

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME IV

Egan Convention Center
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

April 18, 2019

(EXCERPT)

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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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 4/18/2019)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.
8
9 OPERATOR: Pardon, this is the
10 operator, I just wanted to let you know on the phones
11 that I have put in the main conference line so that you
12 all may hear what's going on.
13
14 Thank you.
15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
17 Good morning everybody. I'm just waiting for a couple
18 more Board members to come in.
19
20 (Pause)
21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, good
23 morning everybody. Welcome back to Day 4 of the
24 Federal Subsistence Board meeting. Welcome everyone,
25 it's good to see we still have an audience.
26
27 We'll start off this morning with
28 public testimony on non-agenda items. And, Operator,
29 would you please, just if there's anybody on the line
30 that would like to chime in, just let them know what
31 the process is so they can be heard.
32
33 OPERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
34 those of you who are on the phone who would like to
35 speak, please press star followed by one and I will
36 open your line. Again, that's star, followed by one.
37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. All
41 right, we'll first call up Jaylynn Martinez.
42
43 MS. MARTINEZ: Good morning Chairman
44 and Members of the Board.
45
46 My name is Jaylynn Martinez and I'm
47 from Tuluksak, Alaska. I am a senior at Mt. Edgecumbe
48 High School and was given the opportunity to be a part
49 of the UAS policy and procedures, a class that I
50

1 previous took. We learned about the Southeast RAC
2 region. Although I am not from the Southeast region I
3 have learned of a lot of things that I was able to
4 compare some of the similarities, for this I am
5 thankful to learn the process and learn how it all
6 works.

7
8 First, however, I'm going to tell you
9 where I come from and how my family lives.

10
11 My family and I lived in the city until
12 we moved to the village when I was in middle school.
13 Living in the city meant that we could go to the stores
14 and restaurants, such as Costco, Safeway, McDonalds, et
15 cetera. Living in the village is a different type of
16 life that most people wouldn't understand. You see my
17 village doesn't have running water so we have to do a
18 lot of hard work. This means that we have to pack
19 water with five gallon buckets and get wood to insure
20 that we have drinking water and heat to stay warm.

21
22 In Tuluksak there is only one store and
23 everything is really expensive. So the food that you
24 would see in our freezers would be a lot of animals
25 that we hunt for, like beaver, moose, caribou, fish and
26 ducks. It's what our elders have taught us. This is
27 our way of life. This is the way we live. The way we
28 were taught by our parents and that they were taught by
29 their parents. Keeping a tradition is important to
30 one's culture.

31
32 We work hard on hot summer days to get
33 fish. Over the summer my family and I caught some fish
34 for the winter. But as we were stripping the fish we
35 noticed how there were worms and puss. There was
36 numbers of fish that were ill. As much as we didn't
37 want to throw it away, we had to because we didn't know
38 how it would affect us and that's pretty concerning.

39
40 As the elders were talking to us, they
41 said that in the early days that they didn't have to
42 worry about throwing away fish that they caught but
43 nowadays you see fish that are becoming unhealthy.
44 Fish is our main food source. We catch it during the
45 hot summer days and long cold winter nights, soon we
46 might not be able to eat the fish that we love. It's
47 sad to say that this tradition that we have may die
48 off.

49
50

1 I would like some day to show my
2 children and grandchildren the way that I lived. The
3 way that they should live instead of having to hear
4 stories of how we used to do things. Talking about
5 culture. When I first moved to the village, I could
6 already tell that the culture was dying. Most of the
7 kids didn't really want to learn from the elders,
8 whether that was because they were already hooked onto
9 drugs at a young age, and this is a problem almost
10 every village across Alaska deals with. Things have
11 been getting better. I'm happy to know while I'm
12 getting my education from a boarding school, my village
13 is reconnecting with their culture. This really means
14 a lot to me.

15
16 You know, sometimes I think to myself
17 that I want to go back home so that I could learn more
18 about my culture but also being here today is giving me
19 opportunity so that one day I could be the change.

20
21 Growing up in the city and the village,
22 there's a big difference between the two.

23
24 In the village you learn a lot of what
25 your elders and your parents have taught you by going
26 out hunting and being able to put away food for the
27 winter. And while growing up in the city you didn't
28 really need to do that. I really hope that one day I'll
29 be able to show my children and grandchildren how to
30 cut fish and other traditions that I've learned from my
31 family and elders.

32
33 That's all I have to say.

34
35 Thank you for your time and hearing me
36 out. I really appreciate it.

37
38 (Applause)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
41 Jaylynn. That was a well put together presentation,
42 appreciate that. And I hope you continue to educate
43 yourself and enjoy both lives. I think there's some
44 richness in having a little bit of city and a little
45 bit of rural life.

46
47 So any questions for Jaylynn.

48
49 MR. PELTOLA: Great job.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, good job
2 and thank you and good luck after your senior year.

3
4 Oh, we have a question, I think.

5
6 MR. PELTOLA: You're doing the Kusko
7 proud.

8
9 MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

12
13 Francis Thompson.

14
15 MR. THOMPSON: Good morning, Mr.
16 Chairman. Honorable Members of the Board. My name is
17 Francis Thompson. I'm from the community of St. Marys.

18
19 (In Yup'ik)

20
21 Mr. Chairman. I see some ears
22 twitching. And it is the same way with us on this side
23 of the table trying to understand the policies and
24 bylaws and everything surrounding your duties and all
25 the proposals and all the management strategies within
26 the Federal Subsistence Board.

27
28 What I said was simple and what you
29 guys know and understand from being there it's all
30 comes natural. I just simply introduced myself, my
31 name is Francis Thompson, I'm from the community of St.
32 Marys. And I come before you, (In Yup'ik) means
33 nervous. But I come before you even if I'm nervous
34 because there's many at home that need their voices
35 heard. And I'm honored to be here too.

36
37 Say some few, like when I talk with
38 them to relay to you.

39
40 This is a very important meeting
41 looking at the agenda. The most important one was the
42 tribal consultation with the tribes and corporations.
43 When I first came I was looking around for those that I
44 know are from corporations and from tribes from my area
45 but they're not here and I wish they were here. And
46 I'd like to express, maybe, more information or
47 outreach and I know there's been outreach and it's been
48 on the register for a long time that this meeting was
49 going to happen.

50

1 A couple of things I mentioned earlier,
2 when I first testified was tribal consultation. Many,
3 like myself, need to understand how we can communicate
4 with you, the Federal Subsistence Board, and the many
5 different agencies within the Council. And there are
6 processes that need to be done in order to go through
7 the proposals, go through many approvals or things that
8 we have concerns about. And we would like to see maybe
9 some format for how we can proceed with the tribal
10 consultation process when we, in the villages, want to
11 submit proposals or want to express our concerns
12 through writing, through the proposal process for you.
13

14 The other testimony I made the other
15 day was on trade and barter for cash for salmon. I
16 know trade and barter is broad, but to be particular,
17 salmon, because right now the -- the chinook salmon,
18 because right now we are in times of shortage and we're
19 managing -- we're having strict management all over.
20

21 On the Yukon it happened a long time
22 ago. We were not able to fish commercially for chinook
23 salmon when the abundance was below all the, like
24 escapement goals, satisfying the amount needed for
25 subsistence, and those we barely met. And the treaty,
26 the obligations with Canada.
27

28 Right now, trade and barter for cash
29 for salmon is hindering management strategy, in my
30 eyes, in many of our eyes at home. So, therefore, I'd
31 like to ask the Federal Subsistence Board to review and
32 to understand the issue of trade and barter because,
33 like I said, it's hindering management and we're trying
34 to rebuild our stocks for chinook salmon in many areas.
35

36 On the tribal consultation, I know
37 there was a reference to RAC, Regional Advisory
38 Council, they are appointees to give you guidance and
39 recommendations. They are -- if you talk with the RACs
40 that is not consulting with the tribes.
41

42 Another subject I heard throughout the
43 meeting which was a big discussion was .804 of ANILCA.
44 How many times have tribes and people from the affected
45 areas approached the Board or the State and asking for
46 preference, but each time there was a request -- not
47 each time, but many times, when there was a request for
48 .804 Alaska Native preference, we were told that there
49 is not enough resources to allow for ANS, therefore,
50

1 Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, I would like to
2 suggest that it's going to be -- it's going to take
3 time but you have workers to establish a trigger point
4 above and beyond, for example in Yukon, Canadian
5 obligations, subsistence and escapement. The trigger
6 point would be something, maybe a number that's used
7 for subsistence which on the Yukon is 50,000 chinook
8 salmon, that's just on chinook, but there's a larger
9 number on chum, when do we trigger giving preferences
10 to the people that need the resources, so we need a
11 trigger to establish some kind of trigger point, so
12 when we come up and ask -- we know when to come up and
13 ask that we need preference for those that need the
14 resource.

15

16 In many of the organizations that I've
17 been in we had a conflict of interest provision and I'm
18 sure you have. And we need to be careful when we do
19 have that conflict that we remove ourselves from
20 discussions that would benefit us, et cetera, et
21 cetera, so I wanted to bring that point up, and the
22 other points.

23

24 Mr. Chairman. Members of the Board.
25 That concludes my testimony.

26

27 Good morning.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning,
30 Mr. Thompson. And so I think there was a couple of
31 questions in there. But as far as the consultation
32 process and how you trigger that, I would offer up
33 Orville -- I think he's in here -- and that request
34 comes through your tribal council or your ANCSA
35 corporation and triggers that consultation process and
36 so that's available per request. Then we've also
37 added, as part of our policy to have tribal
38 consultation available prior to Board meetings, so we
39 can capture as much of the testimony that we possibly
40 can recognizing that sometimes not everyone can get to
41 Regional Advisory Council meetings. And so we
42 developed a policy and so if you'd like a copy of that
43 I am pretty sure Orville can make that available to you
44 so you can be aware of how to engage with this Board on
45 that level, and so there is a policy and we can make
46 that available to you.

47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Can I make a comment.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tom has an
2 addition.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, also, yeah, Mr.
5 Thompson. As you know with Yukon Delta National
6 Wildlife Refuge being your neighbor, is that, also the
7 in-season manager for many of the fishery issues is
8 nearby but also Fred Bue, from the Yukon, is also
9 available to talk to about many of the fishery issues.
10 But the Refuge can also entertain consultations as well
11 in an informal way and sometimes in more formal ways.
12 But, you know, think about, you know, what venue you
13 would like for consultation that you're interested in,
14 more localized or through the OSM process.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The second part
19 I heard that you stated, there, Mr. Thompson -- sorry,
20 did you have something.

21
22 MR. THOMPSON: When I was thinking
23 about the process, I was thinking about an orange. When
24 you look at an orange it's a ball, when you peel it,
25 there's 10, 15 little sections within that one ball.
26 That's how I see in many of the agencies, that when we
27 ask for something we are directed to different
28 agencies, you know, and that's good. On the tribal
29 consultation policy manual, I know it's been submitted
30 out to the various tribes and corporations and whomever
31 it may go to, maybe resubmitting and reminding folks
32 that this policy is here. And define the process.
33 I've been going to a lot of panel meeting. And I went
34 to a Jesuit school and they taught us the A, B, Cs and
35 a lot of times they say process, you know, going to the
36 different meetings, when you go up to Canada and listen
37 to them and, you know, it's the process up there and
38 then when I come down this way I want to say process.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. THOMPSON: So, anyway.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Process. Well,
45 I also had another discussion I'd like to bring up
46 about the trade and barter because I've heard it a
47 couple of times this week on the chinook and the
48 perceived commercialization of subsistence on the
49 Yukon, and, obviously that would be a concern for

50

1 anyone who's in management with a conservation concern
2 in place. We've seen proposals from the area before on
3 limiting cash sales down to doing away with it. So I
4 mean there's a broad range of proposals, I think, that
5 have come before the Board. But you stated, you know,
6 I kind of like barter and trade to a degree, you know,
7 I think for rural residents to try to meet their needs,
8 but, again, when you said it for salmon or for chinook,
9 just to be specific, would you like to see maybe
10 chinook pulled out of the barter/trade system or would
11 you like to see all of the salmon pulled from that, and
12 then there would be a proposal process also that you'd
13 have to submit that to. But I just wanted to get your
14 thoughts.

15

16 MR. THOMPSON: It would be those ones
17 that are -- the species that are struggling. And to be
18 specific, chinook salmon, right now.

19

20 There's a lot of areas that are
21 conserving, not fishing, or have limited fishing
22 opportunity, so be particular at this moment, because
23 of the crisis with chinook, I'd say the chinook salmon.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
26 I know that's your species of concern and you asked a
27 question and I'd have to probably refer to a manager
28 here about what is the trigger point that we would
29 probably go to a restricted fishery there and then the
30 next step, which I think you asked, is, when would an
31 .804 analysis be triggered. And so if somebody here
32 would like to answer that question.

33

34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Gerald knows more about
35 the Yukon.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gerald, is
38 Gerald here.

39

40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh, Fred's here.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, Fred's
43 here. Fred, if you just want to give him maybe a brief
44 summarization of his request.

45

46 MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Fred Bue, Federal in-season manger for the Yukon.

48

49 I guess I'm not certain exactly what

50

1 you were asking. Trade and barter is part of the
2 subsistence ANS package, and so we look at the
3 subsistence harvest, we don't follow -- track it beyond
4 that to where it goes off, does it go into someone's
5 smokehouse or is it going down the street to the
6 neighbor's grandparents or cousins by way of cash. We
7 don't look at that. So it's subsistence, we look to
8 make sure that the subsistence needs are met. ANS is
9 the measure for that, and then beyond that then we go
10 to the other uses.

11

12 But is that close to what you were
13 looking for, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, I think his
16 question was -- I appreciate that answer too. But,
17 okay, in times of conservation, and we have to limit
18 the fishery, he's asking, like an .804 we just
19 incorporated yesterday for the Kuskokwim and certain
20 villages are going to be included in that and will have
21 rural rights to subsist in that system because of
22 conservation concerns, he's asking when the trigger is
23 for the Yukon. What's the threshold there?

24

25 MR. BUE: Essentially the Yukon has
26 been treated pretty much as subsistence fishery for
27 chinook the last 10 years or so, and so it isn't -- I
28 guess a threshold would be the ANS, once we think we
29 have the escapement and then the amounts necessary for
30 subsistence that would be the threshold for .804. And
31 so we don't have a significant problem with people
32 coming from outside the system to the area to fish. In
33 fact, we have some people -- it is a -- it has been a
34 question in the past, some relatives from outside the
35 area do come to help fish even though we have
36 subsistence restrictions in place and we've spoken with
37 public members at public meetings asking them what they
38 think about that, and the problem with that, is that,
39 if they eliminate their relatives that can come home to
40 fish then it further compounds the problem if they're
41 not -- those people are often the ones that help them
42 by the boat gas and get out and help operate the gear
43 and so it's been -- we've kind of left it up to the
44 fishermen to -- fishing community, and so we haven't
45 imposed .804 restrictions to that extent since 2009, I
46 believe, when we actually had a special action.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank you.
49 I'm just trying to get just more discussion around this

50

1 topic because it came up a few times during the meeting
2 here, during testimony about the Yukon and that, and I
3 think I have Gene who wants to weigh in.
4

5 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6

7 There's two ways to get to what Francis
8 is asking about. The first that there's a limitation
9 to all but Federally-qualified users before the Federal
10 Subsistence Board can address and adopt an .804
11 analysis recommended by the Office of Subsistence
12 Management.
13

14 There is one in-season management
15 authority, as be delegated by the Board could utilize
16 that independent action to limit the fishery within
17 Federal waters to all but Federally-qualified users.
18

19 That's the first step.
20

21 The second step is a proposal presented
22 to the Board. And you're correct, the last time that
23 did occur was in the late, early part of the decade in
24 the 2000s. The last time this Board addressed the
25 proposal, I think it was '14, possibly '15, in which
26 the Board did not adopt and there hasn't been a Federal
27 proposal since then.
28

29 One thing that bothers me is you keep
30 on referring to ANS, there's no legal standing to ANS
31 in the Federal Subsistence Program, it has not been
32 adopted by the Federal Subsistence Program.
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
35 questions for Mr. Thompson.
36

37 I hope that helped clarify some of your
38 questions.
39

40 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, thank you. I know
41 I'm not supposed to ask a question to the Board. What
42 is the secret remedy for a long-lasting relationship,
43 I'll give you one shot.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Trust, partner.
46

47 MR. THOMPSON: It's soup, Mr. Chairman.
48 Soup.
49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Soup.

2

3 MR. THOMPSON: Ptarmigan soup. Moose
4 soup. Salmon soup. Seal soup. All kinds of soup.
5 Because when you go to the elder's house, what do you
6 see on their table. Soup.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It is. I
9 should have known that.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I just made
14 that statement, I said everyone who lived to be 100 in
15 our community lived on fish soup. You got me there.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. THOMPSON: And another note, Mr.
20 Chairman. If you're curious about how many holes are
21 in a Pilot Bread cracker, there's 28.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's a good
28 one. I even made up a song about Pilot Bread, but I
29 won't sing it on the record here today and it has to be
30 -- it goes along with Canada, the process.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
35 that engaging conversation this morning.

36

37 Next, we'll call on John Lamont.

38

39 MR. LAMONT: Good morning, Mr.
40 Chairman. Members of the Board. Respective Staff and
41 audience. My name is John Lamont. I'm from
42 (Indiscernible) or at the Mouth of the Yukon River. My
43 P.O. Box number is Alakanuk, the closest village, and
44 the village my wife is from.

45

46 First off, I'd like to apologize for my
47 testimony on Monday, if I offended anyone when I talked
48 about the couple of issues that I did. And then my
49 follow through when a certain proposal came up on the

50

1 depth of nets for subsistence use on the Yukon River.

2

3 I'd like to thank the Board for this
4 process, for all Alaskans, whether I'm indigenous or
5 not. I really appreciate the Board recognizing the
6 young emerging leaders of our state, of our land, and
7 the youth of our land. I really appreciate that. And
8 it's great to see this process, kind of like a village
9 meeting, not like a State Board of Fish meeting where
10 we're limited on what we can say and talk. I would have
11 brought three banker boxes with me to go through
12 regulations, starting with the charter of 1822, 1844,
13 Treaty of Season 1906 Land Act, all the way up to Title
14 VIII of ANILCA.

15

16 When Title VIII of ANILCA was being
17 developed, it was very critical that we had a voice
18 from the mouth of the Yukon, and which we didn't. The
19 people from Nome area, the people from the Bethel area
20 had a voice, we didn't. To this day we're still not
21 recognized. We're represented by Nome in State
22 politics by Representative Foster and Senator Olson,
23 they rarely come to the mouth of the Yukon. We're
24 represented by Senator Hoffman and the Representative
25 from Bethel, and they rarely come to the mouth of the
26 Yukon to our villages. We've kind of been isolated
27 over the years. The mouth of the Yukon, I always
28 called it the gate, we're the gatekeepers for the
29 salmon, all species of salmon, including the Bering
30 cisco that come up and sometimes, you know, take up to
31 eight to 10 years to spawn, they don't just spawn and
32 die off and it's a critical food source in the fall
33 time for our people.

34

35 There's been a lot of talk during
36 public testimony. I'd like to clear up a couple issues
37 I know on the Yukon, I can't speak for the Kuskokwim.
38 But on the Yukon our chinook salmon, you know, come up
39 into fresh water, they spawn and they remain two years
40 in fresh water and then they out-migrate to the mouth
41 of the Yukon, then they -- you know, for the summer for
42 three or four months and then they go out to the Bering
43 Sea and they come back as four, five, six year olds,
44 not seven, eight, nine year olds.

45

46 Another issue that was brought up
47 during testimony I heard was commercial fishermen on
48 the Kuskokwim threw salmon away. I have a brother who
49 lives and camps and lives off the land at the

50

1 Kuskokwim, at the mouth, close to the mouth of the
2 river, they've never thrown -- during their commercial
3 opening, they've never thrown fish away, whether it's
4 humpies or -- I don't know if they get humpies but on
5 the Yukon we do, and that one time I can be honest with
6 you, I've thrown a few humpies away when they tangled
7 up my net and really got me frustrated.
8

9
10 Next issue, I guess, is we've been, as
11 people, as indigenous people, we've been indoctrinated
12 with the word N-A-T-I-V-E, I do not like using that
13 word and it offends me personally but it may not offend
14 a lot of you, it's been used by everyone almost at this
15 meeting. I'm Native, your Native, we're Natives. I do
16 not like that word and I do not like that word to be
17 used around me or around youth. Our Native corporation
18 submitted a resolution to the Alaska Federation of
19 Natives a number of times to try to change that to the
20 Alaska Federation of Aboriginal Peoples. In Canada if
21 you use a term that doesn't relate to First Nations or
22 First Peoples you'd be frowned upon and in Alaska it's
23 different. Like I said, we, as indigenous people have
24 been indoctrinated, we've been indoctrinated with
25 ANILCA. Verbiage that was defined by not us, by
26 Western educated people. Personally I feel like a
27 child with special needs at preschool at this meeting.
28 I've come to this meeting, over 30 years ago, one of
29 the first meetings they had and I brought up the same
30 issue I did when I testified on Monday, about -- I
31 guess after years and years of ANILCA and Title VIII
32 and the three criteria, the three criteria, you know,
33 being that customary and direct dependence upon the
34 populations as the mainstay of livelihood, but we've
35 traditionally lived off -- the mouth of the Yukon
36 traditionally lived off, our indigenous people, chinook
37 salmon. We barter -- I guess if you want to include the
38 term, customary trade, we bartered with canneries, all
39 winter long we charge stuff that we needed to live our
40 subsistence lifestyle and then the month of June we
41 paid it off. Just like trappers did in Canada and
42 Alaska at the turn of the century.

43
44 I really would like the Department of
45 Interior to review the definition of ANILCA, Title VIII
46 and include -- I mean go back in history and take a
47 look at that, how many people testified, how many
48 people represented us at the mouth of the Yukon when
49 that definition was being developed. Is that
50 definition really fitting, we customary depended upon

1 that chinook salmon at the mouth. We may not have cut
2 it into strips and sold it but we bartered it with
3 canneries. Our customary fish was the summer chum
4 because they were easier to dry, we got them in July
5 and it was pretty good weather in July, too, back then.
6 Now, with the normal cycle of the Earth, you know,
7 we're seeing our seasons changing. We had a local
8 dependency on that chinook salmon. And we had no
9 alternative resources, we didn't have a road system, we
10 didn't have trapping, we didn't have moose, we were all
11 alone down there with our, you know, we really, really
12 enjoyed the life we had depending on the chinook
13 salmon.

14
15 But I really would like to thank you
16 for this process and for allowing us, and for allowing
17 me to come up and speak. I may not be the world's
18 greatest speaker but over time I really tried to get my
19 points across to people without offending anyone, you
20 know, I look at people and I don't want say, oh, George
21 over there, he looks like, you know, he doesn't know
22 what he's talking about, our elders taught us to watch
23 people, learn people, but don't talk to everybody about
24 those certain people. If you have an issue with that
25 person, go to that person independently and talk to
26 them in private.

27
28 I really appreciate you, Mr. Chairman,
29 allowing us this process, you and the State I guess,
30 and the Feds, you know, and being able to listen to our
31 people and help make critical decisions on the
32 resources that are available for us and we know,
33 though, at times, those resources can be limited or a
34 challenge to manage. You don't manage the resource,
35 and I apologize for that, but managing the people who
36 harvest the resources.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
39 Board. I'd be more than happy to answer any of your
40 questions that you make have.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
45 Lamont, appreciate that.

46
47 Any questions or comments for Mr.
48 Lamont.

49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
4 that, appreciate that.

5

6 Stanley Pete.

7

8 MR. PETE: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
9 Chairman. Good morning. My name is Stanley Pete. I'm
10 from the village Nunam Iqua on the mouth of the Yukon
11 River.

12

13 These last few days I've been
14 privileged to testify before the Board on the past and
15 the present of our subsistence of life. And, you know,
16 seeing the young individual this morning come and
17 testify before the Board brought something to mind that
18 is really dear and near to my heart. You know when we
19 talk about subsistence, it's just eating food or
20 gathering food for consumption or even to the bond that
21 it -- the spiritual bond that we have with the food,
22 what subsistence does for our people, it creates a bond
23 in families that's more lasting than children being
24 dropped off at school and, you know, too often, I
25 believe now that parents drop their children off at
26 school and say, here you go, teach my kid. You know,
27 teachers can only do so much. But, you know,
28 subsistence for families on the Yukon and throughout
29 the whole state, it creates a bond and it teaches more
30 than just unity, it teaches ethics to the children. It
31 teaches them the values of hard work. It's more
32 important than just eating food. You know I, myself, I
33 have two children in boarding school because I want
34 them to advance their education and teach them how to
35 be independent. I want what's best for my children.
36 But during the summer months they don't leave my sight.
37 They're with me throughout the whole process of
38 harvesting fish, gathering, curing, drying, you know,
39 it teaches them unity. There's a bond that's created
40 in my family. At least that's what I try to instill
41 into my children, try to teach them the values of hard
42 work, of the bond that, you know, teachers can't teach
43 them.

44

45 I know my children enjoy doing it.
46 They ask me are we going to go get some clams, or get
47 fish, or catch a few birds or maybe a moose. You know
48 they grew up doing that. You know, me, personally, I
49 didn't have that close of a relationship with my father

50

1 with harvesting mammals or waterfowl or big game, but I
2 wanted to make my children so comfortable in a family
3 setting that they wouldn't have to look anywhere else
4 to find comfort.

5
6 Too often we hear, you know, in
7 communities that youth, young adults turning to drugs
8 and alcohol, it's disturbing to hear that these youth
9 and young adults are doing it. And, you know, I try
10 to, at least in my family, to try to create a bond so
11 lasting and so dear to my children's hearts that there
12 should be no need to go out and find something else to
13 make them feel better about themselves. You know I
14 always tell youth and young adults in my community, you
15 should have no need to do drugs and alcohol, you're
16 basically telling me your life's not good enough that
17 you need something to try to fill that void.

18
19 You know I've taken youth and young
20 adults on hunting trips, I don't even shoot. The joy
21 of watching these youth, these young adults harvest
22 game for the first time is more meaningful than me
23 catching my own bird, or my own big game or fish. It's
24 really -- a real comfortable feeling watch youth, young
25 adults catching something for the first time that you
26 don't worry about if you're going to have something to
27 eat, you eat that day. You know, I hope in the near
28 future that, you know, more people will want to go and
29 be in, you know, rural areas -- maybe not specifically
30 rural areas, but in the wilderness setting with their
31 families.

32
33 In let's say, maybe 50, 60 years ago,
34 before all these villages were created, all these
35 people were from settlements. I often wondered why
36 people wanted to live secluded in an area with few
37 people. And my step dad said to me, before he died, he
38 said, the reason them people didn't all live in one big
39 place is because they didn't want to deplete the
40 resources that would feed them. There would not be so
41 much people in one place that they would deplete all
42 the resources in one area so they spread out to -- they
43 didn't really have big communities. And, you know,
44 that got me thinking, saying that, wow, these people
45 must have been really, really family oriented and close
46 and had a structure in place where there would be
47 nothing else to make a family want to be living in an
48 individual setting because their whole lives have been
49 revolved around a family setting that their world was
50

1 complete. You know, even if they didn't have modern
2 education, they had the resources passed down to them
3 to survive. Some for even 100 years. They had that
4 available tool starting from being an infant to being
5 an elder. Even if the infant and the elder did not
6 really participate in the subsistence hunt or the
7 subsistence gathering or the subsistence fishing, they
8 played an important role. One was to inspire the
9 hunters to provide for the infant that can't provide
10 for themselves and to provide for the elder that was
11 near and dear to their hearts, regardless of if he
12 couldn't go out and hunt.

13
14 So my message is, you know, the
15 importance of subsistence, it's not just for food or
16 for wanting to be spiritually connected to the fish and
17 game that we harvest, but the bond that subsistence
18 creates with families. You know it's very important
19 just for families to be close. You know, we live in
20 this modern age, where even -- there's so much
21 distractions in this world, you got TV, cell phones,
22 you got teachers giving homework to youth and children,
23 that sometimes the only time that we sit in a family
24 setting is if we're going to eat. Or maybe the only
25 time the family really gets together is in Thanksgiving
26 or Christmas, but, you know, back in the day -- at
27 least in my dad's lifetime, there was always that
28 unity, where they always were close with each other and
29 they had the family setting year-round. There was
30 nobody running off to school or going to work or youth
31 being dropped off at schools.

32
33 So with that, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you
36 Stanley. I think you hit on a few key points there. I
37 know we've heard similar testimony across the state as
38 far as I've been involved, about that, you know, giving
39 our youth meaningful jobs and roles within our society,
40 and, subsistence is a big role in our rural communities
41 and making them feel the value that they have as a unit
42 of our family. So I appreciate your testimony. All
43 week we've been hearing similar testimony about the
44 importance and with a couple of new Board members, I
45 think it's been good that we've been able to get some
46 insight into the values that your family and other
47 families out there in rural Alaska have to protect that
48 way of life and continue to maintain those units of
49 survival, is what it comes down to.

50

1 And so I wish you the best with your
2 kids and educating them in both sides of this world we
3 have, because we have to be ourselves, indigenous
4 peoples, but also Western people. And so I wish you
5 the best with your family.

6

7

Any questions for Mr. Pete.

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

MR. PETE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12

13

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

14

15

16

OPERATOR: On the phone line, to ask a
question, please press star followed by one.

17

18

(No comments)

19

20

OPERATOR: There are no questions at
this time.

21

22

23

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. We
have one more, Chariton Epchook.

24

25

26

MR. EPCHOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
and Members of the Board. I'm Chariton Epchook,
Chairman of Kwethluk Incorporated.

27

28

29

30

And I understand that last night you
all approved Akiak's special action request with
modifications to it, to deleting [sic] public waters
and while I was thinking -- listening to these three
gentlemen from Yukon talking about .804, it reminded me
of my 20 years of employment with Organized Village of
Kwethluk under the Indian Child Welfare Act. And
during the first month I asked my administrator to
attend a training, a formal training on Indian Child
Welfare Act, he said no. There are a lot of manuals in
that office, read them. So I read them. And one of
the documents I came across was the Cannons and
Constructions of Stair Dethesis (ph), where it directs
agencies and departments that deals with Indians, or
Alaska Natives, and it basically said that if that
decision that you have made is not right for those
Indians or Alaska Natives go back and work on that --
your decision again. That, itself, I am recommending
that you read that document, the Cannons and
Construction of Stair Dethesis (ph).

31

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1 And the other portion, when we're
2 dealing with subsistence, there should be no higher
3 preference than subsistence. I guess by deleting that
4 language that was in there, other public waters. You
5 are already overthrowing that priority preference for
6 subsistence. There are ways to remedy that. And one
7 of the things that I've learned with the Organized
8 Village of Kwethluk is communications, inter-department
9 communications. If that does not happen the
10 organization does not run like a well oiled machine.
11 It has already broken down. Communication starts from
12 the very people that makes decisions and goes all the
13 way down to the last employee, the lowest of them all.
14 That needs to happen. And I'm also recommending that
15 you start communicating with all these other agencies.
16 Without that, what's going to happen with this
17 organization, the Federal Subsistence Board. If you
18 don't communicate with your Staff, certain things are
19 not on your desk, you're going to look for them, you're
20 going to look for somebody to blame.

21
22 So I recommend that these two things.
23

24 Read the Cannons and Constructions of
25 Stair Dethesis and open line of communication with
26 other departments that you work with, or those other
27 departments that deals with Alaska Natives or Indians.
28

29 Yes, subsistence is our way of life.
30

31 During these last four years, friends
32 and relatives, because we have not had fresh salmon, a
33 handful of them have passed on because we are buying
34 store bought food, canned food, which we are not
35 accustomed to. I don't have the statistics on those
36 deaths caused by cancer, but there have been a handful
37 because we're not getting our salmon, or the food that
38 we're accustomed to. We're not accustomed to eating
39 steaks, chicken, turkey, ham, that's why we send these
40 proposals because we want the first taste of salmon
41 after a long winter.
42

43 You heard me during the first day, the
44 proper term should be, a taste of salmon, because all
45 winter long we've had a taste of other fish and we
46 don't want to use four inch nets this coming summer.
47 And it boils down to my wife, she says, sternly, I want
48 salmon this summer, and I'm with her, I want salmon
49 this summer.
50

1 And I've spoken before, previously, and
2 so many years, against this four inch, Alaska
3 Department of Fish and Game has a regulation for in
4 times of low abundance of chum, regulations that state
5 that the Commissioner can use or issue an order to use
6 7.5 inch mesh nets. I believe last year I brought that
7 up, it does not make sense to put four inch
8 restrictions after a long winter and we want that taste
9 of salmon, keep in mind that there are other salmon
10 that go up with that chinook, chums and reds. And I've
11 used that 7.5 inch net, I drifted with it, I've caught
12 more big reds and big chums versus chinook with gillnet
13 that size. With that four inch we've been killing off
14 chinook. Most of them roll off that four inch net
15 before we get to them. I remember my first time I
16 caught one I was so happy, and right before I got to
17 it, it rolled off, and i was like, oh, no, now I'm not
18 going to get a taste of chinook salmon.

19
20 And my trip down to Napaskiak to get my
21 boat fixed, that one area that they call that choke
22 point, really smelled of dead fish, salmon, is what
23 they actually were.

24
25 Back in 1980s the weir was first put up
26 in the Kwethluk River, I went up there and I smelled
27 that awful smell, dead salmon. Once you smell
28 something you cannot forget it.

29
30 But, thank you, Mr. Chairman and
31 Members of the Board for giving me this opportunity to
32 speak before you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

35
36 Any questions or discussion.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And I just
41 wanted to let you know we did pass a couple of
42 proposals this week, one of them to allow for the use
43 of six inch net up to the June 1st date, and then up to
44 the Federal in-season manager after June 1st to provide
45 that opportunity based on what the assessment of the
46 run is. So that was our two actions this week,
47 hopefully to help give that opportunity for a taste of
48 fish. So I hope that helps you.

49
50

1 MR. EPCHOOK: Salmon.
2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Salmon.
4
5 Thank you.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Have a good
10 morning.
11
12 MR. EPCHOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Unless there's
15 anybody on line, Operator.
16
17 OPERATOR: If anybody on the phone
18 lines would like to make a statement, please press star
19 followed by one and I will be more than happy to open
20 up your lines.
21
22 One moment.
23
24 (Pause)
25
26 OPERATOR: I see nobody on the phone
27 lines who would like to make a statement, Mr. Chair.
28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
30 That concludes our public testimony for the morning on
31 non-agenda items. Appreciate everybody taking the time
32 and we'll take a five minute break and allow Staff to
33 come up here with the RFR15-01, so -- oh, one second,
34 when we come back I'm going to start off with Don. I
35 called a break already, so when I come back I'm going
36 to allow Don to speak to an item and then we'll get
37 started. So, Don, when we come back from break.
38
39 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you.
40
41 MR. DOOLITTLE: And don't forget to
42 look at all the posters if you haven't seen those, too.
43
44 (Off record)
45
46 (On record)
47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We're going to
49 come back here, we're going to kind of start running
50

1 out of time this morning. We have Council members here
2 and a quorum may become an issue here by noon.

3
4 We also have a request, if there is no
5 opposition by the Board here, to include a U.S. Fish
6 and Wildlife four minute video, because Greg does have
7 to leave at 11:00. Without objection, I would like to
8 insert that here, after we hear from Don, so I'll open
9 up the floor to that. I know we did get a public
10 testimony from Melanie Brown. I'm going to have to
11 apologize Melanie, at this time, I did close the public
12 testimony portion of it when we recessed and we are
13 kind of running out of time with the quorum concern we
14 have, we lost another public member here, and not sure
15 when he'll return, and then we're going to lose other
16 Board members as the morning proceeds. And, so with
17 that I would just like to extend that apology and just
18 say I'm sorry that I can't entertain your public
19 testimony at this time.

20
21 With that I'm going to go ahead and
22 turn it over to Don Hernandez, and go ahead Don.

23
24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman. Don Hernandez from the Southeast RAC. And I
26 really appreciate you, with the time constraints here,
27 giving me an opportunity to maybe hopefully get a brief
28 answer to a question that might really aide the Council
29 moving forward here.

30
31 I was handed yesterday a letter here at
32 the meeting and it's dated April 12th and it was
33 received by the Regional Forester on March 5th and it's
34 in response to a letter that we generated back after
35 our fall meeting, back in October, so, you know, given
36 the time lags here and getting responses to questions,
37 if I could get a short response now it might really
38 help with the Council, who is in the process of
39 drafting another letter right now on this same issue,
40 so it could really speed the process up.

41
42 So with that said, it's in regard to
43 the Forest Service's rulemaking on the roadless process
44 doing an Alaska specific roadless rule.

45
46 And the Council has been requesting
47 ANILCA .810 hearings as part of this process, and Mr.
48 Schmid, in your response to our questions on this draft
49 environmental impact statement process, you said that

50

1 the draft environmental impact statement will hopefully
2 be out this summer and when that is out the proposed
3 rule will begin its 60 day comment period this summer
4 and the rulemaking team will be scheduling meetings in
5 various locations. Am I to take the statement of
6 scheduling meetings, are those going to be ANILCA .810
7 hearings or something else?
8

9 MR. SCHMID: Yes, thanks Don. Through
10 the Chair.
11

12 So doing both. So there will be public
13 meetings with the release of the draft EIS, we hosted,
14 if you'll recall and I think most folks in Southeast
15 were able to attend, I think we hosted 17 public
16 meetings gathering input that goes into that draft and
17 so we took all of that input, we developed -- we are
18 working on six alternatives that span from essentially
19 a no action alternative, keeping the current roadless
20 policy in place to the State's request, which was for a
21 full exemption of the roadless rule.
22

23 We will be, and are actively, and
24 working with a contractor to develop those six
25 alternatives, they've been fleshed out. And so as we
26 release that we will be hosting public meetings. We
27 will also be conducting the .810 hearings, subsistence
28 hearings. Those will be scheduled.
29

30 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. That clarifies
31 that. So do you intend, as part of the environmental
32 impact statement process, making an .810 finding as a
33 result of those hearings?
34

35 (Pause)
36

37 MR. SCHMID: Yes, that's my
38 understanding. Yes, uh-huh. I had to think about that
39 a little bit, Don, sorry. Yes.
40

41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Well, thank you very
42 much, that clarifies a lot.
43

44 MR. SCHMID: Okay.
45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: That's going to clarify
47 a lot for the Council so.....
48

49 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, and I apologize we
50

1 weren't clear on the timing of those .810 hearings and
2 when they would occur, we did -- I tried to share that
3 early in the process on the first round of public
4 involvement meetings but that may not have been clear
5 to folks.

6
7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Very good. And you say
8 the timing is still kind of fluid but we'll expect
9 hearings probably this summer, the Council has noted in
10 our letters that summertime is not the greatest time to
11 hold subsistence hearings but we will at least look
12 forward to those hearings when they do occur.

13
14 So, thank you.

15
16 MR. SCHMID: Yes, thank you. We will
17 do the best we can. We're currently on a timeline and
18 that's fluid. The process, is, after our draft
19 rulemaking goes through the Office of Management and
20 Budget, and CEQ, sometimes that's 'a fast process,
21 sometimes that's not. We're optimistic that we'll be
22 able to release that draft in late July of this year,
23 which may push things out a little bit farther and
24 maybe just beyond some of the fishing season.

25
26 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you very
27 much. I really appreciate that.

28
29 Thank you, Tony.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
32 Thank you, Dave, for clarifying that for the Southeast
33 RAC, I know they were very interested in some feedback
34 on that.

35
36 All right, then hearing no objection,
37 we'll turn the floor over to Greg.

38
39 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
40 and thank you Members of the Board, for just a few
41 minutes of time on your agenda.

42
43 In September of last year, it was
44 September 13th, 2018 we were at the Alaska Migratory
45 Bird Co-Management Council, and the U.S. Fish and
46 Wildlife Service and the State jointly delivered an
47 apology on behalf of the agencies due to past actions
48 and activities that were associated with both our
49 migratory bird management, as well as our law

1 enforcement. And, you know, what I'd really like to do
2 before we show this video, is to thank the Alaska
3 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council Native Caucuses
4 and individuals that were actively engaged in the
5 dialogue and the discussion that brought about what I
6 would say is an education for us, certainly as the
7 agencies, and, you know, the opportunity to learn
8 jointly of our history together and the rights and
9 wrongs, in particular, of what happened over time. And
10 I think it's thanks to these folks and their elders
11 that we are, you know, able to publicly acknowledge
12 that this history was provided, many things that were
13 way beyond awkward but provided a, you know, a break in
14 some of the cultural traditions and the ties and the
15 things that were, you know, incredibly important to the
16 cultures of the areas that we were doing the type of
17 activities that we had undertaken.

18
19 And in this video, I think you'll note
20 that we give special honor to the Late Raymond Stoney,
21 for his courage in really stepping forward and telling
22 his personal story and his father's story and really
23 helping us understand and particularly, the important
24 part, is how to be much, much better.

25
26 So with that thank you for these few
27 minutes and I think, Tom, you have the ready to go.

28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes.

30
31 MR. SIEKANIEC: Please spool it up.

32
33 (Apology Video Played)

34
35 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Obviously that contains a lot of information in there
37 but, you know, we've successfully moved through a
38 treaty amendment to correct the regulations. You know
39 we have a Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, that
40 now has a voice on the Flyaway Council that are now in
41 attendance at the Service Regulation Committee, which
42 entails both State and Fish and Wildlife Service.

43
44 We've come a long ways.

45
46 We obviously know that we have a ways
47 to go yet, but this apology was issued, it was actually
48 a pretty significant news day relative to around the
49 state, but we continue to take this to local
50

1 communities and to villages, you know, to make sure
2 that we try to get the word out because it just doesn't
3 happen without that type of an effort, so our folks
4 certainly are engaged to taking this to -- I think it's
5 been at various Regional RAC meetings, community
6 meetings that I ask all of our managers to have
7 periodically with, you know, the villages and tribes
8 they work with.
9

10 So with that I would simply say thank
11 you for allowing us to show that and if you have any
12 questions or anything. I'm afraid we could take a lot
13 of time because there's a lot of depth to this issue
14 but certainly would open that up.
15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
17 Greg. Again, I apologize to the people on line who
18 couldn't hear, it was a video presentation and so it's
19 just hard to get that loud enough in the room to be
20 heard on line. And just a question, maybe for Greg, is
21 this available on line for people to watch and so if
22 they didn't get to hear what was being said they can
23 find it somewhere?
24

25 MR. SIEKANIEC: It is available on line
26 and I believe we could make that as part of the meeting
27 notes here. And I'm looking at Crystal, who is our
28 Native Affairs Liaison over there.
29

30 MS. DAMBERG: We have the letter.
31

32 MR. SIEKANIEC: Oh, and for folks that
33 are actually here, we do have a letter that's available
34 out on the information desk that really speaks to this
35 as well and I would encourage you to pick that up.
36 Does that have the link in it -- we did not, so.....
37

38 MS. LEONETTI: Hi, it's Crystal
39 Leonetti, Alaska Native Affairs Specialist, Fish and
40 Wildlife Service.
41

42 This video is available on the U.S.
43 Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska YouTube channel, so
44 anyone can go to that YouTube channel and find it
45 there.
46

47 MR. SIEKANIEC: There you go, Tony, you
48 like TV you said, it's there.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I love YouTube,
2 no, that's a -- yeah, I run up the bill, unlimited now
3 wifi. Hey, nice job narrating there, too, Crystal, I
4 caught the voice.

5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC: So thank you, Mr.
7 Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
10 Thank you, Greg. Thank you Fish and Wildlife Service
11 for recognizing that and going through that process
12 with the people. I think that's very beneficial.

13
14 Okay, I think that's it there and we'll
15 move on to Staff presenting information and update.

16
17 Scott. On Kenai River community
18 gillnet, RFR15-01 [sic].

19
20 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
21 Members of the Board. Again, Scott Ayers for the
22 record. It's good to see you all again.

23
24 So this is just a brief update on the
25 status of this RFR. The RFR is 15-01 and it's in
26 relation to the Fisheries Proposal FP15-10 for the
27 Kenai community gillnet fishery.

28
29 There were 740 requests for
30 reconsideration submitted to the Federal Subsistence
31 Board following the January 2015 adoption of Proposal
32 FP15-10. The Office of Subsistence Management reviewed
33 all the letters and identified claims in each of the
34 three categories.

35
36 Four substantive claims were identified
37 under criteria one, information previously not
38 considered by the Board.

39
40 One under criterion two, which is
41 existing information used by the Board is incorrect.

42
43 And 32 substantive claims were
44 identified under criterion three, that the Board's
45 interpretation of information, applicable law or
46 regulation is in error or contrary to existing law.

47
48 At the January 2017 meeting, the last
49 fisheries cycle, this Board reviewed the threshold
50

1 analysis and found three of the 36 claims to have
2 merit. All claims fell under criteria three, that the
3 Board's interpretation of information, applicable law,
4 or regulation is in error or contrary to existing law.
5

6 The three claims -- the first claim was
7 claim 3.12, gillnets are incompatible with the required
8 release of any incidentally harvested 18 inch or longer
9 trout or char.

10
11 The second claim was claim 3.13,
12 incidental harvest of trout or char longer than 18
13 inches could lead to a high rate of mortality.
14

15 And the third was claim 3.32, there is
16 not adequate window of opportunity between the early
17 and late run chinook salmon to allow for safe harvest.
18

19 All three claims raised concern that
20 aspects of the regulation implemented under proposal
21 FP15-10 were in conflict with existing Federal
22 subsistence regulation. Only information available at
23 the time of the 2015 adoption of Proposal FP15-10 was
24 used to review these claims for the purposes of the
25 threshold analysis. At that time the Board directed
26 Staff to consider all three claims for full analysis.
27

28 At the same 2017 regulatory meeting,
29 the Board agreed to implement changes to the Kenai
30 River community gillnet fishery that would follow the
31 implementation pathway for the agreement, in principle,
32 that we spoke about several days ago. The order of
33 events established for all of this was first to pass a
34 portion of the changes through modification of Proposal
35 FP17-10, second to pass the remaining changes to the
36 fishery through the rulemaking process, which you
37 completed earlier at this meeting, and, finally, to
38 complete the RFR process.
39

40 So that brings us to the present.
41

42 I will begin action on the final
43 analysis after this meeting and it will come to you at
44 the next regulatory meeting, which will be the wildlife
45 meeting next April.
46

47 And that's all I have.
48

49 Please let me know if there are any
50

1 questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
4 the update, Scott. Any questions for Staff.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
9 thank you.

10

11 That brings us to RFR18-01 Unit 2 deer.
12 Status update. Terry Suminski.

13

14 OPERATOR: Just as a reminder for those
15 on the phone that do have any questions, please press
16 star followed by one.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

19

20 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning everyone.
21 I'm Terry Suminski with the U.S. Forest Service. I
22 manage the subsistence program for the Tongass National
23 Forest. I just have a short update on where we are in
24 processing the request for reconsideration which have
25 been received in response to Proposal WP18-01.

26

27 Proposal WP18-01 was submitted by the
28 Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
29 and supported by the Federal Subsistence Board to
30 reduce the deer harvest limit for non-Federally-
31 qualified users on Federal public lands in Unit 2 from
32 four male deer to two male deer.

33

34 The proposal also asks for reduction in
35 the State deer hunting season in Unit 2, but that
36 portion of the proposal was not supported by the
37 Council, nor the Board.

38

39 Subsequently six letters were submitted
40 in response to the Board's decision.

41

42 One letter from the State of Alaska.

43

44 Five letters from residents of
45 Ketchikan.

46

47 Each of the six letters has been
48 closely reviewed and 12 claims have been identified.

49

50

1 The threshold analysis is currently
2 being drafted by Staff. The threshold analysis should
3 be ready to present to the Board at its summer work
4 session. If any of the claims are determined to meet
5 the threshold at that point, a full analysis will then
6 be completed.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 And I'm available for any questions.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
13 for Terry on Unit 2.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
18 thank you, Terry, for the update.

19
20 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That moves us
23 into presentation Eastern Interior Hunter Education
24 Pilot Program.

25
26 Hold on one second, sorry, there,
27 Katya, I'm looking at a deal here, we've added an
28 agenda item.

29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh, okay, yep.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The threshold
33 analysis process update that we added at the beginning
34 of the meeting is 12A, so, thank you.

35
36 So, there we go.

37
38 Robbin, you have the floor.

39
40 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Members of the Board. At the beginning of our meeting
42 we did have a request to review the threshold policy.
43 If you will recall -- just a moment.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 MS. LAVINE: The policy currently does
48 not require a threshold analysis, that was not a
49 direction that was given at the time the policy was
50

1 formed. In the process of test driving this policy,
2 this very first time, we're looking at ways in which we
3 might be able to better support the process, and better
4 support you, in your decisionmaking.
5

6 One of the articles that we came up
7 with, or the tools that we came up with, was a
8 threshold assessment, a very simple document that was
9 handed out to you and if you find it useful, that's
10 something we may be directed to incorporate into the
11 policy and into our process.
12

13 Thank you.
14

15 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair.
16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Dave.
18

19 MR. SCHMID: Yes, thank you. And for
20 allowing us to add this to this to the agenda. I just
21 was hoping that we could have a discussion as well and
22 maybe with some question and answer here, maybe make a
23 motion to this effect.
24

25 But if you recall from our discussion,
26 as stated, back on RP19-01, the Moose Pass rural, or
27 non-rural determination, one of the recommendations
28 that was -- that came back from Staff, I quote, the ISC
29 recommends that the Federal Subsistence Board direct
30 OSM to modify the non-rural determination policy to
31 include a formal threshold analysis completed by the
32 Office of Subsistence Management, for each validated
33 non-rural proposal submitted, which is, I think, what
34 we've introduced here.
35

36 I had a few questions and then maybe
37 offer a motion, if that would be okay.
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I don't
40 see any opposition.
41

42 MR. SCHMID: Okay. And so maybe you
43 could just describe for us, again, about the threshold
44 analysis process for non-rural, you could be just a
45 little bit more in-depth on what that assessment was
46 and maybe what we're looking for in a form of -- as a
47 formal part of the non-rural determination.
48

49 MS. LAVINE: Yes, thank you. Through
50

1 the Chair. Mr. Schmid. This is a new process. We're
2 learning as we go. And we came together, first, as an
3 anthropol -- as the anthropology team, and the policy
4 coordinator to review the threshold requirements and in
5 this case, these were four threshold requirements to
6 rescind a non-rural determination, and through
7 discussion and review of our transcripts in the past,
8 and documentation on hand, we came up with a brief
9 assessment. We thought that it should be something
10 that is clear, and streamlined. And we had multiple
11 meetings, also -- not only with Staff and with ISC, but
12 also with LT and the Solicitor at the time.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Through the Chair. So,
17 Robbin, for clarification, you've been moving the non-
18 rural policy and trying on the new shoes that the Board
19 has set forth, and as you've tried on these shoes, for
20 clarification, that you've found some hiccups that
21 would be important for clarification by the Board at a
22 future meeting. Is that an abstract of what you're
23 trying to do?

24

25 MS. HARDIN: Thank you. Through the
26 Chair. Mr. Doolittle. We have been test driving --
27 Jennifer Hardin, Subsistence Policy Coordinator for
28 OSM.

29

30 We have been test driving this policy,
31 it's the first time through and we have identified,
32 both internally, and in discussion with Regional
33 Advisory Council and with the InterAgency Staff
34 Committee some ideas about how we can tighten things up
35 a little bit and one of those -- and to help guide the
36 process a little bit. You did not require us to do a
37 threshold analysis, however, the anthropology team
38 really felt like coming up with something streamlined
39 and concise would help guide -- not guide the
40 conversation but help facilitate the conversation with
41 the Regional Advisory Councils, with the InterAgency
42 Staff Committee, with this Board, and so while we
43 weren't required to do that, we did feel like it would
44 be a useful tool, and if you agree we'd be happy to
45 continue doing that. It does help us, also, kind of to
46 gather our thoughts and work through a proposal in a
47 methodical way.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 Does that help, Dave.

3
4 MR. SCHMID: Yes, thank you. Thank
5 you, Jennifer.

6
7 So, if, any other questions or
8 discussion, I would like to offer a motion at this
9 point, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll entertain
12 a motion.

13
14 MR. SCHMID: I move to direct OSM to
15 modify the non-rural determination policy to include a
16 formal threshold analysis to be completed by the Office
17 of Subsistence Management for each validated non-rural
18 proposal that is received in the future. And if I get
19 a second, I can explain why I've made this motion.

20
21 MR. PADGETT: Second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

24
25 MR. SCHMID: So justification. My
26 thinking and -- that I would offer, a threshold
27 analysis would be helpful for the Board and Regional
28 Advisory Councils to consider Staff's OSM assessment of
29 how non-rural proposals have or have not addressed each
30 of the threshold criteria outlined in the policy in
31 non-rural determinations.

32
33 A threshold analysis will provide a
34 written documentation of the Regional Advisory Council
35 input at this stage of the proposal process and a
36 threshold analysis will contribute to a clear
37 administrative record of the Board's decision related
38 to whether or not a non-rural proposal should be
39 forwarded to Staff for full analysis.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
44 or discussion.

45
46 Greg, and then Ken.

47
48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 So I'm just trying to follow this train, so presently

50

1 we operate under guidance and guidance you've been
2 putting together between, you know, two different parts
3 of the OSM group, so do we need to actually turn this
4 into formal policy in order to then step this to formal
5 threshold analysis so that we can all agree as Board
6 members to everything that would likely be contained
7 within that. Is that -- am I kind of following this
8 correctly?
9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Jennifer, go
11 ahead.
12

13 MS. HARDIN: Thank you. Through the
14 Chair. Mr. Siekaniec. You -- this -- I believe what
15 you're suggesting here is for us to revise the policy
16 that you've already adopted to include language that
17 would call for, whether it's an analysis, an
18 assessment, we've provided you with a document that
19 worked for us. We are happy to bring that back to you
20 in the summer work session with our recommendations for
21 a document that we think would work and then seek your
22 approval of that. But you have the authority -- this
23 Board has the authority to adjust your policy, we will
24 take your direction and respond accordingly.
25

26 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Dave, is
27 that what you were expecting?
28

29 MR. SCHMID: Yes, Greg. I think -- my
30 understanding is that this has not been formalized in
31 the process and it was the Staff's recommendation as
32 they've moved through there that this is something that
33 would help all of us, it would help the RACs,
34 especially, and create that administrative record so
35 there's some clear decision points. And so it came as
36 a recommendation from Staff and our folks here that are
37 working on it.
38

39 MR. SIEKANIEC: Well, thank you, Mr.
40 Chair. That answered my questions.
41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
43 further questions or discussion on inclusion of the
44 threshold analysis to come before us in the form of a
45 form.
46

47 (No comments)

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We appreciated
49
50

1 that. And I think that gives the Staff, you know, the
2 direction they need to go full throttle into the work
3 that it actually is required to complete the whole
4 analysis.

5
6 And with that, hearing no more
7 discussion, call for the question.

8
9 MR. PELTOLA: Question.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
12 called. Tom, would you read it into the record and roll
13 call.

14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet. This is for
16 possible activity at the summer work session, and,
17 again a motion to direct OSM to modify the non-rural
18 policy to include a threshold analysis for each
19 validated proposal received in the future.

20
21 BIA, Gene Peltola.

22
23 MR. PELTOLA: Support.

24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member -- not
26 there.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: He took a
29 break.

30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. U.S. Fish and
32 Wildlife Service, Greg Siekaniec.

33
34 MR. SIEKANIEC: Support, with the
35 intent to add clarity and help for Staff.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
40 Management, Chad Padgett.

41
42 MR. PADGETT: Support as stated.

43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: National Park Service,
45 Herbert Frost.

46
47 MR. FROST: Support.

48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Forest Service,

50

1 David Schmid.
2
3 MR. SCHMID: I support.
4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: And, Chairman Anthony
6 Christianson.
7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support.
9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion passes.
11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Jennifer.
13
14 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Just a question for clarity. Would this Board like us
16 to bring back a template document for you to approve at
17 the summer work session?
18
19 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair.
20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.
22
23 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I think that would be
24 helpful, we didn't set a timeline, so, thank you, I
25 think that would be what we would be recommending.
26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. All
28 right, we'll move on to the next one, Eastern Interior
29 Hunter Education Pilot Program.
30
31 For real's this time.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And, thank you,
36 Greg, have a good day.
37
38 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. I apologize
39 for having to leave early.
40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Katya.
42
43 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Members of the Board. For the record my name is Katya
45 Wessels and I'm Acting Council Coordination Division
46 Chief.
47
48 So since we have a few new members on
49 the Board I would like to start this presentation with
50

1 -- there's a delay -- with a little bit of background
2 of the Eastern Interior RAC initiative.

3
4 So in 2005-2009 the Eastern Interior
5 Council became increasingly concerned about escalating
6 user conflict in their region. The Eastern Interior
7 region is a very large region, which includes Units 25,
8 20 and 12, and Units 25 and 20 are the second and third
9 biggest units in the entire state. 48 percent of this
10 region are Federal public lands administered by U.S.
11 Fish and Wildlife, BLM and NPS. As you can imagine
12 with a patchwork of land ownership, different
13 applicable regulations and different cultural hunting
14 values of different user groups, there's a lot of
15 potential for misunderstanding and user conflict.

16
17 The Council outlined the following
18 problems that might lead to user conflict.

19
20 Waste.

21
22 Accidental or deliberate of edible
23 meat, organs and bones valued by local communities.

24
25 Lack of knowledge on how to take care
26 of meat in Western and/or traditional practice.

27
28 Lack of respect for the values of local
29 people.

30
31 Insufficient knowledge about
32 possibilities to share harvested animal parts with
33 local communities.

34
35 Lack of land ownership awareness.

36
37 Knowledge of regulations.

38
39 In 2009, the Council voiced a need for
40 hunter ethics education program in a letter to OSM.

41
42 Eastern Interior RAC took a proactive
43 position on working towards achieving understanding and
44 tolerance for different cultural values as a means to
45 reduce waste and work towards better hunter ethics in
46 the field. Throughout 2010 to 2015, the Council
47 continued to bring this issue to the Board's attention
48 and requesting hunter ethics education in its annual
49 reports.

50

1 In 2016, in its annual report reply,
2 the Board stated that it fully supports this effort and
3 looks forward to a successful program.
4

5 During its winter 2017 meeting, the
6 Council had an extensive discussion on record on how to
7 proceed with this initiative. At this point the
8 Council clearly stated that it wanted the work to be
9 done in cooperation with the State. A work group
10 comprised of OSM, State and Council representatives
11 convened for a breakout session during lunch to discuss
12 the issue. And the Council felt so strongly about the
13 importance of this hunter ethics education initiative,
14 that at that meeting the Council voted to adopt hunter
15 ethics education as a regular agenda item for any
16 future Council meetings.
17

18 In the late spring, early summer of
19 2017, OSM prepared an action plan to develop pilot
20 projects and timeline for its implementation. The plan
21 and timeline were presented to this Board during its
22 July 2017 session, the Board approved them and directed
23 OSM to proceed.
24

25 Now, I would like to talk about the
26 intents of this initiative.
27

28 The intent of this initiative, from the
29 start, has been to develop a positive and collaborative
30 volunteer hunter outreach and education program using
31 partnership and a stakeholder consensus process. The
32 program that's being developed is not intended to be a
33 substitute for the State of Alaska Hunter Education
34 Program. And to be clear, this educational program
35 would not involve any new Federal regulations. The
36 goal is to work within existing structures and systems.
37

38 The main goals of this hunter ethics
39 education initiative are:
40

41 To strive towards understanding and
42 tolerance for different cultural hunting values.
43

44 To reduce user conflict between user
45 groups through education and outreach.
46

47 To encourage respect and work towards
48 better hunter ethics in the field for all user groups.
49
50

1 Throughout the process, the Council
2 stressed, that it is important to partner and
3 collaborate with other Federal land management
4 agencies, State of Alaska, Native tribal organizations,
5 and hunter organizations, air taxis and transporters.
6

7 The Council wanted to be inclusive and
8 move forward in a positive way, and they wanted to
9 create a dialogue between subsistence and
10 sport/commercial users.
11

12 With funding through a U.S. Fish and
13 Wildlife grant program, the first hunter ethics
14 education brainstorming workshop was held in Fairbanks
15 in September 2017. It brought together 22
16 representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
17 Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service,
18 Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska Department of Fish and
19 Game, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and Tanana Chiefs
20 Conference, as well as OSM and the Council
21 participants.
22

23 The meeting was the first step in
24 building a stakeholder consensus. The participants of
25 the meeting shared their knowledge and experience
26 regarding user conflict situations in the Eastern
27 Interior region and brainstormed on areas for finding
28 common ground and creative ideas for effective delivery
29 of hunter outreach information to all user groups.
30

31 The participants of the facilitated
32 workshop stressed the importance of building
33 partnerships across different user groups and the
34 cultural sensitivity needs to go both ways, which will
35 create a better path to build cultural understanding.
36 It was specifically noted that in Alaska user conflicts
37 cannot be solved just by using regulations, it needs to
38 be addressed by the way of human to human interaction
39 and that it's important to think outside of the box to
40 find creative ways to foster partnerships. The ideas
41 presented at the meeting laid a foundation for
42 developing a draft hunter education outreach strategy
43 that will share different perspectives, cultural,
44 traditions and share values and provide resources for
45 hunters to get more information and encourage interest
46 and volunteer participation in education programs.
47

48 The workshop participants worked in
49 groups and developed three pilot project concepts.
50

1 The three concepts that were developed,
2 I will talk more about them in a little bit.

3
4 The first concept was local community
5 liaison, it was a target hunter outreach program.

6
7 The other one was Don't Be That Hunter,
8 a campaign to establish proper hunting ethics within a
9 target group.

10
11 And a larger, statewide, public
12 outreach campaign, which the participants called, Hunt
13 With Heart, It's The Alaskan Way.

14
15 And you can find the results of the
16 September 2017 workshop in a report, which is in
17 supplement six of your Board meeting books.

18
19 During the winter 2018 meeting, 20
20 people participated in the roundtable discussion at the
21 meeting at the request of the RAC Chair. The Yukon
22 Flats National Wildlife Refuge reported on making steps
23 towards implementation of concept two, the local
24 community liaison. They partnered with CATG and
25 actually hired a local community liaison for one
26 season. The Council members made suggestions towards
27 improving all three pilot project concepts.

28
29 We were able to secure additional funds
30 to hold a second workshop in October 2018. The second
31 workshop was necessary to seek cooperation and solicit
32 input from a broader group of stakeholders. The
33 results of this workshop are still being processed but
34 I will be able to share with you a few highlights of
35 this meeting.

36
37 This time around we were able to get
38 together a much larger and more diverse group
39 representing various user groups, which, besides
40 Federal and State agencies, additionally included
41 subsistence users from TCC region, Arctic Village,
42 Northway, Nenana, Venetie, Manley and the Ahtna region,
43 as well as hunter organizations, which included Alaska
44 Wild Sheep Foundation, Alaska Outdoor Council and
45 Alaska Safari Club International. We were also
46 fortunate this time to have representatives from both
47 Ft. Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base.

48
49 The goals and objectives of the
50

1 workshop were to continue broader open dialogue to
2 share perspectives and experiences on challenges
3 related to hunter ethics and share current management
4 approaches, including hunter education and outreach
5 practices, further develop and build upon three pilot
6 project concepts, form smaller working committees of
7 partners to move project concepts forward.
8

9 For interactive dialogues, we used a
10 new technology which was voting on line to answer the
11 questions. Like you can see in this diagram, the
12 participants of the workshop were asked, what does it
13 mean for you to engage in harvesting activities or to
14 recreate in the Eastern Interior, and that's the
15 answers and the more people used one word, the bigger
16 the font is.
17

18 So I would like to talk a little bit
19 more details about the pilot project concepts.
20

21 The concept one, the local community
22 liaison program is a targeted hunter outreach program.
23 It intends to share community developed message about
24 local hunting values and traditions to hunters arriving
25 at an airport. The Ft. Yukon airport was specifically
26 targeted. The community liaison would engage newly
27 arrived non-local hunters in a conversation and would
28 provide them with gift game bag imprinted with the key
29 messages developed by the project partners with input
30 from a community. This would help build awareness of
31 local customs and traditions and mutual understanding
32 before hunting activities begin, a followup visit with
33 the liaison representative after the hunt would be
34 offered for interested hunters.
35

36 This concept project could be
37 replicated in many rural access airports.
38

39 And at the workshop the representative
40 from Ft. Yukon that was hired as a local community
41 liaison shared his work experience and he was the right
42 man for the job, he was very engaging and entertaining
43 so he was the right person to connect with hunters.
44

45 So the next concept that was originally
46 called, Don't Be That Hunter, that would target hunter
47 outreach -- targeted hunter outreach education program
48 to teach the importance of mutual respect while hunting
49 through building improved relationships between
50

1 military, local communities and the land. The campaign
2 would focus on military hunters and provide information
3 on different sets of values, perceptions of hunting
4 space and local customs and tradition.
5

6 The participants of the workshop did
7 not like the title, Don't Be That Hunter because they
8 considered it to be negative, to have a negative tone
9 to it. So they decided to change the title for this
10 concept, Hunt Like An Alaskan.
11

12 So the third concept, hunt with heart,
13 it's the Alaskan Way, that would be a statewide hunter
14 education campaign. This campaign would be implemented
15 via collective action, public, private community
16 partnership to unify Alaskan hunters about shared
17 values.
18

19 At the end of the workshop it became
20 obvious that different parties were interested in
21 different projects and it may be worth to explore each
22 of them for implementation.
23

24 The recommendations that came out of
25 the October 2018 workshop are:
26

27 To have teleconference meetings for
28 each pilot project concept with the participants that
29 were interested.
30

31 Identify working group participants
32 that are ready to commit to work on a concept.
33

34 Identify a committee chair for each
35 concept.
36

37 Identify resources that each group
38 participant or their organization can leverage to
39 complete the projects.
40

41 Many workshop participants volunteered
42 to provide their technical expertise, knowledge,
43 existing outreach and education resources and some
44 organizational funding for the implementation of the
45 projects. The Council's hunter ethics education
46 outreach initiative was presented at the November 2018
47 Annual Sportsmen Rendezvous which was hosted by the
48 Safari Club International Alaska Chapter.
49
50

1 Then just recently right before the
2 Eastern Interior meeting, which was in March, we had a
3 chance to hold a small meeting of the group that was
4 working on the Hunt like an Alaskan, building the
5 relationship with the military personnel subcommittee.
6 We had that in Fairbanks because a lot of the
7 participants of this group are from Fairbanks, so it
8 was really at no cost to the government and the
9 participants from the Eastern Interior RAC already were
10 there. What we got, we got a lot of interest from
11 actually Ft. Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base.
12 They came to this meeting where we were trying to
13 decide how we will move forward. So we only had a
14 couple of hours so there's like no real outcome except
15 a commitment from both Ft. Wainwright and Eielson Air
16 Force Base that they want to work with us to develop
17 this program.

18
19 Now, I would like to talk about an item
20 which the Eastern Interior included in its 2018 annual
21 report to the Board, and the Council, really, to move
22 forward, they would like to have a clear understanding
23 of the mechanisms on how this Council can form
24 partnerships to advance the pilot project, and if
25 there's any government policies or limitations
26 associated with entering partnerships and receiving
27 funding. The Council would also like to inquire if the
28 Federal agencies, representatives of the Board, have
29 any funding that can be directed towards implementing a
30 pilot project, or projects. And the Council requests
31 that the Board directs OSM to prepare a letter of
32 support for the hunter ethics education outreach
33 initiative that can be used when seeking partnerships.

34
35 So I hope to get some kind of feedback
36 from this Board on these requests from the Council when
37 we prepare the Board's reply to the Council's annual
38 report.

39
40 But first I would like to end this
41 presentation with the words from Aldo Leopold; a
42 peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter
43 only has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his
44 conduct, whatever he's asked, they're dictated by his
45 own conscious, rather than by a mob of onlookers. It
46 is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact.

47
48 Thank you, very much for your
49 attention.
50

1 If you have any kind of questions or
2 would like to say something I would be happy to hear
3 it.
4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
6 Katya, for the very thorough presentation and a lot of
7 good work there. Thank you for continuing on with what
8 we asked you to do and it seems it's been very well
9 engaged and the concepts look pretty good, I mean as
10 far as -- so hopefully we can look to support the one
11 that will have the most far-reaching.
12

13 Is there any discussion or questions
14 for Katya. We're not looking to approve anything at
15 this point, I think we're still engaged in the process
16 as far as moving forward, so identifying the people and
17 what not. So, thank you.
18

19 Any questions.
20

21 Carol.
22

23 MS. DAMBERG: Through the Board. Thank
24 you, Chair. This is Carol Damberg, I'm the InterAgency
25 Staff Committee member for the Fish and Wildlife
26 Service filling in for our Board Director, Greg
27 Siekaniec.
28

29 I just would like to comment that this
30 is, to me, one of the most exciting projects that I
31 have seen ongoing right now, and I really commend the
32 work that's being done by Katya and all of the folks.
33 We've got multiple folks involved with this at our
34 National Wildlife Refuges, and she had the long list of
35 partnerships. And, you know, I just really think this
36 speaks to so much of what I've kind of heard today from
37 our public about needing more communication and
38 building trust and getting information out there. And
39 so I just really, really strongly applaud this whole
40 initiative and think it's extremely -- extremely
41 important for us to continue with.
42

43 Thanks to all of you.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
46

47 (Pause)
48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Katya.
50

1 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 was just wondering if the Board has any kind of
3 comments they would like to add -- that we would add to
4 the Board reply to the Council's request that they put
5 into their annual report from 2018. And you have what
6 they were asking on the screens in front of you.

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 MS. WESSELS: And if it's hard to read
11 I can read it again, but.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, I think we
14 can see it. So you're, I guess, seeking direction from
15 the Board here. I think the one thing I do see there
16 is a letter of support for the continued efforts.....

17
18 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:is the
21 primary request there.

22
23 Funding. Obviously we'd have to go
24 through that process.

25
26 And then mutual understanding of what
27 mechanisms we would have that we could inform our
28 partners on the process that's unfolding and how that
29 would be utilized by the public.

30
31 MS. WESSELS: Yes, correct. Because
32 Council members, they are actually trying to be very
33 proactive and they would like to go out and seek
34 funding with other organizations, they just don't want
35 other organizations to promise them funding and then
36 they're constrained by some Federal rules or
37 regulations on how they can utilize that funding.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

40
41 Carol, and then Tom.

42
43 MS. DAMBERG: Thank you, Chair. This
44 is Carol Damberg again, speaking for the ISC,
45 representing the Fish and Wildlife Service.

46
47 My question is, in terms of funding,
48 what level of funding are you seeking for support at
49 this time, do you have any specific levels of funding

50

1 that you're looking for?

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Well, it's really a rough
4 estimate but the two project concepts, the smaller
5 ones, one was like 25,000 a year, and the other one was
6 30. The larger statewide concept the ask is for 750 to
7 2 million, but we are not ready to work with this
8 larger project concept, that will require a huge
9 effort. We, at least, would like to proceed with one
10 of the smaller concepts.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tom.

13

14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, Katya, as you know,
15 this is a volunteer effort and encouraging partnership
16 effort. It's a little odd to write a letter to
17 ourselves, so -- but in the encouragement, I think the
18 Board has shown, you know, through their support of
19 moving forward with, you know, part of the process and
20 we take these baby steps, I think they've given the,
21 you know, the green light from what you've expressed
22 previously. So I'm really not sure where the letter of
23 support, you know, to ourselves, doesn't seem to -- to
24 quite jive.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Well, I think the Council
27 was asking for a letter just like a piece of paper, a
28 letter, that says that, you know, the OSM or the Board
29 supports, like a formal letter, basically that they can
30 take with them when they're seeking partnerships.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Bert.

33

34 MR. FROST: I was going to say, it
35 sounds like to me like the Council, the Eastern
36 Interior RAC Council, right, is asking the Board to
37 write them a letter just saying that we support this
38 initiative so that when they get clear understanding
39 that they can go out and look for money, and, to me, I
40 guess that would be a solicitor question, can RACs
41 accept money on behalf of, I don't know who, and then,
42 you know, then they got to go find money. But to me
43 those are the two questions, I think.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Ken.

46

47 MR. LORD: Yeah, actually I'm trying to
48 research that question on the fly right now so I'm not
49 ready to give an answer. Yeah.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Karen.

2

3 MS. LINNEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
4 a participant at some of these meetings, the letter of
5 support would be good to whom it may concern in regards
6 and in support of this hunter ethics effort, the hunter
7 ethics education effort that can be used by the
8 partners that participate in this workshop and planning
9 effort that we can, as partners, not just the Eastern
10 Interior RAC seek funding but other organizations, the
11 NGOs that can work to pull this effort together.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. I got
14 it, I think I got a clear understanding of what the
15 request is, and, you know, we do provide the Staff and
16 the time and, you know, the forum, and so I think it
17 would be outside of our purview here to write a letter
18 of support to whom it may concern, that, through Staff
19 and other OSM actions, that we completely support this
20 hunter ethics program. I don't see why we wouldn't be
21 able to just get a form letter to you in regards to
22 your request to continue that outreach program and seek
23 additional funding from alternative sources to meet the
24 needs of this specific program that we support in
25 concept.

26

27 So I think we should be able to do that
28 if I don't hear any opposition here from the Board, to
29 just maybe direct Staff to draft a letter of support
30 that includes what I just stated.

31

32 Gene.

33

34 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, Tony, just looking
35 at the title the Eastern Interior Council FY2018 annual
36 report, so there's one -- if everybody on the Board
37 thought it was a good project, you know, or a good
38 effort, I should say, I haven't heard anybody say it's
39 not, then could not the Chair just sign a letter of
40 support saying we support the outreach efforts to
41 improve ethics for hunters, you know, along that lines,
42 to -- since it came to us via an annual report,
43 wouldn't the official response be when we respond to
44 the Regional Advisory Council and -- well, I guess what
45 I'm saying is are they wanting a response prior,
46 because it was sent to the Board via their annual
47 report, normally we have a report -- you know, a
48 response to their report.

49

50

1 And the second thing is that with
2 regard to funding. I think whether it'd be any of the
3 individual agencies would want to look at more
4 specifics because we usually don't say, yeah, we'll
5 give you \$20,000 to work on this, or 100,000 to work on
6 this, we want to see specifics, how it's directly
7 applicable to each and every one of our programs and if
8 we have funding then we got to battle for that.
9

10 And in the situation of BIA, a majority
11 of our funding is passed through our tribes, through
12 compacts and contracts, and we have very little we
13 retain.
14

15 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, very much, Mr.
16 Peltola. You're exactly right. Everything what you
17 said, we can use it to prepare the annual report reply
18 and that's what I was looking for. I was looking for
19 the Board's contribution to the reply. Yeah, but we
20 don't need any answer in advance.
21

22 Thank you.
23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, Katya, I just
25 wanted to reiterate that and thank you, Gene, because
26 he was reading my mind. Is that, again, it has to be
27 part of our delegated process and part of the Board and
28 also part of the RAC process, and it really is about
29 the partnerships that will evolve out of it that are
30 really -- you know, are -- we're part of it, but we're
31 also part of the collective, so, again, the annual
32 report process is the right mechanism at this point,
33 and, again, some other clarities will need to come from
34 the solicitor.
35

36 Thank you.
37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
39 other questions, concerns.
40

41 (No comments)
42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
44 that presentation, I think we got somewhere.
45 Appreciate all the effort out there.....
46

47 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.
48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:and the
50

1 continued support by the workgroups and, good job.

2

3

MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We're going to
6 start to lose additional Council members here and one
7 item we keep kicking around here is the schedule of
8 upcoming Board meetings, and so if we can all take a
9 look at that. I know if we doodle poll it or discuss
10 it here today, or pull out our calendars, mainly the
11 summer work session is probably a little hotter topic
12 because that's coming up sooner than our April public
13 meeting. So those are the two we have.

14

15

16

So summer work session, I believe we
all kind of stated sometime in August.

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Gene.

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You mean in
August?

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MR. PELTOLA: No, our next scheduled --
we had two on the schedule, the summer meeting and the
April meeting.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, the
following April public meeting.

1 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.
4
5 MR. PELTOLA: That'd give OSM time to
6 give the Board a list of potential meeting locations
7 and then facilities, you know, the size that we may
8 require to pull off a meeting. And so like, one, it
9 gets towards the Secretarial review, we've heard a lot
10 of people provide testimony to the Board that we fail
11 to meet in rural areas, we're failing to meet outside
12 Anchorage and this could be a first step in trying to
13 address that.
14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thanks, Gene.
16
17 So do a doodle poll.
18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: We will.
20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, I think
22 we've discussed that so summer work session, April
23 public meeting.
24
25 Jennifer.
26
27 MS. HARDIN: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, I
28 believe we've set the August work session dates, and
29 that's what I just wanted to get on the record here, is
30 that, the August work session dates have been set for
31 August 15th and August 16th in Anchorage at the U.S.
32 Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, Gordon
33 Watson Conference Room.
34
35 And also not on your agenda is that we
36 will send a doodle poll out for the April meeting as
37 you've already directed us, but also in January of 2020
38 we'll need to have a work session as well for the
39 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, the next funding
40 cycle decisions.
41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. All
45 right, that completes that. We'll move on to the
46 highlights in the Partnership, the Partners Program for
47 the Fisheries Monitoring and Alaska Native Science and
48 Engineering Program, ANSEP.
49
50

1 Jared Stone.

2
3 MR. STONE: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
4 Members of the Board. My name is Jared Stone. I'm a
5 fisheries technician with the Office of Subsistence
6 Management. And today I'll be providing you with an
7 overview of our partnership with the Alaska Native
8 Science and Engineering Program. And, additionally,
9 I'll be providing you some of the highlights of our
10 successes with the internship program for hiring rural
11 Alaskan youth.

12
13 Each year the Office of Subsistence
14 Management and ANSEP applies for grand funding through
15 the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and this is
16 used to help build and support career development for
17 rural Alaskans. This grant funding is used to pay for
18 the recruiting, hiring, training, some of the salaries
19 and scholarships for college, and hopefully be able to
20 retain some of these students as we begin to build
21 their interest in conservation.

22
23 During 2018 we hired a total of 17
24 students, 10 of which were Bridge students. Now, these
25 Bridge students are students that are just graduating
26 from high school and going into their first year of
27 college. And this is a really great time for us to
28 introduce them to the fields of biology and the Bridge
29 students begin their eight week long internship here in
30 Anchorage at ANSEP where they receive two weeks of
31 Federal training and they get their Federal firearm
32 training, their water egress training, the MOCC boat
33 training and various other CPR and other first aide
34 trainings. After that they meet with their mentors who
35 are professional fisheries, wildlife and marine mammal
36 biologists and by the end of their internships they
37 return back to Anchorage and present posters about
38 their internships and graduate from ANSEP's Bridge
39 Program.

40
41 We brought in their posters from last
42 summer for you to see and I highly recommend that you
43 take some time today to see some of the really great
44 internships that some of these students worked this
45 last summer.

46
47 We also hired seven university students
48 to work summer long internships. By this time the
49 university students really begin to hone in on their
50

1 fields of study, whether it be fisheries or wildlife.
2 Now, not all of these students worked with OSM or with
3 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Some of the
4 students worked with our partner biologist, with the
5 Partners For Fisheries Monitoring Program and some of
6 the other students also worked with the Alaska
7 Department of Fish and Game on various Fisheries
8 Resource Monitoring Program projects.
9

10 So if the students are successful in
11 their internships and have met their criteria set forth
12 by ANSEP they're eligible for scholarships to help them
13 support their college.
14

15 So for this upcoming summer, we have
16 secured funds to hire a total of four more Bridge
17 students and six more university students. The
18 internships this year include eider research on the
19 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, brown bear
20 habitat work on Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, sea
21 otter work with Marine Mammals Management in Kachemak
22 Bay, genetic analysis of Dolly Varden and walrus tissue
23 in the Conservation Genetics Laboratory, counting
24 salmon on the Unalakleet River weir and nesting surveys
25 in Utqiagvik.
26

27 This last slide, I wanted to introduce
28 you all to the students who worked with us this last
29 summer with their hometowns listed beside them.
30

31 And, with that, I'd like to thank you
32 for your time today and I'd ask if you had any
33 questions.
34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
36 Jared. Thank you for that rewarding work. It seems
37 like we're doing a lot of outreach and continuing to
38 educate the next generation and hopefully that'll start
39 to bleed out into other communities and have a more
40 informed public that can help us stay engaged in this
41 process and bring a meaningful role to everybody out
42 there in rural Alaska to help supply a good feed of
43 information for us.
44

45 Thank you.
46

47 Any questions for Jared on the program.
48

49 Dave.
50

1 MR. SCHMID: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank you
2 for the presentation. So I spent well over 20 years in
3 Alaska and went outside, and when I came back last year
4 was introduced to this program and it's amazing, the
5 Forest Service also participates as well in partnership
6 through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and
7 it is just a refreshing program and to see and meet
8 some of the folks and interns that we've been working
9 with as well throughout the Chugach and Tongass
10 National Forest. So I just wanted to offer my
11 appreciation as well.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
14 Jared, appreciate it.

15
16 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: 2020-2023
19 Partners For Fisheries Monitoring Program.

20
21 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
22 and Council Members. My name is Karen Hyer and I work
23 with the Office of Subsistence Management, and I
24 administer the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
25 Program, and I have a very brief update for you.

26
27 At the end of last year we announced an
28 opportunity for funding for the program, 2020-2023,
29 that funding opportunity closed early this spring and
30 the review panel met and reviewed the proposals and has
31 made a recommendation and we are currently working
32 through that recommendation now and have started the
33 process but we don't have a final announcement yet as
34 to who our new partners will be.

35
36 So once we have that done we'll put out
37 a news announcement and it'll be on our website.

38
39 But that's all I have.

40
41 Any questions.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
44 for Karen.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 Karen, appreciate it.

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MS. HYER: All right, thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

That concludes the agenda as presented
and agreed upon by all the Board members here.

The floor is open, I will entertain a
motion to adjourn.

MR. PELTOLA: So moved.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion to
adjourn, is there a second.

MR. FROST: Second.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion's been
made and seconded. Any opposition to the motion to
adjourn at this time.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
that concludes our Federal Subsistence Board meeting,
and thank all of you for your participation.

Thank you very much.

(Applaud)

MR. DOOLITTLE: Way to go guys.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, way to go
team. I feel like we're all a team now, students,
communities, Staff, leaders, thank you all.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4) ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

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

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through
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13 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD, VOLUME IV taken
14 electronically on the 18th day of April in Anchorage,
15 Alaska;

16
17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th
27 day of May 2019.

28
29
30 _____
31 Salena A. Hile
32 Notary Public, State of Alaska
33 My Commission Expires: 09/16/22
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