobody else is trying to do it.
36 We're having to pull money out of our pockets in order
37 to fix a problem that was created by somebody else.

38
39 And I hope we could find a way to
40 alleviate the situation by, you know, hey, could they
41 give us a little bit of help in trying to fix this
42 problem that was created for us. And it's something
43 that I know you guys are not -- not talking too much
44 about predation it's a different word, you know, we
45 want to work with the people but we consider it
46 maintenance, because somebody has to do it and we're
47 the ones stuck with the job. They create the problem
48 and we have to fix the problem, so that's just how I
49 look at it.

1 You know I had to bring that up there
2 because nobody's trying to do anything about it and if
3 it continues on we're going to lose our moose and we're
4 going to lose our fish, you know, it's a different
5 world out there. We're starting to notice in the
6 rivers, you know, that up and down the river of the
7 Yukon there, that pike is increasing in size, you get
8 up to 45 inches back when my -- when my elders would
9 tell me about it, it used to be about only 27 inches,
10 but now we're noticing a real big increase in these
11 pikes and we lost our muskrat in our area and we see
12 ducks are, you know, the population is declining and so
13 there's a big problem out there. And they're even also
14 eating themselves now. We noticed one of these guys
15 caught a fish and he pulled a pike out of its mouth, so
16 you look inside that pike's mouth and there's another
17 pike in there, and inside that pike there was a
18 whitefish stuck in there, so they were all going after
19 the whitefish but unfortunately two pikes were lost in
20 the action too, I guess, so it's a -- that's how things
21 are out there now. We're starting to notice things and
22 we're just trying to let you know there's a problem out
23 there and hoping we could try to find a way to fix
24 this.

25
26 And the last thing I'd like to talk
27 about, we brought it up earlier, yesterday, is about
28 positioning. You know, we've used this all our lives
29 and now we're starting to see that it's becoming a
30 problem because you guys have it in words and some of
31 our people are thinking, hey, you know, I don't want to
32 be a criminal but I want to feed my family. And I just
33 want to make sure that you guys understand that, you
34 know, we're not trying to do anything illegal, it's
35 just that we have to feed our families out there and I
36 just want you guys to know that from the bottom of my
37 heart that's how I feel about it. It's not about, you
38 know, breaking the laws or anything it's just about our
39 people want to eat. And that's some of the things that
40 we have to, unfortunately, and go up here and give you
41 information on that.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
46 Vent. I think you bring some good topics to the table.
47 Same problem in our area, predation and decline in
48 populations and so I can directly relate to the issue
49 you have there and management on the landscape.

1 Sometimes I know the agencies sometimes say our hands
2 are tied or whatever, but something has to happen
3 because it's a statewide issue now and in our area it's
4 rampant. And so just stick to it and keep doing what
5 you have to do to manage your area.

6

7

MR. VENT: Thank you.

8

9

10

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
appreciate it.

11

12

13

Stanley Pete.

14

15

16

17

MR. PETE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I'm Stanley Pete from Nunum Iqwa at the mouth of the
Yukon, on the south mouth.

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33

Today I, in my testimony, I'd like to
reflect a little bit, you know, about my dad's past,
you know, he never wanted to be involved with the
Office of Subsistence Management, the U.S. Forestry
Service or Fish and Wildlife because, you know, they
imposed all these laws upon him. But, you know, I have
come to the realization in the last year or so that we
need all these entities help now. You know, we've --
where I'm from we've recognized a lot of things that
have changed in the last year because of the climate
changing and we need the outside resources now to
assist us in studying the different migration patterns
of waterfowl, the changing migration patterns of the
sea mammals, the changing stock composition of the fish
affected by the global warming.

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You know it may not be too long before
I, myself, might have to be labeled a refugee. In the
last five years, in my community we've had to start
purchasing desanitization water filters in our area,
which has never been heard of. I purchased one for
myself because I had no choice. It was either buy that
product or go pick for ice somewhere because the
potable water was not potable it was saturated in salt.
And the durations of the salt water are getting longer
and longer in our area. This last year it was seven
months of salt water in my area. We don't have the
tank capacity in our area to hold seven months of water
so we had no choice to get -- to buy filters to remove
the salt water.

You know in the last 50 years times

1 have changed so drastically, you know, my dad did not
2 want to be -- deal with the Federal government's rules
3 and regulations that were imposed on him, and now in my
4 time I'm -- I want the Federal government to help us,
5 we need to understand, I believe, more of what climate
6 change is going to do in the near future for our
7 ability to harvest fish and wildlife. I see it as
8 inevitable. You know, we don't -- people always tell
9 us, we come from a, you know, a financial region that's
10 really not very strong but the vast amount of
11 subsistence food that we harvest is probably close to a
12 billion dollars worth of subsistence food that this
13 region harvests so the subsistence food in the YK-Delta
14 region is really, really -- they rely so much on
15 subsistence that, you know, I believe we have no choice
16 but to ask for assistance from the Federal government
17 to assist us in studying what effects climate change is
18 going to have in our region. You know, I, myself, you
19 know, I don't know how much longer I'm going to be able
20 to live in my village if, you know, if it's you know
21 already seven months of salt water and, you know, in
22 the near future it might be a whole year, then I'll be
23 a refugee, and where am I going to move to, I don't
24 have no hunting grounds anywhere else but, you know, I
25 have lived in Nunum my whole life, you know, where are
26 they going to relocate me to, Anchorage, you know, I
27 thought of moving here but, you know, I don't have
28 boats or motors or fourwheelers or my favorite grounds
29 and areas like this. You know, moving to another
30 village I don't want to impede on somebody else's own
31 hunting and fishing grounds but it's, you know, I
32 believe it's important now for the people of the Yukon
33 Kuskokwim region to seek help and seek assistance from
34 the Federal government and really try to learn to
35 recognize and help us to see what's in store for us.

36
37 You know, I heard somebody mention
38 earlier the pristine waters of the Kuskokwim. Well,
39 apparently over in, you know, my studies and sometimes,
40 you know, obtaining a lot of information is good but
41 sometimes it's really burdensome to myself to realize
42 that how much this world has changed and how much it's
43 going to affect my children's near future. You know,
44 the pristine waters of the Yukon are not what they
45 were. You know I recently found out the Yukon is
46 putting so much carbon into the Bering Sea, it's
47 changing the composition of the Bering Sea, the pH
48 balances are changing and it's becoming acidic. The
49 Kuskokwim is -- you know, they said pristine earlier
50

1 but it's starting to dump carbon into the Bering Sea.
2 And, you know, I question myself, where's all the
3 carbon coming from, there's not that much people in
4 Alaska. Apparently, you know, in my lifetime I've
5 recognized the prevailing winds are coming from Asia
6 and Europe, picking up moisture over the Bering Sea,
7 mixing with all that carbon and putting it in my
8 backyard.

9
10 We've recognized the stocks of fish
11 have changed. The migration patterns of the birds have
12 changed. Biologists verified with me that the
13 migration patterns of the sea mammals are changing,
14 they're staying longer, they're going farther.

15
16 You go to the big fish meetings, the
17 cod stocks are down, the pollock stocks are moving
18 farther north, crab stocks are in decline so, you know,
19 maybe I'm venting, unleashing all the knowledge that I
20 have that I've been burdened with on to you guys. So
21 with all the Federal entities and agencies here, maybe
22 you guys can assist us and help us with, you know,
23 assist us and to help us in the near future so we can
24 continue to harvest fish and sea mammals and waterfowl
25 and game.

26
27 So with that, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
30 Stanley. I really appreciate your testimony and
31 sharing your burden, I think that's what this process
32 is about is so we can identify problems as they're
33 happening and maybe before they happen sometimes so we
34 can help address at least what our mission is here is
35 to try to maintain that relationship for rural
36 residents with the environment, the natural resources
37 we need to sustain ourselves. And so I don't think
38 you're a burden to this process, I think you are the
39 process.

40
41 So I appreciate you coming here today.

42
43 Any questions for Mr. Pete.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
48 appreciate it.

49
50

1 MR. PETE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And with that
4 we have our last testimony for the morning. Gerald
5 Alexander, Fort Yukon.

6

7 MR. ALEXANDER: Good morning, Chair.
8 Members of the Board. My situation up -- I'm from Fort
9 Yukon and I live on the banks of the Yukon River, the
10 Porcupine River is adjacent to the Yukon, and my
11 situation up there is with our annual moose hunting
12 season in the fall.

13

14 During the fall season we travel -- we
15 have to travel about 30 miles up to actually pick up
16 our rifles. Due to this fact of this dual management,
17 State and Federal land. We're forced to pay \$6.40 a
18 gallon, \$8 a quart of oil and this is causing us quite
19 a few -- us, quite a bit -- our financial status is not
20 keen, you know. And in order to get our moose, we have
21 to travel that distance and our water ways are not
22 exactly straight. You know, it winds through these
23 State and Federal lands. And then traditionally you
24 come upon a bull moose and it's on State land, what do
25 you do, you know, that bull is offering himself to you;
26 do you pass it, wave at it, shoot it next time, but
27 traditionally we're entitled to take him. So if we
28 take him, we take him home, harvest it and put it away.
29 But in the meantime we're looking over our shoulders
30 every five minutes waiting for the Feds to come get us
31 and take it away. And as a provider for three
32 families, my daughters, my mothers, myself, you know,
33 they'd take my boat, my motor, my gun, what am I left
34 with, you know, it's tough up there. But I don't only
35 speak for myself, I speak for everybody that has to go
36 through the situation.

37

38 And there's a lot of people here in
39 this room right now that's probably agreeing with me
40 and I'm not sure, but, anyway, in order to get my
41 caribou I have to travel 700 miles round trip, into
42 Canada and back out and that's over \$3,000 which I
43 can't afford, but eventually somewhere along the line I
44 manage it. During these dual managements on these
45 lands I've encountered a lot of cows. I've seen it, we
46 do not take cows, whatsoever. We had a problem with
47 cows back in the day where people were just taking
48 anything they can because there was no management, but
49 I agree with everybody that, you know, a cow, once you

50

1 take a cow you take 10. But the way I was brought up
2 was to take a bull, it doesn't matter what size it is,
3 as long as it feeds the family. And I've contacted a
4 few people in my community and I asked them about this
5 situation and they said, well -- and they said, well,
6 just let it go, and that's not what I wanted to hear,
7 you know. And I'm sitting in the back room there
8 trying to debate on whether to come up here or not, and
9 spit it out and, you know, what is the FSB going to
10 say, are they going to allow -- you know, this State
11 land surrounds Fort Yukon, and I have to travel many
12 miles just to pick up my rifle and I don't want to pass
13 a bull if it's around the corner, I want to take him
14 and go home and then get back to work.

15

16 So that's my statement here.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
21 Alexander.

22

23 Anybody have any questions or comments
24 for Mr. Alexander.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It's' just
29 unfortunate that we do have this dual management system
30 and it does sometimes run into those issues and I just
31 wish you the best of luck with your hunting and
32 hopefully you can -- and we can find a solution to
33 that, but I think we're 20 years into this trying to
34 find a solution and hopefully we can find it soon.

35

36 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Chair.
37 Board.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Charlie Titus
40 from Minto.

41

42 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for
43 accepting the worst for the last or the best for the
44 last.

45

46 Mr. Chairman. Members of the Board.
47 RAC members. My name is Charlie Titus, Jr., and I'm
48 from Minto. And for those of you who don't know where
49 Minto is it's about 50 miles north of Fairbanks as the

50

1 crow flies, 130 road miles on the Elliott Highway.

2
3 Mr. Chairman, Minto is located on State
4 land of the Refuge, you have no jurisdiction over that,
5 the State Board does but I'm bringing to you a problem
6 that we all have as tribal members of Minto. I'm a
7 former Chief of our tribe, tribal members scan a little
8 over 600. And I'll give you a little background of who
9 I am. I've got a new title. I'm elderly mentor to the
10 youth emerging leaders from TCC, just appointed
11 recently. I was born, Mr. Chairman, Members of the
12 Board, and next week it'll be 71 years ago in the Minto
13 Flats in a tent in the muskrat -- muskrat tent, wall
14 tent. My mother and father were subsistence hunters
15 and gatherers. My father went to the third grade, my
16 mother went to the fourth. He lived that lifestyle all
17 his life, off the land. The change in -- many of our
18 last speakers talked about the changes they've been
19 going through. I was born in that area when there was
20 no lamps, no electricity, and my food came off the land
21 for the first seven years, seven, eight years,
22 including my mother's formula. About the eighth year,
23 everything I know, remember, as far back as I can
24 remember was food that was taken off the land, very
25 little from the store, there was no Safeway, there was
26 no Fred Meyers, and I remember vaguely what -- how good
27 that moose taste, fresh goose, or fresh geese, we -- I
28 sustained that life until one morning, one day, I was
29 eight years old and my mother told me, you've got to
30 leave; I have to leave, to go to a boarding school. I
31 went to (indiscernible) that connection with my family
32 was lost then. Very little I lost -- at eight years
33 old I was beginning to speak my language, I was
34 beginning to understand and then I got sent to
35 Wrangell, all that stuff was -- they said you're going
36 to have to forget that. That's the first time I ever
37 ate -- I guess I should call it caucasian food, or
38 Western -- and sustain the Western way of life. I
39 don't remember -- I thought it was good at first
40 because that was good, there's sweet stuff in there and
41 that food was different, but those boarding school
42 years, was another survival story. I never got out of
43 the boarding home school -- I graduate from Mt.
44 Edgumbe, my friend from Barrow, or your new name,
45 Charlie Brower, he graduated from there, too. I got
46 out of there in 1967. Through those years before that
47 I lost -- connection with the hunting tradition and
48 what was going on but then we lived through the Land
49 Claims Act, what it was doing, you start reading about
50

1 it, the change. I think for a lot of us it was
2 terrible.
3

4 My father, bless his soul, he passed
5 away in '93, he never got over it. His livelihood
6 taken, the rules and regulations he had to follow. And
7 it kind of devastated him, he died -- I know he died
8 wondering what happened to him.
9

10 The change we went through.
11

12 I'm talking about the food that we eat.
13 I can't imagine going through or how I went through
14 those years without my traditional food. I remember, I
15 was roomed at Mt. Edgecumbe Wrangell with six of us in
16 the room, and four of those guys were Inupiaq guys and
17 one Yup'ik and one guy from the lower Yukon, I remember
18 when we used to get our food it was a treasure to us.
19 We used to get packages from home and we couldn't keep
20 it to ourselves, we had to share it with everybody in
21 our room. That was god sent, we learned to share, we
22 learned to eat, learned to eat food from Barrow, from
23 lower Yukon and the Yup'iks and they ate my food. We
24 had dry meat, geez, we were all happy because it was a
25 taste of home. Then we got older, we started going
26 into these regulations, and being a leader of my
27 people, how are we going to sustain this food, the
28 crises we go through, how are we going to fight it.
29 You know Minto was right on the border of Fairbanks, we
30 got a lot of armed forces going there, people from Ft.
31 Wainwright, from Eielson, a lot of military going in
32 there hunting and, you know, in the fall area, you see
33 that picture, the Copper River where all the cars are
34 parked, same way at Minto. One time when the State was
35 -- in 1959, 1958, my father had a short contract with
36 the State before it became a state, they were mapping
37 the area and he had his little 18 horse skiff, little
38 boat, taking the surveyors out there to mark the land.
39 And we climbed this one traditional look out where we
40 always go look for animals and they set up their tripod
41 and they were taking measurements and readings and I
42 asked my father, father -- dad, what are they doing,
43 what are we here for, he looked at me, for a moment
44 paused for awhile and he said some day, you see this
45 land out here, you see the water, yeah, I looked at it,
46 he said some day you're going to share that with all
47 walks of life. At that time, you take a boat out there
48 and never see another person for a week. And it never
49 did occur to me until later, today I'm living that
50

1 life. I see people from all over. I have a camp right
2 in the middle of the Preserve, my father willed his
3 trap line over to me, his Native allotment, and so I
4 built a cabin there, I put a house there for my family
5 where we could go to get away from people, to live my
6 life. But you know even that trap line has been taken
7 over by Fairbanks people and I no longer trap there. I
8 see it but it's already taken over by somebody else.
9

10 Traditional. We had a gentlemen's
11 agreement. I remember my father, you never trap on
12 somebody's line. That was criminal in those days, but
13 today it's no longer there. That agreement is gone.
14

15 We used to have treaties between
16 tribes, you know don't go over into another person's
17 territory and hunt or trap unless you have permission
18 from the tribe. That was war. But we don't have those
19 agreements anymore, you know, those things that was
20 born in us, our father's taught us those things. Now,
21 this is the type of situation we go through in one
22 person's life. And it's puzzling, hurtful and a little
23 bit of anger but -- and so much in my life, I'm getting
24 to try to understand it and accept it and live with it,
25 within certain borders of course.
26

27 And the moose hunt, you know, the
28 connection we Native people, say indigenous people,
29 where we see our animals, there's a sacred connection
30 with those animals and us.
31

32 I'll give you a little example.
33

34 How we think about those animals and
35 how we think about the connection we have with them.
36

37 One time I was about nine, I'll say I
38 was about nine, I could remember pretty well that day.
39 I was out with my father, I don't remember the details
40 why we were out, but there was a camp robber sitting in
41 a tree and I had a .22, we always carried a .22 for
42 rabbits or grouse or whatever food we see, you have a
43 chance to get it for dinner. But, anyway, there was a
44 robin up there and I wanted to try out my rifle, my .22
45 rifle so I shot it, that was a big mistake, I never
46 forgot that incident. My father went berserk, he said
47 why, you know, he scolded me, and said why did you do
48 that, give me a reason why you shot that bird. I had
49 no reason. He said -- I said I have no reason, I don't
50

1 know why I shot it, he said you know something, he said
2 in our lifetime -- why did you shoot that bird that
3 comes after and cleans up after you, he has a purpose
4 in life, that bird, he feeds other birds and he cleans
5 up after the waste, you don't kill something that
6 sustains you. He said never kill anything, animal,
7 unless you're going to eat it or use it as a garment or
8 any necessity you could get off that animal and that
9 was a great lesson to me. I've always remembered that,
10 never kill unless you need it. If you're hungry, if
11 you have a lot of food and you see an animal, you don't
12 need to kill it because you don't need it.

13

14 I don't know how this cow hunt came
15 about. At the time, that 2009, I was working as a
16 substance counselor -- as a counselor for Tanana
17 Chiefs, elderly counselor for substance abuse, I was
18 working over to where they had a camp, and every week
19 we'd fly out there. I remember hearing about the cow
20 hunt in Minto Flats, -- I was Nenana Minto Advisory
21 Board to the Fish and Game, but at that time I was off
22 working so for the last 30 years I've been on and off
23 of that board, but any -- that committee -- I heard
24 about this -- but I wasn't paying much attention, I
25 said, oh, no, way, they wouldn't do that, nobody in
26 their right mind would have a cow hunt, take 100 moose
27 off the Refuge, because I wondered why anyhow, I didn't
28 know their biological reasons, the scientific data they
29 had, but we got on that plane and it was March and it
30 was a beautiful clear day we were flying out, flying
31 back to Fairbanks and we were flying over the Flats and
32 I start seeing these red patches and I said, oh, my, I
33 told the pilot, there were wolves out here, uh, I never
34 seen wolves in that abundance around here, and he said
35 no that's that cow hunt. I looked at him and -- cow
36 hunt -- he told me they were having a cow hunt out
37 there and, you know, I'm a pretty strong person, I went
38 through a lot, I went through boarding school, I could
39 take a lot of things, but, you know, immediately a lump
40 got in my throat, I started remembering my father and
41 my grandfather, my people, and I swear a tear rolled
42 down my eyes after reading so much about subsistence
43 and our lifestyle and that picture came to my mind, I
44 remember reading about the buffalo and seeing this
45 picture of this -- all buffalo heads and guys standing
46 with their rifles smiling and I thought is that where
47 our moose is going, too. And every time you kill a
48 cow, how many calves did that cow have in its lifetime.
49 It was kind of scary. And I felt sad, I went home and
50

1 told my wife about it and I said, how am I going to
2 justify this to the youth, how am I going to teach them
3 that that's wrong, and my beliefs.
4

5 These young emergent leaders, people
6 from Mt. Edgecumbe, Sitka, I hope they hear this and
7 you, Board members, it causes a broken heart in a lot
8 of ways, all around. I'm sorry that it ever happened
9 and today -- and just last winter they had another -- I
10 don't know how many cows have been taken off that
11 Refuge, I don't have the number now but I'm sure it's
12 pretty high, and you know what a lot of our people
13 didn't do that. I'll say maybe five, 10 percent,
14 Minto/Nenana tribe.
15

16 Last winter, they said they're going to
17 have another one and I was against it but I wasn't on
18 the board, I was too busy with counseling -- my own
19 council, I was the Chief of the Minto, but they said 25
20 moose will be taken out, I didn't like the thought, I
21 objected to it, I told other people, our tribal
22 members, our council that I didn't think it was right.
23 but out of that 25 only one from Minto was taken and
24 one from Nenana, the rest was all Fairbanks. I said,
25 how could you justify something like this, and then
26 take away our ceremonial kill for burial. I said we
27 can't -- they stopped the hunt in the middle of winter,
28 it was supposed to go from February -- I mean October
29 15th to February 10th, but by Christmas time they cut
30 it off because it was already taken, and then about a
31 couple weeks later they called me up and asked -- there
32 was nobody to serve on the Minto/Nenana committee and
33 they asked me to see if I could come back and serve on
34 there, I started thinking about it and then asked them,
35 well, why did they cut off the hunt and they said,
36 well, we already took enough moose and I said, well,
37 how about the ceremonial hunts, I mean, you know, the
38 potlatch moose, we're going to have to cut that off
39 too. And I said over the years did you think of that
40 before you even started the cow hunt and I never got an
41 answer, and now they're cutting it off and it's really
42 hard to understand that because we have a lady, my Aunt
43 Sarah, she's the last of her generation, I think she's
44 almost 95 or 96 years old, the last fluent speaker of
45 our tribe and she's on her deathbed and she's going to
46 go maybe any day now, or within the next month, but I
47 said what are they going to do about her potlatch, her
48 funeral potlatch and they said, well, I guess they'll
49 make criminals out of us again, and that's where it
50

1 came from, the moose potlatch, from Minto, in the first
2 place, and now they're going to stop it and make
3 criminals of us again. All that brought back the duck
4 hunt, the duck in, how are we going to sustain our
5 people.
6

7 You know, I was saying where I was
8 born, 90 or 95 percent of the food came off of the
9 land. Today for the Minto people, the Minto tribe,
10 it's probably about 25 percent at the most, but we
11 still depend on the land for food.
12

13 It's challenging to get out there and
14 do it because you have to run a gauntlet with the
15 Fairbanks people. You'll be lucky now if you get your
16 moose in the fall.
17

18 Mr. Chairman. Members of the Board. I
19 don't know how -- I know it's -- I hope it makes us all
20 think. I know we can't bring back things like it used
21 to be, but there's got to be a way to just smooth
22 things over, okay. I guess I have no other explanation
23 for that. But that's what we're living through. I
24 hope in your capacity, you'll bring this back to the
25 other areas, I can't see it happening, what if we do
26 that in Minto -- or in the Yukon Flats, it'll just wipe
27 out their population or take it down to the Kuskokwim
28 River, wipe out their food source.
29

30 I'm so happy you're here. I'm glad, in
31 my heart I am glad you're here and doing things about
32 these situations, conserving our land and animals
33 because we need you and I'm sure you need us too.
34

35 I'll stop there on the moose hunt, Mr.
36 Chair, but I'll move on to other things I wanted to
37 bring up.
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Titus, I'm
40 just going to ask that you maybe could keep it brief, I
41 mean I really don't want to cut people off or interject
42 but we do have a lot on our agenda, moving forward from
43 this portion of our agenda, so out of respect for you
44 I'll probably hear a few more of your points but if we
45 could keep it.....
46

47 MR. TITUS: Okay. I'll give you two
48 short ones.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2
3 MR. TITUS: Mr. Chair. The sacred, the
4 bear hunt. The sacredness -- you know we heard about
5 this individual, about the bears being taken and it's
6 another thing that we have connection, a spiritual
7 connection to these animals, and that's what the
8 gentleman earlier was saying, we have to respect that
9 and not take it as people -- we're not there to take
10 that animal for nothing. It's a food source for us.
11
12 And one other thing about global
13 warming, Mr. Chair, it's affecting all of us out there.
14 At home we couldn't go out and get no duck, geese
15 hunting because the ice is still rotting already. We
16 used to be able to walk out there, we can't walk out
17 there because it's all melted already, those kind of
18 things. And then the invasive of species, plant
19 species that's coming into our land and waters.
20 There's a stream about 15 miles below Nenana between
21 Old Minto and Nenana, it's infested with foreign, what
22 do they call it, plants, water plants, that's where Old
23 Minto -- we used to get our source of fish, protein,
24 whitefish before the salmon came in but now it's
25 invaded by foreign species of water weeds, they
26 wouldn't let us go in there with motors any more until
27 the biologists -- until they understand where it's
28 coming from but they said if it gets into the Minto
29 Flats it'll wipe out a lot of the fish species there so
30 if it happens in Minto Flats, who's to say it couldn't
31 happen somewhere else, on the Kuskokwim River, or the
32 tributaries. The warmth of the water, why didn't it
33 happen before, the water was too cold.
34
35 So I hope your biologists are aware of
36 this and keep an eye open because we're warming up up
37 there and it's our lifestyle, our animals are being
38 affected.
39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
43 Titus.
44
45 Any questions or comments.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate your
50

1 testimony -- okay, Alissa and then Louis.

2

3 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 I'll make this really quick. I just wanted to let you
5 know that I was looking up the trapping regulations and
6 my suggestion to you would be to submit a proposal for
7 trap regulation boundaries or distance trap area and
8 establish a trapper's aerial log or plot system like
9 they do in the Bristol Bay for commercial fishery, and
10 the priority would be given to the cultural and
11 traditional use peoples of that area.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. TITUS: Yes, thank you. It's a
16 unique situation there, and I mean even if you do put
17 it in, you know, Minto's right over the hill from
18 Fairbanks, so those things don't apply to Fairbanks
19 people, as well as the tribal members, so I'll try.

20

21 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Through the
22 Chair. I'm going to give you contact information and
23 I'll help you write that.

24

25 MR. TITUS: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

28

29 Louis.

30

31 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Through the Chair. Mr. Titus. I witnessed the same
33 thing with cow hunts in the Nome area and I was
34 wondering, it affected us, and I was against it, I
35 didn't believe in it either. My father made sure I
36 understood why. But I think it took place for 20 years
37 and 20 cows a year, if I get those numbers correct in
38 my head, it's been awhile since it took place. But the
39 one thing that I can say and I'm proud of, is that I
40 had a young son that was taking over my hunting for the
41 family and I seen him in that line one night at the
42 Fish and Game office and I was kind of upset about it
43 and so I went over there and I asked him what he was
44 doing and he said I'm standing in line to get a cow tag
45 and I said, well, it's not a good idea, and I said what
46 are you going to do with it, and he says when I get one
47 I'm going to burn the tag so I taught him good lessons,
48 I guess.

49

50

1 But I wanted to know how it affected
2 your hunting over there after the cow tags.

3
4 MR. TITUS: I went on a snowmachine the
5 other -- a couple of weeks ago, two or three weeks ago,
6 cutting a new trail to my cabin because the ice was too
7 rotting to take a chance on the river and I noticed
8 before, in years past how much moose tracks, you know,
9 the habitat around, and it was very far and, you know,
10 maybe for five miles you'd see tracks crossings but
11 then I didn't see any and I live 11 miles from Minto to
12 my cabin and I haven't seen one. And I went geez,
13 that's -- and last year I didn't get a moose for my
14 family and I didn't get one this winter. So great
15 effect, a lot of people didn't get their moose in
16 Minto. Some of them -- the residents of Minto live --
17 the population there now, a lot of people move to the
18 city for economic reasons, but like right now there's
19 about 100 people.

20
21 MR. GREEN: Thanks. So how much of
22 that is tribal or corporate lands there that you have?

23
24 MR. TITUS: There's quite a bit of
25 corporate land, I think there's some Doyon land, and
26 there's really no way to control that, you know, where
27 they hunt unless you cross -- unless you have people
28 watch it through hunting season.

29
30 Does that answer your question.

31
32 MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Titus. Thank you
33 very much, and I see the same thing at home.

34
35 MR. TITUS: It's hard to monitor that
36 land because it's all, you know, checkerboard all in
37 the flats.

38
39 MR. GREEN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
40 Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 guys. And I thank you for that engagement there.
44 Thank you, Mr. Titus, for your testimony today,
45 appreciate it. And hopefully you can get -- we were
46 looking here and as far as the management, most of that
47 area is State managed.

48
49 MR. TITUS: Right.

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And so
2 hopefully the guys are listening over here, as well, as
3 we are, so thank you for your time today. Appreciate
4 it.

5
6 Well, we have to give everybody fair
7 crack, so Operator, is there somebody on the line that
8 wanted to testify before we're done.

9
10 MS. CARTY: Mr. Chair, is my line
11 active.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We can hear
14 you.

15
16 MS. CARTY: Good morning, afternoon now.
17 I'm Courtenay Carty, Curyung, Tribal Council. Thank
18 you for the opportunity to participate telephonically
19 as we are caught up with our Pebble hearings and
20 quarterly reports and unfortunately we're not able to
21 be in the room with you today, but it's very important
22 to get on the record. I tried to talk yesterday during
23 the tribal consultation and wasn't able to do so so I
24 thank you for the opportunity to testify on the record
25 today.

26
27 It's probably better to get some of
28 this stuff on the record. I know some our testifiers
29 before me were able to speak. I'm going to try to talk
30 slow. I know you guys are ready for lunch but please
31 try to be attentive.

32
33 In the room I have Renee Rocky, she is
34 our tribal environmental coordinator for the Curyung
35 Tribal Council, I am the tribal administrator.

36
37 Here in Curyung we have four tribal
38 priorities for our tribe. We have the largest
39 Federally-recognized tribe in Bristol Bay with 2,755
40 living members. Our four priorities are:

41
42 Culture.

43
44 Subsistence.

45
46 Education.

47
48 Native justice.

49
50

1 And, boy, does it seem like the Federal
2 Subsistence Board is the right forum to blend all these
3 priorities together and it's so important for us to get
4 on the agenda, even though we're not commenting on
5 agenda items, take some time to provide some public
6 comments. Listening to everybody's testimony yesterday
7 morning in consultation and yesterday afternoon, I did
8 have to break at 4:30 so sorry if I missed the evening
9 presentation and again this morning.

10
11 Yesterday I wanted to talk about
12 positioning caribou and all Mrs. Peltola's comments
13 about king salmon really resonated with me and got me
14 really emotional thinking about the people in the
15 Kuskokwim and in our other regions who have permit
16 systems and how to really, really abide by strict
17 regulations to be able to harvest and here in the
18 Nushagak we have the largest king salmon run in the
19 world remaining, we're one of the only -- if not the
20 only river to meet its escapement goals for kings for
21 the last two years in Alaska.

22
23 And unfortunately all of that is at
24 threat to us, today especially. Today is the last day
25 ever to go on the record for Pebble Mine with the draft
26 environmental impact statement hearings that's
27 happening at Anchorage right now as we speak, they went
28 on the record at noon and it goes until 8:00 p.m. I
29 would really like to encourage everyone in the room
30 listening in, so if you have a chance to go downtown
31 today and participate in that at least, if you're not
32 going to give testimony on the record yourself, to
33 listen to what other people have to say and try to find
34 a time to provide comment during the public record, the
35 public comment period is ending May 30.

36
37 Yesterday, Second Chief Gayla Hoseth,
38 requested during consultation that the Federal
39 Subsistence Board exercise some authority and request
40 through the public comment period or through capacity
41 of cooperating agencies, I know the Park Service and
42 Fish and Wildlife Service cooperating agency as is
43 Curyung Tribal Council and Nondalton are the two tribal
44 partners on the EIS, requesting an extension of the
45 comment period for 270 days. We requested that
46 ourselves. Last week we had our hearing here in
47 Dillingham and consultation with the Army Corps, we
48 spent about four and a half hours with them, just our
49 tribal Staff and our tribal chief, trying to really get
50

1 them to understand the decision that they're making and
2 the impacts that it has and why we care so much, why we
3 fight so much, why we are so loud. It was a little bit
4 disheartening and frustrating for some of us. I know
5 some of you in the room have been working with me and
6 our tribe in the Bristol Bay region for years on these
7 issues and in terms of my public record, my record, I
8 guess you'd say, I have a pretty formidable record and
9 I couldn't speak in Dillingham last week. There was no
10 way I would be able to have maintained my integrity and
11 asserting my voice into public management systems if I
12 went on the record on Tuesday because this is all so
13 disgusting.

14

15 What's happening with Pebble and the
16 Army Corps and the EIS is injustice, to say the least.

17

18 Gayla asked for the Federal Subsistence
19 Board to write a letter requesting an extension of the
20 comment period by 270 days but today I'm going to go on
21 the record and formally ask on behalf of the Curyung
22 Tribal Council, that the Federal Subsistence Board host
23 a separate tribal consultation session with our tribe
24 as well as our neighbors throughout the state before
25 the public comment period is over on May 30th, and that
26 we sit down and hash through some Pebble issues and try
27 to really come up with a plan to get the Federal
28 Subsistence Board to go on the record and do
29 essentially a .810 analysis. This is not a Federal
30 land management decision, but ANILCA was here before
31 Pebble, before all of this, and it's important that we
32 hold other Federal decisionmakers, other agencies to
33 the true intent of the law and I think public comment
34 coming from the Board in the lens of an .810 analysis
35 and what impacts to subsistence this plan that's put
36 forward in the permit application submitted by Pebble
37 that's being analyzed through the DEIS, what impacts
38 this really has to humans and our ability to maintain a
39 traditional way of life, what little is left.

40

41 You know, yesterday, all these things
42 are floating through my mind and here we are going to
43 these meetings, we've built our capacity as tribal
44 people, our Federal and State agency partners who we've
45 worked with for years in these management regimes and
46 we worked on way up to get to where we are today, we
47 are co-managing our resources. No, it's not perfect.
48 Yes, we're all students. We're all learning and we're
49 all trying to work on this together. But by the

50

1 Federal Subsistence Board standing by not providing
2 comments, Pebble wasn't on a single RAC agenda, not
3 even on the Bristol Bay RAC agenda, and we're in the
4 comment period, the last comment period of our lives.
5 Ludicrous.

6
7 So if we don't make comments and get
8 strong and exercise our authority and insert ourselves
9 into this process we're going to allow everything that
10 everyone in that room there today as well as those of
11 us on the line, and in our tribal communities, around
12 the state, we're going to allow all the work we've done
13 for decades to unravel right before our eyes. We're
14 not going to be able to go to these meetings in 10
15 years, or 20 years, and argue about who's trying to
16 harvest what resource where, under what management
17 regime because there will be nothing left. Yes, Pebble
18 is on State land. And the Army Corps and Pebble will
19 market you to believe that it was designated
20 specifically for mineral development, however, the
21 truth of the reality of the situation is that it's co-
22 designated for a variety of uses, including
23 subsistence. But everybody knows that fish and
24 wildlife population don't confine themselves to our
25 management boundaries, that's exactly why we're here
26 today, working through co-management issues on the same
27 resource that we have to harvest from one side of the
28 creek in one way under one permit system and on the
29 other side of the creek in another way through another
30 permit system. If we allow this foreign company to
31 come in and railroad us and tell us that we're not part
32 of the process and that we don't have authority to act
33 as the Federal Subsistence Board and your comments are
34 -- we're really going to undo everything we've worked
35 for and I can't believe that anybody would want that to
36 happen.

37
38 So our tribe is urging the Federal
39 Subsistence Board to work through us through formal
40 consultation, work with us through formal consultation
41 and get on the record and make comments about Pebble.

42
43 And then you, as individuals, everyone
44 with your different hats, irregardless of which hat
45 you're wearing, who you are as an individual, make sure
46 your voice is heard. Make sure you're educated. Don't
47 just buy the information that they're providing you.
48 As Chief Hoseth said yesterday, there's wrong
49 information in the executive summary. The whole
50

1 document is completely inadequate. When we asked the
2 Corps last week why can't we have 270 days like Donlin
3 they tell us that's because there was a problem with
4 the Donlin application, they needed more information
5 from the proposer. Well, we, the citizens are saying,
6 we need more information from the agency. The DEIS is
7 inadequate. It does not weigh cumulative effects, it
8 compartmentalizes them. We know how productive that is
9 just in harvesting what resources there are available.

10

11

12 The DEIS does not equate any human
13 factor in a potential breaching of the tailing dam,
14 nothing, it won't affect anybody. There are cabins and
15 there are people's subsistence sites within miles that
16 will be covered in mud and water for years. People
17 will die if they're at camp and a tailing dam were to
18 break. And not just if there was a catastrophic
19 failure, we all know this is a permit to pollute. The
20 mine and operation, as it's standard daily operations
21 is going to work towards destroying the water and the
22 land for which our people have sustained themselves for
23 thousands of years.

24

25 I want to go back to ANILCA, you know,
26 in Section .1203 it defines the Bristol Bay cooperative
27 region, it foresaw this coming. The purpose of this
28 section is to provide for the preparation and
29 implementation of a comprehensive and systematic
30 cooperative management plan to conserve fish and
31 wildlife and other significant and natural cultural
32 resources within the region, and to provide for the
33 rationale and orderly development of economic resources
34 within the region and within an environmentally sound
35 manner. Where is this happening. The bureaucrats will
36 tell us, oh, there's the Bristol Bay area plan from the
37 State, there's the BLM plan, Togiak Refuge has its
38 plan, Lake Clark National Park has its plan. We are
39 boxing ourselves up, none of the plans are talking
40 together, and the true intent of the law is to protect
41 Bristol Bay so our tribe is calling on the Federal
42 Subsistence Board to do just that and I look forward to
43 working with you all.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
48 Courtenay.

49

50

1 (Applause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
4 for Courtenay.

5

6 Tim.

7

8 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 have a comment on that testimony and question for you,
10 as Chairman, or to the solicitor, I don't know what's
11 the appropriate way.

12

13 This is Tim Gervais from Western
14 Interior Council.

15

16 Over the last couple years the Western
17 Interior has grappled with, discussed, not Pebble Mine
18 specifically because it's not in our region, but we
19 have other big projects that are going to impact our
20 areas, such as the Ambler Road construction, the Donlin
21 gas pipeline right-of-way, Yukon River highway, Yukon
22 River railroad and our Council would like some kind of
23 guidance from the Federal Subsistence Board on how can
24 ANILCA apply to provide some kind of protection to keep
25 -- like what right do developers have to create
26 perpetual sorts of contamination in an area that's
27 going to -- yeah, Pebble's on State land, but it's
28 going to flow through watersheds, it's going to affect
29 Federal subsistence users, but these other projects,
30 such as Ambler Road and Donlin gas pipeline right-of-
31 way, why do these developers, why do they have a right
32 to develop that land if it's going to compromise what's
33 currently an intact ecosystem.

34

35 And so Mr. Chair or solicitor or
36 whoever's appropriate, how can ANILCA apply here to
37 protect our ecosystems and our environment in general
38 against all these environmental threats?

39

40 It's huge.

41

42 Once these projects and mines are put
43 in place, these transportation corridors, it's gone.
44 Once the environment's gone it will never come back and
45 all the resources will be compromised and all the
46 Federally-qualified subsistence users will be
47 compromised, so why -- why do we have to endure this
48 type of development, why is there no protection
49 available?

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tom.

2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tom Doolittle, Acting
4 Assistant Regional Director for the Office of
5 Subsistence Management.
6

7 It's good, always to hear, you know,
8 the passions of people and being part of this process.
9 But when we really look at the roles of this body, we
10 look at it as, is that, we're primarily here, you know,
11 putting forth regulation and we do that through, what
12 we've always considered to be the heart of our program,
13 through our Regional Advisory Councils. They have a
14 fairly specific charter and they have an open forum
15 where people can comment, you know, through them and as
16 a group consensus, again, provide information to the
17 Federal Board to be able to contact, you know, others
18 within the Federal government about process.
19

20 And so I hate to divert, you know, the
21 energy back into our regulatory process, but that's
22 what we have and that's what we do. Both for the
23 formation of how the RAC functions under their charter,
24 and under that charter they encourage that people come
25 and bring these issues and so these issues are recorded
26 as part of the public record, these issues are brought
27 forth to the Board, and then if they're formed and
28 there's a letter that comes from the Chairman, you
29 know, to inform the Secretaries of Interior and
30 Agriculture about these issues, we go through that
31 formalized process. So we provide information on the
32 issues for decisionmakers, we're not the decisionmakers
33 on those kinds of issues relative to the agencies and
34 others.
35

36 And others may chime in.
37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Don, you had a
39 question.
40

41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
42 Chairman. Don Hernandez from the Southeast RAC. I
43 have a more specific question, you know, in relation to
44 this in regards to the comment periods.
45

46 Is it within the authority of, you
47 know, members that are sitting on the Board to extend
48 these comment periods and if it is what would it take,
49 what kind of request would it take, say, from the RAC
50

1 members or members of the public to get those comment
2 periods extended?

3

4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I guess that
5 would be a question for an agency person.

6

7 MR. PADGETT: This is Chad with BLM.
8 On the comment periods right now, those are going
9 through the Department level, so at this point it's at
10 the Department level, it's not resting within the
11 state, so those requests would have to be sent up to
12 the Department of the Interior. As I understand it, I
13 could be wrong because I'm still pretty new.

14

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: And how would those
16 requests be made, could they be made by members, by the
17 Board, by RAC Chairs; could you answer that?

18

19 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Yeah, Chad, is correct on certainly the plans that the
21 Department of Interior has, those are being
22 administered out of the Secretary of Interior's office,
23 via his Staff. The Army Corps of Engineers is a
24 different department. And in answer to your question
25 is, yes, anyone can request an extension of time. The
26 best way to do it with the Department of Interior is to
27 send it directly to the Secretary's office, but then
28 also within each agency that has an active or
29 participating role, you know, so you would send it to
30 the Secretary of Interior but also make sure a copy
31 would get to, as an example, the Fish and Wildlife
32 Service, our Director, or for the Park Service, their
33 Director, or BLM, for their Director, that way you're
34 insuring that it's actually getting in the hands of
35 people that are going to be able to help inform that
36 decision.

37

38 I know it sounds complicated, but if
39 you need -- I mean what we can do is help facilitate
40 you getting those letters to the right place, even if
41 you wanted to send them to us we can forward them on.
42 Quite often your voice is much more -- it's louder when
43 you speak directly to the decisionmakers themselves.

44

45 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Some of the
46 RAC Chairs may want to take that up, so thank you.

47

48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. All
2 right.

3
4 MS. CARTY: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello.

7
8 MS. CARTY: May I provide my closing
9 comments based on the feedback that I've heard from the
10 others.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sure, brief,
13 please.

14
15 MS. CARTY: Very. Thank you so much.
16 I just want to urge, you know, the Department heads
17 sitting around the table, the members of the public,
18 public members of the Board and, you, yourself, Mr.
19 Chairman, to encourage the Secretary of the Interior to
20 have some high level conversations with the Colonel of
21 the Army Corps of Engineers. I heard what Mr.
22 Doolittle said and I completely understand that our
23 agencies and our RACs have charters and everyone abides
24 by these rules that we have created for ourselves
25 within these management systems, and these land
26 management units, but the ultimate authority lies
27 within ANILCA and ANILCA provides for this opportunity.

28
29 There's supposed to be the Federal
30 coordination committee for the Secretaries of the
31 Agriculture and energy, interior, transportation that
32 has been the administrators of EPA, NOAA, all these
33 other agencies are supposed to be working together
34 regularly to address these subsistence issues and land
35 issues within Alaska and I just want to make sure that
36 this happening because everyone adhering to their
37 bureaucratic boundaries and allowing themselves to
38 remain silent on this issue to abide by whatever
39 political worlds they live in and are successful in but
40 the whole reason we're here is for ANILCA and because
41 of ANILCA, and ANILCA provides you with this authority,
42 irregardless of what authorities you've made for
43 yourselves through this agency and the management
44 system.

45
46 The DEIS process allows for Section
47 .106 information gathered from the Native American
48 Grave Repatriation Act and, you know, (indiscernible)
49 is about who we used to be, who we were, our people on
50

1 the ground and our (indiscernible - telephone cutting
2 out) but ANILCA, especially Section VIII is our living
3 law, that allows us to continue to maintain what little
4 is left of our ancient ways and you do have the
5 authority through ANILCA so we strongly, strongly
6 suggest and are formally asking this of you through
7 tribal consultation and we do expect to continue
8 working with all of you on this, we'd like to invite
9 you out to Dillingham. I know Mr. Williams was
10 inviting you guys to Akiak earlier, but you should be
11 out in all the communities, there used to be a big
12 effort where Board members came to the communities, but
13 why aren't Board decisions being made in rural Alaska,
14 this is about rural harvest, always made in urban
15 Alaska; that should be corrected. Here in Dillingham,
16 we've had the UN Special Tour on Indigenous rights,
17 we've hosted the President and the Secretary of the
18 Interior, it's time we host the Federal Subsistence
19 Board, please hear us.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
24 Courtenay.

25

26 Tim.

27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. The Western
29 Interior would like to request the Federal Subsistence
30 Board to communicate directly with the Department of
31 the Interior, if that's the appropriate agency, to
32 evaluate or discuss the issue that this Executive Order
33 3355 is destroying the intent of the NEPA process in a
34 way that is unfair to the Federal subsistence users and
35 the justification on that is what we're going through
36 on the process with the road to the Ambler Mining
37 District.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
40 we take note on that and I believe that would be a
41 process, when we have these issues, is to write a
42 letter directly to the Secretary's office with these
43 concerns so we have the process and collect the
44 information and then make sure we flow it to the
45 appropriate agencies. Like Greg said, you know, we do
46 take this seriously.

47

48 And thank everybody involved today for
49 their testimony, I know it went longer than most

50

1 anticipated but trying to recognize, you know, we're in
2 a time of change and with that comes fear and with fear
3 comes a lot of speaking about ourselves and our
4 histories and trying to convey our message across all
5 these agencies and people and the collection of minds
6 in the room so that we can get a clear understanding.
7 So I know on one side it feels this way and on the
8 other side it feels that way, but, again, this process
9 belongs to the public and hopefully if we have time
10 today to get to the job we have, which is to get these
11 regulations in order, and so really appreciate all of
12 that testimony and I hope I've answered your question
13 as well as everybody else's in the room.

14
15 And right now I'm hoping we can take a
16 lunch break.

17
18 And, Courtenay, just to answer your
19 question, tribal consultation, we will coordinate that
20 with Orville to make sure that happens in a timely
21 fashion.

22
23 Lunch break.

24
25 (Off record)

26
27 (On record)

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
30 we'll reconvene this meeting, 2:00 o'clock. We
31 concluded our public comment period on non-agenda items
32 this morning and have already completed number 6 under
33 old business. We heard from the panel on positioning
34 last night. So we're going to start off this afternoon
35 with the Cook Inlet Area regulations, final rule with
36 Scott and Theo. And I hope I allowed them enough time
37 to get back. Yep, there they are, right on, so we'll
38 turn it over to Scott Ayers and Theo.

39
40 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Mr. Chair. Members
41 of the Board. For the record I'm Theo Matuskowitz,
42 regulations specialist for the Office of Subsistence
43 Management. And I'll start the process this afternoon
44 reference the Cook Inlet area regulations, the final
45 rule.

46
47 At your last meeting you were briefed
48 on the proposed rule, which was published last year and
49 we went through the public comment period, and

1 basically we've made minor adjustments to what was
2 published in the proposed rule based on public
3 comments. I'll brief you on those today. And then we
4 will ask that you take action on this final rule. And
5 depending on your vote will be whether it goes forward
6 to Washington for final publication in the Federal
7 Register and becomes a regulation.

8
9 The Board received a total of six
10 comments on this proposed rule.

11
12 This included three comments that were
13 outside the scope of the proposed rulemaking.

14
15 Ninilchik Traditional Council supported
16 the proposed revisions to the Cook Inlet regulations
17 and you heard their comments during tribal consultation
18 which supported that view.

19
20 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
21 had three recommendations. Two were to change size
22 limits for chinook salmon in the Kenai River community
23 gillnet in the Kenai River rod and reel fishery. And
24 basically those actions were considered outside the
25 scope of this proposed rule because the public did not
26 have an opportunity to comment on changes in size
27 limits. These two recommendations will be more
28 appropriate to be submitted as a proposal during the
29 normal regulatory cycle. ADF&G also recommended that
30 specific language be added to the Kenai River community
31 gillnet regulations that the gillnet must be closely
32 attended while fishing. And that text has already been
33 included as part of the permit conditions for this
34 fishery and we felt that there was no need to include
35 it in specific regulatory language.

36
37 A member of the public commented that
38 he was against establishing a subsistence fishery in
39 Mile 48 of the Kenai River because this area is
40 considered a trophy rainbow trout fishing area, along
41 with chinook salmon, and they cannot afford additional
42 harvest at this time. However, no new fishery is being
43 established on or near Mile 48 of the Kenai River. The
44 location of the Kenai River community gillnet fishery
45 has been clarified in these revised regulations,
46 however, that fishery occurs in the Moose Range Meadows
47 area of the river and is between River Miles 26.5 and
48 29. And by the way this fishery, as you know, has been
49 in place since 2015.

1 So that covers the comments that were
2 submitted reference the proposed rule.

3
4 In your Board book, if you turn to
5 supplement one, that is a copy of the revised
6 regulations. And basically we've highlighted some of
7 the changes that we made. Most of them were very
8 minor, such as changing the order of the columns that
9 were listed in the regulations. And on Page 4, believe
10 it or not I forgot to include sockeye salmon in the
11 table and that was pointed out, thankfully. So, again,
12 it's very good that we caught that one.

13
14 We've also included in this version the
15 proposals that were submitted separately in the fish
16 regulatory cycle, which addressed Cook Inlet specific
17 areas. So those areas, these proposals -- I'm sorry,
18 just the one, is on the consensus agenda as it stands.
19 If that's pulled off the consensus agenda and you
20 decide to reject that proposal, the section on six and
21 seven would go back to the original regulations.

22
23 And that's the changes to 12.

24
25 Again, going on referring specifically
26 to the Ninilchik Tribal Council and then once, again,
27 the change to the order of the columns.

28
29 And then on Page 14, we added dates
30 where we reference under species that the table
31 species, chinook salmon early run and then chinook
32 salmon late run, we included the season dates in there
33 because some people felt that that was not clear as to
34 what's early run and what late run is, so we just
35 simply included the dates that are already in the
36 regulations, just so people wouldn't have to flip back
37 and forth through the regs, it's already there and it's
38 clear as to what we mean by early run and late run.

39
40 We did have some good response from the
41 agencies, Fish and Wildlife, specifically, the Kenai
42 Refuge went through this document and submitted some of
43 the changes which we did address and the majority of
44 them we did make adjustments for and the other agencies
45 also gave us a very thorough review, and the final
46 document you see in supplement one is the end result of
47 that work.

48
49 So at this time, if you have any
50

1 questions, Scott and myself are, you know, open to
2 answer those and then after that, we would ask that,
3 you know, you take action on whether to adopt or reject
4 or take action on this proposed final rule.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
9 Theo. And good job. Thank you guys for doing a good
10 job on that. Any questions here from the Board or
11 comments. Feedback.

12
13 OPERATOR: And as a reminder, if you
14 would like to make feedback from the phone lines,
15 please press star followed by one.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, not
20 hearing any, appreciate your guys' efforts again and I
21 think they're requesting that we take an action. So at
22 this time I would entertain a motion.

23
24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

27
28 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 At this time I would like to move to
31 approve FSA19-01 with modifications to expire at the
32 end of the 2019.....

33
34 MS. DAMBERG: Oh, sorry, you're on the
35 wrong one.

36
37 MR. SIEKANIEC: I'm on the wrong one.

38
39 MS. DAMBERG: No, it's FP19-01.

40
41 MR. SIEKANIEC: Oh, FP19-01, sorry
42 about that we had a little bit of language mix up
43 there.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
48 floor Greg.

49
50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 I apologize for that, we just had the wrong
3 introduction there to the motion.
4

5 (Pause)
6

7 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, can we take
8 two minutes.
9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Two minutes.
11

12 (Pause)
13

14 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Can I
15 extend that to four minutes.
16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we've
18 given adequate time to everybody to make sure that
19 things get done right, so, yes.
20

21 MR. SIEKANIEC: I appreciate that. I
22 would just as soon get the statement made correctly so
23 we don't have to come back and correct that or fix it.
24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I would
26 to. Thank you.
27

28 (Pause)
29

30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.
31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.
33

34 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. I believe
35 we have this in the right order now.
36

37 I move to approve the final Cook Inlet
38 regulation as presented today as I believe this
39 fulfills the negotiated agreement between the Ninilchik
40 Traditional Council and the Fish and Wildlife Service
41 as approved by the Board.
42

43 MR. BROWER: Second.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion's been
46 made and seconded.
47

48 Discussion.
49
50

1 MR. PELTOLA: So for clarification, as
2 presented today, includes the modification which is
3 supported by NTC, correct?
4

5 MR. SIEKANIEC: My understanding, Gene,
6 is that's the next step.
7

8 MR. PELTOLA: Okay.
9

10 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair.
11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.
13

14 MR. PADGETT: Just one other point of
15 clarification. You said it's already in the regulation
16 that the gillnet must be closely attended; is that
17 correct? Sorry, but I want to make sure I heard it
18 correct.
19

20 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Through the Chair.
21 It's a permit condition. The Refuge manager basically
22 -- every year we review with the managers on the permit
23 conditions, so it's already there, it's been there and
24 it hasn't been an issue at this point.
25

26 MR. PADGETT: And then just one other
27 question, maybe, for the State if that's okay -- sorry,
28 I hope I'm not out of order.
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.
31

32 MR. PADGETT: So for the State, I see
33 Ben sitting over there, what's the process you guys
34 went through to get to 36 inches and smaller. Can you
35 speak to that.
36

37 MR. MULLIGAN: Through the Chair. Mr.
38 Padgett. That goal was developed, and I can ask, I
39 believe Tom Vania is on the phone, our regional
40 supervisor for the area, for some detail, but I'm
41 trying to think, and I'll probably get my years wrong,
42 but at least a few years back we looked at early --
43 just the king goals and the king management plans for
44 the Kenai River and went to what everyone commonly
45 calls the large fish goal and decided to try to
46 conserve those fish that are 36 inches and above, given
47 the history of large fish on the Kenai, I think
48 everyone is familiar with that being a world class
49 trophy fishery. But also having that genetics for
50

1 large fish, and knowing those concerns, the Department
2 went through that process, which included outreach to
3 the local groups there, and then the Alaska Board of
4 Fish is a public input process where we developed that
5 and had it finalized and put into regulation.
6

7 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman, thank
8 you. Member Chad -- I mean Padgett. I will also insure
9 that the in-season manager adds language to the permit
10 that the net will be closely attended. I think that's
11 a very appropriate place for it. And then in regards
12 to the 36 inch -- so we have a negotiated agreement
13 here that we're trying to get finalized and put into
14 regulation, and I've already broached the topic with
15 both Ivan and Greg that, you know, from a conservation
16 standpoint, which they've been great to consider, that
17 we would like to sit down again and see whether or not
18 in the future there's an opportunity for us to correct
19 that and get much more closely aligned with the State
20 regulations.
21

22 MR. PADGETT: Thank you.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. I
25 think we got that cleared up. Motion on the floor and
26 we're under discussion.
27

28 It looks like we accomplished that,
29 call for the question.
30

31 MR. FROST: Question.
32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
34 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.
35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.
37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, read it in.
39

40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, please.
41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. So all
43 in favor of Cook Inlet area regulation final rule, to
44 adopt the revised Cook Inlet regulation as presented in
45 supplement one, sorry to reask you, but, signify by
46 saying aye.
47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed same
2 sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
7 unanimously, including myself.

8
9 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: At this time the
10 Staff would like to recommend to the Board that they
11 consider action on a special action reference the Cook
12 Inlet regulations. Based on the lapse in funding that
13 we recently went through and the regulatory cycle being
14 pushed back, as you know, the regulatory year for fish
15 started on the 1st of April so we're already a half a
16 month behind in getting regulations published. And in
17 my correspondence with our Staff in Washington, we're
18 looking at a minimum of seven weeks, simply to get it
19 through our department, that's not counting any time
20 for review in Alaska, it's not counting for USDA review
21 of the document, so at this time, if everything goes
22 absolutely perfect, the earliest I can see this
23 publishing would be in early to mid-June. As a result,
24 that would hurt some of the subsistence users,
25 specifically referencing the Kenai River community
26 gillnet fishery. So what we are recommending is that
27 you consider a special action, it would be Fish Special
28 Action 19-01 for the Kenai community gillnet, and this
29 will only deal with that subject, it will not be a
30 special action for the entire Cook Inlet regulations,
31 just the Kenai River community gillnet.

32
33 And as of now the special action would
34 remain in place until the regulations are published or
35 unless you decide to modify that.

36
37 At this time I will turn it over to
38 Scott for his analysis.

39
40 MR. AYERS: Hello, Mr. Chair. Members
41 of the Board. For the record my name is Scott Ayers
42 and I am one of the fisheries biologist at the Office
43 of Subsistence Management. I'm here today to provide
44 an overview of the analysis of Fisheries Temporary
45 Special Action 19-01. This is a companion special
46 action, as Theo just mentioned, to the Cook Inlet final
47 rule, and it requests immediate implementation of the
48 revised aspects of the Kenai River community gillnet.

49
50

1 The materials for this analysis are
2 found in supplement two of the books.
3
4 The request was jointly submitted by
5 the Ninilchik Traditional Council and the US Fish and
6 Wildlife Service. IT asks for immediate implementation
7 of the portions of the Cook Inlet final rule related to
8 the Kenai River community gillnet fishery to insure
9 that the revised regulations are in place for the 2019
10 season. Similar requests to implement the changes to
11 this fishery were submitted by the same proponents in
12 2017 and 2018. In light of these facts I'm going to be
13 brief with my presentation, however, the full analysis,
14 again, is available in the books.
15
16 The final rule you just acted upon puts
17 into regulation the remaining portions of the
18 implementation pathway for the agreement in principle
19 that this Board agreed to in January of 2017. That
20 document can be found on Page 74 of this analysis and
21 provides the framework for how we proceeded in order to
22 include all the agreed upon changes to this fishery
23 into regulation. Your actions today have put the last
24 items into regulation. This special action would
25 insure those items are in place immediately for this
26 season given the delay that it takes between Board
27 action on items and publication in the Federal
28 Register.
29
30 The potential effects for each of the
31 proposed changes are covered on Pages 46 through 50 of
32 the analysis. It's important to note that these
33 proposed changes would result in more opportunity for
34 Federally-qualified subsistence users and would resolve
35 existing conflicts from the initial regulation that was
36 implemented from Board action in January 2015.
37
38 I'm happy to take any specific
39 questions related to these effects upon the closure of
40 my presentation.
41
42 Next slide please.
43
44 As you'll note on the process slide in
45 front of you on the screen, we'll be providing
46 opportunity today for public testimony, consultation
47 with the affected Council Chair, consultation with
48 tribal and Alaska Native Corporation representatives,
49 consultation with the State of Alaska, and
50

1 recommendation from the InterAgency Staff Committee.

2

3 Following all this it'll be your turn
4 to take action on the request.

5

6 And that concludes my presentation and
7 I would be happy to answer any questions if you all
8 have any.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
13 for Scott.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think it's
18 pretty clear what we need to do. Okay, thank you guys
19 for the presentation and we'll move on to the next step
20 in the process. Anybody in the public who would like
21 to speak to this special action. And, again, for the
22 time constraints we would request maybe 15 minutes, if
23 at all possible.

24

25 OPERATOR: For those on the phone if
26 you would like to make a comment or ask a question,
27 please press star followed by one.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, I just wanted to
32 make sure for the record that everybody understands
33 that this is the beginning of actually -- because of
34 this being a temporary special action, that this is a
35 formal actual public hearing process starting at this
36 moment.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So I'm hearing
43 or seeing nobody moving, we'll move on to the Regional
44 Advisory Council Chair.

45

46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That would be me.
47 Through the Chair, Mr. Christianson. Greg Encelewski,
48 Southcentral Regional Advisory Chair.

49

50

1 Of course our Southcentral Council has
2 supported this proposal unwavering for many years.
3 It's come back and as you all know, I think you're
4 quite familiar with it, we've been very conservative
5 with it. And the Council, on my report, has unwavered
6 support of this. So I'm not going to belabor it. If
7 you want me to take my other hat from the Council over
8 to the Tribe I'll go testify but unless you need it
9 I'll do that in the next step.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
14 Greg, for your brevity.

15
16 Was there any tribal or Alaska Native
17 Corporation consultation towards this. I guess we
18 heard some yesterday.

19
20 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair and Board
21 members. Tribal consultation on Federal Special Action
22 19-01 was given by Mr. Ivan Encelewski. He addressed
23 the modification made to the proposal for early fishing
24 subsistence for chinook from July 1st through the 15th.
25 They support the modification because they can clarify
26 when people could harvest and it allows temporary
27 regulations to stay in place until the permanent
28 regulations take effect.

29
30 That's all I have.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
33 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

34
35 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Just to reiterate we do have comments on the record
37 written already but just to reiterate those with our
38 concern for the king salmon, and the early run in
39 particular and the changes that the Department has gone
40 through with the Board of Fisheries. As you know
41 instead of a slot limit we did go to 36 inches when --
42 and then also it being a part of the permit condition,
43 closely attended, we do appreciate.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
48 questions.

49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Hearing
4 none, we'll move on to InterAgency Staff Committee.

5

6 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
7 the record, Jennifer Hardin. I'm the Chair of the
8 InterAgency Staff Committee.

9

10 The InterAgency Staff Committee
11 recommendation is to support temporary special action
12 request FSA19-01 with modification to expire at the end
13 of the 2019 season and to include the following
14 language as requested by the Ninilchik Traditional
15 Council and read into the record yesterday. You can
16 find this language also in supplement seven of your
17 Board book.

18

19 The revised language would read:

20

21 Retention of early run chinook salmon
22 less than 46 inches or 55 inches and longer in length
23 is permitted if the most current preseason forecast
24 from the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
25 projects the in-river run to be within or above the
26 optimal escapement goal for early run chinook salmon or
27 the lower end of the OEG, or optimal escapement goal is
28 met by in-season in-river run assessment. Otherwise
29 live fish must be released.

30

31 Approval of temporary special action
32 request FSA19-01 to implement the community gillnet
33 fishery during the 2019 season will provide residents
34 of the community of Ninilchik with a Federal
35 subsistence harvest opportunity in the Kenai River
36 authorized by the Board in accordance with the revised
37 2019 Cook Inlet regulations that you just approved.

38

39 The action also alleviates concerns
40 raised by Cooper Landing and Hope residents concerning
41 the impact of the gillnet fishery on their customary
42 and traditional use determination for this resource.

43

44 Further, the commitment statement by
45 the Federal Subsistence Board and the US Fish and
46 Wildlife Service states that in the event that final
47 regulations implementing all elements of the Pathway
48 Table are not in effect by February 1, 2018, the Fish
49 and Wildlife Service and NTC will jointly submit a

50

1 special action request to authorize all elements. This
2 action fulfills that commitment.

3
4 The proponent's request to implement
5 the community gillnet fishery during the 2019 season as
6 describe in FSA19-01 will not result in conservation
7 concerns for reasons including the following: The main
8 target species are sockeye and coho salmon and the net
9 will be placed in shallower near shore waters.
10 Proposed conservative retention and encounter rates
11 will help address potential conservation concerns for
12 chinook salmon, rainbow trout and Dolly Varden. Permit
13 conditions will be in place to insure the fishery is
14 well managed and operated and NTC has demonstrated the
15 past three years that NTC operates a responsible
16 fishery that aligns with all requirements of the
17 agreement.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, ISC
22 member.

23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, at this time
25 since we initiated the public hearing process, if no
26 one else would like to speak to this, we would
27 officially close the public hearing process at this
28 moment.

29
30 OPERATOR: If anyone would like to
31 speak on the phones, please, again, press star followed
32 by one.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
37 thank you guys for your presentation, that officially
38 closes that and opens the floor for Board action on
39 FSA19-01, the Kenai community gillnet special action.

40
41 Greg.

42
43 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Thank you
44 to Jennifer, Rhonda and Carol for getting me back in
45 the correct place here. I apologize to everyone here
46 for taking that extra time.

47
48 At this time I would like to -- Greg
49 Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service -- move to approve

1 FSA19-01 with modifications to expire at the end of the
2 2019 season and include the following language
3 requested by the Ninilchik Traditional Council.
4

5 Retention of early run chinook salmon
6 less than 46 inches or 55 inches and longer in length
7 is permitted if the most current preseason forecast
8 from the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
9 projects the in-river run to be within or above the
10 optimal escapement goal for early run chinook salmon or
11 the lower end of the optimal escapement goal is met by
12 in-season in-river run assessment. Otherwise live fish
13 must be released.
14

15 And if I do get a second to this I will
16 provide further justification.
17

18 MR. BROWER: Second.
19

20 REPORTER: Who seconded.
21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Charlie.
23

24 MR. BROWER: Second.
25

26 REPORTER: Thanks, Charlie
27

28 (Laughter)
29

30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Charlie and
31 Mr. Chair.
32

33 So this modification would improve
34 regulation clarity as to when the fishery would be open
35 and to reduce potential in-season emergency special
36 actions that would require Board action.
37

38 In 2018 this language was included in
39 the special action FSA18-02 and the Fish and Wildlife
40 Service and the Ninilchik Traditional Council believe
41 it is important to add it to this year's special
42 action. For the 2019 season it is especially important
43 as the preseason outlook for the early run of Kenai
44 River chinook salmon is below average. Including this
45 language will permit the Ninilchik Traditional Council
46 to harvest early run chinook should the run improve and
47 the lower end of the optimal escapement goal is
48 actually achieved in-season. Additionally, including
49 this language in the 2019 temporary special action will
50

1 allow these regulatory clarifications to remain in
2 place until a full proposal can be submitted in the
3 next regulatory cycle if desired by the Ninilchik
4 Traditional Council.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
9 discussion. Questions.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
14 question.

15
16 MR. FROST: Question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
19 called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Again, same
24 sign to oppose.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
29 let it reflect in the record that FSA19-01 a motion to
30 approve with modification to expire at the end of 2019
31 season include the following language as requested by
32 NTC, and read on the record yesterday and found in
33 supplement seven, so motion carries.

34
35 Thank you, Staff, for that
36 presentation. Thank you to the Board.

37
38 All right, we'll move on to Agenda Item
39 8, 2019 to 2021 subpart C&D proposals.

40
41 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman
42 and Board Members. My name is Orville Lind. I'm the
43 Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
44 Management. And I'm going to go ahead and go over the
45 consultation that we held yesterday.

46
47 I'm going to start off with Ivan
48 Encelewski was saying that -- as I said earlier on
49 Federal special action 19-01 addresses modification

50

1 made to the proposal for the early fishing subsistence
2 for chinook from July 1st through the 15th. They
3 supported a modification before they would clarify when
4 people could harvest and it allows temporary
5 regulations to stay in place until the permanent
6 regulations take effect. Mr. Ivan also discussed
7 Fisheries Proposal 19-12 for the Ninilchik Kenai River
8 gillnet and how they want to make the gillnet permanent
9 for Ninilchik on this river like they did on the
10 Kasilof.

11
12 The second person in the consultation
13 was Mr. Williams from Aniak stressed that the people
14 depend on fish and wildlife to survive and comes from a
15 very resource depleted region. They have had chinook
16 crash in the past on the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers.
17 2012 was a tough year because the weather -- it was
18 rough and people needed to eat fish so they went out
19 and fished but many were cited for doing so. In 2013
20 it brought the lowest chinook returns and there were no
21 regulations in place at the time. So in 2014
22 regulations came through in the form of allocations.
23 Aniak did not participate in the allocation system
24 because they cannot survive on fish parts. In 2015
25 there was another allocation system put in place but
26 the people negotiated for a higher number based on the
27 projection for that year and they finally agreed on
28 7,000 chinook. They implemented a designated fishermen
29 due to conservation concerns. This was successfully
30 implemented with 40 tribes. But they could not fish in
31 State waters so people had to share. Mr. Williams also
32 stated transitions and into discussing Federal special
33 action 19-02 and explained that the proposal requests
34 that the Federal Subsistence Board close the river
35 except to subsistence users from June 1st to July 1st,
36 2019 and reduce the number of users per ANILCA. In the
37 last few years there has been 12 hour windows and this
38 has created more combat fishing. The 12 hour openings
39 also cause issues when the weather is not favorable.
40 Like when it rains or storms because the fish will
41 spoil in warm weather.

42
43 Next person was Pete from the Yukon
44 area. He submitted a proposal to the Board of Fish this
45 last cycle that addressed the taking of chinook for
46 religious and ceremonial use. The people want salmon
47 for food and spiritual reasons. There is a lot of
48 significance in salmon for private family gatherings
49 and unity. When these regulations were first
50

1 implemented they did not ask the people what it would
2 do to them or how it would affect the people. The
3 people embraced the regulations out of fear but it
4 caused cultural loss. It is only in the more recent
5 times that the people are trying to get things back to
6 where they were, that are lost. Regulations and laws
7 affect people, game and fish are more important to
8 Alaska people than just food.

9
10 We have Clarence from Kwethluk
11 Incorporated spoke about float planes bringing people
12 up the river and raft down river, but rafting affects
13 net placement for subsistence users. The Organized
14 Village of Kwethluk pulled their special action request
15 recently, which was unfortunate. It was not asking for
16 allocations. Kwethluk Incorporated does not want
17 designated fishermen because it did not work out well
18 the last time it was tried. Families got unequal
19 distribution of fish. Instead they would like a one
20 day per week opener. They do realize that everyone
21 will be out on the river at the same time but this
22 would protect the salmon.

23
24 We have Mary Peltola, executive
25 director with the InterTribal Fish Commission spoke to
26 the historical harvest averages and acknowledged that
27 the chinook in the past were very large. Today the
28 chinook are much smaller and the InterTribal Fish
29 Commission focus on 75 percent run return rate for the
30 chinook so that vulnerable fish stocks are not
31 depleted. When we make up for chinooks and reds and
32 chums you need more because they are so small. Camps
33 are not what they used to be with children having to be
34 in school. Some are really rely on fish because they
35 do not have access to other resources such as moose.
36 She formally requested to have FP17-05 be taken off the
37 consensus agenda. The InterTribal Fishery Commission
38 is asking that the Federal Subsistence Board to have
39 faith in the relationship that the Commission and
40 Refuge has. There is a need for more harvest monitors,
41 data is needed for all tribes and for harvest outside
42 the windows of opportunities. The InterTribal Fishery
43 Commission wants the Federal government to take over
44 control of the river as chinook are in the river.

45
46 Ivan from Akiak spoke to how waste is
47 not allowed in his culture. The elders have
48 traditionally managed their ways and do not allow for
49 waste. Commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim impacts the
50

1 villages. They are tossing fish overboard. This is
2 something traditionally that is not done. The river
3 needs to be kept clean. You would watch fish dry and
4 you dry it, salt it and put it away. Things got
5 confusing when people started to regulate and manage
6 the river when regulations started and the people's way
7 of life got disrupted. People used eight inch mesh
8 nets to catch large chinook. They need larger mesh to
9 catch the chinook. The larger mesh is only good to
10 catch small fish. We ask to work with the Federal
11 Subsistence Board because they work with our elders and
12 to help us manage our fish on the Kuskokwim River.

13
14 Next we had Mr. Jackson spoke to how
15 six inch mesh nets kill chinook. 8 inch mesh nets are
16 king nets and thus should be used. People try to help
17 each other in the communities regulating or regarding
18 subsistence needs. He also spoke about how the earlier
19 closures make the fish go up river. And he is also
20 concerned about the tributaries because the fish use
21 these areas to spawn due to clean water.

22
23 Next we had Dr. Fisher stating the
24 Council of Tribal Athabascan governments traveled to
25 the OSM, Office of Subsistence Management Office this
26 past fall to engage in tribal consultation concerning
27 the Office of Subsistence Management ARD position
28 opening. When they showed up at the office they were
29 not allowed into the building. They received an
30 apology letter from the Fish and Wildlife Service. And
31 they understand that incident was due to
32 miscommunication but they are requesting that they get
33 reimbursed for their travel costs accrued due to the
34 misunderstanding.

35
36 Mr. Thompson from St. Mary's spoke to
37 issues that they're having in their area with
38 sporthunters hunting for moose and how it is disruptive
39 to subsistence users. He would like sporthunters not
40 be allowed into the area. There also have been waste
41 sighted like moose without heads and animals killed for
42 horns. HE also discussed the C&T for chinook regarding
43 cash sales and how it is problematic because the system
44 is being abused due to the amount of money that can be
45 made. He would like this also to be addressed.

46
47 Next we had Karen Linnel stating they
48 serve eight tribes in the Ahtna Traditional Territory.
49 Last year they had a low return with subsistence users

1 having some restrictions. This year there are
2 predictions for more low returns. They asked the Board
3 of Fish to set limits on dipnetting boats, they did not
4 provide limits. The dipnetting boats create combat
5 fishing issues on the river. She also spoke to
6 concerns she has over management of fisheries. Stating
7 that the Federal government should manage the entire
8 river system and that the Federal government should
9 question the State's data because their numbers tend to
10 change, lower escapement numbers, for example. There
11 are concerns about Game Management Unit 13 regarding
12 moose and caribou because they are in an area which
13 hunting can take place in small strips that happen to
14 be closed [sic] to the highway. This area is not
15 currently closed to non-Federal users so they are
16 competing with everyone else. There will be an
17 upcoming request to close Game Management Unit 13 to
18 non-Federally-qualified users to moose and caribou.
19

20 We next had Mr. Lamont from the Bethel
21 area. He spoke to Title VIII of ANILCA. Stated that
22 the Department of Interior said that people catch
23 chinook to sell it to commercial fisheries and asked if
24 they should include that. Now indigenous people are
25 questioning their way of life, the term subsistence is
26 important. When they are allowed to fish 24 hours,
27 seven days a week, people went out and caught what they
28 needed and stopped fishing after that. Chinook are
29 used to make a living. It is important to us.
30

31 We also had Gayla and Joe from Bristol
32 Bay who spoke out against the Pebble Mine and request
33 that the Federal Subsistence Board write a letter to
34 the US Corps of Engineers asking them to provide an up
35 to 270 comment period and an adequate .810 analysis.
36

37 Lastly we had Mr. Tom request that the
38 Game Management Unit 20C be given back to the
39 ceremonial moose hunt. He feels that the moose were
40 taken away from his people because of others
41 overharvesting them. He stated that over the past few
42 years that about 100 moose were harvested yearly and
43 its disseminated the population. He wants the Federal
44 Subsistence Board to look into the matter and give the
45 people back their moose. Boundary lines create issues
46 for his people. There was an incident this winter with
47 a moose being taken by ADF&G because they said that the
48 moose was harvested outside the boundary line. He also
49 mentioned that the people in his region are still often
50

1 confused about tribal consultations. He is upset about
2 the bear video that's been going around and shows
3 illegal bear hunters killing a mamma bear and her cubs,
4 because he feels that it creates an environment in
5 which his people are guilty by association and even
6 though they have nothing to do with that that occurred
7 in the video, traditionally the killing of bear cubs is
8 a bad omen. People are regulating themselves so wolves
9 and bears are a problem, they are taken care of,
10 however, many moose calves are dying from the weather
11 change, for example, hypothermia in the winter.
12

13 Chairman and Board members, that
14 concludes the summary of the consultation that was held
15 earlier. And I would just like to add that -- a big
16 kudos to Christine Brummer who takes great notes and to
17 the audience and folks around, if there was something
18 that we missed that you feel that was important,
19 please, come see me and we'll get it corrected.
20

21 And that's all I have, Mr. Chairman.
22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chair,
24 Orville for that, appreciate it. And that was a very
25 well attended tribal consultation yesterday and so
26 kudos to you for the outreach that it takes to pull
27 that together.
28

29 Any questions for Orville.
30

31 (No comments)
32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
34 without hearing any we'll move on to the announcement
35 of the consensus agenda.
36

37 Greg.
38

39 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Members of the Board. My name is Greg Risdahl, for the
41 record. I'm the Fisheries Division Leader for the
42 Office of Subsistence Management. And this is my
43 colleague Robin LaVine, the acting Anthropology
44 Division Leader.
45

46 There were 11 fisheries proposals on
47 the consensus agenda, one was asked to be removed by
48 the Mary Peltola from the Kuskokwim River InterTribal
49 Fishery Commission. These are proposals where there
50

1 has been agreement among the Federal Subsistence
2 Regional Advisory Councils, the Federal InterAgency
3 Staff Committee and the Alaska Department of Fish and
4 Game concerning Board action. Anyone may request that
5 the Board remove a proposal from the consensus agenda
6 and place it on the regular agenda. The Board retains
7 final authority for removal of the proposals from the
8 consensus agenda. The Board will take final action on
9 the consensus agenda after deliberation and decisions
10 on all the other proposals.

11
12 The consensus agenda proposals appear
13 on Page III or Roman Numeral III, and when we get to
14 that point, I will go briefly over each of those
15 proposals that are on the non-consensus agenda.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
20 Greg. Any questions for Greg.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.

25
26 (Pause)

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, I was
29 just getting some clarity on process here. So before
30 we move on here we do have on our agenda at the public
31 comment period on the consensus agenda items. So most
32 people have already weighed in and what we heard in our
33 report is that it's all good, and so if there was any
34 public who had something to speak to on that. I know
35 one of the public comments we pulled 17-05 off based on
36 public comment. So this opportunity here is still
37 open.

38
39 OPERATOR: As a reminder for anybody on
40 the phones who would like to make a comment, please
41 press star followed by one.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
46 hearing or seeing none, we're going to go ahead and
47 move on to D, Board deliberation.

48
49 OPERATOR: I beg your pardon, Mr.

50

1 Chair, we do have a few people queuing up to questions.
2 One moment.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. As long
5 as they're pertinent to the consensus agenda items.

6
7 OPERATOR: Correct, sir.

8
9 Mr. Nicholas Kameroff, your line is now
10 open.

11
12 MR. KAMEROFF: Thank you. Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board. I'm calling
14 just to state Aniak Tribe and myself as a Federally-
15 qualified user, we support Federal management of our
16 Kuskokwim River in light of the conservation of king
17 salmon and that we would like the Federal management to
18 take over and that we will work with the InterTribal
19 Fish Commission and Federal Fish and Wildlife Service
20 as well as all the players on board in how to go about
21 the fishery. And I am aware we have only about 22,000
22 to 30,000 harvest as we've had in the past and that it
23 could be equitably worked out for our users to get a
24 share of the fish to be harvested from the mouth of the
25 Kuskokwim River all the way to the headwaters.

26
27 And that's all I have, thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
30 that. Any questions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 OPERATOR: We also have a Mary Mattias,
35 and I do apologize if I pronounced that, your line is
36 now open.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Mary.

39
40 MR. MATTHIAS: Hi, my name is Mary
41 Matthias. I represent the Orutsaramiut Native Council
42 here in Bethel. And I'm commenting on the fisheries
43 temporary special action request FSA19-02 submitted by
44 Akiak Native Community. I just want to make sure this
45 is on the agenda, right.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Mary, and
48 there will actually be a time when we get to that
49 proposal for the public to comment specifically to it.
50

1 MS. MATTHIAS: Okay. Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So I mean if
4 you want to.....

5

6 MS. MATTHIAS: Okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Mary, we
9 appreciate that.

10

11 OPERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do
12 not see any more questions or comments.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
15 we'll move on to deliberation and action on non-
16 consensus agenda items.

17

18 And for the public we'll start with
19 FP19-01, proposal to allow the use of gillnet and
20 rescind the net depth restriction for Yukon River
21 subsistence.

22

23 MR. REAM: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
24 and Members of the Board, as well as our
25 representatives of the Regional Advisory Councils. My
26 name is Joshua Ream and I am a cultural anthropologist
27 with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm joined
28 here today with my colleague and co-analyst, George
29 Pappas, as well as with Fred Bue, the Yukon area in-
30 season Federal manager to help answer any questions
31 that you may have on this proposal.

32

33 This is Fisheries Proposal FP19-01. It
34 can be found on Page 351 of your Board books and I'll
35 give you just a moment to get there.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 MR. REAM: I'll begin by mentioning
40 that the analysis and talking points reflect
41 regulations existing prior to the January 2019 Board of
42 Fisheries meeting. The State will brief the Board on
43 the regulatory outcomes of that meeting.

44

45 Proposal FP19-01 was submitted by Jack
46 Reakoff of Wiseman and requests an expansion of the
47 area and fishing time for the Federal subsistence drift
48 gillnet fishery in Subdistricts 4B and 4C of the Yukon
49 northern Federal subsistence fishery management area.

50

1 The proponent also requests repealing the maximum mesh
2 depth restriction of 35 meshes deep for drift gillnets
3 used in Subdistricts 4B and 4C of the fishery.
4

5 In the next slide you will see a map
6 depicting the areas in question and this map is also
7 available on Page 356 of your Board books.
8

9 The proponent states that adoption of
10 this proposal would align Federal subsistence
11 fisheries, methods, means, seasons and area regulations
12 with recent State regulatory changes for the drift
13 gillnet fisheries in Subdistricts 4B and 4C of the
14 Yukon River drainage and would mirror the State's
15 absence of a drift gillnet mesh depth limit. The
16 proponent indicates adoption of this proposal will
17 reduce the amount of travel time and associated
18 expenses for subsistence users who choose to use drift
19 gillnets to harvest salmon. The proponent indicates
20 that removing the drift gillnet and mesh depth maximum
21 combined with more liberal fishing season dates for
22 fall chum salmon would reflect recent changes made by
23 the State and will increase compliance with regulations
24 as well as reduce enforcement concerns.
25

26 In March of 2018 the Alaska Board of
27 Fisheries adopted modified proposal 230 allowing the
28 use of drift gillnets of 150 feet in length in
29 Districts 4B and 4C. Prior to this only set gillnets
30 and fishwheels were authorized. The communities of
31 Galena and Ruby are the only two Yukon River drainage
32 communities that are nearest to and consistently
33 harvest salmon from all three districts, 4A, 4B and
34 4C. Prior to the recent change in State regulations,
35 which authorize the use of drift gillnets in
36 Subdistricts 4B and 4C, subsistence users from Galena
37 and Ruby who chose to use a drift gillnet to harvest
38 fish other than chinook salmon had to travel to
39 Subdistrict 4A and a portion of 4B. Distances traveled
40 to drift gillnet fishing spots sometimes required
41 travel of over 100 river miles. With the change in the
42 State regulations to allow subsistence fishing of
43 salmon by drift gillnets in Subdistricts 4B and 4C and
44 to remove net mesh depth restrictions, the Federal
45 regulations are now more restrictive than the State
46 regulations.
47

48 Next slide please.
49
50

1 Oh, you're there, thank you.

2
3 If the proposal were to be adopted,
4 additional harvest opportunities would be provided to
5 Federally-qualified subsistence users by removing the
6 depth restrictions on drift gillnets in Subdistricts 4B
7 and 4C of the Yukon River. Also if the proposal were
8 to be adopted, a Federal subsistence drift gillnet fall
9 chum salmon fishing season within Subdistricts 4B and
10 4C of the Yukon River beginning August 2nd would be
11 provided.

12
13 Currently only the State managed drift
14 gillnet subsistence fishery for fall chum salmon is
15 authorized under State regulation but not in Federal
16 subsistence regulations. If this proposal was adopted
17 Federally-qualified users could drift gillnet fish
18 under Federal regulations which would be independent to
19 State regulations during the referenced timeframe.
20 Aligning the Federal subsistence drift gillnet
21 allowance with State regulations will likely result in
22 less confusion by fishers and less administrative
23 actions by the Federal in-season manager. Adoption of
24 this proposal will align State and Federal subsistence
25 fishing regulations which will reduce enforcement
26 concerns and user confusion. The Federal in-season
27 manager, under the management authority delegated by
28 this Board will continue to have the authority to make
29 in-season adjustments in fishing time and gear types in
30 response to chinook salmon run strength.

31
32 The OSM conclusion is to support
33 Proposal FP19-01.

34
35 This proposal was submitted to mirror
36 recently adopted fisheries liberalizations by the
37 State. Currently the Federal drift gillnet fishery in
38 Subdistricts 4B and 4C of the Yukon River is more
39 restrictive than the State managed fisheries.

40
41 Adoption of this proposal will allow
42 Federally-qualified users to fish deeper waters with
43 drift gillnets in the identified area without mesh
44 depth restrictions.

45
46 Allowing the use of deeper nets may
47 increase user efficiency by reducing the amount of time
48 used to harvest the same number of fish in a deeper net
49 in less time than it would take to do so with a
50

1 shallower net. Adoption of this proposal will also
2 create a fall chum salmon drift gillnet Federal
3 subsistence fishery beginning August 2nd allowing users
4 to target fall chum salmon if a harvestable surplus is
5 determined by the in-season Federal fisheries managers
6 with the management authority granted by the Federal
7 Subsistence Board.

8
9 Adoption of this proposal is not
10 expected to increase subsistence harvest as the
11 fisheries participation and salmon harvest in the
12 affected subdistricts has been consistently low.
13 Although an increase in harvest is not expected,
14 adoption of this proposal may affect management of
15 other Federally-qualified users harvesting salmon
16 outside of Subdistricts 4B and 4C.

17
18 Thank you for your time and I'd be
19 happy to answer any questions that you have regarding
20 this proposal as you deliberate.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
25 Josh. Any questions or discussion from the Board for
26 Josh.

27
28 Ken.

29
30 MR. LORD: Josh, could you please
31 explain that last sentence that it may affect other
32 users and what effects you're talking about.

33
34 MR. REAM: So just affecting other
35 users than those that can't fish with gillnets in 4A, B
36 and C. So we would be seeing more fish harvested from
37 B and C, but potentially the same fish that they would
38 have had to go 100 or more river miles to harvest in
39 Subdistricts 4A.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no more
44 questions, we'll move on to the summary of public
45 comment from the Regional Council coordinator.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 For the record, my name is Katya Wessels and I'm acting
49 Council Coordination Division Chief.

1 There is no written public comments on
2 the Proposal FP19-01.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
7 That will open up the floor for public testimony.

8
9 OPERATOR: We have a question from the
10 phone.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

13
14 OPERATOR: Mary Matthias, your line is
15 open.

16
17 MS. MATTHIAS: This is Mary Matthias. I
18 wanted to make a comment on the non-consensus item --
19 agenda item, or is that too late.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sorry, Mary, I
22 missed that question there, can you ask it again
23 please.

24
25 MS. MATTHIAS: Is it too late to make
26 comments on the non-consensus agenda items?

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, we are on
29 the non-consensus agenda items, right now, and we're
30 specifically speaking to FP19-01, which is to allow the
31 use of gillnets and rescind the net depth restriction
32 for the Yukon, so if your comments are specific to
33 that, that's the topic we're on.

34
35 MS. MATTHIAS: Okay. No, it's not on
36 that, it'll be on 19-09 and 19-10.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Those
39 will be the next two that we do.

40
41 MS. MATTHIAS: All right.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank
44 you, Mary. Any other public testimony on line or here
45 in the house on 19-01.

46
47 OPERATOR: No further questions at this
48 time.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 We'll move on to Regional Council recommendation, the
3 Chair designee. Yukon. Kusko.
4

5 MR. GERVAIS: This is Tim Gervais from
6 the Western Interior. Our Council's comments for this
7 proposal are on Page 351 of your meeting book.
8

9 The Western Interior Council voted
10 unanimously to support FP19-01. Changes to this
11 regulation will align State and Federal regulations and
12 provide elimination of unnecessary maximum depth
13 restriction of 35 meshes. The Western Interior Council
14 also believes that the addition of a chum fishery after
15 August 2nd is a positive aspect of this proposal.
16 Western Interior Council is in agreement with the
17 position of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence
18 Regional Advisory Council that FP19-01 will alleviate
19 crowding on State waters for Ruby residents and be more
20 economical for Federally-qualified users who live up
21 river from Ruby.
22

23 This proposal recognizes traditional
24 style of driftnet fishing that is documented in the
25 middle Yukon River that has occurred since at least
26 1850.
27

28 Just a short recollection of that is a
29 fellow had written about observing Natives fishing on
30 the Middle Yukon in 1864. His quote out of his book
31 is: We saw the very pretty sight of a whole fleet of
32 birch bark canoes proceeding together as regularly as a
33 company of soldiers. At a given signal the owners of
34 each canoe drift his net into the water and when
35 raising it a big salmon came up, struggling to get
36 away, there was a general shout, he wrote.
37

38 So that was a long time ago but it is
39 drift fishing, it's not fishing with a modern net of
40 150 feet in length, but it is drift fishing with the
41 materials available at the time.
42

43 That's all I have for now.
44

45 Mr. Chair.
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tim.
48 Any questions for Tim.
49

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Before
4 we proceed with the other Regional Advisory Council
5 Chairs we did miss a public commenter, so if you're in
6 here to come on up and speak to 19-01.

7

8 MR. LAMONT: Hello, Mr. Chairman and
9 Board Members, thank you. John Lamont, lower Yukon. I
10 do support 19-01 to a certain extent. We've had depth
11 restrictions on our gear sizes on the Yukon River for
12 conservation purposes for the chinook salmon getting to
13 the spawning grounds across the border. So I do
14 support our people if they're using drift nets but not
15 having -- you know, not rescinding the net depth
16 restriction. You see it on YouTube, you see activities
17 going on on the Yukon River where they actually sink
18 their nets with rocks and I believe that may not be
19 allowed on the Yukon. I know at the mouth of the Yukon
20 we were never allowed to sink our nets to try to get
21 them deeper down. We have a 29 or 30 mesh net that we
22 use for subsistence.

23

24 So I just wanted to make that, you
25 know, concern known to the Board about the depth
26 restrictions, you know, on the Yukon River.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
31 Lamont. Any questions for Mr. Lamont.

32

33 Tim.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I'd like
36 to address your concerns, Mr. Lamont. You're saying
37 that you're concerned with a fishermen sinking their
38 entire net, the cork line even, to be down low, I
39 believe that practice is prohibited in State regs, I
40 don't know what the regulation is on the Federal level.
41 But I'm not aware of that practice. The Ruby fishermen
42 are using nets, most of them which were provided
43 through Tanana Chiefs Conference, and it's not a very
44 deep net.

45

46 But they're just -- the purpose of the
47 maximum depth restriction being removed was to make it
48 match State regulations so that the same gear could be
49 used throughout the fishing area. It's a patchwork of

50

1 Federal water, and then when you get to Ruby it
2 switches to State water, and the back to Federal water
3 when you get down on the other side of Galena. So the
4 intent of removing the depth restriction is to just
5 allow the users to have one set of gear that can be
6 used for both Federal -- under Federal and State
7 regulation.
8

9 I've not seen or aware of any local
10 users in Ruby or Galena that are really expanding upon
11 their net construction to have some kind of massive
12 deep, deep net or any kind of sunken net fishing
13 practice.
14

15 MR. LAMONT: Through the Chair. I'm
16 not really sure of your name, but, actually, we, as
17 subsistence users in the Yukon Districts Y1 and Y2, we
18 utilize what's required for our commercial fishery and
19 we do have depth restrictions on the mesh and if you go
20 on YouTube, just recently I've seen a couple of posts
21 where on the Middle Yukon they were doing subsistence
22 harvesting of kings, they were tying heavy rocks on to
23 their lead lines and sinking their total net. I mean I
24 know that may not be a standard practice but it
25 shouldn't be -- just like the bear hunt, you know, it's
26 ruining nit for the rest of the users on the Yukon.
27 But I still don't support having an unlimited depth --
28 or no depth restriction on subsistence gillnets on the
29 Yukon.
30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32

33 MS. PITKA: I would like to ask -- I
34 see that we have our State in-season manager here and I
35 would like to make a clarification that depth
36 restrictions are for commercial nets, I believe, and I
37 would like to ask for a clarification from our in-
38 season manager.
39

40 Thank you.
41

42 MR. MULLIGAN: Through the Chair.
43 After consulting with Holly Carroll, our in-season
44 manager, you are correct there is no depth restriction
45 for the subsistence fishery, only for the commercial.
46

47 MS. PITKA: Thank you. So this would
48 just bring it in line with regular subsistence
49 regulations up and down the river.
50

1 Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Lamont. Thank you
6 everybody. And that brings us back to Council Chair
7 comments. So we heard from Western Interior, so YK or
8 Seward Penn.

9

10 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, through the
11 Chair, I'll go ahead and go. Alissa Rogers, the Yukon
12 Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

13

14 Our Council had supported FP19-01.
15 There was positive feedback from communities on the
16 Yukon River in this area and there would be no
17 conservation concern by this change but would allow
18 residents in 4B and 4C to be able to drift fish in
19 their own area on the river. The Council supported the
20 subsistence opportunity for the communities in the area
21 of the Yukon River and noted it would also help
22 alleviate crowding and competition for drift fishing in
23 the lower river since they would not have to travel far
24 or travel in order to fish.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
29 Alissa. Any questions. Comments from the Board.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Seward Penn.

34

35 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Members of the Board.

37

38 Our Council's comments on Proposal
39 FP19-01 are on Page 351 of your meeting booklet and the
40 Council voted unanimously to support FP19-01.

41

42 Council members noted that the
43 subsistence users need to be given a meaningful
44 priority and if there isn't a priority over commercial
45 harvest then the Council is not doing the community a
46 service. If there is conservation issues, commercial
47 fishing should be curtailed and not subsistence.
48 Council members also noted that the chinook salmon are
49 often intercepted in high seas.

50

1 One Council member stated that FP19-01
2 would allow users from 4B and 4C to harvest fish closer
3 to home. That was kind of one of the message we wanted
4 to convey, I think, at the time. And the ability to
5 fish locally is critical for most subsistence users.
6 It's that way at home and we feel we wanted to support
7 others the same.

8

9

Thanks.

10

11

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
12 Louis. Any questions.

13

14

(No comments)

15

16

17

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
17 we'll move on to the Eastern Interior. I don't see
18 anybody.

19

20

21

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Mr. Chair and Members of the Board, I'm here to present
22 the position of the Eastern Interior Council.
23 Unfortunately Andrew Firmin, who was supposed to be
24 here was not able to be here due to the airplane
25 departing earlier than was in his scheduled agenda.

26

27

28

So the Eastern Interior Council's
28 comments can be found on Page 373. And the Eastern
29 Interior Council voted unanimously to oppose Proposal
30 FP19-01.

31

32

33

The Council was appalled by this
33 proposal, and that's the word they used on the record,
34 there several times, appalled. So the Council was
35 appalled by this proposal and opposed it on the basis
36 that if passed it will allow more liberal efficient
37 fishing practices that will specifically target larger
38 fish which should not be allowed during the time of
39 salmon conservation.

40

41

42

If approved, this proposal will have a
42 huge impact on the long-term sustainability, undermine
43 rebuilding efforts and hinder achieving the quality of
44 escapement. The Council stressed that reducing the
45 mesh depth restrictions allows fishers to fish deeper
46 which further allows them to be more effective in
47 catching the larger fish instead of allowing them to
48 swim to the spawning grounds. Expanding subsistence
49 drift gillnet fishery will allow the catch of larger,

50

1 older fish with larger eggs that swim further off
2 shore.

3
4 The Council considers this proposal as
5 one undermining that has been done over the course of
6 the last seven to eight years for salmon conservation.

7
8 The Council expressed an opinion that
9 the OSM analysis did recognize the impacts of the
10 proposal on rebuilding salmon stocks and conservation
11 for the long-term sustainability of chinook salmon on
12 the Yukon River. The Council noted that the State
13 Board of Fisheries rejected similar types of proposals
14 for the last 20 years, however, approved it in March of
15 2018. The Council recognized that if the Federal
16 Subsistence Board does not pass this regulation there
17 would be conflicting regulations in different parts of
18 the Yukon River due to the varied and complex land
19 status, and ideally the Council would like to have
20 regulations that are easy to understand, but not at the
21 cost of undermining chinook salmon conservation.

22
23 The Council, however, stressed, that
24 there's a lot of evidence that points out the stripping
25 and selling of fish, not just as subsistence, but also
26 as commercial activity. The Council questioned the
27 subsistence harvest numbers given by the Alaska
28 Department of Fish and Game because of the way this
29 data is collected. The Council noted that illegal
30 stripping and selling of fish during time of low
31 abundance of chinook salmon adds a significant
32 uncontrolled variable for the managers to consider.
33 Therefore, the liberalization of methods of subsistence
34 harvest opens up an opportunity for greater harvest,
35 which, in turn, will morph into a commercialized
36 activity that is completely unregulated.

37
38 The Council also stated that just
39 because Board of Fish approved a similar proposal, it
40 does not mean that the Federal Subsistence Board
41 should.

42
43 In their deliberations the Council
44 referred several times to the words of the late Lester
45 Erhart, Council member of the Eastern Interior, who
46 said that the reason we got into this chinook crises
47 was the drift gillnet fishery.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
2 bringing their view forward.

3
4 Any questions.

5
6 Rhonda, and then Greg.

7
8 MS. PITKA: I have several questions.
9 First off, I would really like to reiterate that having
10 the Regional Advisory Council members here on the
11 record at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting should
12 be of the utmost importance to us and I would like it
13 also relayed to those members, that someone should show
14 up in person. I appreciate your summary of that
15 discussion but because this is out of line with what
16 every other Regional Advisory Council has put forward
17 -- I really would have several questions for them.

18
19 MS. WESSELS: Through the Chair. Thank
20 you for those comments, Rhonda. We made all of the
21 efforts to bring the Eastern Interior Council members
22 here, right before this discussion I texted to the
23 Chair and to Andrew Firmin who was going to be here,
24 and I invited them to call in if they can. I don't
25 think they're on line, I believe, if they are, please
26 identify yourself on line.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. WESSELS: So that's all I can do.

31
32 MS. PITKA: Thank you very much for
33 your efforts. I know that you make every effort but I
34 would like it relayed to them, that they need to make
35 more of an effort themselves.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

40
41 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Katya, thank you for the presentation. I was going to
43 ask something similar, if a member was on line, whether
44 or not they could maybe speak to this as well.

45
46 But I also -- you have intrigued me
47 with this statement you made about for 20 years we have
48 avoided making this kind of a change based on multiple
49 proposals and recommendations so I'm trying to figure
50

1 out, well, what has changed now. Why are we, you know,
2 after 20 years of saying no, moving into an area where
3 we're now much more comfortable with it, is it -- and
4 maybe that's not a fair question to you, maybe that's
5 for Fred or even Ben or even someone at the State.

6

7

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

10

11

MR. SIEKANIEC: Katya, do you want.....

12

13

MS. WESSELS: Thank you for this
14 question, Greg. When I was reading the Council's
15 justification they were talking about the State Board
16 of Fisheries, that State Board of Fisheries did not
17 approve this type of proposals for 20 years. But I
18 also recollect that during the meeting the Council was
19 talking about that because we got better returns of
20 chinook for the last couple of years, that's why maybe
21 the view had changed.

22

23

And if Fred or Frank can contribute to
24 my answer that would be greatly appreciated.

25

26

Thank you.

27

28

MR. BUE: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
29 Chairman. Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm
30 the Federal in-season manager. I can start shedding
31 some light on this and maybe Holly Carroll with Fish
32 and Game can fill in.

33

34

But like you say, Mr. Siekaniec, the
35 last 20 years has -- there's been quite an evolution of
36 fishing on the Yukon River. 20 years ago we had a
37 pretty substantial chinook fishery and things have
38 changed. In that time, approximately 2009 we really
39 started having problems with chinook, and we have
40 implemented a lot of conservation efforts to the point
41 where we nearly shut everything down on the river. In
42 doing that -- that's for chinook, but there's other
43 species on the river that we want to make available for
44 subsistence users, and closing down fishing to conserve
45 chinook meant that we had no access to those other fish
46 stocks that could help compensate or offset the loss of
47 those. And so over the last eight or so years we've
48 been relaxing fishing, finding other ways of providing
49 opportunity to harvest summer chum that are swimming

50

1 with chinook. And so through District 4, is a very a
2 long district, and so we've been incrementally finding
3 ways, working with the fishermen, initially the
4 community of Koyukuk, voluntarily decided not to fish
5 and do different things on their side to reduce their
6 mesh size and different things.

7
8 And so this proposal, primarily what's
9 different, is that, we've extended the season later so
10 that we could actually fish fall chum to offset the
11 loss of harvest of chinook. One element in there that
12 is different, that's been noted, I think, that's maybe
13 what catches the attention of the Eastern Interior, is
14 the mesh depth. And, so, again, it's a patchwork of
15 water there, and to be consistent with State
16 regulations that are already in place we lifted that
17 net depth restriction. And for the most part people
18 use pretty much a similar type of net. Previously in
19 this section of the river where we were actually ahead
20 of the State regulations as being more liberal. In
21 this area we initially started a permit, Federal permit
22 system, issued people a permit to allow drift fishing,
23 after a number of years, I think six years or so, we
24 saw that there was not very much harvest increase, not
25 very much participation, and so we lifted that
26 requirement for a permit and just made it -- allowed
27 them to drift fish for chinook in this body of water
28 from June 10th to July 14th, I believe it was. And so
29 that was there.

30
31 But now that we're looking at finding
32 alternative methods of fishing we extended the season
33 the fall season, to allow them to fish more in the
34 summer chum and fall chum.

35
36 And I don't know, Holly, do you have
37 anything else to add to that.

38
39 MS. CARROLL: (Shakes head negatively)

40
41 MR. BUE: So I think that's where we
42 are. It's been a progression trying to work with the
43 local fishermen in that area, finding ways to offset
44 the loss of chinook.

45
46 Mr. Chairman.

47
48
49 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Greg.

2

3 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Just to
4 make sure I'm following this. So this is really
5 oriented towards trying to harvest more chum, and do
6 you, as the in-season manager, have the tools that are
7 necessary or if for some reason you believe that
8 chinook are starting to be harvested at a greater
9 number than you had perhaps anticipated.

10

11 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Siekaniec.
12 Yes, as a manager I do have delegated authority from
13 this Subsistence Board to do that, in times of
14 conservation adjust our fishing actions to conserve
15 fish, in fact I'm mandated to do that.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gene.

22

23 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
24 addition over the 20 years when the opinion has changed
25 with regard to gear utilized, how many of these years
26 did it allow for a commercial -- direct commercial
27 exploitation of chinook or a secondary exploitation of
28 chinook?

29

30 MR. BUE: None that I'm aware of in
31 that time period. I believe the commercial harvest of
32 chinook was longer than that, just prior to that,
33 before 1998 or something.

34

35 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

38

39 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Gene, thanks for asking that question. So the
41 statement was made that this will morph into an
42 uncontrolled commercial fishery, why would that even be
43 made? What's the -- what would be driving a statement
44 like that to be made?

45

46 MR. BUE: I think that's maybe what you
47 heard in a little bit of the testimony yesterday also.
48 People suspecting that maybe it's the illegal
49 commercial sale of chinook.

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. And I think
2 it was stated that, you know, if you know that illegal
3 activities are taking place please help us manage this
4 fishery as best we can, you know, by way of working
5 within communities, community education and variety of
6 different means.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
11 adding all that context Fred.

12
13 Any other questions.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. I think
18 we heard from all our Regional Council recommendations,
19 we'll move on to the tribal and Alaska Native Corp
20 comments.

21
22 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
23 Members. Orville Lind. Native Liaison for the Office
24 of Subsistence Management.

25
26 During the consultation held for 2019-
27 2021 fishery proposal on June 7th, we had no comments
28 made on Fisheries Proposal 19-01.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
33 Orville. With that we'll move on to the Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game comments, State liaison.

35
36 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Just for your edification we did supply comments that
38 updated our position given that recent actions taken by
39 the Board of Fish just in the middle of last January
40 here, they generated their own proposal with the desire
41 to simplify some of the regulations that were put into
42 place in District 4. And the three things that that
43 did was it allows drift fishing for all areas of
44 District 4, so no longer piecemealing between the
45 subdistricts. It removes the season dates so that it
46 is legal to harvest all salmon with drift gillnets in
47 this area and I think you heard already the reasons for
48 that is providing additional opportunity for other
49 species outside of kings. And, third, what it did was

1 it still retained the gillnet length restriction of 150
2 feet, 25 fathoms. So that was passed just this
3 January. And I think we're on schedule to have that in
4 place for this season.

5
6 But if I missed anything, Ms. Carroll
7 can add, if not, we'll take any questions.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
10 questions for the State.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing or
15 seeing none, thank you.

16
17 We'll move on to InterAgency Staff
18 Committee comments, ISC.

19
20 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
21 the record my name is Jennifer Hardin.

22
23 The InterAgency Staff Committee
24 comments for Fisheries Proposal 19-01 begin on Page 374
25 of the meeting materials.

26
27 The InterAgency Staff Committee found
28 the Staff analysis to be a thorough and accurate
29 evaluation of the proposal and that it provides
30 sufficient basis for the three Regional Advisory
31 Council recommendations supporting this proposal and
32 Federal Subsistence Board action on the proposal.

33
34 The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Western
35 Interior Alaska, and Seward Peninsula Subsistence
36 Regional Advisory Councils all supported this proposal
37 while the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional
38 Advisory Council opposed the proposal citing
39 conservation concerns.

40
41 It is important to note that the OSM
42 analysis acknowledged that Fisheries Proposal FP19-01
43 will result in increased efficiency for Federally-
44 qualified subsistence users, as they would be
45 harvesting closer to home rather than having to travel
46 to District 4A to use driftnets. However, the analysis
47 concludes that no conservation concerns are anticipated
48 because the increase in harvest would be minimal.
49 Harvest restrictions can be implemented or modified by

50

1 Federal managers in fishing districts if conservation
2 concerns occur.

3

4 The InterAgency Staff Committee
5 supports FP19-01.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
8 Jennifer. Any comments or questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate
13 that. That opens it up to Board discussion with
14 Council Chairs or the State Liaison. I guess we've had
15 ample opportunity to ask questions and engage.

16

17 Any other questions or comments.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
22 we'll move on for Board action on FP19-01. The floor
23 is open -- oh, Josh has a comment.

24

25 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
26 briefly I wanted to point out that the State's
27 regulatory language and their new comment is included
28 in your books on supplement three.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

33

34 Greg.

35

36 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair
37 and Members of the Board. Greg Siekaniec, Fish and
38 Wildlife Service. I would like to move to adopt
39 Fisheries Proposal FP19-01 with modification to mirror
40 the liberalization to the Yukon River drainage salmon
41 fisheries in District 4 enacted by the Alaska Board of
42 Fisheries in January of 2019.

43

44 This includes allowing drift gillnet
45 fishing for salmon in all of District 4 and removing
46 season dates so it is legal to harvest all salmon
47 species with drift gillnets in this area. This also
48 includes the removal of the net mesh depth restriction
49 of 35 meshes currently in Federal regulations but

50

1 absent from State regulations in this district.

2

3 Adopting this modified proposal would
4 insure that Federal regulations are not more
5 restrictive than State regulations for this fishery and
6 also fully align State and Federal regulations
7 pertaining to drift gillnetting of salmon in District 4
8 of the Yukon northern fishery management area.

9

10 And if I get a second I would provide
11 additional justification.

12

13 MR. BROWER: Second.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 MR. BROWER: Second.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Charlie.
22 You know this modified proposal will, again, as we've
23 heard several times increase the efficiency and
24 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users
25 to harvest salmon and will have minimal biological
26 impacts. The modified language does not limit our
27 application of specifying mesh size to target different
28 salmon species, which is important for salmon
29 conservation. Potential conservation concerns for
30 salmon expressed by the Eastern Interior Regional
31 Advisory Council, as we heard from our in-season
32 manager, can be addressed via restrictions implemented
33 by the in-season management if required. This would
34 align State and Federal regulations, which is helpful
35 to reduce confusion for user groups and finally the
36 proposal supports the position of the Western Interior,
37 the Yukon Delta and the Seward Peninsula Regional
38 Advisory Councils.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 Greg, for your proposal -- I mean your motion, it was
44 thorough.

45

46 Any questions, comments or discussion.

47

48 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Ken.
2
3 MR. LORD: I may have misheard. Greg, I
4 heard you say you wanted to mirror State regulations
5 and remove the depth -- the mesh depth size, but I
6 thought I heard Ben say that they have a 50 fathom
7 depth maximum.
8
9 MR. MULLIGAN: Length.
10
11 MR. LORD: Oh, it's length, my
12 apologies. Okay, thanks for clearing that up.
13
14 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thanks for listening.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MR. GERVAIS: 25 fathom.
19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tim.
21
22 MR. GERVAIS: 150 feet.
23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.
25
26 MR. SIEKANIEC: Are you thoroughly
27 confused now.
28
29 MR. LORD: As long as we're talking
30 about length and not depth, I'm good.
31
32 MR. SIEKANIEC: All right, we're good.
33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, now
35 we have a motion and it's been seconded and we're under
36 discussion between the Board here.
37
38 Gene.
39
40 MR. PELTOLA: For clarification, the
41 modification which you presented in your motion was
42 that presented to the Regional Advisory Councils or
43 reviewed by the Regional Advisory Councils?
44
45 MR. SIEKANIEC: Ask that again.
46
47 MR. PELTOLA: The motion you made with
48 modification. So I am assuming that was presented to
49 the -- was not presented to the Regional Advisory
50

1 Councils, correct.

2

3

MR. SIEKANIEC: One minute.

4

5

(Pause)

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MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, I just wanted to -- excuse me, for clarification, I just wanted to know such that we're asked to articulate our vote and in this case we have multiple Regional Advisory Councils in support of and one in opposition so I want to be able to articulate the vote and it's just for clarification on our end.

MR. SIEKANIEC: Giving the timing of the Board passing this in January and the Regional Advisory Council meetings coming later, I am going to say that it has probably been presented but I would actually ask if we have any comment from the Councils. But my understanding, with talking with Carol, is that, yes, giving the timing it would have been presented as part of the discussion.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Hearing no more discussion, a call for the question.

MR. PELTOLA: Question.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, who does, oh, Katya, sorry.

MS. WESSELS: Sorry. Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division at OSM. This modification had not been presented to the Councils.

MR. SIEKANIEC: Not been presented to any of the Councils.

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, because they took action on these proposals at their fall meeting, not at the spring meetings.

MR. SIEKANIEC: I'm sorry, they took action when?

MS. WESSELS: During the fall of 2018. That's when they deliberated the proposals.

MR. SIEKANIEC: Oh, in the fall, okay,

1 so they took action prior to the January meeting, okay,
2 then that would not have been presented to them.

3

4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Jennifer.

5

6 MS. HARDIN: Actually, I'd like for
7 Fred or George or Josh to address Mr. Peltola's
8 question because I think we can clear this up.

9

10 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Jennifer.

11

12 MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes,
13 correct, the timing of the sequence of the
14 modifications was not there, but essentially the
15 content of the language, all that has changed is
16 they've actually reduced the wording, and so what the
17 State of Alaska has done is taken out A, B and C, and
18 combined it into a combined thing, rather than breaking
19 it out by season dates, that's what this proposal is to
20 get rid of the dates and say all season. And by doing
21 so they got rid of subsections of this regulation. So
22 what's there was discussed, the wording is slightly
23 different because of the designation of the dates and
24 those are reflected and contained within the new
25 wording of this modification.

26

27 Mr. Chairman.

28

29 Is that correct, for the State?

30

31 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair. Sorry, this
32 is Holly Carroll with State of Alaska, Yukon summer
33 season manager. I just wanted to clarify that what the
34 Federal manager is explaining is that all we did was
35 simplify the language because we were saying the same
36 thing for every subsection of the river, so when the
37 RACs were presented this proposal and we presented our
38 position on it, the basic effect of it was allow drift
39 gillnetting for all four species of salmon and so then
40 we didn't need any of those season dates anymore. So
41 at the Board that language was simplified and cut out
42 because there were no need for dates and now it just
43 mirrors the types of descriptions we have for all the
44 lower districts as well.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

47

48 Greg.

49

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 So if I heard that correctly then that was the
3 discussion that was held with the Regional Advisory
4 Councils.

5
6 MR. BUE: Around the dates?

7
8 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes.

9
10 MR. BUE: Yes. And so it was, yes,
11 each section was for a certain king period, chum
12 period, king period, chum period 4B and C and on up,
13 and so it was simplified.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
16 further discussion.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Deliberation.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Comments.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Since it's non-
29 consensus -- oh, Greg.

30
31 MR. FROST: Question.

32
33 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Gene, did
34 that answer your.....

35
36 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, it did and I
37 apologize, I didn't mean to cause a quagmire but it
38 helped me on my wording on articulating our vote.

39
40 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. And on
43 these non-consensus we're going to go roll call just
44 for the matter of what you just stated. So we'll go
45 roll call.

46
47 At this time question has been called
48 but we continued with the discussion so we're going to
49 call for the question again.

50

1 MR. FROST: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
4 called. And we'll do roll call. I'll have Tom take
5 over.

6

7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. Thanks for
8 the job, Mr. Chair.

9

10 Again, this is with Fishery Proposal
11 19-01 and this is to adopt with modification to mirror
12 recent Board of Fish liberalization and remove the mesh
13 depth restrictions in Unit -- Subdistricts 4B and 4C on
14 the Yukon River.

15

16 We'll start with Mr. Herbert Frost from
17 the National Park Service.

18

19 MR. FROST: Support.

20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
22 Management, Chad Padgett.

23

24 MR. PADGETT: Support.

25

26 MR. DOOLITTLE: US Fish and Wildlife
27 Service, Greg Siekaniec.

28

29 MR. SIEKANIEC: Support.

30

31 MR. DOOLITTLE: US Forest Service,
32 David Schmid.

33

34 MR. SCHMID: Support.

35

36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Indian
37 Affairs, Gene Peltola.

38

39 MR. PELTOLA: We vote to adopt FP19-01
40 with modification. And BIA votes in support -- support
41 of the original positions of the Yukon Delta, Western
42 Interior and Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
43 Councils. In addition to, as noted in the OSM analysis
44 the fisheries management for this area species is
45 abundance based and experiences both low participation
46 and harvest levels under Federal subsistence
47 regulations. Adoption of this proposal should not
48 result in a conservation concern for any of the salmon
49 species.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Peltola
4 for that. And that's good to have that clarification
5 considering we did have one opposing RAC.
6
7 Thank you, sir.
8
9 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
10
11 MS. PITKA: I support because
12 liberalizing the regulation to this effect would allow
13 the subsistence users in the area greater chance of
14 harvest and also for all of the reasons that Member
15 Peltola just listed.
16
17 Thank you.
18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Charlie
20 Brower.
21
22 MR. BROWER: Support.
23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: And Chairman Mr.
25 Christianson.
26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support.
28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: It's unanimous and the
30 motion passes.
31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you all
33 for your work and time and energy. I think we got the
34 ball rolling now and I think we could make this work
35 and I think we could take a break for a second. Take
36 five and that will probably mean 10.
37
38 (Off record)
39
40 (On record)
41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
43 we'll get started here this afternoon.
44
45 (Pause)
46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
48 we're going to start with 19-09. So we'll move on and
49 we'll call on the lead author, the analyst to go ahead
50

1 and present to us.

2

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MR. DECOSSAS: Sure thing. Good afternoon, Members of the Board. My name is Gary DeCossas, I'm the current fisheries biologist at Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and the former Kuskokwim area fisheries biologist for the Office of Subsistence Management. Beside me is the co-author of this analysis, Joshua Ream. I'll start with the proposal now.

Proposal FP19-09 submitted by Alissa Rogers requests that prior to June 1 the use of six inch or less mesh size gillnets shall not be restricted in Refuge waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage.

Proposal 113 submitted by Alissa Rogers to the Alaska Board of Fisheries requests to close the Kuskokwim River Drainage to the harvest of chinook salmon by emergency order June 1. During the January Board of Fisheries meeting this proposal failed unanimously. So that's the sister, the companion proposal on the Board of Fish side.

Ms. Rogers states that ADF&G's Kuskokwim Salmon Management Plan which requires the State to close the chinook salmon subsistence fisheries through June 11th inhibits subsistence users from customary and traditional harvest of other species of fish with gillnets especially whitefish and sheefish, which are typically harvested with six inch mesh size gillnets. The proponent believes few chinook salmon migrate past the mouth of the Kuskokwim River by June 1, so any restrictions to six inch or less mesh size should not happen until after June 1 in order to allow users to harvest fish other than chinook salmon.

Outright closures or limits on the use of gillnets before June 1 in order to protect chinook salmon have been common since 2014.

In 2016 ADF&G began implementing a closure to gillnets before June 12 annually based on a new regulation that required ADF&G to close the Kuskokwim River chinook salmon subsistence fishery before June 12.

Since 2017 ADF&G has implemented weekly opportunities with four inch mesh size set gillnets

1 during the gillnet closure before June 12th in order to
2 allow the harvest of species other than chinook salmon.

3
4 Move on to the effects of the proposal.

5
6 If the proposal were adopted the use of
7 six inch or less mesh size gillnets would not be
8 restricted before June 1 in Federal public waters of
9 the Kuskokwim River drainage. This proposed regulation
10 would supersede any State emergency orders that closed
11 Refuge waters to the use of gillnets before June 1, as
12 such ADF&G emergency orders closing the drainage to the
13 use of gillnets that in 2018 began on May 25 would not
14 apply to Federally-qualified subsistence users until
15 June 1. However, the Federal in-season manager could
16 still issue special actions to restrict the use of
17 gillnets before June 1, if necessary, to conserve
18 chinook salmon.

19
20 If adopted, the effect on chinook
21 salmon may differ depending on run timing and area.
22 Chinook salmon are widely known to begin migrating into
23 the mouth of the river by the end of May, through early
24 June. Given this and the data on run timing from the
25 Bethel test fishery, fishing below the Johnson River
26 before June 1 would result in some chinook salmon
27 harvest, while fishing above Bethel would not likely
28 result in any chinook salmon harvest. Those chinook
29 salmon harvested prior to June 1 would likely be headed
30 to spawning locations in the headwaters. Depending on
31 harvest totals, this could negatively affect headwater
32 stocks. Alternatively, early harvest may provide some
33 relief to lower and middle river stocks by spreading
34 out take over the entire run. If adopted, the proposed
35 changes will provide more traditional early fishing
36 opportunities for non-salmon species than are currently
37 provided under recent State actions. This proposal
38 does not restrict the in-season manager's ability to
39 manage chinook salmon runs during times of conservation
40 before June 1.

41
42 OSM's conclusion for FP19-09 is to
43 support Proposal FP19-09.

44
45 The justification is as follows.

46
47 Similar to the conclusion of -- I
48 forgot to delete that (makes sound)

49
50

1 Although the intent of the early season
2 closures are to protect the front end of the chinook
3 salmon run, which are known to return to the upper
4 parts of the Kuskokwim River drainage, in order to
5 equitably distribute chinook salmon harvest to the
6 middle and upper communities within the drainage, the
7 initial timing of these closures have severely limited
8 gillnet opportunities for non-salmon species, such as
9 whitefish and sheefish by subsistence users.
10 Supporting this proposal would provide a clear priority
11 to subsistence users harvesting fish with gillnets
12 prior to June 1. Long-term data collected at the
13 Bethel test fishery suggests that chinook salmon are
14 unlikely to be above Bethel in large numbers before
15 June 1. On the other hand, the Bethel test fishery
16 data as well as telemetry data suggest that chinook
17 salmon are present in some magnitude below Bethel by
18 June 1. Federally-qualified users residing in the area
19 near or below Bethel would have a greater opportunity
20 to harvest chinook salmon migrating from the lower
21 portions of the Kuskokwim River drainage in addition to
22 targeted non-salmon species.

23
24 However, during conservation concerns
25 for chinook salmon, the Federal in-season manager can
26 still mitigate the risk of chinook salmon harvest by
27 issuing an emergency Federal special action restricting
28 the use of six inch or less mesh size gillnets if
29 initial data suggests too much chinook salmon harvest
30 is occurring in these portions of the river before June
31 1.

32
33 And with that my presentation is done.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
36 questions.

37
38 Greg.

39
40 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Refresh my
41 memory why we went to four inch mesh, what was the
42 intent of going to four inch mesh by the State. I mean
43 I don't know, Gary, if you want to answer that or if
44 you'd like to defer that to the State.

45
46 MR. TIERNAN: Yeah, through the Chair.
47 Mr. Siekaniec. This is Aaron Tiernan with the State of
48 Alaska Kuskokwim River area manager.

49
50

1 So four inch came about once we started
2 to see the decline in king salmon for the ability of
3 subsistence users to try to get out there and do some
4 fishing to harvest white fish and other local fish
5 species in the area that weren't salmon. And we've
6 heard a lot of public commentary regarding those, pro
7 and against the opportunities, but that's where it came
8 about.

9
10 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any additional
13 questions.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
18 you. We'll move on to summary of public comments from
19 the Regional Council Coordinator.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
22 Board. For the record, Eva Patton, Council coordinator
23 for the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional
24 Advisory Council.

25
26 We do have a couple comments that we
27 received from regional advisory committees, the State
28 Regional Advisory Committees that did meet to weigh in
29 on the Federal subsistence proposals. In the very,
30 very back, the last page of your book you'll find their
31 recommendations on Proposal FP19-09. The ACs did not
32 submit developed comments or discussion but they did
33 want to rely their vote on these proposals to the
34 Board.

35
36 The Bethel Advisory Committee supported
37 FP19-09.

38
39 The Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee
40 also supported FP19-09.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that concludes
43 public comments.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

46
47 Any questions.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
2 we'll move on to opening the floor to public testimony.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 OPERATOR: No public at this time.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
9 Regional Council recommendations.

10
11 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 This is Alissa Rogers with the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
13 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

14
15 For Proposal FP19-01 [sic] our RAC has
16 supported this proposal. The Council discussed support
17 for the opportunity to harvest sheefish and other
18 larger whitefish right at ice out is a very important
19 source of fresh fish after subsistence foods put away
20 for the winter have run low. The Council discussed
21 local knowledge observations that indicated there are
22 no or few chinook salmon in the river prior to June 1st
23 and this proposal should not impact chinook
24 conservation. Sheefish are large and Council members
25 noted that larger mesh net such as six inch is needed
26 to catch them. They stressed that four inch whitefish
27 nets are not effective for sheefish and in recent years
28 with six inch mesh restrictions people have not been
29 able to catch that early run of sheefish that is a very
30 important source of fresh fish first thing in the
31 spring.

32
33 It is also noted that sheefish are
34 preferred by some elders that can be dried or half
35 dried and put away for years similar to salmon.
36 Council members also noted that 5.5 inch mesh net may
37 also catch burbot and large pike and it is all good
38 fish first thing in the spring right after breakup.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 Alissa.

44
45 Western Interior.

46
47 MR. GERVAIS: This is Tim Gervais with
48 the Western Interior. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Members
49 of the Board. Our Council comments for this proposal

50

1 are on Page 377 of your meeting book.

2

3

4 The Western Interior Council voted
5 unanimously to oppose FP19-09. While the Council was
6 sympathetic to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta's Subsistence
7 Regional Advisory Council's desire to catch fresh
8 sheefish earlier in the season, it was recognized that
9 using six inch mesh is counter productive to chinook
10 salmon conservation. The Council agreed with the
11 position of Member Ray Collins, longtime designee for
12 the Council's representation on Kuskokwim fisheries
13 issues, that there needs to be as much protection as
14 possible for the first run of chinook salmon on the
15 river. InterTribal leaders and managers can adjust,
16 when needed, to allow for sheefish harvest without
17 interfering with the chinook salmon run. The Council
18 also opposed this proposal because it believes the
19 current management regime is working.

19

20

Thank you.

21

22

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tim.

23

24

Any questions for Tim.

25

26

(No comments)

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
We'll move on to tribal or Alaska Native Corp comments.

30

31

32

MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Federal Board Members.

33

34

35

36

During the consultation in June 7th on
Fisheries Proposal 19-09 there were no comments or
questions from the tribes or corps.

37

38

Thank you.

39

40

41

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Orville.

42

43

44

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
comments, State Liaison.

45

46

47

48

49

MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
For the record the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
is neutral on this position, the use of the nets prior
to June 1st.

50

1 As stated by Federal managers, there's
2 a low percentage of kings coming through at that time
3 and one of the, I would say, points that we were
4 looking to hear from them, was still having that
5 flexibility, as you know, as pointed out the June 1st
6 closure can happen but also in working with our working
7 group it could happen before then. And so as long as
8 it's there we don't have any concerns at this time.
9

10 And also for the record, a number of
11 proposals that are having to do with the Kuskokwim were
12 taken up at the Board of Fish meeting but none of those
13 were passed so nothing as far as the State's side was
14 changed as you look at this one.
15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
17 questions for the State.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
22 InterAgency Staff Committee comments, ISC Chair,
23 Jennifer.
24

25 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 InterAgency Staff Committee comments for Fisheries
27 Proposal FP19-09 begin on Page 410 of the meeting
28 materials.
29

30 The InterAgency Staff Committee
31 supports Fisheries Proposal FP19-09. This proposal
32 would increase the opportunity for harvest of important
33 subsistence species during a period that likely will
34 have little or no impact on chinook salmon and
35 conservation, depending on run timing. The proposal
36 would provide a clear priority to Federally-qualified
37 subsistence users prior to June 1 to harvest non-salmon
38 and salmon species using six inch mesh gillnets.
39

40 Long-term data from the Bethel test
41 fishery indicates that few chinook salmon are likely to
42 be in the lower portion of the Kuskokwim River before
43 June 1.
44

45 In 2018 as supported by the Federal in-
46 season manager and many stakeholders, all users were
47 restricted under State regulations to the use of four
48 inch setnets for one day between May 25 to June 1. The
49 2018 restrictions reduced the ability for users to
50

1 effectively harvest non-salmon species, like large
2 sheefish and whitefish. The proposed regulation would
3 provide assurance to Federally-qualified subsistence
4 users that the use of six inch or less mesh gillnets
5 could be used to harvest customarily and traditionally
6 important fish species until June 1st of each year.
7 The Federal in-season manager or the Federal
8 Subsistence Board would still have the ability to issue
9 Federal special actions to restrict the use of six inch
10 or less mesh size gillnets before June 1st if preseason
11 data suggests conservation concerns related to
12 maintaining healthy populations of chinook salmon, or
13 to insure the continuation of subsistence uses or for
14 population viability issues or public safety.
15

16 Adopting this proposal as Federal
17 regulation may result in regulatory differences between
18 State and Federal regulations that could cause some
19 confusion for some users. Chinook salmon harvest
20 should be monitored prior to June 1st to validate that
21 the harvest of chinook salmon would be minimal, to
22 incorporate harvest information into future in-season
23 decisions and to identify if a closure may be warranted
24 prior to June 1st.
25

26 Adopting this proposal may also result
27 in increased discussions between upper and lower river
28 subsistence users.
29

30 Chinook salmon remain a species of
31 conservation concern and restricted harvest of the
32 species will likely continue in 2019 and beyond.
33

34 Adoption of this regulation will not
35 affect the ability of the local in-season management
36 stakeholder groups to continue meeting to identify and
37 recommend in-season management actions.
38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
42

43 Any questions for the ISC.
44

45 (No comments)
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
48 that opens it up for Board discussion with everybody.
49

50

1 Alissa.
2
3 MS. ROGERS: Sorry, Mr. Chair, to
4 interrupt but I'm not sure if we went over public
5 testimony.
6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I made it
8 available and we paused for a moment or two.
9
10 MS. ROGERS: Okay. With allowing
11 people on the telephone.
12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I even
14 heard it click.
15
16 MS. ROGERS: Okay.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
21 watching out for the public, appreciate that.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: If there is
26 somebody who wants to speak to it we're at the moment
27 right now I will entertain it at this point.
28
29 OPERATOR: We do have a comment from
30 the phone, would you like to take that?
31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll take that
33 comment at this time.
34
35 OPERATOR: Mary Matthias, your line is
36 open.
37
38 MS. MATTIAS: Hi, this is Mary
39 Matthias. I'm the Natural Resources Director for the
40 Orutsaramiut Native Council here in Bethel commenting
41 on FP19-09.
42
43 ONC, the tribe here in Bethel is in
44 support of this proposal to allow the use of six inches
45 or less mesh size gillnet prior to June 1 in the
46 Kuskokwim River. And we also feel that it is important
47 to allow people to harvest sheefish and other non-
48 salmon species during this time.
49
50

1 That's all I have to say.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
6 Mary. Any questions for Mary.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And that was a
11 call for support from the public so appreciate that.

12

13 Any other discussion.

14

15 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

18

19 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 So, you know, I'm not hearing a tremendous outcry that,
21 you know, there's a big conservation issue around this.
22 But you've heard me many, many times sort of advocate
23 for the idea that we have the, you know, Kuskokwim
24 River InterTribal Fish Commission and the Regional
25 Advisory Council and the working group and the in-
26 season manager sort of working hard out there and the
27 Board keeps pushing them to be the decisionmakers out
28 there.

29

30 I guess my only pause is that when you
31 put something in that is a shall not be restricted,
32 there is no more flexibility, there is no more room for
33 that group to really come together to do anything when
34 there is to be a season within the waters that are
35 administered by the Refuge as the in-season management.

36

37 That's my only pause, is kind of the
38 Board sort of taking the decisionmaking again and not
39 leaving it with the collaboration that we've asked all
40 of them to engage in out there on the river.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gene.

45

46 MR. PELTOLA: Where's that shall
47 verbiage at?

48

49 MR. SIEKANIEC: In reading right at the

50

1 top under Proposal FP19-09 near the end of the
2 sentence, second part, or less mesh size gillnet shall
3 not be restricted in the Kuskokwim River drainage.
4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think the
6 critical timing here is prior to June 1st.....
7

8 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.
9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:so there
11 is a drop dead day of June 1st, right.
12

13 MR. SIEKANIEC: Correct.
14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So it would be
16 only prior to June 1st.
17

18 Okay, Gene.
19

20 MR. PELTOLA: And further down, the
21 proposed regulations, the thing -- unless superseded by
22 Federal special action, and if I recall the in-season
23 manager does have time and area delegated from this
24 entity which is easily executed via special action
25 written in the field, so I don't think that is much as
26 a concern as it may appear to be.
27

28 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Gene. So
29 the other thing I think that was noted here in the
30 testimony was that the potential for confusion around
31 the idea that we may have a separation now of
32 regulation from six inch mesh being allowed for those
33 waters administered by the in-season but the State
34 waters then could have a different perspective
35 maintaining a four inch mesh size or something, which,
36 again, I go back to that seems like that should be
37 worked out amongst this whole group to come with kind
38 of a unified approach to, you know, how they want to
39 administer that.
40

41 Again, it just seems like what we've
42 been asking them to do we'd like to see them continue
43 to do.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Rhonda.
46

47 MS. PITKA: I hear that concern and I
48 understand it. And their meeting is after this meeting
49 so I'm not sure if they would have time particularly to
50

1 go over in their working group and plus they have a lot
2 of other things on their plate.

3

4 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gene.

7

8 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 understand that concern but also I have probably a
10 greater concern that there's been very limited fishing
11 opportunity prior to June 12th with the implementation
12 of the State regulation closing it as announced by the
13 in-season manager on the State side until June 12th.
14 In addition to, if you look over management of the
15 system as a whole there already exists, even in those
16 areas where there's more coordination, so to speak,
17 with regard to the harvest of salmon, there is already
18 a differentiation between what's allowed in Federal
19 waters and State waters as well, where, and
20 historically and in the past the State has authorized
21 community harvest permits for up to 10, I think, salmon
22 per individual, there have been unlimited four inch
23 mesh opportunities where there have been restrictions
24 down in the lower river.

25

26 So those conflicts already do exist in
27 State and Federal regulations.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any more
30 discussion or deliberation.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We will
35 open a floor for a motion.

36

37 MS. PITKA: I'd like to make a motion.
38 I move to adopt Fisheries Proposal FP19-09. 19-09
39 requests that prior to June 1st the use of six inch or
40 less mesh size gillnets shall not be restricted in the
41 Kuskokwim River drainage.

42

43 Following a second I will explain why I
44 support this action.

45

46 MR. BROWER: Second.

47

48 MS. PITKA: So my justification is
49 similar to the comments provided by the InterAgency

50

1 Staff Committee.

2

3

4 This proposal would increase the
5 opportunity for harvest of important subsistence
6 species during a period that will likely have little to
7 no impact on chinook salmon conservation depending on
8 the run timing. This would also provide a clear
9 priority to Federally-qualified subsistence users prior
10 to June 1st to harvest non-salmon and salmon species
11 using six inch mesh gillnets. Long-term data from the
12 Bethel test fishery indicates that few chinook salmon
13 are likely to be in the lower portion of the Kuskokwim
14 River before June 1st.

14

15

16 In 2018 all users were restricted under
17 State regulations to the use of four inch setnets for
18 one day between May 25th to June 1st. While many
19 stakeholders and the Federal in-season manager support
20 the restrictions made in 2018, the restrictions reduced
21 the ability for users to effectively harvest non-salmon
22 species like large sheefish and whitefish.

22

23

24 The proposed regulation in FP19-09 will
25 provide assurance to Federally-qualified subsistence
26 users that use of six inch or less mesh gillnets could
27 be used to harvest customarily and traditionally
28 important fish species until June 1st of each year.

28

29

30 The Federal in-season manager or the
31 Federal Subsistence Board would still have the ability
32 to issue Federal special actions to restrict the use of
33 six inch or less mesh size gillnets before June 1 if
34 preseason data suggests conservation concerns related
35 to maintaining healthy populations of chinook salmon,
36 continuation of subsistence uses, concerns, population
37 viability issues, or for public safety.

37

38

39

38 And I have more.

40

41 Chinook salmon remain a species of
42 conservation concern and restricted harvest of this
43 species will likely continue in 2019 and beyond.
44 Adoption of this regulation will not affect the ability
45 of the local in-season management, stakeholder groups
46 to continue meeting to identify and recommend in-season
47 management actions.

47

48

49

50

48 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Rhonda.
3
4 That opens the floor for discussion.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none
9 we'll call for the question.
10
11 MR. SIEKANIEC: Question.
12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
14 called, we'll do roll call.
15
16 Tom.
17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is to adopt
19 Proposal 19-09.
20
21 National Park Service, Herbert Frost.
22
23 MR. FROST: Support.
24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
26 Management, Chad Padgett.
27
28 MR. PADGETT: Support.
29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Indian
31 Affairs, Gene Peltola.
32
33 MR. PELTOLA: Vote to adopt FP19-09 in
34 support of the.....
35
36 REPORTER: Gene, your mic.
37
38 MR. PELTOLA: Vote to approve FP19-09
39 in support of the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory
40 Council. In addition the date of June 1st shall
41 provide additional opportunities for Federally-
42 qualified subsistence users. Long term data collected
43 at the Bethel test fishery suggests that chinook salmon
44 are unlikely to be in that portion of the river in
45 large numbers prior to June 1st. In addition, to the
46 ability of the in-season manager utilized time and area
47 as delegated by the Board.
48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: US Forest Service,
50

1 David Schmid.
2
3 MR. SCHMID: I support.
4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: US Fish and Wildlife
6 Service, Greg Siekaniec.
7
8 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Fish and
9 Wildlife Service, I actually oppose this, just based on
10 the principle that I believe decisions are best made
11 out there with the collaboration, that's been proven to
12 be very effective and we've heard great sort of comment
13 and perspective on for the last couple of years.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Sir.
18
19 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
20
21 MS. PITKA: I support for the reasons
22 that I outlined before.
23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Charlie
25 Brower.
26
27 MR. BROWER: Support.
28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony
30 Christianson.
31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support.
33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion passes.
35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
37 that. We'll move on. Just for everybody here, too, I
38 think this will be the last one I entertain for the
39 day. I think we're safe, safely assume we can probably
40 get through our business tomorrow.
41
42 We'll open it up to the lead author.
43
44 MS. KENNER: Thank you. The analysis
45 for Fisheries Proposal FP19-10 begins on Page 451 of
46 your meeting materials.
47
48 Hello, Mr. Chair, Members of the Board
49 and Council Chairs. My name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an
50

1 anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management
2 and beside me is my co-author, Gary DeCossas, who was a
3 fisheries biologist at OSM.
4

5 So Fishery Proposal FP19-10 was
6 submitted by James Charles of Tuntutuliak in the lower
7 Kuskokwim River requesting that during times of salmon
8 harvest closures each tributary of the Kuskokwim River
9 in which salmon do not spawn should remain open to the
10 use of gillnets more than 100 yards upstream of its
11 confluence with the Kuskokwim River.
12

13 Tributaries in which salmon do not
14 spawn are the focus of this proposal. These tributary
15 closures are implemented through special actions when
16 the harvest of salmon is otherwise closed in Yukon
17 Delta National Wildlife Refuge waters of the Kuskokwim
18 drainage.
19

20 So why is the proponent seeking this
21 new regulation.
22

23 During each year since 2014, the Refuge
24 manager has closed the first 100 yards of these
25 tributaries to the use of all gillnets. This has
26 prevented harvest of chinook salmon that may have
27 strayed past the mouths of these tributaries. The
28 proponent is seeking this regulation because he does
29 not want these tributary closures to increase beyond
30 100 yards because this would interfere with the
31 subsistence users harvesting non-salmon fishes in areas
32 where salmon have been shown not to spawn.
33

34 Who would be affected by the proposal
35 if the Board adopted it.
36

37 Well, 17 communities are situated in
38 the Kuskokwim River drainage within or adjacent to the
39 Refuge waters, an estimated 12,000 people from the
40 community of Eek near the mouth up river to
41 Chuathbaluk. The majority belong to the Kusquqvagmiut
42 Federation of Villages and Yup'ik cultural tradition.
43 Their heavy reliance on non-salmon fish is well
44 documented in ethnographic accounts and household
45 harvest surveys. For example, research has shown that
46 lower river communities have harvested high levels of
47 non-salmon fishes from 23 to 46 percent of annual
48 harvest of all wild resources. Harvest levels and
49 other resource categories except salmon have been
50

1 considerably lower. Humpback whitefish, broad
2 whitefish, sheefish, pike and burbot are available for
3 harvest in June and when harvested in June are taken by
4 subsistence users primarily with gillnets which are the
5 focus of this analysis.

6
7
8
9

So how would people and salmon be
affected.

10 If the proposal was adopted then during
11 times of salmon fishing closures, the common practice
12 of the Refuge manager of closing these tributaries
13 would become regulation. There would be no effect on
14 subsistence users, other users or fish. The Refuge
15 manager would be required to provide additional
16 justification in order to increase these closures
17 beyond 100 yards.

18
19

The OSM conclusion is to support with
modification to clarify that non-salmon spawning
tributaries would be identified in special actions.

22
23

So in summary, 100 yards have been
deemed adequate to prevent the harvest of salmon that
have strayed past the mouths of these tributaries. It
is likely that some subsistence users increase their
efforts to harvest non-salmon fishes when opportunities
to harvest salmon have been few to none for days at a
time. The Refuge manager has allowed the use of
gillnets in these tributaries so that subsistence users
may continue to harvest non-salmon fishes in an
efficient manner in areas where salmon do not typically
migrate.

34
35

Now, this is on the non-consensus
agenda and one of the reasons is because of the ISC
recommendation, which is on Page 471, and that ISC
recommendation was provided to clarify the regulatory
language.

40
41

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43

That's the end of my presentation.

44
45

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

46
47

Any questions for Pippa.

48
49

(No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
2 the presentation. We'll do summary of public comment.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
5 Board. For the record, Eva Patton, Council Coordinator
6 for the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional
7 Advisory Council.

8
9 Again, the very last page of your very
10 book there are recommendations from four State of
11 Alaska Advisory Committees who met and reviewed Federal
12 subsistence fisheries proposals and wished to convey
13 their recommendations to the Board.

14
15 One of the four advisory committees,
16 the Bethel AC voted to oppose FP19-10.

17
18 And three of the State Advisory
19 Committees voted to support FP19-10. The Central
20 Kuskokwim AC supports 19-10. The Lower Kuskokwim AC
21 supports 19-10. And also the Central Bering Sea AC
22 supports FP19-10.

23
24 Thank you, that concludes public
25 comments.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

28
29 Any questions.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
34 we'll move on to open the floor for public testimony,
35 that includes the phone line.

36
37 OPERATOR: Mary Matthias, your line is
38 open.

39
40 MS. MATTHIAS: Hi. Thanks this is Mary
41 Matthias with Orutsaramiut Native Council in Bethel.
42 We support FP19-10 from the mouth, non-salmon spawning
43 tributaries in the Kuskokwim River to remain open to
44 the use of gillnets 100 yards upstream of confluence
45 during times of closure to salmon fishing with
46 including the 100 yard marker so that folks know how
47 far they have to go up to fish.

48
49 That concludes my comments.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Mary.
3
4 Any questions for Mary.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate your
9 participation, thank you, Mary.
10
11 MS. MATTHIAS: Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
14 public present.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Seeing or
19 hearing none, we'll move on to Regional Council
20 recommendations.
21
22 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 This is Alissa Rogers with the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
24 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council. And support for
25 FP19-10.
26
27 The Council supported subsistence
28 opportunity to fish non-salmon bearing tributaries as
29 these rivers have traditionally been very important for
30 local communities for subsistence fishing for many non-
31 salmon species. The Council discussed at length the
32 concerns of catching salmon that may come up these non-
33 spawning rivers and Council members who fish in those
34 areas note that few salmon were caught.
35
36 A member of the public participating at
37 the YK-Delta RAC meeting reported that they heard
38 rumors about being able to catch a lot of salmon in
39 these non-salmon tributaries so he went down himself
40 and tried it out with various mesh net sizes and he did
41 not catch any salmon.
42
43 Council members appreciated hearing
44 these other accounts and felt this helped to confirm
45 that this proposal would not cause a conservation
46 concern for chinook salmon.
47
48 Council members stressed that
49 especially in times of chinook conservation, these non-
50

1 salmon tributaries are extremely important to be able
2 to harvest some fish and are able to get large humpback
3 whitefish and broad whitefish, burbot and pike.
4

5 A Council member from the tundra
6 village of Tuntutuliak noted that historically they
7 used to stay on these non-salmon spawning rivers year-
8 round to fish and they have always been traditionally
9 very important for the harvest of non-salmon fish for
10 the communities and subsistence needs.
11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
15

16 Any questions for the Chair.
17

18 (No comments)
19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
21 we'll move on to Western Interior.
22

23 MR. GERVAIS: Tim Gervais for the
24 Western Interior. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Members of
25 the Board. Our Council's comments for this proposal
26 are on Page 451 of your meeting book.
27

28 The Western Interior Council voted
29 unanimously to support FP19-10 with the OSM
30 modification. The OSM modification would allow Federal
31 managers to permit fishing with gillnets in non-salmon
32 streams more than 100 yards upstream from the
33 confluence of the Kuskokwim River. The Western
34 Interior Council shared concerns about larger tides
35 bringing salmon into these drainages and was assured
36 that managers have the ability to change zones if there
37 was a conservation concern.
38

39 Thank you.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tim.
42

43 Any questions.
44

45 (No comments)
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
48 we'll move on to tribal, Alaska Native Corp comments.
49

50

1 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
2 Members.

3
4 During the consultation held there were
5 no comments from tribes or ANCSA Corporations on FP19-
6 10.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
11 Orville.

12
13 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
14 comments.

15
16 MR. MULLIGAN: The Alaska Department of
17 Fish and Game is neutral on this proposal.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

22
23 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We have a
26 question.

27
28 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, thank you, Mr.
29 Chair. For the State of Alaska.

30
31 Did this particular proposal or a
32 similar proposal come to the attention of the Board of
33 Fish and if so, could you summarize the discussion they
34 may have had.

35
36 MR. TIERNAN: Yeah, through the Chair.
37 Mr. Peltola. For the record, again, Aaron Tiernan.
38 State of Alaska area manager for the Kuskokwim River.

39
40 An extremely similar proposal to this
41 was brought to the Board. They deliberated on it, they
42 did not pass it. The reasoning because they wanted to
43 leave the flexibility in the manager's hands because we
44 do have time and area authority just as the same as the
45 in-season manager on the Federal side of things. So if
46 there is, you know, a large harvest is occurring we
47 still have the ability to shut things down but we've
48 chosen in the past few years to leave that open so
49 folks can have an opportunity to harvest non-salmon

1 species.

2

3

MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, appreciate it.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other questions.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

11

We'll move on to InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

12

13

14

15

16

MS. HARDIN: Thank you Mr. Chair. For the record my name is Jennifer Hardin. InterAgency Staff Committee comments for Fisheries Proposal FP19-10 begin on Page 471 of your meeting materials.

17

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26

The InterAgency Staff Committee supports Fisheries Proposal FP19-10 with modified regulatory language to clarify the original intent of the proponent's proposal. The proponent is seeking a Federal regulation to insure that the closure to the use of gillnets by Federally-qualified subsistence users will not increase beyond 100 yards of the mouth of -- the mouths of all non-salmon spawning tributaries.

27

28

29

The modified regulatory language should read:

30

31

32

33

34

35

All tributaries not expressly closed by order of the Federal in-season manager or the Federal Subsistence Board remain open to the use of gillnets more than 100 yards upstream from their confluence with the Kuskokwim River.

36

37

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The regulatory language suggested by the InterAgency Staff Committee clarifies the original intent of the proponent's proposal and aligns with the desired regulatory changes supported and recommended by the Western Interior Alaska and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. Although the Western Interior Alaska Council recommended support for the OSM modified regulatory language, the Council did not state the need to identify non-salmon spawning tributaries in their justification. The OSM analysis identifies that no complete list of non-salmon spawning tributaries in the Kuskokwim area exist, therefore the OSM modification requirement to list non-salmon

50

1 spawning tributaries in special actions would be
2 difficult and unnecessarily complex. The rivers and/or
3 waters closed to salmon harvest for the use of certain
4 gear types are clearly articulated within special
5 actions issued in the current process by default.
6 Therefore adoption of the ISC modified regulation would
7 result in all other areas remaining open to the harvest
8 of non-salmon subsistence species as intended by the
9 proponent.

10
11 It is important to note that the 100
12 yard restriction language has been the standard
13 language used in special actions issued by the Federal
14 in-season manager for the past several years. Creating
15 this regulation does not restrict the Federal in-season
16 manager from changing the 100 yard distance in the
17 future if new information justifies a change.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

22
23 Any questions for ISC member.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
28 appreciate your statement.

29
30 That opens it up for Board discussion
31 with Council Chairs or the State.

32
33 Gene.

34
35 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Mr. Chair, I have a
36 question for the in-season manager.

37
38 Regard to determination of the 100 yard
39 threshold so to speak, extent of Federal management, on
40 the mainstem, did you or Staff survey those areas for
41 activity, if so was it during a closed period or an
42 open opportunity and what did you observe?

43
44 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Peltola.
45 This is Ray Born. I am the Yukon Delta National
46 Wildlife Refuge, acting Refuge Manager as well as the
47 Federal in-season manager for the Kuskokwim River.

48
49 We do whenever there's activity that
50

1 we're flying the river looking at the activity in the
2 river as well as the non-salmon tributaries. And 100
3 yard setback, we're working with the tribes, and we go
4 there and we meet with their elders and have them agree
5 with us as to where that confluence is, and it changes
6 every year, and then they go 100 yards up upstream,
7 again, using a laser rangefinder to pinpoint where
8 that's at and then we place a posting on either side of
9 the river with a marker on it to make it easier to
10 find.

11
12 But, again, we're doing that in
13 conjunction with the elders and tribal members to help
14 us with that process.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MR. PELTOLA: Followup. Can you
19 further clarify flying. Did you fly the river to look
20 for activity in those areas when the rest of the river
21 was open to only Federally-qualified users, one of the
22 openings or did you fly it when there was no fishing
23 opportunity presented to anybody on the river?

24
25 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Peltola. We
26 do that in both cases. We fly during -- when it's open
27 and we fly when it's closed as well. We have law
28 enforcement officers helping us out in the air also at
29 the same time.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

36
37 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Thank you, Ray, our in-season manager, Mr. Born, I'd
39 like to ask you a couple questions as well.

40
41 So in your opinion, will this be more
42 difficult to address in the future if the Board puts
43 this regulation as a permanent regulation versus
44 whether you're working now through your collaborative
45 process with all the parties or would it be the same?

46
47 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Siekaniec. I
48 think it'd be somewhat easier because it kind of gives
49 confidence to our users out there what that setback
50

1 will be and that will reduce the discourse among the
2 different tribes that some folks do feel they want it
3 set back further but I think if we standardize it now
4 that'd make it a little easier in the future.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. So my next
9 question was, so this -- I think I got all the
10 conversation, this is a standard practice right now.

11

12 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Siekaniec.
13 Yes, it is. It's kind of standard practice since 2014
14 we've been kind of just standard, everybody understands
15 where it's at, so it's worked really well.

16

17 MR. SIEKANIEC: Ray, have you ever been
18 asked to extend this closure past the 100 yards by any
19 of the, like InterTribal Fish Commission members or the
20 State or.....

21

22 MR. BORN: Thank you for that question.
23 Yes, we've had. We've had discussions at InterTribal
24 Fish Commission meetings talking about what additional
25 setbacks were interested in. We've talked, you know, a
26 quarter mile, we've talked a mile, but it's all
27 dependant on the river and kind of the consensus,
28 working together with the in-season management team is
29 100 yards is a good set back for that.

30

31 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Thank you, very
32 much for that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any more
35 questions.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Discussion.

40

41 All right, we'll open it up -- Gene.

42

43 MR. PELTOLA: One general comment. Is
44 that the reason I was asking about the amount of effort
45 put in to determining whether there's activity there or
46 not and asking the State of Alaska whether there was
47 anything brought up by the Board of Fish, with the time
48 and area and your ability with the delegated authority
49 from the Federal Subsistence Board to expand that if

50

1 need be, in addition to the State of Alaska in-season
2 manager maintaining that State authority to expand if
3 there's high salmon harvest, whether it be chinook or
4 otherwise, it makes me feel a lot more comfortable
5 about the proposal in the sense that, I, too, I was
6 born and raised in Bethel, still talk to people at
7 home, heard rumors about people catching, and went down
8 there as a non-Federally-qualified user, myself with my
9 family, were una -- were able to catch salmon. And
10 that's why I went through the series of questions I
11 did.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
14 discussion.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Hearing
19 no more we'll open the floor for a motion.

20
21 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep.

24
25 MR. BROWER: I move to adopt Fishery
26 Proposal 19-10 as modified by the InterAgency Staff
27 Committee to clarify the regulatory language to reflect
28 the original intent of the proponent's proposal.

29
30 Following a second, I'll explain why.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MR. PELTOLA: Second.

35
36 MR. BROWER: My justification follows
37 the same rationale cited by the ISC. The proposal is
38 seeking Federal regulations to insure that the closure
39 to use gillnets by Federally-qualified subsistence
40 users in non-salmon spawning tributaries will not
41 increase beyond 100 yards upstream of the confluence of
42 the Kuskokwim River. The regulatory language suggested
43 by the ISC clearly clarifies the original intent of the
44 proponent's proposal that the tributaries not closed by
45 in-season managers will remain open to the use of
46 gillnets more than 100 yards upstream from their
47 confluence with the Kuskokwim River. The language
48 aligns with the desired regulatory changes supported
49 and recommended by the Western Interior and the Yukon
50

1 Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Advisory Council. Although
2 the Western Interior Council recommended support of the
3 OSM modified regulatory change, the Council did not
4 state the need to identify non-salmon spawning
5 tributaries in their justification.
6

7 The OSM analysis identifies that no
8 complete list of non-salmon spawning tributaries in the
9 Kuskokwim area exist, therefore the OSM modification
10 requirement to list non-salmon spawning tributaries in
11 special actions would be very difficult and
12 unnecessarily complex.
13

14 Finally, creating this regulation does
15 not restrict the Federal in-season manager from
16 changing the 100 yard distance in the future if new
17 information justifies a change.
18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
22 that, Charlie.
23

24 With that we open up the floor for
25 discussion or deliberation.
26

27 (No comments)
28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
30 call for the question.
31

32 MR. PELTOLA: Question.
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
35 called. Roll call, please, Tom.
36

37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 This is to adopt FP19-10 as modified by the InterAgency
39 Staff Committee with modified language to clarify the
40 original intent of the proponent's proposal. The
41 modified regulation should read:
42

43 All tributaries not expressively closed
44 by order of the Federal in-season manager or the
45 Federal Subsistence Board remain open to the use of
46 gillnets more than 100 yards upstream from their
47 confluence with the Kuskokwim River.
48

49 We'll start out with Public Member
50

1 Rhonda Pitka.
2
3 MS. PITKA: Support.
4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Charlie
6 Brower.
7
8 MR. BROWER: Support.
9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: National Park Service
11 Herbert Frost.
12
13 MR. FROST: Support.
14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
16 Management, Chad Padgett.
17
18 MR. PADGETT: Support.
19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: US Fish and Wildlife
21 Service, Greg Siekaniec.
22
23 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. As much as
24 I am, again, an advocate for the collaborative nature
25 and keeping as much flexibility, but hearing the in-
26 season manager state that he believes it will be as
27 easy, or easier under the collaborative nature of the
28 work that's going on, I will support this one.
29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Sir.
31
32 US Forest Service, David Schmid.
33
34 MR. SCHMID: I support.
35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Indian
37 Affairs, Gene Peltola.
38
39 MR. PELTOLA: Support based on the
40 justification provided Board Member Brower.
41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.
43
44 Last, but not least, Chairman Anthony
45 Christianson.
46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support as
48 well.
49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion passes.
2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Let's finish
4 the Kusko.
5
6 MR. DOOLITTLE: 17-05 guys.
7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm not under
9 pressure.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MS. PITKA: No pressure at all.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. BORN: Mr. Chair. Request a five
18 minute break, if we could please.
19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: What's that.
21
22 MR. BORN: Request a five minute break.
23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Five minute
25 break and we'll come on back.
26
27 (Off record)
28
29 (On record)
30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
32 we'll go ahead and get started again with our meeting
33 here after a short recess and we're going to take up
34 FP17-05, and we'll go ahead and start with the lead
35 analyst.
36
37 MS. KENNER: The analysis for FP17-05
38 begins on 131 of the meeting materials. We're going to
39 be talking about the Board's letter of delegation to
40 the Federal in-season manager and I just want you to
41 know that is included as an appendix if you want to
42 look at it, and that's on Page 145.
43
44 Okay, thank you.
45
46 Mr. Chair. Members of the Board and
47 Council Chairs. My name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an
48 anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management.
49 Gary DeCossas who was working with OSM as a fisheries
50

1 biologist was a co-author on this analysis.

2

3 So Proposal FP17-05 was submitted in
4 2016 by Lamont Albertson of Akiak, which is in the
5 middle Kuskokwim River. He requested to modify this
6 Kuskokwim River regulation.

7

8 Federal subsistence fishing schedules
9 openings, closings and methods are the same as those
10 issued for the subsistence taking of fish under Alaska
11 Statutes and the emergency order statutes are cited,
12 unless superseded by a Federal special action.

13

14 So the proponent requested the
15 following modification:

16

17 Federal subsistence management plans,
18 strategies, fishing schedules, openings, closings and
19 methods are issued independently by the Federal
20 Subsistence Management Program including the Federal
21 in-season manager in consultation with appropriate
22 agencies and entities.

23

24 The proponent said the Federal
25 Subsistence Management Program, including the Yukon
26 Delta Wildlife Refuge Manager, who is the Federal in-
27 season manager should collaborate with ADF&G, the
28 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, and
29 the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fisheries Commission to
30 determine a management strategy for Kuskokwim River
31 drainage fisheries. Mr. Albertson believes that the
32 existing regulation severely limits the ability of the
33 Federal Program to exercise independent judgment to
34 achieve the mandates and mission of ANILCA, Title VIII.

35

36 So why did the Board defer the proposal
37 when the relevant Council supported the proposal.

38

39 The Board requested that OSM update the
40 delegation of authority letter from the Board to the
41 Refuge manager so that the updated letter could inform
42 the Board during its deliberations on this proposal in
43 2019. Additionally, the Board said it would consider
44 any developments concerning the Kuskokwim River
45 Partnership Project.

46

47 So following the Board's request, OSM
48 revised the Refuge manager's delegation of authority
49 letter, which was approved by the Board in 2018,

50

1 specifically the Board directed the Refuge manager to
2 coordinate management with representatives of Regional
3 Advisory Councils and the Kuskokwim InterTribal
4 Fisheries Commission, OSM, and ADF&G. Additionally,
5 the Refuge manager was directed to notify the Kuskokwim
6 River Salmon Management Working Group of his management
7 actions and decisions.
8

9 As I mentioned earlier, the Board also
10 deferred this proposal in order to consider new
11 developments in the Kuskokwim River Partnership
12 Project. The Partnership Project has two phases.
13

14 Phase 1 is the implementation of the
15 memorandum of understanding between the US Fish and
16 Wildlife Service and the Kuskokwim River InterTribal
17 Fisheries Commission signed in 2016.
18

19 Phase 2 is the creation of a
20 subcommittee of Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and Western
21 Interior Councils.
22

23 However, after the January 2017 Board
24 meeting, Partnership Project members agreed on a
25 different approach that was implemented during the 2018
26 fishing season. In 2018 many advisory groups were
27 incorporated into the meetings of the in-season
28 management committee of the Kuskokwim InterTribal
29 Fisheries Commission, including representatives from
30 the working group, Regional Advisory Councils, and
31 ADF&G.
32

33 So why did the Board adopt this
34 regulation in the first place, the regulation that's
35 the focus of this proposal.
36

37 Well, beginning in 2001 until 2007, the
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game implemented
39 scheduled windowed closures or sometimes rolling
40 closures that were implemented sequentially up the
41 river and in stepwise progression consistent with
42 salmon run timing. The intent was to provide a
43 distribution of salmon primarily chinook salmon
44 throughout the drainage. So in 2002, OSM submitted a
45 special action request adopted by the Board to
46 implement the regulation that is the focus of this
47 analysis in the Kuskokwim River drainage to relieve the
48 Refuge manager of the burden of implementing the
49 windowed closures through special actions. In 2003 OSM
50

1 requested to expand the new regulation statewide for
2 all fish. The Board adopted a modified proposal to
3 apply the regulations only to the Kuskokwim area and
4 the Yukon River drainage, consistent with the
5 recommendations of those affected Councils.
6

7 So what effects would there be if the
8 Board adopted this proposal.
9

10 Well, ADF&G's Kuskokwim River Salmon
11 Management Plan is entirely implemented through
12 emergency orders and this proposal seeks to remove the
13 regulation that has allowed Federal fish regulations to
14 be the same as those issued by ADF&G by emergency
15 order.
16

17 So if this regulation is adopted
18 subsistence users will be directed by Federal
19 subsistence regulations, which state that fishing is
20 allowed any time unless restricted through Federal
21 regulation.
22

23 As a consequence, the Refuge manager,
24 would have to issue special actions to manage harvest
25 of chinook salmon independently of any direction
26 provided by a management plan until one could be
27 developed. Currently the Refuge manager is required to
28 consult with the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
29 Commission and coordinate with the Chairs of the
30 affected Council, OSM and ADF&G. This process would
31 continue to occur every season until healthy
32 populations of Kuskokwim chinook salmon have been
33 rebuilt.
34

35 The OSM conclusion is to support
36 Proposal 17-05.
37

38 When the Board adopted the regulation
39 that is the focus of this proposal in 2003, ADF&G was
40 managing Kuskokwim salmon subsistence fisheries
41 annually with a scheduled window of closures
42 implemented by emergency orders. The Alaska Department
43 of Fish and Game no longer uses this management
44 strategy. Until 2014 the Refuge manager was not
45 actively managing Kuskokwim salmon subsistence
46 fisheries and ADF&G relied primarily on the Kuskokwim
47 River Chinook Salmon Working Group to inform and review
48 its management decisions, however, since 2014 the
49 Refuge manager has actively managed salmon subsistence
50

1 fisheries in Refuge waters. The Refuge manager must
2 consult with the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fisheries
3 Commission and therefore it is no longer reasonable to
4 assume that ADF&G emergency orders and other management
5 decisions meet requirements for Federal management.
6

7 Concerning the proponent's request for
8 fisheries management planning, a management plan would
9 be considered by the Board through proposals it
10 receives during its fisheries regulatory cycle.
11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair and the Board.
13

14 That's the end of my presentation.
15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
17 Pippa.
18

19 Any questions for Pippa.
20

21 (No comments)
22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
24 we'll move on to summary of public comments, Regional
25 Council Coordinator.
26

27 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
28 Board. For the record, Eva Patton, Council Coordinator
29 for the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional
30 Advisory Council.
31

32 There were no public comments received
33 on FP17-05.
34

35 Thank you.
36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
38 That will open the floor to public testimony and we do
39 have one card here for Jim Simon.
40

41 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Members of the Board.
43

44 Yes, I just wanted to share with the
45 group that I just got off the phone with Lamont
46 Albertson who submitted this proposal, he's very
47 pleased that this is before you being deliberated. I'm
48 not sure why the record says what it says, he wants
49 this proposal passed.
50

1 And I want to speak, personally, to my
2 support for this proposal.

3
4 I think it's important to develop
5 Federal fishery management plan in partnership with the
6 other organizations involved in managing salmon on the
7 Kuskokwim River. And I would really like to see the
8 development of a management plan be put into Federal
9 regulations in order to eliminate the need for an
10 annual month's long bureaucratic process to, by
11 submitting special action requests, in order to have
12 thresholds identified, and to be able to move into
13 management and actually rebuild the chinook salmon
14 stock. I believe the rebuilding was removed from the
15 State salmon management plan for the Kuskokwim River in
16 2207, or somewhere around in there, it hasn't been
17 until Federal management and working through the MOA
18 with the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission
19 that the headwaters tribes in State waters have
20 actually started to see large chinook salmon hens,
21 female salmon, returning to some of those tributaries,
22 thanks to the great observations and commitment of Ray
23 Collins from the Western Interior RAC.

24
25 And I think that if we really do want
26 to rebuild the chinook salmon stocks of the Kuskokwim
27 and provide for those subsistence needs, we need to
28 make more permanent, this arrangement of co-management
29 on the Kuskokwim River, and so I implore you to pass
30 this proposal.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
35 questions for Jim.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any discussion.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Jim,
44 for taking the time.

45
46 Anybody on line.

47
48 OPERATOR: Mary Matthias your line is
49 open.

1 MS. MATTHIAS: Thank you. This is Mary
2 Matthias with the Orutsaramiut Native Council in
3 Bethel. For the FP17-05, the ONC Council has decided
4 not to take any action on this.

5
6 That's all. That concludes my
7 statement here.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 OPERATOR: We have another comment,
12 Nicholas Kameroff your line is open.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 OPERATOR: Your line is open, you may
17 -- your line may be on mute.

18
19 MR. KAMEROFF: Yes, thank you, sorry
20 about that.

21
22 OPERATOR: Go ahead.

23
24 MR. KAMEROFF: Thank you. This is
25 Nicholas Kameroff, Aniak Tribe. Support this Proposal
26 17-05 because it would enable Fish and Wildlife Service
27 and the InterTribal Fish Commission to come up with a
28 co-management plan and eliminate the need for turning
29 in SARs because of the time and cumbersome efforts.

30
31 As you all know and are aware we're
32 still in conservation mode and trying to rebuild king
33 salmon throughout the whole Kuskokwim River drainage,
34 and this would be a positive step forward.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
39 Appreciate your testimony.

40
41 Any questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

46
47 OPERATOR: No further comments from the
48 phone at this time.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 Thank you for calling in and participating.

3
4 We also have a couple more cards here
5 so at this time I'll call on Mike Williams.

6
7 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. Mike
8 Williams from the Akiak Native Community and also Vice
9 Chair of the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
10 Commission.

11
12 We are in full support of this proposal
13 because, you know, we have been involved in developing
14 the process of the Partnership Project and I was
15 intimately involved in crafting that agreement, and I
16 think in the long-run it will be for the best interest
17 of the salmon and the people on the river and for the
18 existence and opportunities for our children and
19 grandchildren and it's not short-term, but long-term
20 and I urge you to support this.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
25 Mike. Any questions for Mike.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
30 thank you, Mike, for coming up.

31
32 Next we have Mary Peltola.

33
34 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 My name is Mary Peltola. I'm here representing the
36 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission.

37
38 The Fish Commission does support this,
39 the executive Council of the Fish Commission does
40 support this proposal. Our executive Council is made
41 up of a member from each of the seven units along the
42 river, so that's from the headwaters to the mouth. All
43 of the executive Council members support this proposal.

44
45 We feel happy with our MOU with the
46 Feds and the MOU is between the tribes and Fish and
47 Wildlife Service. We appreciate the State being
48 involved in our management -- co-management
49 consultations as a technical advisor, but we really
50

1 feel strongly that for chinook salmon and conservation
2 and preservation of chinook salmon, that we need
3 Federal regulations so with -- I'll leave it at that.
4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
6 Mary.

7
8 Any questions or discussion with Mary.
9

10 (No comments)
11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
13 Mary, appreciate it. Any other public testimony.
14

15 (No comments)
16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing or
18 seeing none, that'll conclude the public testimony and
19 we'll move on to Regional Council recommendation.
20

21 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Through the Chair. This is Alissa Rogers with the
23 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
24 Council.
25

26 On FP19-05 [sic], we strongly oppose.
27 The Council discussed current in-season management at
28 length and felt that the current process is working
29 relatively well with the Federal in-season manager
30 working with the InterTribal Fish Commission, the
31 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group and the
32 State managers, and felt that this process should be
33 allowed to continue to grow, rather than trying to
34 manage strictly through encompassing regulations.
35

36 The Council felt that the regulation
37 would be too cumbersome for management and the current
38 MOU with the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
39 Commission would work.
40

41 It was noted by the Council Chair that
42 the proponent had expressed that Mr. Lamont Albertson,
43 he, no longer felt that this proposal was relevant, and
44 the process of the management had moved on.
45

46 The Council did discuss an interest and
47 support for the development of the Kuskokwim Management
48 Plan and the Federal in-season manager so as that some
49 guidance was in place for event of a turnover of the
50

1 Federal management Staff at the Refuge in the future.
2 The Council thinks that the management plan would be
3 critical to continuing to build and collaborative
4 salmon management efforts and open communication that
5 had developed over the past couple of seasons.
6

7 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that was my
8 report.
9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
11 Alissa. Any questions.
12

13 (No comments)
14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
16 we'll move on to Western Interior.
17

18 MR. GERVAIS: Tim Gervais with the
19 Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
20

21 Western Interior opposes FP17-05. The
22 Council believes this proposal will bring about massive
23 unnecessary change to a system that is currently
24 working. The Council also agreed that concerns of the
25 proponent had been addressed in the delegation of
26 authority letter issued after FP17-05 was deferred by
27 the Federal Subsistence Board. Although Council
28 believes regulations would become very cumbersome under
29 this proposal, we did recognize the need for a long-
30 term collaborative management plan that would provide a
31 foundation regardless of working group or Staff
32 turnover. The Council concluded that the current
33 system is working and FP17-05 would unnecessarily
34 restrict manager's ability to respond to the public's
35 needs.
36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tim.
38

39 Any questions for them.
40

41 (No comments)
42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm just trying
44 to figure out myself, there seems to be a slight
45 conflict between the working group and the people on
46 the river that we're banking on to come up with this
47 and the Regional Advisory Councils that we bank on to
48 come up with this. So, I mean, right now we're kind of
49 in a conundrum in my mind, not so much -- I don't know
50

1 how everybody else feels but I could definitely know
2 this is the last session for the day and I can feel it.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm just trying
7 to gather, maybe, some feedback if this was presented
8 at the RAC -- I mean obviously it was presented and was
9 it unanimous or.....

10

11 MS. ROGERS: (Nods affirmatively)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:it was
14 unanimous -- okay. I'm just trying to gather where my
15 position is in this and so I just wanted to get that
16 out there.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 Alissa.

21

22 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
23 Christianson. We took this to a huge discussion of
24 length and we tried to get Mr. Albertson on the phone
25 when we were discussing with this so I had talked to
26 him personally to try to figure out what was going on
27 with the proposal because we knew the extent and
28 legation of this proposal, like he had reported -- this
29 was a past proposal before these agreements had come
30 out, so like we've said, and you've heard it
31 continuously, that this encompasses regul -- what we
32 really actually want is the growth between all these
33 entities to continue open communications rather than
34 having closed communications.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, that
39 helps clarify it for me, I can understand your position
40 now.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 Oh, Mary has something to say, sure
45 Mary I'll entertain it.

46

47 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you. Lamont
48 Albertson, the proponent of this, does want this acted
49 on and he wants favorable support for it. And if you

50

1 wanted, we could get him on the phone. Jim Simon did
2 just talk to him and said that in his testimony.

3
4 You know, the issue that is the most
5 confounding is it's April 16th and usually we don't
6 know until May if there will be a formal, you know,
7 assumption of Federal management and it's very hard to
8 preseason plan. I mean luckily we've had, already this
9 season, three preseason meetings with Fish and Wildlife
10 Service. The working group has not met once. The
11 working group will meet on May 17th. But I feel that
12 it's a disservice to the stakeholders of the Kuskokwim
13 River in thinking about the season ahead if we don't
14 even know if it's going to be State management or
15 Federal management. The run population, you know, the
16 projection for the forecast into the future, does not
17 indicate that we will have healthy runs like we were
18 accustomed to before 2009.

19
20 So I feel like, unless the Federal
21 Subsistence Board votes in favor of 17-05, we will be
22 hanging in the balance every year forever and I just
23 don't think that that's fair to Kuskokwim families.

24
25 MR. SIMON: If I may, Mr. Chairman.
26 Again, Jim Simon with the Kuskokwim River InterTribal
27 Fish Commission.

28
29 There really needs to be a lot more
30 communication about this because unfortunately the
31 Regional Advisory Council's do not appear to understand
32 some of the challenges that the current status quo
33 relationship between and implementing the memorandum of
34 agreement between the Commission and the US Fish and
35 Wildlife Service is experiencing. The delegation of
36 authority coming from this Board is basically usurping
37 that MOA and the deference to the State in the
38 decisions and the lack of open communication with the
39 InterTribal Fish Commission of conversations between
40 the Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and
41 Wildlife Service that take place without the presence
42 of the in-season managers or the executive Council is
43 somewhat problematic and not reflected in the testimony
44 we're hearing from the Regional Advisory Councils.

45
46 The status quo could be improved
47 through the adoption of this proposal and the
48 development of a clear, transparent management plan
49 that gives a better understanding to the Federally-

1 qualified users in the Kuskokwim River as to what to
2 expect and as to whether or not their in-season
3 managers are even going to have a seat at the table
4 during the chinook salmon season.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Simon, for
9 those comments. I'd like to clarify for the Board
10 where we're at in the process.

11

12 We've had three preseason meetings with
13 the InterTribal Fish Commission along with ADF&G and
14 the RAC Chairs and a working group representative to
15 kind of insure that communication is ongoing. So this
16 year we have an ongoing communications plan. We'll
17 actually have the next preseason meeting next week
18 after this Board meets. So there's an ongoing
19 communication process.

20

21 Long-term planning. We talk about it
22 at the preseason meetings. We agree there needs to be
23 a plan. We deferred that to October 22nd as a start
24 date for that so that's in our planning process with
25 the InterTribal Fish Commission, State of Alaska, the
26 working group, the RAC Chairs, as well as all those
27 partners. So all those things are in place already.
28 The communication that Mr. Simon refers to is kind of
29 an artifact of previous times. This year we've had
30 this great communication plan going on, the InterTribal
31 Fish Commission and all the members are really happy
32 with the MOU and the way things are going this year.

33

34 I would not recommend that we make a
35 big change at this point in time, we're really close in
36 the season, we have a lot of good work to do and we can
37 get it all done.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
42 questions.

43

44 Greg.

45

46 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 Thank you, Ray, for those words.

48

49 I find it to be a very strong statement

50

1 when you infer that the Regional Advisory Committee
2 doesn't understand, when, again, we as the Board, have
3 asked you to do just this, to take it, you know, to the
4 local area via this collaboration with all the parties
5 that have been described, I, personally find it
6 difficult to imagine that you could really believe that
7 the Regional Advisory Committee didn't understand the
8 decision and the discussions that they were having.
9

10 So, again, thank you, Ray, and I'm glad
11 you brought in the idea that as of October of this
12 year, you're already going to try and work through some
13 of these growing pains, of, you know, having a strategy
14 that gets you in place earlier in the year because I do
15 know that that was one of Lamont's primary concerns,
16 was, don't leave people hanging on the river until the
17 last minute. I absolutely agree with that. You know,
18 try to get them some sense of how the fish will be
19 administered, you know, prior to that so people can
20 make plans for the purpose of how they would engage
21 within the fishery itself.
22

23 Thank you.
24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tim.
26

27 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Comment regarding Greg's comment.
29

30 No, it is true, there's only -- there
31 is only two or 2.5 people on Western Interior that had
32 a good grasp of what was going on here with this
33 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission and why we
34 needed a change.
35

36 It's like if you're deeply imbedded in
37 the process, you know, it may all make sense but for --
38 for the members in the Western Interior that are on the
39 Koyukuk River or in the middle Yukon, it's really
40 complicated why you have all these different entities
41 and working groups and who needs to be in charge and
42 who's hurting who and so I can say that as far as the
43 Western Interior is concerned, half of the Council
44 members did not understand what the function or purpose
45 of having this proposal supersede the current
46 management and I would recommend that the Kuskokwim
47 River InterTribal Fish Commission reach out to the
48 Western Interior and kind of explain to all the members
49 why this needs to be this way and why it's better than
50

1 what we currently have in place.

2

3 I mean even from your end, the Federal
4 Subsistence Board deferred taking action on this in
5 2017, there's a memorandum of understanding apparently
6 to temporarily or to -- not temporarily but to form a
7 management body, and so it has been a real difficult
8 issue for our individual members to understand what's
9 going on and why it's important and what is the correct
10 -- what is the correct strategy for developing the
11 correct management regime.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, thank
14 you, Tim. I think that echoed what I thought. I mean
15 I guess, you know, we're just trying to figure it out
16 here so that's why we do this roundtable.

17

18 Rhonda.

19

20 MS. PITKA: For the record, I just want
21 to state that I oppose differing action on this measure
22 for the very reason that I think when people propose
23 and put forward proposals, we need to take an action.
24 And I think the discussion at the time was to defer
25 taking action to give more time for the Kuskokwim
26 InterTribal Fish Commission and the Fish and Wildlife
27 MOU to work itself out.

28

29 But having said that, with the
30 knowledge now that that plan is not working as -- you
31 know, with some kinks, I feel a little bit more
32 confident.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gene.

37

38 MR. PELTOLA: So I think this kind of
39 evolved to a general discussion as opposed to following
40 the order so I would like to make a few comments.

41

42 When listening to the RAC positions
43 that I did hear, I heard two common themes. Support
44 the proponent and his desire to have it pulled. And we
45 recently heard that he wanted to have it considered.

46

47 Two. I heard support for a management
48 plan.

49

50

1 I'm interested in this proposal because
2 of the management plan aspect of it.
3

4 If you look at the regulation that
5 would replace, it says, unless superseded by Federal
6 special action. Within the Program there's been
7 disagreement about what that statement means by the
8 advent of a management plan that could be clarified.
9

10 Over the last five to six years regard
11 to the Yukon Delta and its Staff and its delegation of
12 authority, they've had five to six in-season managers.
13 There hasn't been continuity in the position. With Ray
14 coming back as acting, that provides a little more
15 opportunity, but we're still looking at five to six
16 managers over the last five to six years.
17

18 Starting back when this body started
19 addressing special actions for the Kuskokwim, the first
20 year, in '14, we had nine. In '19 we had two, one was
21 pulled, now we have one. That one special action still
22 puts a lot of work on the Office of Subsistence
23 Management, the Anthropology and the Fisheries
24 Division. My particular interest in the management
25 plan is that hopefully it would include triggers, such
26 that, we don't have to go through this process in
27 coming to the Board via special action, where we could
28 have thresholds incorporate that stipulates; if the
29 Alaska Department of Fish and Game's preseason
30 forecast, which is finalized prior to, you know, a
31 certain date, reaches X, then we will have Federal
32 management on the Kuskokwim, which would still require
33 in-season management authority action or action from
34 the Federal Subsistence Board. If the preseason
35 forecast as presented by the Alaska Department of Fish
36 and Game does not reach X -- or exceeds X, excuse me,
37 then we would not have Federal action, but still
38 maintaining the flexibility of in-season manager
39 authority to take action if it did further exceed well
40 above the threshold or below.
41

42 Here, recently, when we came back from
43 lunch break, I had a copy of a letter on my chair,
44 which we have heard that this body who wanted to have
45 the opportunity for the relationships on the Delta,
46 concerning the Kuskokwim to blossom, to flourish. By
47 reading the tone and the things that are addressed in
48 those letters, I don't think that's totally the best
49 place we can be.
50

1 And with that being said, the aspect of
2 this proposal that I like is the potential for a
3 management plan to stipulate thresholds, bullets,
4 trigger points, whatever we want to call them, such
5 that, it can minimize the work load, but still
6 addressing the requirements, the responsibilities of
7 the Federal Subsistence Program, which we, somewhat
8 have in place, we have some people that are pleased
9 with the relationship, we have some that are less
10 pleased with the relationship and we still go through
11 the special action process whereby some years we have
12 addressed special actions in April, and with the
13 oncoming, you know, harvest season starting sometime in
14 May, early June, and I don't see things turning around
15 on the Kuskokwim any time soon. And if we're going to
16 be in this process for one, two, three, four years,
17 whatever it may be, by having a management plan in
18 place with triggers, with whatever you want to call
19 them, that alleviates the pressure on our Staff,
20 meaning the Office of Subsistence Management, the
21 Anthropology and Fisheries, such that we could get to a
22 point where the process we're going through now could
23 be decided well in advance. And, granted, it's based
24 on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's preseason
25 forecast, but that's what we go by anyway and it's just
26 a matter of having a mechanism in place that provides
27 us the guidance, whether we're going to proceed with
28 Federal management or we're going to proceed with State
29 management.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
34 Gene.

35
36 We were on Regional Council
37 recommendations.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So Alissa.

42
43 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
44 Christianson. Mr. Chair.

45
46 I just wanted to reiterate what we have
47 written down here on our recommendation, is that, we
48 want to continue to build on the collaborative salmon
49 management efforts and open communication. We don't --
50

1 in this discussion, we didn't feel they were quite
2 there yet but he said, just now, that they're starting
3 to build one, so let them build it, and then come back
4 with one or a recommendation from them, directly after
5 they've worked out the kinks, as Ms. Rhonda was
6 speaking about, it's something that's working and
7 they're trying to work out the kinks and everything.
8 It just makes more sense.
9

10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
13 you, Alissa. Any more discussion with our Council
14 Chairs.
15

16 (No comments)
17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. I think
19 I'll move on to the tribal, Alaska Native Corp
20 comments.
21

22 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
23 Members.
24

25 During the consultation held on the
26 2019-2021 fisheries proposals there were no comments
27 from the tribes or ANCSA corporation members.
28

29 Thank you.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
32 Orville.
33

34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 comments.
36

37 MR. MULLIGAN: Mr. Chair. ADF&G
38 opposes the proposal as written but supports the
39 clarified intent of the proposal to increase
40 collaboration among State and Federal fisheries
41 management authorities so subsistence uses can continue
42 to be the priority use for Kuskokwim River fish stocks.
43

44 We also supported the clarifying of the
45 delegation of authority to the Federal in-season
46 manager, and, always, we stand ready to provide our
47 biological and our management expertise to this
48 process.
49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
2 questions for the State.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: InterAgency
7 Staff Committee.

8
9 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 The InterAgency Staff Committee found
12 the Staff analysis of FP17-05 to be a thorough and
13 accurate evaluation of the proposal and that it
14 provides sufficient basis for Regional Advisory Council
15 recommendations and Federal Subsistence Board action on
16 the proposal.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
21 Jennifer.

22
23 Board discussion with the Chairs and
24 State liaison. I think we've had extensive discussion.
25 Any further questions, discussion.

26
27 Dave.

28
29 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, hearing both support
30 and opposition, the one thing that I did hear and I
31 think Gene stated it fairly clearly is the need for the
32 management plan and I don't know if that's something
33 the Board can direct or officially endorse or ask to be
34 moving forward with that management plan because I
35 think that would, at least, from what I've heard from
36 all involved, that that's a critical piece here, and
37 maybe the next step in moving forward.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Dave. And, again, I think we heard from Staff that
43 they're in the works for that and that, again, includes
44 all parties I assume, that you've stated, to this
45 point.

46
47 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Christianson,
48 Chair. Yeah, just to clarify we have agreed in part of
49 our preseason meetings to start that planning process

50

1 this fall.

2

3 Also, a couple other agreements, just
4 kind of as a head's up, we've agreed that Federal
5 management will be needed at some point in time this
6 year. We've also agreed on an escapement objective.
7 So those preseason things we're talking about have been
8 taken care of already so we've already given confidence
9 to users at some point we will have Federal management,
10 we just need to decide on when, and that's based on new
11 information which will be coming out as we get closer
12 to in-season. So we're on a good path right now.

13

14 So kind of those steps are en route, so
15 we're doing well.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
20 I would just hope that we have an opportunity as that
21 develops, as I hope it will, I think that's the intent
22 of the Board to see that process through, whether we
23 support or not support this specific proposal, we all,
24 I think, agree, in the context of a management plan.
25 And I think we have it already, I think it just needs
26 to be put in a binder, maybe, that's just my opinion of
27 listening to all of the feedback we have and all the
28 input and watching this process play out for the last
29 couple of years.

30

31 I've seen some pretty good
32 collaboration and some people buying into the system
33 and so hopefully we can continue on that path.

34

35 Again, I mean, we still have to vote on
36 this here today and it's clearly a tough decision for
37 me, because we have basically two things that are the
38 same, and so thank you.

39

40 Pippa.

41

42 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Yeah, I just wanted to -- at the time we were writing
44 this with the available information we had, there
45 wasn't an organized development moving towards a
46 Federal management plan. If there was we would have
47 put it in here so that's new information for us.
48 Because it's -- the management and strategy in large
49 part has come from the Alaska Department of Fish and

50

1 Game Chinook Salmon Management Plan on the Kuskokwim.
2
3 Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
6 other comments or discussion.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Questions.
11
12 MR. PELTOLA: Question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.
15
16 MR. PELTOLA: Oh, I thought you
17 said.....
18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, no, no,
20 we're still -- questions -- we're almost there though.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, I think
25 we're done discussing this one. I think we caught the
26 last fish in the creek.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
31 We'll move on to Federal Board action on this.
32
33 Tom.
34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right, we're taking
36 an action on Fishery Proposal 17-05.
37
38 REPORTER: Tom, you don't have a motion
39 yet.
40
41 MR. DOOLITTLE: National Park Service,
42 Herbert Frost.
43
44 MR. SCHMID: I don't believe we've
45 had.....
46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: There's no motion,
48 okay.
49
50

1 MR. SCHMID:a motion or anything
2 yet.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh, we need a motion.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

9
10 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
11 make a motion.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, the floor
14 is open for a motion, sorry, I'm missing my process
15 here.

16
17 MR. PELTOLA: I'd like to make a motion
18 to adopt FP17-05 with a modification.

19
20 The modified language would be as
21 follows:

22
23 For the Kuskokwim area, Federal
24 subsistence management plan strategies, fisheries
25 schedules, openings, closings and fishing methods are
26 issued by the Federal Subsistence Program, including
27 the Federal in-season manager, the Office of
28 Subsistence Management in consultation with appropriate
29 management agencies and tribal entities.

30
31 If I receive a second I'll provide
32 justification for the motion.

33
34 MS. PITKA: Second.

35
36 MR. BROWER: Second.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Gene.

39
40 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, Mr. Chair. As
41 noted, we have inserted the word tribal into the
42 original proposed regulatory language. Under the
43 Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of Interior, we
44 recognize two different types of tribal entities. One
45 of those are organized under PL93-638, in addition to
46 those organized under the IRA of 1936, so that's why I
47 put in tribal entities -- or the word tribal.

48
49 The desire for a Kuskokwim River
50

1 Federal subsistence fisheries management plan has been
2 identified by subsistence users as being important for
3 addressing the concerns and issues. This would build
4 upon and help to further advance and improve
5 relationships between managers and the Kuskokwim
6 residents, benefitting both the resource and the
7 subsistence users who depend on these fish.
8

9 I recommend that the Federal
10 Subsistence Board direct managers, the Office of
11 Subsistence Management and tribes to work together to
12 develop a Kuskokwim River Federal Fisheries Management
13 Plan with as much local input as possible. The two
14 affected Councils, Western Interior and YK-Delta should
15 be provided with the opportunity to participate in the
16 plans and the development and review.
17

18 While adoption of 17-05 is contrary to
19 the recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils,
20 such an action would reflect more recent preferences
21 for a formal management plan that have been provided by
22 local users in response to ongoing discussions and
23 events that have occurred following the last fall's
24 Council meetings. I feel that adoption of this
25 proposal would be beneficial for subsistence users and
26 would be an important part of conserving the river's
27 fisheries resource.
28

29 In addition to, nothing, in any
30 proposed management plan, or this proposal, if it were
31 to move forward, would prohibit, preclude, or, in my
32 opinion, would most likely advance the professional
33 relationship which exists between the in-season
34 manager, tribal entities and the State of Alaska n he
35 drainage as it stands.
36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, the floor
38 is open for discussion at this time. I think we are
39 working on getting the motion language up for everybody
40 to see so I think I'll give them a minute there, just
41 so we can at least see what it is we're dealing with
42 here.
43

44 (Pause)
45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So does that
47 look like that reflects your motion there, Gene.
48

49 (Pause)
50

1 MR. PELTOLA: I don't recall but I may
2 -- I chose not to utilize the term, independently,
3 because I felt that the utilization of that word was
4 too abrasive, and I think it gets to the intent by --
5 utilized by the Federal Subsistence Program. And I
6 don't recall ever using the word, independently, but if
7 I did it was inadvertent because I did feel that it was
8 too abrasive.
9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. So let
11 it be stated on the record that independently wasn't
12 part of his original motion, and so we have the motion
13 there that was intended.
14

15 You all right with that second, I think
16 we had two of you who seconded.
17

18 MS. PITKA: Yes, I'm good.
19

20 MR. BROWER: Yes.
21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. I just
23 got to make sure we're all right.
24

25 So the floor is open for discussion.
26

27 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.
28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.
30

31 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm
32 just trying to make sure I understand what it is that's
33 being proposed, or what actually the outcome would
34 likely be.
35

36 So if we pass this -- so it's the
37 fishing schedules, opening, closing, fishing methods
38 are issued by the Federal Subsistence Program, does
39 that include all species of fish, the way that this is
40 crafted, or is this still oriented towards chinook, or
41 -- on the river in the development of kind of the
42 collaboration that exists out there right now between
43 the working group and the Regional Advisory Committees
44 and the InterTribal Fish Commission and the in-season
45 manager. I'm just trying to make sure I understand
46 what it is we're trying to say is expected of the in-
47 season manager once we -- if we were to pass this.
48

49 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. Thank you, Mr.
2 Siekaniec for that question.

3
4 So active management in both State and
5 Federal regulations is primarily concerning salmon.
6 There are no seasons and I don't think there's any
7 harvest limits for other species in the Kuskokwim area.

8
9 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. If I'm
10 understanding that right, so you're saying all
11 decisions on salmon within the Kuskokwim would be made
12 by the Federal in-season manager as obligated if the
13 Board passes this.

14
15 MS. KENNER: Just to continue with that
16 line of questioning, Mr. Chair.

17
18 So other fisheries in the Kuskokwim
19 area, which includes a large area that goes out to the
20 coast and around Nelson/Nunivak Island and includes
21 south Kuskokwim Bay, there isn't any active management
22 going on in fisheries there except for some fisheries
23 that are targeted by sport, by rod and reel. There's
24 no regulations in subsistence regulations regarding
25 most of these species. The management and the
26 regulations really focus on salmon and our concern with
27 the salmon fishery.

28
29 I am -- there are some other
30 regulations I think concerning rainbow trout, but I
31 think that's it.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gene.

36
37 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, Thank you.

38
39 So my intent, is, if you look at the
40 regulation, which this could potentially replace, that
41 was generic as well. The problem with that regulation
42 is the end was the comma, if superseded by Federal
43 special action. There is a lot of argument, discussion
44 and points of contention on the descriptor in what that
45 little section of that paragraph meant. By coming
46 forth with this, a management plan would be deemed to
47 be whatever the parties involved decided to write in
48 it. The in-season manager has management authority via
49 delegation of the Board, that would not change, unless

50

1 it's superseded by another one by the Board. That
2 would always be in place.

3
4 So if the group thought that a
5 management plan should be written for chinook, then a
6 management plan would be most likely drafted for
7 chinook. If the parties involved felt that a
8 management plan should be written for, and if we look
9 at what actions have taken place in the last 10 years
10 with Federal management on the Kuskokwim, it'd be
11 chinook and chum salmon. Or if they felt like it
12 should be all encompassing, it could be all
13 encompassing with regard to salmon. Or if they felt
14 that it would be all encompassing for whitefish and
15 everything else, I think that'd be a hard charge, you
16 know, to address, but if the parties involved had to do
17 it then they could take on the effort.

18
19 That was my intent of putting this
20 forward.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

23
24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Ben, or Aaron, if you wouldn't mind, what are your
26 thoughts on this, I mean what does this say to you from
27 a management standpoint?

28
29 MR. MULLIGAN: Through the Chair. I'll
30 defer to Aaron maybe for the management. But we were
31 just having a sidebar trying to figure out by the
32 elimination of just the word, independently, what that
33 meant and trying to figure that out ourselves.

34
35 As far as management, I'll let Aaron
36 give his thoughts but I mean off the fly I can't give
37 you a definitive answer.

38
39 MR. TIERNAN: Yeah, through the Chair.
40 Mr. Siekaniec. Aaron Tiernan, ADF&G, Kuskokwim River
41 manager. As far as management goes, I don't know if
42 we'd want to clarify it says Kuskokwim area, is that --
43 is the intent behind that the entire area or just
44 within the conservation unit. That would be something
45 worth clarifying since there are two different portions
46 of the river.

47
48 MR. PELTOLA: If you look in the
49 definition of Kuskokwim area, it parallels those that

1 are contained within State descriptors. It is done
2 that way intentionally. If you look at the areas where
3 we have had Federal management, that has limited to
4 within the conservation unit.
5

6 And if it made it easier to reinsert
7 the term, independently, I'd be more than happy to do
8 that with concurrence of the second.
9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.
11

12 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 You know, I'm struggling with what this means in the
14 end and hearing from Pippa with this means all salmon,
15 and I'm a little concerned that maybe we're starting to
16 overstep our bounds with the idea of addressing not
17 just, you know, subsistence opportunity, but
18 conservation concern or conservation issues, that, if
19 this language suddenly is directing our in-season
20 manager to be making all the decisions relative to
21 salmon, I'm just curious if we're starting to overstep
22 our bounds of the Board in some way, and maybe I'm
23 looking at Ken, I don't know, help me understand this.
24

25 MR. PELTOLA: I don't think it would
26 direct the in-season manager to do all salmon, it'd be
27 up to what the group decided to write the plan for. If
28 it was for chinook, then it'd be chinook. If it was
29 chinook and chum, it'd be chinook and chum. If
30 chinook, chum and coho, then it would be chinook, chum
31 and coho. It doesn't necessarily direct for all salmon
32 species.
33

34 And my intention was, where have we had
35 the management challenges and determination, what
36 management regime where it could be placed under. It
37 has been primarily with chinook and at times coho.
38 There has been opposition -- I mean chums -- and at
39 times there have been opposition to include chums for
40 various reasons, whether it be interpretation of
41 biological, political or whatever it may be; that's
42 what I'm trying to overcome.
43

44 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 I appreciate that, Gene. But I'm still, you know, the
46 idea that you're trying to get at a management plan and
47 what we're hearing from the Regional Advisory Councils
48 seems to mesh well with the process that's well
49 underway, that we, in our letter, to the in-season
50

1 manager directed him to, and that we've heard now that
2 the result and desire is to come out with a management
3 plan, so I'm now a little confused, like what
4 additional will we gain out of this versus leaving it
5 now with what we have set up through the MOU, through
6 the working group, through that full collaborative and
7 let them design that and come out with it and set an
8 expectation. I certainly will through the Refuge
9 manager, that, you know, he'll be working his darndest
10 to get a plan together beginning this October that we
11 can have ahead of the season to give people that sort
12 of recognition and comfort that they'll understand
13 what's to come in the next season.

14
15 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, thank you. I
16 do appreciate the sentiment but I would hope that we --
17 we had similar sentiment in the past and we've also
18 gone the last five or six years with five or six
19 different in-season managers and they probably didn't
20 have the intent of leaving when they got here, this
21 would just solidify -- and if we are in the process of
22 coming up with something then passage of this by the
23 Board can be easily adopted and addressed with little
24 more effort than already exists, but it would also be
25 there in the future for any other in-season manager
26 which would come in place, which has been a very common
27 occurrence on the Kuskokwim lately. And that is my
28 concern.

29
30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 want to go back and revisit a little bit of the
32 Kuskokwim area. I think it was Aaron maybe who brought
33 this up that, you know, we might need to define that a
34 little bit farther. Is the Kanektok and the Goodnews
35 within the Kuskokwim area and is that given
36 consideration right now via the in-season manager for
37 making decisions relative to those rivers.

38
39 MR. BORN: Through the Chair. Mr.
40 Siekaniec. Yes, that's part of the delegation of
41 authority, the Goodnews and Kanektok River are part of
42 our responsibilities so this would indicate that we
43 would need to have management plans for those places as
44 well, which is a significant burden.

45
46 I do have one concern I want to draw
47 out, I have concerns already with people that are non-
48 tribal members, the rural residents are not being
49 represented by using tribal in here, they may feel that

50

1 they would be excluded, again, I would hesitate to do
2 that just as a recommendation.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

7

8 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 I just wanted to clarify a question from Mr. Siekaniec
10 earlier. As written, this motion, should you adopt it,
11 it will include all fish in the Kuskokwim area, and the
12 Kuskokwim area, by regulation is defined:

13

14 Consists of all waters of Alaska
15 between the latitude of the western most point of
16 Naskonat Peninsula to the latitude of the southern most
17 tip of Cape Newenham, including the waters of Alaska
18 surrounding Nunivak and St. Matthews Islands, and those
19 waters draining into the Bering Sea.

20

21 So, once again, all fish, of the
22 Kuskokwim area, as defined in regulations.

23

24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Theo.

25

26 Well, now I really go back to that
27 question of without a conservation concern being
28 brought forward, this seems to put me in a spot where
29 I'm not sure we're in a -- the Board can really take
30 this under advisement, can it?

31

32 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. I think we
33 have been under conservation concerns, specifically for
34 chinook and for chum in different areas. And if we
35 want to modify it as such then we could do that, and
36 this was a first shot at getting something for the
37 Board because we have not done that to date. And I
38 think it is imperative that we do such that our in-
39 season manager currently and in the future will have
40 clear guidance from the Board on, not necessarily time
41 and area, in-season actions, but I think the big
42 benefit would be say -- let's take chinook, and if we
43 have to modify it for chinook, then so be it. But
44 having a plan that stipulates triggers and I think it'd
45 be more than beneficial and I think that's not --
46 there's no argument not to do that, such that, we don't
47 have to deliberate -- time -- doesn't have to put six
48 weeks into an effort -- but I take that back, because
49 I'm not giving credit to some of the OSM Staff. OSM

50

1 Staff has done an analysis on the Kuskokwim in as
2 little as seven days and it was still an amazing
3 product, but we should not put the Staff under that
4 type of pressure and if we could alleviate some of the
5 pressure on the Program by having an effort go through
6 to define trigger points, then I think there's no
7 legitimate reason not to do it. And if we're going to
8 do it anyway, then they will have met the requirement
9 of the regulation. And if we have to modify it to be
10 specific to chinook or chum then we modify it to be
11 chinook, chum or whatever species we think are
12 appropriate.

13

14 MR. BORN: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

17

18 MR. BORN: Thank you for those
19 comments. You know, quite frankly I don't need a
20 regulation to tell me to make a plan, I'm going to do
21 that anyway so I think that's a good idea. I agree
22 with that. However, compelling us with a regulation
23 that's as broadbased as this will overload the Staff
24 and quite frankly you -- you mentioned the term for
25 managers, that's part of the reason we have these
26 manager turnovers, so let's not strain the relationship
27 any more by additional regulations placed upon us for
28 something we're going to do anyway.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. I take offense
33 to that a little bit as a Board member because the
34 requirement was still in place to do it and from what
35 I've been told by people in the region that the Refuge
36 was presented a management plan on multiple occasions
37 which it did not act upon. And the concern about
38 turnover of five to six years, and, furthermore I held
39 the seat you're in now for five to six years and did
40 the same responsibilities as you were, in addition to
41 when it was probably a lot more volatile on the river.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we're
44 getting to a place where we got to come to a compromise
45 or to a vote.

46

47 But I think one of the things is, is I
48 know we've put a lot of faith into this working group
49 and on the river and, you know, we want to see these

50

1 processes through, I, myself, don't like to break away
2 from staying consistent in what it is our approach is,
3 and that has been our approach to this point, is to
4 support those processes. I think one of the Board's
5 concerns should be the where are we in this process as
6 a supporting Board, you know, and if there are plans
7 which we hear it will be developed, whether we support
8 this or don't support it, the action on the ground is
9 still to complete a plan of some sort, so we need
10 compromise, but we should probably be built into the
11 process of supporting, endorsing or being involved in
12 that process, which we do through the delegation of
13 authority and other means by providing Staff and what
14 not and so I think, you know, moving forward, how do we
15 make sure that that happens and that, you know, the
16 events that unfold, I think we all agree here, you
17 know, I think that's the bottom line, it's just how do
18 we move forward with where we disagree.

19
20 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. If it makes
21 it clearer, I'd be more than happy with the concurrence
22 of the second to add chinook, if it just limits to
23 chinook I'd be fine with that. If the Board members
24 felt that I should insert back in independently, I'd be
25 more than happy to with the concurrence of the second,
26 to add independently, in order to get us to the point
27 where we're comfortable.

28
29 Because I honestly believe, regardless
30 of statements made, up until this point, that something
31 with firm direction for those involved in the Program
32 is drastically needed.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Rhonda.

35
36 MS. PITKA: In my memory of the
37 discussion around this, I think that I said that when
38 this came back up again we should take an action on it
39 because we did defer it, and -- what was I going to
40 say, I don't know, it's super late.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MS. PITKA: But what I was just trying
45 to say here was that -- what my understanding at the
46 time was, is that we would defer this, wait for the
47 plan to work and then come back to it during this
48 cycle, so we deferred it, we're back at it, and we've
49 heard testimony from the Kuskokwim River InterTribal
50

1 Fish Commission that the process was not working, you
2 know, like they wanted it to and there was not that
3 clear communication up until this point, so I think
4 that I'm at a place to vote is what I'm saying.

5

6

Question.

7

8

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
9 called. Roll up your sleeves.

10

11

(Laughter)

12

13

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I like you all.

14

15

(Laughter)

16

17

MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. Finally I'm
18 not jumping the gun, and let's take a look at Fishery
19 Proposal 17-05 a deferred proposal, adopt with
20 modification:

21

22

For the Kuskokwim area Federal
23 subsistence management plan strategies, fishing
24 schedules, openings, closings and fishing methods are
25 issued by the Federal Subsistence Program, including
26 the Federal in-season manager in consultation with
27 appropriate agencies and tribal entities.

28

29

National Park Service, Herbert Frost.

30

31

MR. FROST: I oppose in support of the
32 RAC's position and also taking the word of the in-
33 season manager and Mr. Siekaniec that somebody will be
34 held accountable to get a plan started this fall and
35 hopefully have it completed by this time next year so
36 we don't continue to have thee discussions.

37

38

MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
39 Management, Chad Padgett.

40

41

MR. PADGETT: Based on similar concerns
42 I oppose as well. I defer to the RAC's as well as the
43 State of Alaska for their -- for what they have stated
44 so far. In addition, I just might add that I'm also
45 very concerned about the entire watershed, the
46 Kuskokwim area, in relation to Federal and State
47 relationships coming out of the Sturgeon Decision.

48

49

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you for that,

50

1 Chad.

2

3

4

United States Fish and Wildlife
Service, Greg Siekaniec.

5

6

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
oppose and for similar reasons that have been stated
that I would defer to the Regional Advisory Councils
and their recommendations and the engagement they have
had with this prior to coming to this discussion. And
as you've heard me state several times today, the
belief that we, as the Board, have charged the
collaborative to come together to make these kind of
decisions and keep them as locally as we can. I want
to stay out of that process and let it actually prove
that it is what is needed on the river to be as good as
it can be.

17

18

19

Thank you.

20

21

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Sir.

22

23

24

United States Forest Service, David
Schmid.

25

26

27

28

29

30

MR. SCHMID: Yes, I oppose for similar
reasons. And I do trust, after hearing today, that a
management plan will be forthcoming and there's a
commitment to make that happen and some accountability.

31

32

Thank you.

33

34

MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Indian
Affairs, Eugene Peltola.

35

36

37

38

MR. PELTOLA: Support for previous
mentioned justification.

39

40

41

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Sir.

42

43

44

45

46

47

MS. PITKA: I support this proposal, I
think for all of the reasons that I've already stated,
and if I have to reiterate them I'll probably be here
all night.

48

49

50

(Laughter)

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
2
3 Public Member Charlie Brower.
4
5 MR. BROWER: I support for the same
6 reasons as stated.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Last but not least,
9 Chairman Anthony Christianson.
10
11 MR. BROWER: Sorry, I support it with
12 the same reasons stated.
13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.
15
16 Last but not least, Chairman Anthony
17 Christianson.
18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, I'm going
20 to stay consistent with deference to RAC and I'm going
21 to support the Regional Advisory Councils --
22 opposition.
23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: So is that a yes or no?
25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's a no.
27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion fails.
29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll reconvene
31 here in the morning at 8:30. Thank you all for your
32 time, effort and energy and we look forward to that
33 plan and hopefully we're endorsing it with our
34 signature.
35
36 (Off record)
37
38 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)
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