

KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA
March 19, 2020
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Della Trumble, Chair
Coral Chernoff
Natasha Hayden
Patrick Holmes
Christopher Price
Sam Rohrer
Rebecca Skinner

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
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3 (Teleconference - 3/19/2020)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll call the
8 meeting of the Kodiak/Aleutian Federal Subsistence
9 Advisory Council to order at 8:36 a.m. on March 19th.
10
11 Donald, are you getting ready to do
12 roll call?
13
14 MR. MIKE: Yes, I am ready. Do you
15 want to do an invocation first or just go to the roll
16 call.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry.
19 Pat, are you online? Pat Holmes.
20
21 (No comment)
22
23 MR. MIKE: Pat Holmes, are you online?
24
25 (No comment)
26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I'll take
28 a run at this. I'm wondering though if we call this to
29 order, if we don't have enough people on here for a
30 quorum, what do we do? I know Melissa is going to be
31 late. She had another emergency meeting she had to
32 attend this morning. So maybe if we can at least do
33 the Council member roll call at this time and then
34 we'll do the invocation and we'll call on other
35 agencies online if I may so suggest.
36
37 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair, we can do
38 that. I'm going to be starting a roll call with the
39 roll call of the public meeting of the Kodiak/Aleutians
40 Regional Advisory Council.
41
42 MR. MIKE: Mr. Patrick Holmes.
43
44 (No response)
45
46 MR. MIKE: Mr. Sam Rohrer.
47
48 MR. ROHRER: Here.
49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Christopher Price.
2
3 MR. PRICE: Here.
4
5 MR. MIKE: Ms. Coral Chernoff.
6
7 (No response)
8
9 MR. MIKE: Ms. Rebecca Skinner.
10
11 MS. SKINNER: Here.
12
13 MR. MIKE: Ms. Della Trumble.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Here.
16
17 MR. MIKE: Ms. Natasha Hayden.
18
19 MS. HAYDEN: Here.
20
21 MR. MIKE: Ms. Melissa Berns.
22
23 (No response)
24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa said she
26 would be calling in after she finishes the other
27 meeting.
28
29 MR. MIKE: Okay. Madame Chair, we have
30 five members present on teleconference and we have
31 seated on this Council eight members. So we have five
32 members present, we have a quorum.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Patrick Holmes,
35 did you by chance call in?
36
37 (No response)
38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll go
40 ahead and move on. I'll go ahead and do the
41 invocation. Doing the best we can doing this
42 conference-wise.
43
44 (Invocation)
45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'd welcome
47 everybody. It's unfortunate we have to do this this
48 way. It's been a bit of a challenge having meetings
49 rescheduled and then we have to do our meeting this
50

1 way. At least we're able to do it and keep moving
2 forward.

3
4 I'd like to welcome everybody that's
5 online. What we have available it looks like we'll be
6 able to finish it within one day.

7
8 I'd like to maybe at this time ask
9 Donald if he can go ahead and get a list of names by
10 agency who's online so that we have that available.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Okay, Madame Chair. Donald
13 Mike, Council Coordinator. First off, I'd like to see
14 if we have anyone online from the tribal governments.

15
16 (No response)

17
18 MR. MIKE: Anyone from tribal
19 government.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MR. MIKE: Native organizations.

24
25 (No response)

26
27 MR. MIKE: Okay. U.S. Fish and
28 Wildlife Service we'll start with our regional office
29 in Anchorage.

30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Donald. This is
32 Tom Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional Director for
33 OSM.

34
35 I definitely would like to start out by
36 thanking the Council for convening in a non-traditional
37 way. Considering the times, I'm very happy to see the
38 involvement of people even though it's through a
39 teleconference process.

40
41 It's been, as you all know, a trying
42 time, but on the other hand I think it's really
43 important that we all discuss about what's important to
44 us, subsistence and our food security in Alaska, and
45 the importance of subsistence to the rural residents of
46 Alaska and to the subsistence way of life. It doesn't
47 get taken down at any time. It's groups like this that
48 will assure that it will continue throughout time and I
49 appreciate your involvement.

50

1 I won't get into the nuances of the
2 rescheduling, but the rescheduling was important to
3 make sure that we had full Councils or getting closer
4 to full Councils statewide. Again, if there's any
5 consolation, at least 70-plus people have applied to be
6 on Regional Advisory Councils. I challenge everybody
7 to submit applications and to really become involved in
8 the subsistence process.

9
10 It's your involvement that makes it
11 work. It's our constituents that make it work. I just
12 wanted to make sure that I gave the time to thank you
13 all on behalf of the Federal Subsistence Program, the
14 Federal agencies and the Board that make it work and
15 I'll let you get to your meeting.

16
17 Thanks, Della and Council members.

18
19 MR. MIKE: Thank you. Anybody else
20 from the Anchorage office if you can identify yourself.

21
22 MR. LIND: Good morning, Donald, Della
23 and Council members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison.
24 Thanks again for everybody coming together. Be safe
25 out there. I'll be with you guys today.

26
27 Quyana.

28
29 MR. MCKEE: Good morning, everyone.
30 This is Chris McKee. I'm the Wildlife Division
31 Supervisor for OSM in Anchorage.

32
33 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, everyone.
34 This is Robbin LaVine. I'm the anthropologist for the
35 Southwest Region and I'm glad to be online with you
36 today. Bye.

37
38 MR. AYERS: Good morning, everyone.
39 This is Scott Ayers, Fisheries Biologist.

40
41 MR. MIKE: Thank you. Do we have
42 anybody from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge?

43
44 MR. PYLE: Yes, you do. Good morning.
45 This is Bill Pyle.

46
47 MR. UNDERWOOD: This is Tevis Underwood
48 also.

49
50

1 MS. ERLENBACH: Hi. This is Joy
2 Erlenbach also at Kodiak.
3
4 MR. VANHATTEN: Kevin VanHatten,
5 Fisheries Biologist for the Kodiak Office.
6
7 MR. MIKE: Thank you. Do we have
8 anyone from the Alaska Maritime Refuges?
9
10 (No response)
11
12 MR. MIKE: Okay. What about Migratory
13 Birds in Anchorage?
14
15 (No response)
16
17 MR. MIKE: Okay. I'll start with the
18 National Park Service from the Anchorage offices.
19
20 (No response)
21
22 MR. MIKE: Okay. Alaska Department of
23 Fish and Game. Do we have anyone from Anchorage
24 teleconferencing in today?
25
26 MS. KEATING: Yeah, good morning. This
27 is Jackie Keating with the Division of Subsistence.
28 Nice to hear all your voices.
29
30 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Jackie. Anyone
31 else?
32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anybody from
34 Izembek?
35
36 MR. FITZMORRIS: Yes. Pat Fitzmorris
37 from Izembek is on the call. Good morning.
38
39 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch.
40 I don't know if this is the right time to jump in or
41 not, but I'm with the Department of Fish and Game
42 currently in Palmer.
43
44 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mark. Anyone
45 else from Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
46
47 MR. WITTEVEEN: Mark Witteveen here in
48 the Kodiak Office.
49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Okay. I want to apologize
2 for excluding Izembek.

3
4 MR. LAWSON: Also with Fish and Game
5 this is Tyler Lawson out of the Kodiak Office and
6 Cassie Whiteside is in the office with me.

7
8 MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you. Do we
9 have any representatives from marine mammals?

10
11 (No response)

12
13 MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you for all
14 your introductions, folks. I'll hand it back over to
15 Della.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
18 everyone. Welcome. Maybe because we're doing this by
19 recording, as we go through each section, I'll ask each
20 Council member if they have any comments or questions
21 and then we'll go ahead and move on to the various
22 agencies also so everybody has the chance to speak to
23 something or to add to any discussion.

24
25 Donald, I think at this time we can
26 review and adopt the agenda, but I would like to put
27 off the election of officers until Pat and Melissa are
28 available later if that's okay with everyone.

29
30 MR. MIKE: Council, is that okay to put
31 off the election of officers until we get our
32 representatives who will be participating in the
33 election of officers?

34
35 MS. HAYDEN: This is Natasha. That's
36 fine.

37
38 MR. PRICE: That's fine with me.

39
40 MR. MIKE: Okay. Before we move on I'd
41 like to -- I sent everyone, the Council members, and
42 everything is posted on our website, all the
43 supplemental materials, and I sent Della and the
44 Council members an agenda that our Council should
45 consider including as part of their meeting agenda.

46
47 Everything I included that are
48 recommended for a part of the meeting agenda are in the
49 red text. On reports I have sea otter working group

50

1 status on page 1 and then going down to agency reports
2 I inserted Izembek National Wildlife Refuge updates and
3 that's the supplemental material. Migratory Birds
4 Management should be under Fish and Wildlife Service.
5 All the supplemental material I identified as
6 supplemental 2, 3 and 4. I just want to make note
7 there is no supplemental 1.

8

9

Madame Chair, thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Just
out of curiosity so we can keep moving on here. Tom,
can you answer this, Tom Doolittle. The vacancies on
these are Rick Koso and Antone Shelikoff. Do we have
any idea when those positions are going to be filled?

MR. DOOLITTLE: Madame Chair and
Council. Back in December there was an original list
that came down after the first vetting of the Council
members. That list I looked at and I asked the
Department of Interior to review that original list.
They were very small. If I looked at it statewide,
there were many Councils that would have been down 50
and 60 percent. Part of this was a review relative to
a review of FACA committees nationwide.

Donald, I don't know if you have in the
packets for your Council the Executive Order that was
signed last summer, but it did put lots of scrutiny
about the cost and effectiveness and a review of
utility. So at OSM we were actually answering a lot of
the questions to make sure that our RACs, that are not
just legally required but are statutorily required, met
the bar, which the RACs did, but it didn't make us
immune from the cuts that went into FACA committees
throughout the country.

In that review I asked the Department
to forward to the White House the list again and
additional people were added, bringing up the 10-member
Councils to about 70 to 80 percent capacity and the
13-member Councils about to 70 percent capacity.

The other aspects I asked the
Department to look at was to maintain the institutional
knowledge within the Regional Advisory Councils. Many
people that applied for RACs have been people that have
been reapplying and been part of the process for
sometimes decades and I didn't want to see that lost.

1 Also some RACs I wanted to assure that
2 the commercial/sport balance was maintained in the RACs
3 as well to the best of our ability, the 70/30 rule, 70
4 percent subsistence, 30 percent sport/commercial. It's
5 something that we strive to see balanced in our RACs.
6

7 All combined, it wasn't until early
8 February and one of the reasons that we had the delay
9 was to make sure that we saw additional folks added to
10 the RACs. The time obviously is to recruit, to get
11 more people involved. I think there were some lessons
12 learned from all parties back in D.C. and other places
13 about the vetting process and that we really need to
14 build the RACs.
15

16 On a positive and slightly ironic point
17 was that the ability for RACs to actually vet
18 additional members was there if something happens, i.e.
19 if a RAC member passed away or moved away to a nonrural
20 area and were no longer eligible, there was the ability
21 to place additional people on the RAC and have somebody
22 that was quote/unquote ready to go into a spot. The
23 sad part was that there weren't enough total number of
24 people that were cleared to make that change happen.
25

26 The other part was there have been
27 times throughout the program where meetings have
28 started before the dates were published in the Federal
29 Register or I should say at least 14 days prior to
30 being published in the Federal Register. Headquarters
31 really wants all FACA committees to stick to that
32 primary rule and that was one of the reasons for the
33 delay also was to make sure that we were 100 percent
34 FACA compliant.
35

36 If there was a silver lining for the
37 rescheduling was people being added to the RACS. I
38 think from the Council standpoint, from OSM's
39 standpoint, it's important that positions come to
40 create larger and stronger RACs and that the Alaska
41 process is different. Essentially the regulations that
42 you see as Federal regulations are coming from the
43 people as a bottom-up process. I would encourage to
44 see that message continue as we go through the
45 continued vetting process as we go on.
46

47 So we did our best, Madame Chair and
48 Council members and public that's listening, but I want
49 to be straight up that there is the scrutiny that does
50

1 go on and it's a very long process, as you know, to go
2 through the vetting process.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
7 I guess we'll go ahead and move on unless any Council
8 members have any questions for Tom at this time. I
9 just wanted to bring that up because having those
10 vacancies does make a difference on our Council.

11

12 MR. MIKE: This is Donald, Della.
13 Excuse me. I just got word that Patrick Holmes is
14 trying to call in. If folks can participate in the
15 teleconference under one phone. I think we're limited
16 on how many people can dial in to the teleconference
17 number. Pat and Coral are trying to call in and
18 there's no more lines on this teleconference number.
19 If we can, staff can come into a central location and
20 participate and free up some additional lines for
21 people to call in.

22

23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
26 Donald. Just an FYI because this happened yesterday
27 and today for me. I had to call in three times and put
28 the passcode in three times. It kept saying that
29 passcode is not good. Finally, after the third time in
30 both cases yesterday and today, I finally got through.
31 I'm not sure what the issue is there also.

32

33 We did hear someone come on line. Can
34 you say who you are. Is that Pat or.....

35

36 (No response)

37

38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Madame Chair. This is
39 Tom Doolittle. I've been on a lot of conference calls
40 in the last week or two and I've also worked with some
41 people that are involved in education quite a bit and
42 there's been many times with the phone lines being
43 saturated and especially people using cell service. At
44 the YK RAC we had to put a pause on the meeting for at
45 least an hour and a half, two hours because there was a
46 regionwide outage in the Bethel area.

47

48 So I think there's a tremendous amount
49 of use on the airways right now too. I know that many

50

1 of the big companies that are working with remote
2 delivery and communications are working on it and
3 trying to get new technologies.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.

8
9 Pat, did you come online?

10
11 MS. CHERNOFF: No, this is Coral. I'm
12 here.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral is online.

15
16 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. This is
17 Donald. I think Patrick Holmes is still trying to call
18 in.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. Let's
21 just wait a few minutes and see if he can get through,
22 Donald.

23
24 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair. This is
25 Tyler Lawson in the Kodiak office. We're going to sign
26 off to make room and if you guys want, you can call or
27 email us when you want to talk about the McLees Lake
28 project. Just give us a heads up and we can sign back
29 in at that time.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So Donald
32 has your number or contact information. So when we get
33 to that we can call ahead of time and get you guys
34 ready to go.

35
36 MR. LAWSON: Okay. That sounds good.
37 I'm going to hang up now to free up room then.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. I just want
43 to recognize Coral Chernoff is online as part of this
44 Council quorum.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
47 you, Don. I heard another line. Pat, by chance did
48 you get online?

49
50

1 (No response)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll
4 just give him a few more minutes. Another line went
5 down so hopefully he can get through.
6
7 (Pause)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's go ahead
10 and look at the review and approve previous minutes.
11 Any discussion on the minutes. We can start there,
12 Donald. Do I have a motion to approve the minutes.
13
14 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. We need to
15 review and adopt the agenda before we take any other
16 action on the agenda.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry.
19 Moving along. Let's just go ahead and review and adopt
20 the agenda. If Pat would like to add something after
21 he gets online we can do that.
22
23 MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca. I'll
24 move to adopt the agenda with the changes that were
25 noted.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
28 Rebecca. Is there a second.
29
30 MR. ROHRER: This is Sam. Second.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.
33 A motion made by Rebecca, seconded by Sam to approve
34 the agenda. All in favor signify by saying aye.
35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All opposed.
39
40 (No opposing votes)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
43 Pat, did you get online?
44
45 MR. HOLMES: Yes, I made it on. I
46 guess some of the Fish and Game folks hung up to
47 provide me a spot.
48
49 Thank you.
50

1 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. If I could
2 interrupt again real briefly. I just wanted to
3 recognize Council member Patrick Holmes is now online
4 and part of the Regional Advisory Council proceedings.
5 We currently have seven members online.

6
7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8
9 We're still waiting on Melissa Berns to
10 call in.

11
12 Thanks.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Maybe
15 just a point that when we're doing these conference
16 calls like this usually we're in a meeting and we don't
17 have to call in this many lines, but when we're
18 supposed to involve the public and/or tribes and they
19 can't call in, I think that's something to think about
20 in the future. As you're doing these conference calls
21 and you complete your rounds think about that.

22
23 Okay. Let's go ahead and move on. Do
24 I have a motion to approve the minutes of the last
25 meeting September 26 and 27. I thought we would maybe
26 do a motion to approve and then have a discussion and
27 if there's corrections as we go.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Move to approve. Pat.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
32 Motion made by Pat to approve the minutes.

33
34 MR. PRICE: I'll second that. That's
35 Chris. I've got to call right back in and free up a
36 line. I'll be right back home.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Motion
39 made by Pat, seconded by Chris. Discussion. Changes.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I have
42 several.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: I think one thing that
47 seems to be missing that we used to have in all our
48 other reports was a brief abstract of reports that were
49 given to us that were not done on paper. Amongst those

50

1 that seemed to be missing were comments from the ADF&G
2 salmon staff and the wildlife folks. I think
3 particularly egregious missing thing was Ellen
4 Yaumiishi's comments from NOAA on the ocean temperature
5 datas and in relation to fish survival, particularly
6 cod, salmon, halibut and then changes in migration of
7 fish into the Bering Sea.

8
9 So those things are seriously missing
10 and I would suggest that we go back to the recordings
11 and pull out those highlights because some of those
12 things are really important to what we discussed.

13
14 Thank you, Madame Chair. I can go on
15 later, but that's a really important thing. What I
16 found missing in the notes besides that was under Peter
17 Devine's comments on the Sand Point area. He mentioned
18 unusual changes in kelp.

19
20 Then we had some discussions under the
21 section on wildlife proposals on the -- we discussed
22 quite a bit the bag limits for Unimak Island and
23 missing are the comments from the ADF&G biologist on
24 that.

25
26 Then on Page 9 under agency reports, as
27 I mentioned those are missing, a lot of comments there.
28 Some of the things I thought were really important were
29 the Buskin River sockeye report and the outlooks. That
30 wasn't really discussed or written out. The ecosystem
31 papers by Ellen and that needs expansion as well as the
32 other staff reports.

33
34 Anyway, that's some of the highlights
35 or my thoughts.

36
37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

40
41 Any other Council comments.

42
43 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

46
47 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral. Under
48 Council member report under Coral Chernoff's report
49 next to the last line it says Emperor Geese are off

50

1 limits at least 50 feet. That should be 500 feet, 500
2 feet off road system.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
7 Coral. Rebecca, do you have any comments?

8
9 MS. SKINNER: I do not. If I do, I'll
10 speak up. Thanks.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Sam.

13
14 MR. ROHRER: No, I do not have any at
15 this time. Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha.

18
19 MS. HAYDEN: No, thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Given the
22 substantial recommendations we have, how would you like
23 to proceed with this, Donald?

24
25 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. With the
26 recommendations I've heard online so far, I took notes
27 and I'll go back to the draft meeting minutes and then
28 include those comments into the final draft that we
29 will be sending out for your review and approval.

30
31 Thanks.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess as a
34 matter of process, you made a motion to approve these
35 and then we have a recommended amendments. Should we
36 just table this until the next meeting and add it to
37 the next agenda?

38
39 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.
40 I'm comfortable with the changes that were described by
41 Pat and Coral. If another motion needs to be made, I'm
42 happy to do that. Otherwise, I think if everyone
43 agrees that with the changes that were described we can
44 go ahead and get this item done today.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I guess a
47 call for question.

48
49 MS. CHERNOFF: Question. This is

50

1 Coral.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question has
4 been called. All in favor of approving the minutes as
5 amended signify by saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
10 sign.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carries.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I was just
19 flipping through my notes. This is Pat again. I
20 noticed on Page 8 when we were identifying issues for
21 the report we had Izembek Wildlife Refuge information
22 tech and I believe we've been discussing for years the
23 replacement of the Kodiak RIT as well. That's
24 something we've been talking about for at least four
25 years since Tonya left. So that's a very important
26 item to have in our minutes there.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
31 Okay. Moving on. Reports. Let's go ahead and do the
32 Council member reports.

33

34 Maybe Pat we'll start with you.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 I think the weak run of salmon throughout our region is
38 probably going to be a continuing concern. I've talked
39 to folks at -- like I mentioned before I went to the
40 Buskin and Mr. Witteveen said it was going to be a poor
41 run. I think the only reason they got such a high
42 escapement goal is everybody that went there had their
43 nets torn all to heck by the sea lions.

44

45 I talked to folks that aren't getting
46 as many cod and that the halibut size has dropped. I
47 just can't help but think that the ocean temperature
48 things are affecting everything from Afognak Island to
49 McLees.

50

1 I didn't hear anything from the sea
2 otter folks on our comments from back in the meeting on
3 April of 2019 when I asked to have some clarification
4 on the inclusion of Kodiak in the endangered western
5 section of the sea otters. I pointed out at previous
6 meetings that one as well that our populations have
7 been increasing. So we did not get a report back from
8 those two gentlemen. Charles Hamilton and James
9 McCracken were going to get back to us on that and we
10 did not get anything back on that.

11
12 I think something that's really of
13 concern to me is the lack of two RAC members. I talked
14 with one of them last night and he had sent in his
15 paperwork but he was told that it wasn't acceptable
16 because it was the wrong paperwork, but he said that's
17 what he got from OSM.

18
19 So I think our not having -- I don't
20 know what the case was on that review, but I think it's
21 really important for us to have those long-experienced
22 members. It's just really sad that that happened and I
23 don't know really what happened. So I would hope that
24 we could get those folks back on again.

25
26 I think particularly Antone doesn't
27 speak a lot, but he makes good points and he listens
28 well. Rick Koso has been our person from the Aleutians
29 and his background on the South Peninsula on salmon
30 fishing his entire life and a couple generations --
31 many generations of subsistence, I think he is a very
32 valuable member and I hope that we can solve those
33 things quickly.

34
35 Thank you, Madame Chair.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
38 Pat, we did talk a little bit about the Council
39 appointments earlier before you were able to get
40 online, but we could probably talk about that again
41 before the meeting is over today.

42
43 Sam, do you want to go next.

44
45 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, I'd be happy to.
46 Thanks, Della. Sam Rohrer here in Kodiak. I don't
47 have a lot to report. I guess the main thing I've been
48 watching is the winter and talking to folks about the
49 winter. Of course everyone has been asking how we
50

1 think our deer are going to survive. That's certainly
2 a big subsistence resource for a lot of us.

3
4 As all of us in Kodiak know, we had a
5 pretty rough winter. Lots of snow, lots of cold
6 temperatures. I think that will be the -- for me
7 anyway -- biggest thing to keep an eye on going forward
8 this next year and in the springtime seeing how our
9 snow melt goes, how quickly things melt off and trying
10 to get a good handle for how our deer handled the
11 winter.

12
13 It's really going to depend on what
14 this weather does here the next couple months. It
15 appears we're going to have an early spring now. It's
16 been real warm the last couple days. So just keeping
17 an eye on the weather, seeing how things go for this
18 spring.

19
20 Of course for me spring bear season is
21 just around the corner and that gives us a good time to
22 be out in the field and try to get a good feel for how
23 the deer and other critters survived the winter.

24
25 That's about all I have. I'm sure as
26 folks start to get out more and get hiking around and
27 see what the deer kill looks like, the winter kill
28 looks like, we'll start to get reports in to different
29 Council members and certainly folks will be reaching
30 out to me telling me and I can bring that information
31 back to the board. A little too early to tell right
32 now.

33
34 That's about all I have.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.

37
38 Chris Price.

39
40 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
41 Donald. Chris Price is trying to call back in. So we
42 can move on to the next Council member and hopefully
43 Chris will join us soon.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thanks.

46
47 Coral Chernoff.

48
49 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral. I don't
50

1 have too much to report. Like Sam said, we're all
2 looking at our deer. I've seen several and heard lots
3 of reports of deer laying down and dying. So it seems
4 like we're losing some from quite a bit of snow and
5 cold weather.

6
7 I'll talk about this a little more
8 later, but I attended the Southeast Sea Otter
9 Stakeholder meeting in November in Juneau where they
10 had up to about 100 participants and we had small
11 breakout sessions. I don't think they've yet -- U.S.
12 Fish and Wildlife was going to take all those
13 recommendations and questions and things and kind of
14 compile a report. That was supposed to be out in early
15 2020, but I see that's not out yet. If we want to talk
16 about sea otters, I'll talk about that a little bit
17 more later and give a website.

18
19 I think this winter we've had one or
20 two reports of high levels of PSP. I don't know if
21 they're doing PSP studies every month. They're going
22 out digging clams around here. I think Kiana is doing
23 that. I don't know if Sun'aq is still doing that.
24 They're still monitoring PSP levels in clams and there
25 were a couple of warning reports this winter.

26
27 Although this winter I have not gone
28 out -- I'm thinking about it lately, but I haven't gone
29 out getting clams. I do know people that are still
30 eating clams around the island, especially in two
31 particular villages. I haven't heard of any reports of
32 anyone falling ill. We have those PSP reports, but
33 people are still eating. So I don't know what that
34 means exactly.

35
36 It seems like all the foraging I did,
37 all the land plants and things in the fall were -- I'm
38 trying to think of what I foraged. Everything seemed
39 to be -- I've heard reports of rabbits, like people
40 not being able to -- I guess the rabbit population I've
41 heard is down, but I haven't been out rabbit hunting.
42 I haven't seen for myself, but I've heard reports of
43 rabbit populations being down.

44
45 In the AMBCC meetings we hear a lot
46 about ptarmigan and there was a lot of talk last year
47 at the statewide AMBCC meeting about ptarmigan
48 populations being low and I think they're starting to
49 look at studying those in some areas in Alaska.

50

1 We have an upcoming AMBCC meeting,
2 which the actual physical meeting has been cancelled,
3 but if anyone wants to call in our spring Kodiak AMBCC
4 meeting is March 24th by teleconference. You can get a
5 hold of Sun'aq Tribe for the call-in information.
6

7 Thank you.
8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.
10

11 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Della. So
12 I'll note that for Kodiak we had a lot of snow this
13 winter and colder temperatures, so the snow really
14 stuck around. I have also seen lots of deer walking
15 around town on the side of the road. I was out on the
16 beach, I don't know, for maybe 20 minutes and just in
17 that time I saw two dead deer carcasses right down near
18 the beach. I am expecting to hear that there's a lot
19 of deer die-off. I'll appreciate hearing more from Sam
20 on that one.
21

22 The Borough and the community obviously
23 we're trying to coordinate and get ready for Covid-19
24 or Coronavirus. We also have moved all of our meetings
25 to teleconference.
26

27 Then related to commercial fisheries I
28 guess we're still trying to better understand if a
29 plant gets someone who has Coronavirus, they are
30 probably going to shut down the plant. That's just
31 right now. As we get closer and closer to salmon
32 season, that's going to be a big question that's going
33 to have a big community impact depending on how that
34 goes.
35

36 Then in general the Coronavirus is
37 impacting markets for fish. Economically for Kodiak
38 this is a big deal and also I imagine for the entire
39 Southwest Region.
40

41 Then the North Pacific Fishery
42 Management Council meeting for April was cancelled due
43 to Coronavirus. The June meeting, which was scheduled
44 to meet in Juneau, they're going to be making a
45 decision within the month about whether they're going
46 to try to hold that meeting in person or not or
47 transition to a remote meeting with teleconferencing or
48 videoconferencing.
49

50

1 I listened in to the Southeast Sea
2 Otter Stakeholder meeting in November. I wasn't able
3 to get out of town to go attend that in person, but I
4 was able to listen in. I thought it was very
5 productive. It was a good cross section of interested
6 parties, which I was really happy to hear.
7

8 One of the things that we've also been
9 working on with our tribe is related to sea otters, and
10 I think we'll probably be talking about it more later,
11 is how the blood quantum issue is affecting our tribal
12 members and the Alutiiq people in general that we've
13 seen. Something like less than 40 percent of tribal
14 members are eligible to harvest. Maybe it's between 40
15 and 50 percent. The rate of decreasing eligibility is
16 accelerating in our region in particular.
17

18 So one of the things we're trying to
19 figure out is how to identify ways to develop
20 co-management with tribes and with Fish and Wildlife
21 related to harvesting eligibility. That's been a
22 really big thing for us.
23

24 Another thing both for the tribe and
25 the corporation is attended several mariculture
26 workshops related to kelp farming and submitted a kelp
27 farming application to the State. It's a very onerous
28 process. Permitting takes a couple of years to get
29 through just the permitting part of it and learning
30 about the mechanics of actually how to participate in
31 kelp farming operations and develop the operations and
32 manage those. It's been a pretty interesting
33 opportunity to learn about all of that.
34

35 Then we also held our fifth annual
36 fundraiser dinner and auction for Dig Afognak a couple
37 weeks ago. It was very successful. We had a good
38 turnout. I think that we grossed probably close to
39 \$30,000. A lot of that was held with volunteer work
40 and personnel. I think we're going to have a really
41 good net return on that.
42

43 I wanted to apologize I wasn't able to
44 attend the meeting in the fall. I was double-booked
45 that week, so I'm really happy to be able to call in to
46 this one. I'm sorry we weren't able to meet in person.
47

48 That's it.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Natasha. I know I like to see the post on your annual
3 Dig Afognak and I keep thinking I need to get a hold of
4 Nancy to figure out how you can bid online on some of
5 those items because there's a lot of beautiful things
6 that you guys have that people donate for the cause.
7

8 MS. HAYDEN: Yes, indeed.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, are you
11 back online?
12

13 (No response)
14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, are you
16 able to call Chris maybe to see if he's still having
17 problems calling in?
18

19 MR. MIKE: This is Donald, Council
20 Coordinator. I'll give him a call and see if he's
21 still trying to get online. In the meantime, if we
22 have staff, either Federal or State, that can make an
23 effort to meet under one teleconference line, that
24 would be great.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I'll
27 go ahead with my report. As many of you have stated,
28 it's been a fairly rough winter. I mean it was nice to
29 have snow here. We haven't had a lot of snow in quite
30 a number of years. It's been cold. Days where it's
31 whiteout conditions and bad driving. It's been an
32 interesting winter. It's been fairly harsh and a
33 number of years that we've had weather like this. I
34 think the impacts we will see.
35

36 People have been hunting the caribou.
37 I don't have numbers available. I did talk to Tom a
38 little bit about Unimak and looking at the report and
39 seeing there's at this point no reports of anybody
40 harvesting any caribou. I haven't been able to get a
41 hold of him. The only thing with him was the date we
42 looked at changing on Unimak from August 1st and August
43 15th. He actually said they would prefer to keep it at
44 the 15th.
45

46 Commercial fisheries. You know, it's
47 been an interesting time. There's been no cod season.
48 The guys had just a little bit, maybe a couple days
49 here just for the last State opening that helped get
50

1 something, but they've been pretty much sitting, a lot
2 of them. A lot of the guys went down out towards Dutch
3 Harbor to fish and with the weather being as bad as it
4 was there didn't appear to be a lot of cod. There's
5 definitely some challenges.

6
7 Looking between now and salmon and the
8 hope that there's some salmon in the forecast on the
9 pinks, which is really not good. It's really thinking
10 hard I think for our communities on where we're going
11 to be in the next six to nine months. Adding this
12 virus issue onto that it's a little overwhelming I
13 think. But just trying to keep people safe and doing
14 the best we can is all we can do.

15
16 The other part of this with the weather
17 of course with us we can't get mail. It's just ironic
18 that people were finally getting their mail from
19 Christmas in January and into February. So, yeah, I
20 feel like we're going backwards and not forward. We
21 definitely have some challenges, all of us, coming
22 ahead of us. I hope we all somehow get through it all
23 and times are changing.

24
25 That's about all I have. Oh, and Peter
26 Pan Seafoods basically being up for sale. That's huge.
27 Of course fishing, both fishing out for Silver Bay out
28 of -- so it's caused an impact, the sales tax in our
29 community. We have a lot to look at and hopefully we
30 will figure it out.

31
32 Other than that I think -- I'm just
33 looking to see if Chris is online for his report.

34
35 (No response)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And whether or
38 not Melissa made it online yet.

39
40 (No response)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We will
43 go back to these. Don, were you able to get a hold of
44 Chris?

45
46 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is
47 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. Chris Price is
48 currently trying to call back in. Hopefully he'll be
49 able to call in.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Madame Chair. This is
4 Tom Doolittle. I'll hang up for a bit too. Maybe one
5 line will make a difference.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Della, while we're waiting
10 -- this is Pat. I was wondering how you feel being on
11 the Peninsula a lot of the salmon, cod and other fish
12 -- subsistence is taken out of the commercial catch.
13 And I think there was quite a discussion on changes of
14 the June fishery and maybe part of July on the
15 commercial fisheries to Chignik and possible reduction
16 of fishing time for the Peninsula. Do you think that's
17 going to.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I think,
20 Pat, just the impacts of all of this is -- I mean it
21 just remains to be seen. It's pretty fairly scary
22 times, I think. Yeah, it's going to be interesting to
23 see what happens.

24

25 In one respect I think people -- we're
26 kind of happy that it's been as cold as it has been
27 this winter and hoping that might have a more positive
28 effect moving forward in the future on some of these
29 stocks. There's nothing I think you can really depend
30 on anymore and things are changing. Where we end up in
31 the next couple years is going to be interesting to
32 see.

33

34 I mean even with Chignik coming into
35 this year and what happens and the effects its had on
36 also Kodiak in the commercial fishery is like I don't
37 know. I don't know what to say.

38

39 Any other comments.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'll do the
44 Chair's report. I really don't have a lot to report.
45 We haven't had any meetings. We had another meeting
46 that was scheduled that's been cancelled at this point
47 I think due to the issue around the virus. We'll see
48 where we end up there. Other than that I don't have
49 anything to report.

50

1 Coordinator's report. Don, do you want
2 to go ahead and do that.

3
4 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. I just want to thank
6 all the Council members for participating via
7 teleconference. I know it's very hard to do a Council
8 meeting without seeing people's faces, but we have to
9 do what works despite what's going on in our country
10 today.

11
12 As far as the Coordinator's report, I
13 just have one item I just want to bring up real
14 quickly. The Sea Otter Working Group we formed last
15 fall continues to have no Sea Otter Working Group and I
16 made a couple attempts to have a teleconference working
17 group meeting and schedules weren't very conducive to
18 have a conference call. We can still continue to try
19 and have a working group meeting. Probably later on
20 today we'll have staff from the marine mammal folks
21 give us a brief update on the sea otter population in
22 the Kodiak area.

23
24 That's pretty much for my report.

25
26 Thank you, Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
29 Donald. I guess I heard another beep. Chris, are you
30 online now?

31
32 (No response)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hmm. Okay. I
35 guess we'll go ahead and move on to the Sea Otter
36 Working Group status. Did you kind of cover that or do
37 you have more information on that?

38
39 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, I briefly
40 covered that. We can move on to the next agenda item.
41 Get the public and tribal comments. Just briefly, I
42 spoke to Rick Koso yesterday and he still has concerns
43 about the Adak caribou, the influx of hunters coming in
44 to the community. That was his main concern about Adak
45 caribou.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I fully

50

1 agree. Rick finally gets the report that he's been
2 asking for for the past 10 years and now he's not even
3 on the Council.

4
5 MS. HAYDEN: Della, this is Natasha.
6 Can I speak for a second?

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead.
9

10 MS. HAYDEN: Just regarding the Sea
11 Otter Working Group. I was not able to attend the
12 meeting in the fall when the Working Group members were
13 appointed. I had expressed my interest in being on
14 that working group earlier last year. I was wondering
15 if there was an opportunity for me to be able to be
16 added to that work group.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, do you
19 have an answer to that?

20
21 MR. MIKE: Yes, I do. We currently
22 have three on the working group. I believe Chris Price
23 and a couple members, Rebecca. We can just do a quick
24 action right now to include Natasha as part of the
25 working group. So that will bring it up to four.

26
27 Thank you, Madame Chair.

28
29 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Does
32 anybody have any opposition to adding Natasha to the
33 working group?

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I would just say
38 Council consensus, Donald.

39
40 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. That sounds
41 like a Council consensus. Welcome aboard to the
42 working group, Natasha.

43
44 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you, Donald.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe as a
47 recommendation, Donald, to the working group. When
48 there's meetings, if you're able to get any of the
49 information to any of the other Council members that
50

1 you have available so they can contact people on the
2 working group if they have information they'd like to
3 add to it prior to their meeting would be a
4 recommendation.
5

6 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. Since we
7 haven't had our first working group meeting together,
8 I'll keep that in mind. I'll do a call for comments on
9 the working group, any progress they made. If the
10 working group does meet, I'll provide a written
11 narrative and present it to the Kodiak/Aleutians
12 Council's next public meeting.
13

14 Thank you, Madame Chair.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
17 Moving on to the new business. Bering Sea Forum and
18 that's Chris and I don't think he's online yet.
19

20 (No response)
21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We may want to
23 go ahead and move to -- gosh, this is hard. I hate
24 this. Can we take like a five or ten minute break and
25 see if we can get Chris online, Donald.
26

27 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Yes, I'll try
28 to give him a call and see if he can get online. I
29 told him earlier to keep trying, so hopefully there
30 will be some lines freed up. In the meantime I'm
31 trying to get to our website and see if we can increase
32 their capacity on the teleconference line.
33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's take a
35 10-minute break so we can try to get more people
36 involved, especially people that need to be involved.
37 Let's see if we can get this fixed. Back in 10
38 everybody.
39

40 (Off record)
41

42 (On record)
43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are we good to
45 go, Donald?
46

47 MR. MIKE: Yes, we are good to go. We
48 can continue with the meeting.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll go back to
2 Chris on Council member report. You're the last one,
3 Chris. Then we'll go ahead and move to number 9, which
4 is the public and tribal comment. Chris, do you have a
5 Council report?
6
7 (No response)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, did we
10 lose you?
11
12 (No response)
13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Everybody else
15 still online?
16
17 (Affirmative responses)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well.....
20
21 MR. HOLMES: We can do the reports.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, yeah.
24 Chris, is that you?
25
26 (No response)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is a little
29 rough. I guess we can do public and tribal comments if
30 there's any and we'll go back to this every once in a
31 while just in case people do get online. Are there any
32 public or tribal comments on non-agenda items at this
33 time.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. If we
39 move to agency reports at this time, number 11, we'll
40 go back to number 10. Is there any tribal governments
41 online or Native organizations.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can come back
46 to this, I guess, if they do get online. U.S. Fish and
47 Wildlife, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge update.
48 Bill.
49
50

1 MR. PYLE: Good morning, Madame Chair.
2 Members of the Council. I will be referring to the
3 Kodiak Refuge's activity report pages 26 through 31 of
4 the meeting materials. I appreciate the opportunity to
5 present this report. I will present a summary of the
6 report. I will not cover all sections.
7

8 I guess at the outset what I should
9 state is that the Fish and Wildlife Service at large,
10 including its field stations such as Kodiak Refuge, is
11 in the midst of evaluating its response to the Covid-19
12 virus and that's in the unfolding process. It's very
13 likely that it will have an influence on the scope of
14 our 2020 field activities among other effects.
15

16 The reason I bring that up in part is
17 because our report was issued in January and it's
18 outdated with respect to the plans that we mentioned
19 relative to upcoming expectations for monitoring of
20 wildlife.
21

22 The first section I'd like to cover is
23 on Page 26 relative to brown bear. At the Council's
24 fall 2019 meeting, the Refuge reported a significant
25 decrease in abundance of bears that was detected in the
26 Sturgeon River area by virtue of the cooperative survey
27 performed by the Refuge and the Wildlife Division of
28 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in May of 2019.
29 This is the second year that we surveyed the same area
30 there in the Sturgeon.
31

32 We have analyzed the results and
33 validated that the significant decrease that was
34 detected in 2018 was also more or less the same results
35 in 2019 and that serves as the basis for discussions
36 with the Department about potential response. Clearly
37 there is a concern about that particular region and
38 what's happened to bears.
39

40 In the Refuge's assessment looking at
41 related information we suspect that the most likely
42 cause was deficient supply of primary seasonal foods
43 such as salmon, berries or both in years preceding the
44 survey.
45

46 This assessment is based in part on the
47 evaluation of trend in chum and pink salmon abundance
48 indices, data acquired by the Alaska Department of Fish
49 and Game Commercial Fisheries Division, coupled with
50

1 observation of extensive top-kill of crowberry, a
2 probable important seasonal food in the Sturgeon area,
3 following the severe winter 2017.
4

5 In response, the Refuge, which is
6 particularly concerned about habitat quality for brown
7 bear, took up discussions with the Department's
8 Commercial Fishery Division in regards to trying to
9 increase the scope and frequency of information
10 available on chum salmon in the Sturgeon River. The
11 chum run down there is pretty unique because it
12 historically was the largest in the Archipelago and it
13 also has this unique run timing where the adults
14 migrate into the river in June. Essentially the same
15 timing that the early run of the sockeye comes in.
16

17 So the bears are historically quite
18 reliant on that particular early run of chum in
19 addition of course to the pink run and cohos that come
20 in in most other streams. So the Sturgeon area is a
21 particularly unique bear food resource and the trend
22 overall with chum in the region according to Department
23 data that includes the Sturgeon is for a long-term
24 decline.
25

26 In the years preceding the recent bear
27 surveys, we also note that there was a year where pink
28 salmon were particularly low, one of the peak years,
29 and that was coincident with the same year a fishing
30 disaster was declared for this area. So there were
31 some problems with food supply that seem apparent to us
32 and we're working to try and get more information on
33 the status in particular of the chum run.
34

35 The Refuge did monitor the berry
36 supplies work that was initiated in 2015 and in 2019 it
37 continued monitoring and we established in cooperation
38 with the University of Alaska as well as the U.S.
39 Geological Survey to facilitate the analysis and we
40 plan on reporting that in the fall meeting. This
41 particular survey is an annual survey and we'll do what
42 we can to get the job done in 2020. We'll see how far
43 we get relative to our capacity and access to the
44 Refuge.
45

46 Additionally at the top of Page 27 we
47 have another section called brown bear research. I
48 would note that there was two significant technical
49 papers that were produced as a result of the ongoing
50

1 cooperative research with Oregon State University last
2 fall after the Council meeting. We'd be glad to
3 provide copies of those reports to any interested
4 Council member or the public.

5
6 That long-term work will see its
7 culmination and end in April. The final product is an
8 empirically-based modeling of bear requirements for
9 sockeye salmon down in that southwest region of Kodiak
10 Island. We're very eager to review and apply that
11 information.

12
13 Moving on to Sitka Black-tailed deer.
14 Several of the Council members expressed concern about
15 the potential effect of winter conditions 2019-20 on
16 survival of deer. We share those concerns.

17
18 Our initial assessment was issued in
19 January. You know, conditions are looking like this,
20 this could portend a challenging winter for deer
21 survival, seemed to have held. Our expectation based
22 on previous experience with these conditions and
23 reports that we received that these conditions were
24 occurring throughout the Kodiak Island area, the
25 expectation is for very high deer over-winter
26 mortality.

27
28 That contrasts substantially with the
29 last couple winters where we had an increasing deer
30 population associated with very little and limited,
31 limited snow at the lower elevations utilized by deer
32 in the winter. So our views are more or less
33 consistent with what other folks are seeing and their
34 expectations.

35
36 I'm pretty sure that the Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Division will be
38 reporting later in this meeting, so I'm going to go
39 ahead and skip the sections on Roosevelt elk, mountain
40 goat and caribou or reindeer and let the Department
41 weigh in on those.

42
43 Suffice to say that they do all the
44 monitoring for Roosevelt elk and reindeer and then we
45 cooperate with the Department consistent with previous
46 years on the survey of mountain goats. Some of the
47 monitoring priorities that we have to the extent that
48 we can pull it off in 2020 to certainly continue these
49 cooperative surveys whether they pertain to the brown
50

1 bear, the survey we do in May, then again with respect
2 to mountain goats in late July and August.

3
4 I would call the Council's attention to
5 Page 28 and Northern Sea Otter. All I can say about
6 that is that the Marine Mammals Management Division was
7 kind enough to provide us an update on harvest
8 statistics for Kodiak area. You can see the full range
9 there, ranging from 1989 to 2019. What appears to be
10 the case is that there has been relatively minimal
11 change here last year in harvest intensity.

12
13 Moving on to migratory birds, same page
14 28. A very significant paper was published the
15 beginning of 2020 regarding the seabird die-off of 2015
16 and 2016. In particular, though it influenced several
17 species in a large region, including the Kodiak area,
18 the focus of this paper is the influence on common
19 murre, usually a very common species in this region.

20
21 What this paper does is it looks at a
22 very large-scale analysis and ties it very specifically
23 to the marine heat wave that occurred during that
24 period. So there was massive mortality associated with
25 that. Other Council members have periodically reported
26 on other influences, for example to fish of commercial
27 value. This paper is fairly unique because of its
28 scope and the extent of relationship it's able to
29 identify between the bird survival effects and the
30 specific physical conditions that occur in the marine
31 environment during that period.

32
33 I'll be glad to provide a copy of that
34 paper to folks if they're interested.

35
36 Nearshore marine bird surveys have been
37 ongoing. This is kind of a core bird monitoring survey
38 that we have performed here at the Refuge mostly on an
39 annual basis. The plans for that we'll see what
40 happens with respect to our capacity, whether we're
41 able to complete that survey in 2020. We provides the
42 counts over the summer last year and there's some
43 additional analyses that are ongoing right now based on
44 last year's results.

45
46 Aleutian and Arctic Tern research.
47 Collaboration with Oregon State University and other
48 organizations is ongoing. Kodiak was a real bright
49 spot for that last year. We had probably the highest
50

1 documented Aleutian Tern production that we've seen and
2 quite possibly throughout the range of where folks were
3 monitoring that species.

4
5 Part of that effort included affixing
6 satellite transmitters to the birds and that was a
7 total eye-opener with respect to where those birds went
8 upon the conclusion of their nesting effort. They
9 started out in this region and they flew various
10 places, but ultimately these radios, which only last
11 about five, six months at best revealed that the birds
12 were heading down to the southeast Pacific region all
13 the way down to Indonesia, the
14 Philippines, and Papua New Guinea.

15
16 That's all relevant information because
17 some of the conservation concerns associated with that
18 species is where is the concern best places. Is it
19 problems up on the summer range associated with nesting
20 or are their problems on the winter range and to the
21 question of where do they go. This type of technology
22 can really shed some light on where the wintering is
23 occurring and focus attention on those areas to assess
24 what the quality of habitat conditions are.

25
26 With respect to fisheries I'll briefly
27 state that I think most Council members in Kodiak are
28 aware of, particularly those in the Kodiak northeastern
29 end of the island in the Kodiak vicinity, what happened
30 in the Buskin with the emergency closure last year of
31 coho salmon specifically that occurred because no fish
32 were coming in It was kind of an unprecedented warm
33 and dry summer.

34
35 There was an apparent delay ultimately
36 in the return of the coho salmon that had a substantial
37 influence on subsistence fisheries at least through
38 September, the traditional time that that fishery
39 operates. Fortunately, with the presumption that the
40 rain in late September, early October the fish did come
41 in and in sufficient numbers to actually meet the
42 escapement goal for coho there. So the emergency
43 closure was lifted on October 3rd.

44
45 We hope to continue the stock
46 assessment monitoring of Akalura Lake sockeye salmon.
47 That's been an ongoing effort since 2015 led by Kevin
48 VanHatten, fisheries biologist/pilot.

49
50

1 We also hope to continue the monitoring
2 of salmon habitat temperature that's been going on with
3 multiple organizations in the Kodiak area.
4 Fortunately, I guess, in the case of weather or not we
5 can actually get out to check the stations. The actual
6 monitoring equipment that we have on site should allow
7 us to just leave them to continue recording absent a
8 site check and they're programmed to record year round
9 on an hourly basis. So one way or another those
10 instruments should maintain and continue recording
11 notwithstanding our presence.

12
13 Regarding other noteworthy activity
14 here over the last six months, I can't really give you
15 an update on the Migratory Bird Calendar Contest other
16 than it's very likely that with the early timing of
17 this winter that the contest went forward. Coral may
18 have more to report on that to the extent that she was
19 involved.

20
21 Invasive plant management. We received
22 funding for 2020 activity and we'll just see how far we
23 get. Much of our invasive plant management the focus
24 is to protect native habitats from the effects of
25 highly invasive plant species. We've got some
26 traditional areas that we've been operating ranging
27 from reed canarygrass in Buskin River watershed to
28 orange hawkweed out in the Karluk Lake vicinity.

29
30 If our work is allowed, but we have to
31 cut back consistent with some of the other monitoring
32 or resource management we do. We have been going
33 through a process of identifying our priorities and
34 we'll operate those surveys or management to the extent
35 that we're allowed and have sufficient capacity.

36
37 I'm very pleased to report that we have
38 a new employee on board. Joy Erlenbach is a seasoned
39 scientist with a specialty in brown bears. This is
40 kind of the last section of our report. Down on Page
41 30-31 there's a summary of her background and Council
42 members can check. So we welcome Joy here to further
43 advance bear monitoring and science and applications of
44 that information to management to ensure the long-term
45 conservation of brown bear at Kodiak National Wildlife
46 Refuge.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 I'd be glad to take any questions.
2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Bill.
4 What I plan to do is to go through each of the Council
5 members if you have questions for the Kodiak report.
6 I'll start with Rebecca.
7

8 MS. SKINNER: No. If I have any
9 questions, I'll let you know. Thanks.
10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
12 Coral.
13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: No, I don't have any
15 questions, but in regards to the Calendar Contest, all
16 I know is I think they were judging Friday, March 6th
17 for that. So we should be seeing results of that
18 Calendar Contest coming up. That's all I have.
19

20 Thank you.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
23 Coral. I guess it's questions or comments.
24

25 Pat Holmes.
26

27 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Bill, it's good
28 that you got Joy hired there. That sounds like a
29 really great gal to have on your bear group. Two years
30 back you had one of your research biologist position
31 that got transferred up to Anchorage that worked a lot
32 on deer and then he helped out on subsistence. I guess
33 that position probably was reprioritized and not
34 filled.
35

36 My second question on not-filled
37 position is how are things doing on the Refuge
38 Information Technician replacement? Because Tonya
39 Brockman Lee's work for many years for you folks was so
40 exemplary and I think there's been a gap since she's
41 left. I hope that you can have some success in arguing
42 your budgets to get her position replaced and then find
43 somebody hopefully from one of the local tribes or a
44 local person at Kodiak that kind of understands our
45 community because quite frankly she did a really swell
46 job.
47

48 Thank you.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
2
3 Natasha.
4
5 MS. HAYDEN: No. Thank you.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.
8
9 MR. ROHRER: No comments or questions
10 at this time. Thanks, Bill, for a good report.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Chris,
13 did you make it online?
14
15 MR. PRICE: Yeah, I'm back here now.
16 Sorry about that.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's okay.
19 It's good to hear you. Did you have any -- I don't
20 know how much you caught of Bill's report, but did you
21 have any questions or comments for Bill?
22
23 MR. PRICE: No. I did hear about the
24 last 10 minutes and I appreciate the report and I have
25 no comments.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Bill.
30 I think maybe just because this was brought up and I
31 don't know how this could be handled, but I think the
32 comment in regards to the potential impact of the
33 weather and winter and stuff with the deer. Our next
34 meeting is not until this fall, but I know I for one
35 would appreciate some sort of report as you're working
36 through that process of what the status is. I'm
37 thinking the other Council members would like to see
38 that as you move forward.
39
40 Thank you.
41
42 MR. PYLE: Acknowledged. Thank you,
43 Madame Chair.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We're
46 going to back up here. I want to double check, are
47 there any tribes or Native corporations online.
48
49 MS. KRUEGER: Hi, Della. This is Kelly
50

1 Krueger with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.
2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hey, good
4 morning, Kelly. Glad to hear you.
5

6 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. I just
7 have about a half page report to give.
8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. What
10 we'll do right now is I'm going to back up a little
11 bit. Do you have time to stay online for a bit?
12

13 MS. KRUEGER: Sure.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Because
16 we have such problems with getting people online this
17 morning we've kind of jumped around the agenda. We're
18 back up to number 8 on Council member reports. Chris,
19 you were the last one. We did not hear from you.
20 You're ready to go.
21

22 MR. PRICE: Can you guys hear me okay?
23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, yes.
25

26 MR. PRICE: Okay. Thank you. I'll
27 just keep it real brief. I do have a staff member that
28 was going to call in for the tribal component to do a
29 brief report. I just want to say I'm very thankful
30 that the State was able to get funding at McLees Lake
31 and looking forward to their report. I appreciate all
32 the hard work everyone is doing in these difficult
33 times. I'll just keep it short.
34

35 Thank you.
36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
38 Chris. Number 9. I'll go back to public and tribal
39 comments if there's any. We do have agency reports
40 which includes tribal governments in number 11, which
41 we'll get to.
42

43 All right. Chris, we're going to move
44 on to number 10, new business. We've got the Bering
45 Sea forum and that is you.
46

47 MS. KRUEGER: Were you going to take
48 the Sun'aq Tribe report or no?
49
50

1 MR. PRICE: Yeah, and I'd like to do my
2 report during the tribal government section and have my
3 staff members speak to the Bering Sea forum. So that's
4 what I'd like to move to the tribal report. Sorry for
5 any confusion.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
10 Donald. Just to be clear on the record under new
11 business we have Bering Sea forum by Chris Price. Mr.
12 Price, are you requesting that your presentation be
13 under tribal governments, is that correct?

14
15 MR. PRICE: Yes, that's correct.

16
17 MR. MIKE: Okay. Madame Chair, if the
18 Council can agree to that minor change, we can make
19 note of that.

20
21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
24 Donald. I think that's acceptable given our
25 circumstances today. We'll do the Sun'aq and Unalaska
26 under tribal government reports. So we'll go ahead and
27 move to Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update,
28 Scott Ayers. Are you online?

29
30 MR. AYERS: Good morning, Madame Chair.
31 This is Scott. Can you hear me clear?

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Do you
34 have any documents that are in the book or supplemental
35 documents for your report?

36
37 MR. AYERS: I will have something in
38 the book when it comes to the fisheries call for
39 proposals and I'll notify you when we get there. We're
40 going to go through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
41 Program first if that's all right.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Go ahead.

44
45 MR. AYERS: We're currently in the
46 final phase of the 2020 Monitoring Program funding
47 cycle. The Federal Subsistence Board met on January
48 28th-30th and made recommendations about the final
49 funding plan. We're currently in the process of

50

1 notifying all applicants of the status of their
2 submissions from that cycle.

3
4 With that cycle coming to a close it's
5 time for us to initiate the start of the 2022 FRMP
6 cycle. This begins with the Councils developing the
7 priority information needs for the next call for
8 proposals, which is due out in November of 2020.

9
10 Priority information needs, or PINs as
11 they're also known, are an important component of the
12 FRMP program as they identify issues of local concern
13 and knowledge gaps related to subsistence fisheries
14 based on input from the Regional Advisory Councils.
15 The priority information needs determine the types of
16 projects that the Council for each region consider
17 important and provide a framework for evaluating and
18 selecting project proposals.

19
20 Similar to the 2020 Monitoring Program
21 cycle, we are asking for several Council members to
22 volunteer to meet telephonically over the summer to
23 identify knowledge gaps and information needs for
24 management of subsistence fisheries in the region.

25
26 Volunteers will review a list of the
27 PINs from the last few cycles and a list of which
28 projects have been funded from those PINs. They will
29 then discuss whether the FRMP-funded projects have
30 addressed the previous PINs, the potential to reuse
31 previous PINs and the development of new PINs to
32 address issues the Councils have identified.

33
34 The results of these telephonic
35 meetings will be presented to each representative
36 Council during their fall meetings to help jumpstart
37 the discussion on the topic. Councils will formally
38 make a motion to adopt priority information needs at
39 that meeting and start a whole new Monitoring Program
40 funding cycle.

41
42 As with previous cycles, this Council
43 and the Bristol Bay Council are both included in the
44 Southwest FRMP region and will be working together on
45 the development of PINs. Dan Dunaway from that Council
46 has already volunteered to help with PIN development
47 this summer.

48
49 If anyone on your Council is interested
50

1 in participating and identifying information needs for
2 this region, this would be an appropriate time to
3 announce the interest.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. This is
8 Pat. I would like to continue on that committee. I've
9 already gotten some communications from Dan. I think
10 having that mutual coordination made quite a difference
11 in getting a fair allocation of funds between the two
12 districts within our region. So I'd like to
13 participate in that again, please.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

16

17 MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca. I would
18 as well.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I do believe I
21 was on part of the committee too and would like to
22 continue. Scott, is there a limit on how many people
23 can be involved in this?

24

25 MR. AYERS: We are simply asking for
26 volunteers to meet and discuss this. There's no limit
27 on it.

28

29 MR. PRICE: This is Chris. I would
30 like to be a part of that as well.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Possible Melissa Berns
35 might. I don't know. I think she gave some input. I
36 can't remember if she was on our committee before, but
37 she's always been an active member even now with two
38 little kids, but she might be worthy of asking if she
39 wanted to do that.

40

41 MR. AYERS: Great. This is a wonderful
42 list. With this many folks, if there's times where
43 certain individuals aren't able to meet perhaps we'll
44 have enough people to draw on. We'll have to see how
45 this whole season plays out.

46

47 Were there any other questions related
48 to the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program discussion?

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think I heard
2 Donald. I know you mentioned Dan Dunaway for Bristol
3 Bay. Is there anybody else besides Dan?
4

5 MR. AYERS: At this point in time,
6 Madame Chair, only Dan volunteered for that council.
7

8 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Della, I think the
9 previous working group members included Dan Dunaway and
10 Molly Chythlook, but I'll continue polling the Bristol
11 Bay Council to see if I can get more volunteers to
12 participate in this group for FRMP.
13

14 Thank you.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
17 other questions or discussion, comments.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's move on.
22 Call for Federal fish and shellfish proposals.
23

24 Scott.
25

26 MR. AYERS: Okay. Thank you, Madame
27 Chair. The Federal Subsistence Board is currently
28 accepting proposals to change Federal regulations for
29 the subsistence take of fish and shellfish on Federal
30 public lands and waters for the 2021-2023 regulatory
31 cycle.
32

33 In your books you can find a news
34 release starting on Page 11. The proposed rule is also
35 provided starting on Page 12. On Page 18 is an
36 informational flyer that describes how to submit a
37 regulatory proposal.
38

39 The Board will consider proposals to
40 change seasons, harvest limits, methods of harvest,
41 customary and traditional use determinations for fish
42 and shellfish until April 20th. So we have a bit of
43 time yet for people to submit proposals.
44

45 There are a number of ways to submit
46 proposals. If you have a fisheries proposal that you'd
47 like to submit as a Council or as an individual we can
48 discuss that right now. You can also submit proposals
49 to OSM through your Council Coordinator, by hand or by
50

1 mail and we can assist in the drafting of proposals if
2 anyone would like. There's also an online process
3 outlined more clearly in the flyer in the books.
4

5 These proposals will be analyzed and
6 presented to the Councils during the fall meeting cycle
7 this year for Council recommendations. Proposal
8 analyses and Council recommendations will be presented
9 to the Federal Subsistence Board for their action at
10 the January 2021 fisheries regulatory cycle meeting.
11

12 In addition during this cycle we will
13 begin conducting reviews of closures in the Federal
14 subsistence fishing regulation just as our office
15 recently did for the wildlife closures. There are
16 currently 32 fisheries closures statewide and we will
17 be reviewing half of them each regulatory cycle. There
18 are currently four closures in the fishing regulations
19 for the Aleutian Island area, three of which will be
20 reviewed this round.
21

22 The closures to be reviewed are: one,
23 Unalaska Lake, its tributaries and its outlet stream;
24 two, Summers, Morris and McLees Lake including
25 tributaries; and, three, all freshwaters on Adak and
26 Kagalaska Islands in the Adak District. The long
27 closure in this area to be reviewed the next round is
28 for all streams supporting anadromous fish runs that
29 flow into Unalaska Bay south of the line from the
30 northern tip of Cape Cheerful to the northern tip of
31 Kalekta Point.
32

33 There are currently eight closures in
34 the fishing regulations for the Kodiak area, three of
35 which will be reviewed this round. The closures for
36 review this cycle are: one, the Buskin River closure
37 area; two, Afognak Bay, all waters north and west of
38 the line from the tip of Last Point to the tip of
39 Rivermouth Point; and, three, all freshwater systems of
40 Afognak Island.
41

42 The remaining closures for the next
43 cycle in the area are: one, the Womens Bay closure area
44 for salmon; two, salmon fishing within 100 yards of the
45 terminus of Summer Bay Creek; three, Little Kitoi Creek
46 and all waters 500 yards seaward of the mouth; four,
47 the Womens Bay closure area for king crab; and, five,
48 the Afognak Island waters 1,500 foot seaward of the
49 shoreline closure area for king crab.
50

1 Again, this is just a notification that
2 we will begin the process for these closure reviews
3 this summer and these will all come before the Council
4 at the fall meeting.

5
6 This concludes the fisheries regulatory
7 cycle update. Are there any questions or any proposals
8 the Council would like to discuss at this time?

9
10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Do
13 we have any questions or comments in regards to Scott's
14 presentation?

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: I was just wondering,
21 Scott, if you could ask Donald to forward us your
22 written down part of your verbal thing on which systems
23 will be discussed. They might be in the Federal record
24 there, but I have a hard time reading that kind of
25 thing anymore. That would be very handy to take a look
26 at those sections.

27
28 If we do have a committee to work on
29 that I wouldn't mind doing that. I think a lot of them
30 are based on existing State regs which seem to be
31 working out pretty well. I'm sure Chris would want to
32 have some input on Unalaska. I'd sure want to call
33 Rick Koso about Adak. It would be nice to have those
34 specific areas and existing definitions that you just
35 mentioned on paper. It would be easier for me to
36 digest.

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

41
42 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. AYERS: Thank you. This is Scott
47 again. I think that that would be just fine. I'm sure
48 that I can work with Donald to send out that full list
49 of what the closure areas are and Mr. Holmes is correct

50

1 in that most of these were pulled over with the State
2 subsistence regulations when we brought them over into
3 the Federal fold to begin this set of regulations.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
8 Coral, do you have any comments or discussion in regard
9 to this?

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: I do not. Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

14

15 MS. SKINNER: No, thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

18

19 MR. ROHRER: No, I'm good. Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa is
22 offline. Pat, we've got your comments.

23

24 Chris.

25

26 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Hey, Scott,
27 thanks. That sounded like there was quite a few things
28 related to Unalaska there. Could you go over that one
29 more time and just slow down just a hair for me and
30 then explain to me why the closures are being
31 recommended for those areas in Unalaska.

32

33 MR. AYERS: Yes. Through the Chair.
34 So what is going on is that we have 32 closures in the
35 Federal regulations for fisheries statewide and we're
36 supposed to have a process where we review those
37 closures on a regular basis. Unfortunately that's not
38 been happening on the fisheries end of things.

39

40 The Federal Subsistence Board recently
41 reviewed the policy that our office has and we're
42 starting kind of from scratch with all these again. So
43 what we've done is gone through and identified all of
44 the closures in regulation across the state for
45 fisheries and we've split them into reviews for two
46 different cycles.

47

48 During the current cycle we have three
49 different closures in the Aleutian Island area in the

50

1 regulation that would be up for review. Those are
2 Unalaska Lake, its tributaries and outlet stream.
3 That's the first one. The second one is Summers,
4 Morris and McLees Lake including tributaries and outlet
5 streams. The third one is all freshwaters on Adak and
6 Kagalaska Islands in the Adak District.

7
8 So this summer I'll be working on a
9 closure review document like an analysis similar to
10 regulatory proposals and those will come before the
11 Council in the fall for your review and your
12 recommendations similar to the way that we do the
13 standard regulatory cycle analyses.

14
15 MR. PRICE: Okay. That makes a lot
16 more sense. But that doesn't mean there's actual
17 closures this summer. It just means you're looking at
18 potentially these closures.

19
20 MR. AYERS: These are closures that are
21 already in place in the subsistence fishing regulations
22 and what we're doing is bringing them back before the
23 Councils and the Board to ensure that they should
24 remain in place or if they need to be modified in some
25 way.

26
27 MR. PRICE: Okay. So I guess I didn't
28 know the McLees Lake was officially closed.

29
30 MR. AYERS: Yes. Under Federal
31 regulations you may not fish in McLees Lake, however
32 there's certainly subsistence harvest in the bay there
33 leading into the lake.

34
35 MR. PRICE: Okay. That's my confusion.
36 I'm sorry, guys. I apologize. I thought you were
37 referring to the subsistence fishery. We call it
38 McLees Lake, but it's not in McLees Lake. Okay, I
39 gotcha now. Sorry about that.

40
41 MR. AYERS: No problem. Absolutely.

42
43 MR. PRICE: Okay. I'm done.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
46 Chris.

47
48 Natasha.

49
50

1 MS. HAYDEN: No, thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Scott, this is
4 Della. I'm curious -- and Pat talked a little bit
5 about this. As you're working through this process and
6 I don't know what the Council's thoughts are, but to
7 have like Chris, Pat and maybe Rick from Adak involved
8 as you're working through this review. Is it possible
9 to create a sort of working group to work with you as
10 you move through their work this summer?

11

12 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair. You know,
13 honestly, I'm not certain about that, but that is
14 definitely something that I can look into and we can
15 convey that information back to the Council once I've
16 gotten information on that front if that's acceptable.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I would
19 recommend it because I know when the Buskin happens and
20 sometimes it's really hard when people are actually out
21 fishing or harvesting or doing whatever, it's kind of
22 nice to have some key people that are involved as these
23 decisions are being made and understanding why.

24

25 MR. AYERS: Yeah. I certainly feel
26 like I'm going to be doing a lot of research into the
27 background of how these closures came up, being as many
28 of them have been around for quite a number of years.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
33 Okay.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Scott, I assume that you'd
40 probably be liaisoning with the Alaska Department of
41 Fish and Game like what happened when the whole OSM
42 program started. Jeff Wadley in Kodiak is the regional
43 salmon management biologist, so he would be, I'm sure,
44 a good contact because quite a bit of thought and
45 discussion went into those closures that exist and most
46 of them are 500 yards, but they vary quite a bit.

47

48 Some areas that have become more
49 sensitive, like Unalaska Lake, I think those -- you

50

1 know, there should be discussion and I'm glad you're
2 doing this. I think perhaps another area of
3 consultation would be to also -- besides working with
4 Jeff Wadley, would be to -- once we get some summaries
5 on things would be through the local fish and game
6 advisory committees because we all work together for
7 the same goal.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. AYERS: Noted. Thank you, Pat.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think
14 we have that section covered. The next item would be
15 to review and approve FY 2019 Annual Report, Page 21.

16

17 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. This is
18 Donald Mike.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. MIKE: I was wondering if Melissa
23 Berns is with us yet.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I don't think
28 she's online yet.

29

30 MR. MIKE: I don't know if you want to
31 wait for Melissa Berns to get online to go through
32 election of officers.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That was the
35 plan when she gets online. I'm looking at number 10,
36 which is review and approve 2019 Annual Report. We can
37 hold off on that also if that's what you're
38 recommending.

39

40 MR. MIKE: It is an action item and if
41 all the Council members are present that would benefit
42 the Council members to take action on it with all the
43 Council members present.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. That's
46 fine. If everybody agrees, we'll just keep moving on.
47 Just for your information also, those of you who have
48 access to your emails, Donald did send out the November
49 6th meeting summary on the Southeast Sea Otter

50

1 Stakeholder's meeting so that is available if you'd
2 like to take a look at that.

3
4 We'll go back to public and tribal
5 comments, non-agenda items. If there's any public or
6 tribal comments at this time.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. We
11 will continue on to agency reports and we'll start with
12 tribal governments. We can go ahead and start with
13 Sun'aq if you're online.

14
15 MS. KRUEGER: I'm here. Can you guys
16 hear me okay?

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

19
20 MS. KRUEGER: Great. My name is Kelly
21 Krueger and I'm giving an update on behalf of Sun'aq
22 Tribe of Kodiak, Natural Resource Department.

23
24 We remain concerned about the northern
25 edge training activities in the Gulf of Alaska. We
26 just submitted scoping comments regarding their
27 supplemental EIS and I submitted those comments to
28 Donald yesterday, so I'm hoping he can forward them to
29 the group of what our scoping comments were. We are
30 particularly concerned about our marine and avian
31 subsistence resources being impacted and the cumulative
32 impacts from these and other activities in the Gulf of
33 Alaska.

34
35 We also remain concerned about Alaska
36 Aerospace Corporation and their plans to expand
37 presence on Narrow Cape. We're concerned about again
38 the impacts to subsistence and historical resources and
39 the need to work together to protect what remains.

40
41 Sun'aq responded to about 20 marine
42 mammal strandings on Kodiak Archipelago last year.
43 Most of those strandings were associated with the gray
44 whale unusual mortality event, the UME that was going
45 on. Gray whales are continuing to die in Mexico this
46 year under this UME and we're going to be on the
47 lookout for them as they come north through their
48 migration route.

49
50

1 So if you see any gray whales or any
2 other stranded marine mammals this summer, please
3 contact our office or there's a national hotline number
4 you can call too and then we will go and respond to
5 that stranded marine mammal.
6

7 Last year we removed 1,825 signal
8 crayfish from Buskin watershed under a U.S. Fish and
9 Wildlife, tribal wildlife grant. That grant is going
10 to be closing out and then we'll be applying for
11 continued funding to address the crayfish issue.
12

13 We are hiring for two tribal youth
14 interns this summer for 12-week paid positions. I'd
15 really like to hire local youth from Kodiak tribes.
16 We've hired one intern so far and we're looking for one
17 more qualified applicant. If you know of anyone or
18 would like a copy of our job description, please email
19 or call me and I'll get one sent out to you.
20

21 Our annual subsistence community
22 potluck was supposed to be held tonight, but it's been
23 cancelled and we'll try again for later in the summer
24 or in the fall.
25

26 Coral said earlier, but our Kodiak
27 spring Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
28 meeting is going to be held next Tuesday, March 24th at
29 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be teleconference only.
30 We'll be discussing the potential opening of the Kodiak
31 road system for spring/summer subsistence harvest and
32 the associated required permit system. If anyone has
33 any questions on that, please contact Coral or I or
34 please call in to the meeting next Tuesday.
35

36 Lastly, I'd like to thank the RAC for
37 their continued support and collaboration and the
38 protection of our subsistence resources.
39

40 Thank you.
41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
43 there any comments or questions at this time.
44

45 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pat. One
46 question.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
49
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Kelly, you guys do such a
2 great job on so many things. I think you picking up
3 the lead on the crayfish is really an important item.
4 Last year you reported that you were going to be doing
5 some -- I don't remember the scientific buzz word, but
6 basically feeding studies and looking for some type of
7 molecular definition.

8
9 Have you been able to find out whether
10 or not they're feeding on salmon eggs in the lake
11 there, particularly up on the northern edge because
12 that shows up in the literature for other places in the
13 States? I was just wondering what the results of your
14 feeding studies are to date.

15
16 MS. KRUEGER: Sure. Thanks, Pat.
17 Through the Chair. We sent in some samples up to UAF
18 to get tested for stable isotopes and I have those
19 results back, but I have not interpreted them yet. I'm
20 going to need some assistance from Fish and Wildlife to
21 interpret those and then once I do I will have a report
22 out probably for the fall RAC meeting.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: That would be really swell
25 even if it's in a draft phase it would be interesting
26 to see what's involved there because I think if that
27 could be made public if that is the case, that they're
28 feeding on eggs, then maybe that would help on your
29 efforts on trying to encourage the harvest of those
30 little critters.

31
32 Anyway, thank you very much for doing
33 what you do. Bye.

34
35 MS. KRUEGER: Thanks, Pat.

36
37 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair. This is
38 Coral. I have a question.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

41
42
43 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi, Kelly. You talked
44 about how many crayfish you gathered this year. How
45 many hours did it take you to gather that many? How
46 much time did you guys spend on hunting them or
47 whatever the terminology is?

48
49 MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair. Hi,

50

1 Coral. So we had a three-person crew that was working
2 7.5 hours a day for about 12 weeks. So it was more of
3 a research project rather than going out and just
4 gathering as many as possible. You can easily gather a
5 couple hundred in a few hours if you had a couple
6 people snorkeling out there. So we weren't going for
7 as many as possible. We were doing systematic
8 transects around the lake to note their distribution.
9

10 MS. CHERNOFF: Oh, that's good to know.
11 It's interesting. Yeah, thank you for that. I just
12 wanted to comment that I knew quite a few people --
13 this crayfish invasion is pretty scary I think. When
14 we started talking about it a few years ago Fish and
15 Game had a couple reports and now several people over
16 several days, several weeks, all summer can go out
17 there and easily fill up a cooler full of these. So I
18 just thank Sun'aq for keeping on this and gathering
19 this information and taking the time for this project.
20 It's kind of scary for me.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MS. KRUEGER: Thanks, Coral.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
27 questions or comments for Kelly.
28

29 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Through the
30 Chair. This is Pat. On your studies on distribution
31 have you seen anything that's significant? Are there
32 more of them up in that pebble cobble field along the
33 northeast or the main entrance part of the lake there
34 parallel with the golf course or are they distributed
35 all over the lake? Is there depth distribution
36 differences?
37

38 Thank you.

39
40 MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair. We
41 have seen most of them are in the south or southeast
42 corners of the lake where it's more boulders and larger
43 rocks. That habitat closer to the golf course is more
44 sand and mud. We found a few of them over there, but
45 most of them are concentrated in those other areas
46 where there's better hiding cover for them.
47

48 We found a few of them more at the
49 northern end where there's aquatic plants right there
50

1 and we'd dig through the plants and we pulled a few of
2 them out from there, but for the most part they're,
3 like I said, at the south or southeastern corner of the
4 lake.

5
6 We did partner up with AquaLife
7 Engineering and Mark Blakeslee and he rigged up this
8 remote camera sled with a very high-quality camera on
9 it and he did transects across the lake to note if
10 there were any crayfish or burrows in the deeper
11 portion of the lake where we can't get to and he
12 recently gave me all that data and then I'll be sorting
13 through all the data, pictures, thousands of pictures
14 to see if there's any evidence of crayfish living in
15 the deeper portions of the lake. So I hope I can have
16 that report out to you as well in the fall.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
19 comments for Kelly.

20
21 MR. PYLE: Madame Chair. This is Bill
22 Pyle with Kodiak Refuge with a question for Kelly if I
23 may.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

26
27 MR. PYLE: Hello, Kelly. Just
28 wondering if you had any estimate potentially available
29 for the total number of crayfish harvested for
30 subsistence purposes and/or the number of harvesters
31 involved. You mentioned the results of your assessment
32 of 1,850. Even if it's a ballpark, how many crayfish
33 do you think were harvested in 2019?

34
35 MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair. Hi,
36 Bill. That's a good question. We have a little
37 sign-up sheet at the lake, at the bulletin board, and
38 people can write down how many crayfish they've
39 harvested. Like I was saying to Coral, people can
40 easily get a couple hundred within a couple hours. One
41 of our signs unfortunately blew away in a windstorm,
42 but I'm guessing that it was at least the same amount
43 or much more than what we gathered last year.

44
45 We had a lot more people fill in the
46 sheet in 2018 rather than last year, but total I'm
47 guessing it was at least three, four thousand crayfish
48 removed. We were out there every day except for the
49 weekends. I'm not sure what happened on the weekends,
50

1 but people would be out there during the week as well
2 sometimes getting big coolers full of crayfish

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any more
5 comments or questions for Kelly.

6
7 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Donald Mike.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
10 Donald.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Kelly, you stated that you
13 sent me a copy of your report on email. I don't see
14 anything that I received from you. Can you try it
15 again, please.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair. Yes,
20 I will resend it to you. Sometimes our email gets sent
21 to spam folder, so I'll give it another shot.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
24 Thank you, Kelly.....

25
26 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral. I have
27 another question. Through the Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

30
31 MS. CHERNOFF: If I could. Thank you.
32 So, Kelly, we're looking at a lot of crayfish. Of
33 course that's our subsistence lake and river mainly for
34 Kodiak area. Since you're working with a tribal
35 government I'm sure that -- well, I guess I'll ask.
36 Are you guys having conversations with Fish and Game
37 and Fish and Wildlife about this or are you guys
38 talking about -- well, and are you guys talking about
39 Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife are they starting to
40 develop a plan to deal with this?

41
42 MS. KRUEGER: Through the Chair. We
43 have been talking to Fish and Wildlife and Fish and
44 Game since the beginning and both supported this
45 current grant project that we have along with our
46 previous one that was funded through the BIA.

47
48 The Fish and Game statewide invasive
49 species coordinator is working on getting signal
50

1 crayfish classified as an invasive species in Alaska.
2 Right now it's just a species of concern. If that goes
3 through, then I think we'll have more access to funding
4 and it will just be -- the species will be recognized
5 greater as a threat.
6

7 I think once the feeding studies, as
8 Pat mentioned, our stable isotope work comes through
9 and if they are indeed eating salmon eggs and salmon
10 carcasses, then I think we will be able to get much
11 more funding to address this issue and come up with
12 some sort of management plan for the crayfish in Buskin
13 and working with Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife.
14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other
18 comments or questions for Kelly.
19

20 (No comments)
21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I look forward
23 to seeing your report, Kelly. Thank you for that.
24 It's a lot of good information.
25

26 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Moving on.
29 Chris, is the tribe available for their report?
30

31 MR. PRICE: I need somebody to hang up.
32 I think if Kodiak were to hang up, the tribe there,
33 maybe that will free up the line and I'll text Jen
34 right now and see if she can get in. She's been trying
35 for the last 10 minutes to call in.
36

37 MS. KRUEGER: This is Kelly. I'll hang
38 up.
39

40 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Donald Mike.
41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
43 Donald.
44

45 MR. MIKE: If I can make a suggestion.
46 We take an early lunch break and I'll see if I can up
47 our available lines on this teleconference number.
48 That's my suggestion to the Council. We can take a
49 two-hour lunch break and reconvene at 1:00.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That would be
2 fine with me. I think that might be helpful. I'm
3 concerned if people or tribes are trying to call in and
4 people that we need for these reports can't call in.
5 So I have no problem with that if the rest of the
6 Council wants to. Then we can convene at 1:00 and
7 hopefully you can get a hold of Melissa and she can
8 call in at that time too.

9
10 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. If
11 the Council agrees to that, we can take a two-hour
12 lunch break and reconvene at 1:00 and I'll work on the
13 issue of the teleconference line.

14
15 MR. PRICE: That's fine with me.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sound good,
18 everybody? Let's do that, guys, and we'll get back to
19 the meeting at 1:00.

20
21 (Off record)

22
23 (On record)

24
25 MR. MIKE: This is another roll call to
26 have all the Council members present to continue this
27 meeting. Pat Holmes.

28
29 (No response)

30
31 MR. MIKE: Sam Rohrer.

32
33 MR. ROHRER: I'm here.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm here.

36
37 MR. MIKE: Pat, you're here?

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Roger.

40
41 MR. MIKE: We've got Pat Holmes and Sam
42 Rohrer. Christopher Price.

43
44 MR. PRICE: Here.

45
46 MR. MIKE: Coral Chernoff.

47
48 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Rebecca Skinner.
2
3 MS. SKINNER: Here.
4
5 MR. MIKE: Della Trumble.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Here.
8
9 MR. MIKE: Natasha Hayden.
10
11 MS. HAYDEN: Here.
12
13 MR. MIKE: Melissa Berns.
14
15 (No response)
16
17 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. I just got
18 the email from Melissa Berns. She's tied up right now
19 dealing with bison in her village, so she's therefore
20 excused. Thank you, Madame Chair.
21
22 All members are present that need to be
23 present.
24
25 Thanks.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
28 Maybe, Donald, can you do just a call on tribal
29 governments, Native organizations and see who is
30 online.
31
32 MR. MIKE: Okay. Right now we have
33 myself, Donald Mike, and Scott Ayers. We can start
34 with folks -- are there any tribal governments, Sun'aq
35 Tribe?
36
37 MR. PRICE: Yeah, the Qawalangin Tribe
38 of Unalaska, we have a report. If this is the right
39 time, then let me know, but we have a report.
40
41 MR. MIKE: Okay. Any Native
42 organizations.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 MR. MIKE: Okay. Kodiak wildlife
47 staff.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MR. MIKE: Alaska Maritime Refuge
2 staff.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MR. MIKE: Migratory birds. Julian
7 Fischer.
8
9 MR. FISCHER: Julian Fischer. I'm
10 present.
11
12 MR. MIKE: Thank you. Any staff from
13 National Park Service?
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MR. MIKE: Alaska Department of Fish
18 and Game, Division of Subsistence.
19
20 MS. KEATING: Good afternoon. This is
21 Jackie Keating.
22
23 MR. MIKE: Okay. Any other ADF&G
24 staff.
25
26 MR. WITTEVEEN: Mark Witteveen and
27 Tyler Lawson are here from Kodiak Fish and Game.
28
29 MR. MIKE: Okay.
30
31 MR. BURCH: And Mark Burch in Palmer.
32
33 MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you, Mark.
34
35 MR. FITZMORRIS: Pat Fitzmorris is here
36 with Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.
37
38 MR. MIKE: Izembek National Wildlife.
39 Madame Chair, I got an email from Steve Delehanty.
40 He's got a commitment at 1:00 p.m. and he was going to
41 provide an agency report for the Refuge on Alaska
42 Maritime's program. He requested a time certain of
43 2:30 if we can accommodate that.
44
45 Thank you, Madame Chair.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
48 Donald. If you could look at your agenda under U.S.
49 Fish and Wildlife, item number C is Izembek because you
50

1 missed it this morning too. You might want to write
2 that in there. I don't think there's going to be a
3 problem with moving his to 2:30. I think it's
4 important that we hear his report because we've been
5 asking him to be at our meetings in the past.

6
7 With that, any public or tribal
8 comments on non-agenda items.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none.
13 We'll go ahead and move forward to tribal governments.
14 Unalaska Qawalangin Tribe.

15
16 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 This is Chris with Qawalangin Tribe. I'm also on the
18 Council, but I'm going to have a report from our
19 environmental director Chandra Poe and she's going to
20 talk about the upcoming conference this fall in
21 Unalaska. I just have a brief discussion about the
22 McLees Lake Partners project that we have getting
23 started up this summer, but I'll let Chandra start out
24 first.

25
26 MS. POE: Thank you. So this is
27 Chandra Poe. I'm joining Qawalangin Tribe staff as
28 environmental director and we just wanted to take the
29 opportunity to share more information about our
30 upcoming event this fall. We will be hosting a coastal
31 communities forum in Unalaska September 2nd through 4th
32 and that is being funded through a BIA tribal
33 resilience grant.

34
35 We were inspired by the Aleutian Life
36 Forum in 2016 and our goal this time around is to bring
37 together community members and partners and research
38 agencies from State and Federal and university systems
39 and have a few days to have some knowledge sharing and
40 network building. So we're hoping to have
41 participation from a really wide range of communities
42 from Southeast to Kodiak, Aleutian and Pribilof
43 Islands, Bering Sea.

44
45 We're just really starting to dig in
46 with our planning team, so we've got some help from
47 partners at AIA and St. Paul and Sea Grant and I think
48 we're hoping to have someone representing ANTHC also.
49 We're still getting the last couple members identified
50

1 and then we'll be meeting again in early April.
2

3 We're supposed to figure out more
4 specifics, but our plan right now is to discuss
5 adaptation topics in three different areas for natural
6 environment, built environment and social environment.
7 We're basing that on some work that St. Paul is
8 currently doing in their adaptation planning process.
9

10 We're really looking forward to it.
11 We're just starting to get things better defined. If
12 anyone has any questions or wants more information at
13 all, please reach out to me. I just sent an email a
14 few moments ago with a really small save the date
15 information. As we get more information defined, we'll
16 be sharing that out also.
17

18 Thank you for the chance to share some
19 more information about that.
20

21 We're really looking forward to it.
22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
24 Chandra. Any questions for her at this time.
25

26 (No comments)
27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none.
29 Chris, do you want to continue?
30

31 MR. PRICE: Sure. Yeah, I'll just make
32 it brief. Thank you, everyone. As you guys know, we
33 did receive the Partners in Fisheries Management grant
34 with Fish and Wildlife for McLees Lake and for
35 anadromous streams around Unalaska Island. This is our
36 first year, so we're just getting it ramped up. We're
37 working on our new hires.
38

39 We're getting ready to partner with the
40 State. I understand the State will be doing their
41 presentation today as well. So we will need to be
42 doing some coordination, collaboration with Tyler. He
43 sent me an email this week, so I'm very excited that
44 we'll have -- going from zero funding to both the tribe
45 and the State getting funding at McLees Lake. So
46 that's a positive that is really good to know right
47 now.
48

49 We're going to be focusing on food
50

1 sovereignty and the importance of these subsistence
2 resources, like the red salmon run at McLees Lake is a
3 part of our Partners Program.
4

5 That's basically it. Probably by the
6 fall if everyone could come to our conference. We
7 tried to time it with the ferry schedule, but we
8 couldn't figure out what the ferry schedule was, so it
9 was kind of challenging to get our date even set. I
10 would like to invite the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC to
11 attend. If there's any way to make that happen, then
12 you guys could be a part of that and then we could do a
13 formal presentation on our Partners Program during our
14 conference as well.
15

16 Thank you guys for your time today and
17 I'll take any questions if there are any.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anybody have any
20 questions for Chris.
21

22 (No comments)
23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none.
25 Chris, are those days basically set in stone at this
26 point?
27

28 MR. PRICE: Yeah, we are sticking to
29 our dates unless something with this virus affects it,
30 but we are saying these are our dates and we're going
31 to stick to them.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.
34

35 MR. MIKE: Chris, this is Donald. You
36 said September 4th, right?
37

38 MR. PRICE: 2nd, 3rd and 4th.
39

40 MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you. Madame
41 Chair, I just got an email from Steve Delehanty. He's
42 the Alaska Maritime Refuge. He requested a time
43 certain of 2:30 to do his presentation. Now his
44 meeting has been moved. If we could accommodate his
45 request to do an agency report. If we could
46 accommodate his needs. His meeting will start at 2:30.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So is he
49 available now to do that? Is that what you're saying?
50

1 MR. MIKE: Yes. Steve, are you online?

2

3 (No response)

4

5 MR. MIKE: I guess not. We could make
6 a time certain for 2:00 o'clock then for Mr. Delehanty.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe what you
9 can do is try to email him or text him and let him to
10 know to get online and we can go ahead and move to
11 Izembek and then if he gets online after Izembek, we'll
12 just go right to the Alaska Maritime.

13

14 MR. MIKE: Okay. Will do.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
17 Qawalangin and Chris for your report. We had Sun'ag
18 earlier this morning. We'll move on to 11-C Izembek
19 National Wildlife Refuge. Are you ready to give your
20 report?

21

22 MR. FITZMORRIS: Yes, I'm here. Can
23 you hear me okay?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, we can hear
26 you good.

27

28 MR. FITZMORRIS: Okay. Thank you so
29 much. I appreciate this opportunity. My name is Pat
30 Fitzmorris. I'm the Refuge Wildlife Biologist here on
31 Izembek. Thank you again for the Council to let me
32 speak.

33

34 I start off -- on the report I
35 submitted there I will start off with caribou. We are
36 in the Federal subsistence and State Unit 9D and the
37 caribou in the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd or
38 acronym SAPH. Our Refuge here is part of the Federal
39 subsistence caribou hunt in 9D and it's split into two
40 hunt periods.

41

42 The first one runs from August 1st
43 through September 30th. The second half begins on
44 November 15th and ends on March 31st of every year.
45 These dates run concurrently with Fish and Game sport
46 hunt. The bag limit is two caribou for residents and
47 two bulls for non-residents. The early season is the
48 only one available to non-residents.

49

50

1 For Unimak Island, the Federal
2 Subsistence Board approved a hunt for False Pass
3 residents for up to three bull caribou on the island to
4 be taken between August 15th and October 15th. Ten
5 permits were allocated, four were issued and two
6 caribou were harvested in 2018. In 2019, 10 permits
7 were allocated again and no caribou were reported
8 harvested on the island.

9
10 For the SAPH in 9D, Department of Fish
11 and Game management objectives are to sustain a
12 population between 3,000 and 4,000 animals and the
13 latest estimate is 2,700. Also to maintain a fall
14 bull/cow ratio of 35 bulls to 100 cows and this is
15 happening. And provide limited harvest of bulls when
16 the herd exceeds 1,000 animals. And allow cow harvest
17 when the population exceeds 2,000 animals and the herd
18 is increasing.

19
20 You'll see on the report Table 1 shows
21 the reported caribou harvest from 2013 through last
22 year and we're seeing a nice annual increase in
23 harvest. We don't have this year's harvest yet for
24 Fish and Game because the season is ongoing and it ends
25 the end of the month.

26
27 You'll see there on my report during
28 the last aerial survey in February of just this last
29 month we recorded 2,091 caribou. Last year's count was
30 1,435. This year's count is a 32 percent increase.
31 What we did see was the majority of the herd stayed up
32 on the Peninsula near the Black Hills and Trader
33 Mountain area, which is roadless and about 30 miles
34 from Cold Bay. So this is problematic for caribou
35 hunters obviously.

36
37 As you see from the SAPH caribou graph,
38 the population really took a dip from 2006 through
39 2009. We saw a sharp decline with the SAPH and the
40 seasons were closed at this time. The population has
41 generally been increasing since 2011 and we hope this
42 trend continues.

43
44 Now to the parturition surveys. These
45 surveys determine pregnancy rates and this is an
46 important component of monitoring the population.
47 Pregnancy rate provides an indication of nutritional
48 status, range conditions and general health of the
49 population. During the last SAPH parturition survey
50

1 the overall pregnancy rate was 83 percent based on 571
2 cows. Out of 1,038 caribou observed, this is the
3 largest sample size on record for this survey.

4
5 The Unimak Island parturition survey
6 during this time was 69 percent based on an evaluation
7 of 97 cows and 287 total animals. About an average
8 number for Unimak. The population doesn't seem to be
9 increasing like the SAPH herd. Caribou are an
10 important resource in this area and a lot of folks rely
11 on them to feed their families, so we're very happy
12 that the population has been increasing since 2006.

13
14 The next page on to brown bears. We
15 conducted a brown bear survey during the last summer
16 when they're tied to salmon-bearing streams. This
17 obviously makes sense. The last brown bear survey we
18 did was August 21st through the 24th of last year.
19 Izembek showed a 2 percent increase in total bears from
20 the 2018 survey. Number of sows increased 58 percent
21 and single bears decreased about 9 percent. Compared
22 to the 2018 survey, Unimak Island showed a 36 percent
23 increase of total bears and the number of single bears
24 increased 18 percent.

25
26 So our next season here is this spring.
27 We're having a spring bear season May 10th through the
28 25th and all looks good for a successful season for
29 brown bears on Unimak and the Peninsula.

30
31 Commercial salmon harvest summary. I
32 got this from Cassie Whiteside in Kodiak. The number
33 one salmon harvest in this area are pinks and number
34 two sockeye, then chums and coho with very few chinook.
35 26,000 chinook were taken. That's commercial salmon
36 harvest.

37
38 On to Black Brant and waterfowl. Brant
39 productivity data has been collected on Izembek for
40 more than 50 years. Brant are one of the reasons why
41 Izembek was created and our main resource of concern
42 down here. Almost 100 percent of the population spends
43 some time of their lives on Izembek Lagoon, either
44 migrating north from south and Izembek also was the
45 very first U.S. wetland of national concern. We're
46 very fortunate to have Brant here.

47
48 Our last fall survey we counted 157,000
49 Brant. This is 1,363 higher than last year. We're
50

1 seeing a nice increase in Black Brant. The mid-winter
2 aerial population survey, which also includes Sitkinak
3 Island, we flew this February 22nd through the 27th of
4 this year with an estimated total of 49,777 Brant.
5 That's 4,400 higher than last year. The Brant are
6 doing well. I'm happy with that.

7
8 The Emperor Goose population survey.
9 We also count Emperor Geese when we do the mid-winter
10 and the fall counts. The last survey in the fall
11 showed 772 Emperor Geese. This is low for this count.
12 Emperor Geese are tough to survey down here because
13 they're spread out in such a large area, geographical
14 area, from Aleutian Islands, Kodiak, on the Peninsula.
15 The best time to survey for them is on the breeding
16 grounds in the spring and I think we'll see a report on
17 that a little bit later from Migratory Birds.

18
19 Also included a harvest report on
20 Emperor Geese in my report and you'll see that the
21 permits issued is quite a bit less than the harvest
22 quota, what's allowed. I think what we're seeing is
23 some folks are also not hunting. They're getting their
24 permits with the anticipation of hunting Emperor Geese
25 and then they're not going out. Harvest has been
26 fairly low during the fall here.

27
28 On the Steller's Eiders. Last year
29 Izembek and Alaska SeaLife Center captured and banded
30 Steller's Eiders on the Lagoon. We captured 323 Eiders
31 and we banded and measured birds. We were looking at a
32 lot of different body conditions and diet, overall
33 health. What we're looking at is to see why a lot of
34 these birds are leaving Izembek and they're molting up
35 the Peninsula a little bit more.

36
37 Historically, about 20-40,000 birds
38 used Izembek for molting, but now we're seeing about
39 6,000 during the summer, during the molt, and a lot
40 more birds are heading up the Peninsula. We're seeing
41 an increase in birds molting on Nelson Lagoon. Up to
42 47,000 last year. So interesting. I'm not sure why
43 that's happening.

44
45 Also our latest swan survey was this
46 last summer. We conducted our swan surveys during the
47 summer right after nesting season. It's the best time
48 to count them. Swans are not harvested here because
49 they're considered a distinct population in that they
50

1 don't migrate from the peninsula. They breed and
2 winter here, live here year round. Swan numbers have
3 been consistent over the years.

4
5 We're also interested in eelgrass
6 productivity. We've been monitoring eelgrass here
7 since the 1960s. Eelgrass beds on Izembek are the
8 largest in the world and the primary reason the lagoon
9 was designated a wetland of international importance
10 and why the Refuge was created. We want to protect
11 eelgrass health and the watershed that it relies on.

12
13 That's about all I have today. Thank
14 you so much.

15
16 I'll be happy to answer any questions
17 that anyone might have for us. I also wanted to
18 introduce Leticia Melendez, our Acting Refuge Manager.
19 She just stepped in and she's here as well.

20
21 MS. MELENDEZ: Hello.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat,
24 for that report. Do we have any questions for Pat at
25 this time.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair. Pat.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: I haven't been able to talk
32 to the Hobletts (ph) this winter, but they're not
33 getting any caribou. I know they try to set a
34 function. The nasty winter you've had and fall and
35 difficulties of getting around to where the caribou
36 were, it sounded like, from our report from the State
37 on their surveys, that they are tending to be farther
38 west on the island and perhaps not accessible. Is that
39 a reasonable assumption?

40
41 MR. FITZMORRIS: I think that's a
42 reasonable assumption, yes. As you know, the island is
43 over a million acres and roadless, so it's pretty
44 tough. If they're not close to town, it's pretty tough
45 to get after them. We did not get a report that they
46 harvested any caribou this year, so that's
47 disappointing.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Roger. You might not want
50

1 to speculate on this, but I noticed that the bear
2 numbers is up almost 40 percent and the State biologist
3 mentioned that the caribou cows or does had been
4 learning how to get higher up in the mountains and in
5 the alders to hide out. I would assume they're wanting
6 to avoid particularly the first few days having a bear
7 scarf up their fun. Is that a possible assumption?
8

9 MR. FITZMORRIS: Yes. I would assume
10 that bear depredation on caribou calves is high there
11 and on Unimak. I think it's 12 bears are allowed to be
12 taken in the spring and the fall there. So that's 24
13 bears a year on over a million acres. So I don't know.
14

15 MR. HOLMES: Roger that. I've had
16 several projects out there back in the '80s and that's
17 considered bear country once you get up into the
18 mountains on the north side and the west.
19

20 It's good to see Brant numbers are up.
21 Sorry to see the Emperor Goose. But then, like you
22 say, winter counts are pretty tough to do.
23

24 On the Eiders have you seen -- I
25 noticed here in Kodiak over the last 50 years that when
26 we used to have a lot of northwest winds and we'd see
27 800 or 1,000 of them in the channel here in town, but
28 yet now that things are warm and more southerly winds
29 most of the time that we don't have the Eider numbers
30 we used to have. Is that sort of a statewide trend
31 that they're up or what's on the distribution of those?
32

33 MR. FITZMORRIS: We're seeing less
34 Eiders, Common and Steller's Eiders here, and I don't
35 know the reason for that. We're trying to figure that
36 out with this latest study. We banded a lot of Eiders,
37 323 Steller's Eiders this last year on the Lagoon and
38 we're trying to determine bird health and why they're
39 staying more up in Nelson Lagoon. In fact Nelson
40 Lagoon numbers have been increasing and Izembek numbers
41 of Eiders have been decreasing. I'm not sure why. If
42 that's food resources or what.
43

44 MR. HOLMES: That's really interesting.
45 I wonder if with the lower amount of ice in Bristol Bay
46 if they're having less freezing up in Nelson Lagoon
47 because that's another lovely area. Anyway, I'll
48 finish up here. I'm glad that you have an Acting
49 Refuge Manager. When we had our meeting last year it
50

1 sounded like your leadership in Anchorage were inclined
2 to be managing Izembek from King Salmon, I believe.
3 I'd just like to reiterate that our Council really
4 wants to see having a manager there.
5

6 If you're the guy that made up the
7 Emperor Goose stew when we were out there in September,
8 that was great. Anyway, thank you very much.
9

10 MR. FITZMORRIS: Thank you, Pat.
11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat
13 and Pat. Is there any other questions or comments.
14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral. I have a
16 question.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.
19

20 MR. FITZMORRIS: Hi, Coral.
21

22 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi. So I don't see
23 anything about wolves on here. I was wondering do you
24 guys track wolves or do surveys very often? It seemed
25 like when we were out there that there was a pretty
26 healthy wolf population out in the area. So I was
27 wondering do you guys track those?
28

29 MR. FITZMORRIS: Yeah, good question.
30 We do have a healthy wolf population here. We include
31 them in our surveys and we're seeing their population
32 is steady. The last caribou survey we did we counted
33 17 wolves, two packs. The State conducts the
34 regulations for wolves. You can harvest 10 a day, so
35 it's very liberal harvest scheme for wolves down here.
36 We don't do a lot of management of wolves ourselves.
37

38 Did that answer your question?
39

40 MS. CHERNOFF: It does answer my
41 question. Thank you.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
44 other questions or comments.
45

46 (No comments)
47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. This is
49 Della. Looking at the 17 wolves and 23 moose on your
50

1 caribou surveys in Unit 9B. I know there's been more
2 moose that were coming down lower in the past few years
3 that we were seeing. I'm hoping the wolf population
4 doesn't affect them. Some of the guys have observed
5 wolves chasing the moose here. Hopefully that doesn't
6 impact them.

7
8 It's encouraging to see that these
9 numbers are up on the caribou. I know that it's been a
10 bit tough locally. Like you said the weather has been
11 pretty harsh this winter. Had some big storms. We've
12 had snow off and on, but right now it's all clear of
13 snow except the top of the mountains. It's been more
14 high winds than anything else. I think white-out
15 conditions, though the snow didn't stay on the ground.

16
17 The birds. Starting with the Brant. I
18 was encouraged to see two things. Number one, the
19 Brant, the increase in the population, and then also in
20 regards to at Sanak. I know Stanley Mack is a former
21 Borough mayor and for years was telling people at
22 Izembek that if it's frozen over in the Lagoon, the
23 chances are these Brants you're going to find them at
24 Sanak. It's clear with those numbers.

25
26 I'm wondering, Pat, when you talked
27 about the Eiders whether that's another issue. Can you
28 maybe tell me when I get through with this maybe what
29 the conditions were in Kinzarof Lagoon and Izembek this
30 winter as far as icing conditions. I was gone a couple
31 months here and there during December and then February
32 when I know it was extremely cold. I kind of was
33 curious on that.

34
35 Then, of course.....

36
37 MR. FITZMORRIS: Good questions for
38 sure. So we saw a lot more ice this year. In fact the
39 Izembek Lagoon froze over completely and our migratory
40 bird survey folks weren't able to get down here right
41 when it was frozen solid, so we really wanted to see
42 where the birds were, where they were going, but they
43 got down here right after a lot of the lagoon was open
44 and they conducted their survey.

45
46 A lot of Brant on the Lagoon, but a lot
47 more out at Sanak. Hadn't seen that before. It was
48 really kind of interesting to see all the Brant that
49 were out at Sanak Island. Was it your mayor you said?
50

1 He was right on target there. Kinzarof also was frozen
2 over, so I think a lot of those birds went out to
3 Sanak, correct.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think the
6 comments that Pat made earlier in regards to the
7 increase in bear population on Unimak I think is
8 something to watch. Hopefully with the spring hunt
9 people will be successful in the bear hunt this year
10 because it looks like the numbers have increased quite
11 substantially on Unimak. Not so much on 9D. I mean it
12 has increased, so you'll be kind of keeping an eye on
13 that.

14
15 MR. FITZMORRIS: Exactly.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think that's
18 the only comments I think I had, but thanks for the
19 good report. I very much appreciate it.

20
21 MR. FITZMORRIS: Thank you. Thanks for
22 having me.

23
24 MR. MIKE: Della. It's Donald Mike.

25
26 MR. MIKE: Go ahead, Donald.

27
28 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Donald Mike, Council
29 Coordinator. I have Steve Delehanty on standby, so I
30 don't know if he's been able to call in yet. Maybe the
31 lines are still full. If we can free up one or two
32 lines to accommodate those who are trying to call in.
33 Maybe Pat can sign off for now and then call back later
34 if we have any further questions for Pat from Izembek.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
39 other questions for Pat from Izembek? I think we've
40 pretty well covered them.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
45 I guess maybe if you could go offline and then we'll
46 try to get Steve online.

47
48 MR. FITZMORRIS: Okay. Thank you very
49 much. Bye-bye.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Do
2 you want to hang on a few minutes and see if Steve can
3 get on, Donald.

4
5 MR. MIKE: Yes. I'm going to send him
6 an email right now. Steve, are you on, Steve
7 Delehanty?

8
9 (No response)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Steve, are you
12 online?

13
14 (No response)

15
16 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. He said he
17 can try for 2:00, but he'd have to leave by 2:25 to
18 attend another meeting. We can move on with our agenda
19 items. Do we have any representatives from Migratory
20 Birds, Fish and Wildlife Service, Julian Fischer.

21
22 MR. FISCHER: Good afternoon. This is
23 Julian. Can you guys hear me okay?

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If I could break
26 in for one second. Donald, can you email him, Steve,
27 and tell him to continue to try to get online. If he's
28 able to get on sooner, then we can accommodate his
29 schedule. My concern is with his report there may be a
30 lot of discussion and we have this time available.

31
32 MR. MIKE: Okay. I just sent him an
33 email, so hopefully he'll respond. Somebody just
34 phoned in. Is that Steve Delehanty online?

35
36 MR. DELEHANTY: Yes, Steve Delehanty
37 just joined in. Hello.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Okay. If we could hold off
40 on Migratory Birds, Madame Chair.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That will be
45 fine. We'll go ahead and do your report, Steve.

46
47 MR. DELEHANTY: Okay. Thank you.
48 Thank you for your flexibility and understanding. It's
49 really quite a short report. I just wanted to point out

50

1 to the Council that we were able last summer to do a
2 caribou count on Adak and also Kagalaska Island. I
3 know that has been an issue of important to the
4 Council. I wanted to make you aware of it. It begins
5 on Page 32 of your material.
6

7 The short version is that the
8 population appears to have gone down fairly
9 dramatically. It was at four to six hundred animals
10 kind of through the '80s and '90s. Following the
11 closure of the Base a significant reduction in sport
12 hunting, the population increased dramatically and was
13 in the high two thousands, 2,800 or so, a couple years
14 about five to ten years ago.
15

16 And now this year we counted -- I have
17 to find my own report here. I think 1,200 animals was
18 our estimate. It's not entirely unexpected frankly,
19 but I know it's an important issue for people. I did
20 hear kind of anecdotally some reports of less success
21 and more challenging hunting.
22

23 At the same time I want to point out
24 that we did also fly over Kagalaska Island, which is a
25 place where we were concerned because caribou crossed
26 and gained access to that island where it's really not
27 very accessible for hunting and there's no human
28 community there.
29

30 I think they'll cause some ecological
31 damage and probably exhibit a boom and bust type so
32 their population is likely to grow dramatically on that
33 island. We counted 17 animals in 2019 and I'm sure it
34 will grow vastly larger than that, but probably on a
35 small island like that not sustainable and will very
36 likely crash after a pretty significant habitat
37 alteration.
38

39 That's really what I wanted to
40 emphasize to all of you. I'd welcome any concerns or
41 questions about any other issues you might have.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
44 Steve. Maybe we'll start with Pat Holmes. Do you have
45 any questions or comments in regards to this report,
46 Pat? Pat, are you still online?
47

48 MR. HOLMES: Oh, yes. I had muted
49 myself. It was a good report. I'm glad that you were
50

1 able to get a helicopter of convenience to do the
2 survey. I was particularly struck with the photograph
3 on the start of the thing of the caribou trails. You
4 know, '82 was the last time I flew Adak, so it's quite
5 a change. I'm glad that you were able to get that work
6 done. It's interesting that the Adak herd has
7 decreased.

8
9 I had a question on the Kagalaska 17.
10 There's no juveniles. Are there females there as well
11 or are those just bulls that are over there?

12
13 MR. DELEHANTY: No, there were some
14 assumed females anyway I believe and we have seen
15 calves there in the past. So I think you can say with
16 a fair degree of confidence that there's some
17 reproduction occurring there. It would be really
18 unlikely for a young calf to be successful at swimming
19 across that strait.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, roger that. That's
22 quite a bit of current there when the tide changes. I
23 was wondering if you folks have considered -- I heard
24 this from an Adak resident. Have you folks considered
25 that you can't go do the harvest on Kagalaska because
26 of some previous things and politics, but have you
27 considered maybe giving some of the locals gas money
28 and encourage them to go over there. I think there's
29 still an outfitter that works out of there for the
30 caribou hunts and maybe encouraging private parties to
31 go over and work on Kagalaska.

32
33 MR. DELEHANTY: Thank you, Pat. The
34 short answer is no, we have not considered it. I
35 hadn't thought of that. A slightly longer answer is I
36 don't think it would be compliant with the Federal
37 Appropriations Bill as I understand it, which prohibits
38 us from expending any money on anything that will be
39 involved in basically killing caribou on Kagalaska
40 Island. My understanding of the law is that it would
41 not only limit Federal employees but any Federal
42 expenditure of effort, time, money, anything like that.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, I'll call
45 (indiscernible) office and ask her if she could take a
46 look at that or her staff. Then you could still
47 perhaps provide encouragement for outfitters or I'm
48 sure there's probably some Facebook site for folks
49 coming out to hunt and encourage some work over there.

50

1 I don't know.
2

3 Anyway, that's a good report. I've got
4 another question here. It's probably in your report,
5 but what is your management goal for Adak? What's a
6 sustainable population?
7

8 MR. DELEHANTY: Thank you, Pat. There
9 is not a modern population objective that I'm aware of
10 for Adak, so really the last time that this was looked
11 at jointly between Alaska Department of Fish and Game
12 and the Fish and Wildlife Service -- forgive me, I'm
13 just not remembering correctly, but the Navy may have
14 even still been involved in some capacity there. I
15 know that State and Federal agencies were involved.
16 The number was at basically 500. It was that four to
17 six hundred range that we were at for about two decades
18 and it just sort of -- everything changed on Adak with
19 the closure of the Base.
20

21 That objective got left far behind and
22 we've not taken a new look at it and nor, to my
23 knowledge, anybody with the Department of Fish and
24 Game, you know, working with maybe Aleut Corporation,
25 the City of Adak, things like that. We just have not
26 done it.
27

28 MR. HOLMES: Roger that. I was
29 interested in your habitat and diet on the caribou.
30 There's one comment, the third paragraph on 35 of no
31 woody vegetation. I assume you're excluding the dwarf
32 willows and alders particularly on the south side of
33 the island and berries.
34

35 MR. DELEHANTY: Yes. Thank you.
36 That's probably poorly written and not strictly
37 accurate. There are woody materials in the Aleutian.
38 They're just diminished, you know, in size.
39

40 So thank you, that's a good point.
41

42 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, roger that. I
43 noticed particularly at Cold Bay, first trip out there
44 was '63 and the last one was last fall, but the
45 woody-type plants, particularly the berries, I can
46 recall those going up and down on the population. When
47 the peninsula was so high, everything was grazed down.
48 Our last trip out there I went out to take a look and
49 some of the berry bushes that were ankle high 30 years
50

1 prior are up to my elbows. This is quite dynamic the
2 effects of the herbivores.

3
4 Thanks a lot on your report. I
5 appreciate that. I hope you can keep it going. You
6 might take a look at that data point for 1982. My mind
7 is kind of feeble on memories, but I did when I was
8 with the Department give the Refuge helicopter time
9 then to survey the island. Probably that number is
10 accurate, but I do recall it was closer to the Navy's
11 estimate than the Refuge because Fred Zilamaker had
12 just come on and the biologist, so all they had was
13 notes from the previous folks.

14
15 I hope you can keep coming up with some
16 machines of availability and I would encourage you to
17 talk with the Air Station here in Kodiak for when
18 they've got machines out in your neck of the woods.
19 They have been very helpful to all the agencies if
20 they're not pressed on rescuing people.

21
22 So thanks a bunch and good talking to
23 you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
26 Anymore questions or comments for Steve.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Steve.
31 This is Della. I think, first, thank you for the
32 report. I first heard of this, the report was being
33 worked on, it wasn't completed, was at the Aleut
34 Corporation's annual meeting in October. I don't
35 recall her name that gave the report. At that time I
36 asked to have it forwarded on to Kodiak/Aleutians so we
37 can take a look at it because it's been of interest.

38
39 Each meeting that we have this issue
40 has come up, as you may well be aware. Rick Koso has
41 brought this up on many occasions. The one issue --
42 there are two issues. The first being with him is the
43 population decrease on this herd, that it seems to be
44 substantial. His concern had been whether it had to do
45 with a lot more sport hunting that is being allowed on
46 the island and the amount of sport hunters going in
47 there.

48
49 The other concern I think was expressed
50

1 I think by Pat whether or not there's a management
2 plan. It's something we've talked about a couple of
3 times. If there's any plans in the future to start to
4 try to create a management plan because the bulk of
5 this herd is basically on Federal lands.
6

7 The issue in regard to the Kagalaska I
8 think we all know what kind of happened there and
9 whether that can be part of what this management plan
10 will entail, but it's something I think -- my
11 recommendation would be we start looking to whether
12 it's possible to begin that process and how do we do
13 it.
14

15 The other thing I think is from this
16 Council. You've been at our meetings I know in Kodiak
17 a couple times, but it's really nice to have this
18 report from Alaska Maritime at each of our meetings
19 because you guys are busy and doing a lot of things.
20 Like I say, I was fortunate to be at the Aleut
21 Corporation meeting and the presentation that was done
22 there. Every time I go each year there's a very nice
23 presentation that is done and I think this Council
24 would like to be able to see those reports because
25 they're helpful for us and what we're doing as we sit
26 on this board.
27

28 So I kind of covered a lot of areas.
29 If you want to make some comments.
30

31 MR. DELEHANTY: Thank you. They're all
32 good comments. Regarding the first one from Rick, I do
33 not know the answer to why the population is
34 decreasing. It is possible that it's hunting pressure
35 although I'd be a little bit skeptical of it, but it is
36 certainly possible. It also could be possible due to
37 the sort of diminished habitat condition.
38

39 So it's really common on islands when
40 caribou or reindeer are introduced that the population
41 will grow really dramatically and get very high and
42 then will decrease fairly dramatically. So it's
43 possible that's what's going on too, but I do not know
44 the answer to that question.
45

46 In terms of a management plan, I would
47 certainly be glad to be a part of that or have the
48 Refuge staff be part of a management planning effort.
49 I think it's probably -- I don't want to speak for my
50

1 State colleagues, but it might be most appropriately
2 led by them.

3
4 Anyway, certainly they would need to be
5 involved and we would need to be involved and the
6 community would need to be involved. It just hasn't
7 happened yet, I guess. I don't know. I'm sorry. It
8 would be desirable, but it hasn't happened yet, but I'm
9 sympathetic with your point of view that it would be
10 desirable.

11
12 Lastly, I was absent at the last RAC
13 meeting and I apologize for that. I was out of the
14 country. It's just getting harder -- I'm sure you're
15 hearing this from other reporting agencies as well, and
16 it's only an excuse, but we're getting -- we get a
17 little bit thinner all the time.

18
19 So I apologize for the inconsistent
20 presence at the RAC meetings. I've been trying to do
21 better, but I know I didn't get to the last one and I'm
22 glad to hear that you appreciate the reports. We'll try
23 to continue to provide them and when we do provide
24 them, we'll try and make them of good quality like
25 you've seen at the -- like what you saw last fall at
26 the village conference.

27
28 I think that addressed all of your
29 points and I really appreciate the flexibility on all
30 of this and I'm sorry for what we're all going through
31 with difficult communications here, but thanks for
32 holding it together and doing what you do.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
35 Steve. Maybe if you could go to your report and look
36 at Page 46 where you show the circles that show the
37 caribou that have died. Were you in a helicopter or
38 flying on a different aircraft when you did the survey?

39
40 MR. DELEHANTY: Those photographs were
41 taken during the survey from a helicopter. I was not
42 personally a part of it, but I think what happened is
43 the people in the helicopter sort of kept seeing those
44 and thought, hey, what's going on and started noticing
45 them more and realized that they were caribou carcasses
46 of some kind, whether they were hunter killed or winter
47 mortality or something else, and realized that there
48 was probably some value in that.

49
50

1 Unfortunately had not been tallying it
2 for the entire survey period, so we can't tell you what
3 the exact number of splats, as we called them,
4 throughout the whole survey. Yeah, same time the same
5 person was trying to count live animals was late in the
6 survey trying to count white spots on the ground also.
7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, that's
9 concerning. And then trying to determine the reason
10 behind it is also the other issue. I think it's
11 something that needs to be watched closely if we're
12 able to somehow.
13

14 I don't have any other questions I
15 think at this time or comments. Does anybody else have
16 anything for Steve?
17

18 MR. HOLMES: I have one more question.
19

20 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Della.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think I hear
23 Rebecca and then Pat.
24

25 MR. HOLMES: Yes.
26

27 MS. SKINNER: Steve, I just wanted to
28 note that I appreciate you got your report in on time
29 so that it could be included in our meeting materials.
30 I do look forward, as we have more KARAC meetings with
31 more meeting materials in the future, if you could just
32 keep doing that. It's so much more effective for the
33 Council if we can get the materials well in advance.
34

35 So thank you again for doing that for
36 this meeting.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
39 Rebecca. Pat, I guess, Holmes.
40

41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, one brief question
42 and then I have a comment and I'll give you the comment
43 first. This is a long stretch on subsistence, but
44 there's a fair number of folks here in Kodiak that have
45 ancestors from Attu and I've been talking to folks at
46 Atka that I think it was really great of you folks to
47 take out the Attuan descendants last year or the year
48 before out to Attu so they could go to visit the
49 ancestral village and gather some grass. So that was
50

1 cool.

2

3 Then my question is on the splats did
4 they do a ground truth on any of them just to look?

5

6 Thank you and good job on everything
7 there, Steve.

8

9 MR. DELEHANTY: Thank you, Pat, and
10 also Rebecca before. No, we did not ground check any
11 of the splats that I know of anyway, so we don't really
12 know anything about them.

13

14 It was a great honor to take the Attu
15 descendants out to the community. We've been working
16 with a group -- in fact, there's a recently formed
17 group called Attu Forever. Alaina Schmidt (ph) is
18 leading that effort trying to find ways to maintain a
19 connection with descendants to that ancestral village
20 and island. It's much bigger than the Fish and Wildlife
21 Service, but we've been trying to be engaged and
22 involved and see where we can help.

23

24 Thank you all once again for your work
25 and for giving me the time to offer a report.

26

27 MR. PRICE: I have a question. This is
28 Chris.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.

31

32 MR. PRICE: Okay. Hey, Steve, great to
33 hear you. It's impressive the amount of work you guys
34 do in this giant, massive region that you're managing.

35

36 I want to talk about Unalaska Island
37 real quick. Did you guys do some horse survey flyover
38 on the island last year?

39

40 MR. DELEHANTY: Hi, Chris. No, we have
41 not done any aerial surveys on Unalaska. No, we've
42 not.

43

44 MR. PRICE: Okay. I thought I heard
45 somebody, maybe some entity was flying over or may be
46 flying over. So just wanted to bring that up. I got
47 to do a flight over and I didn't get to see what
48 they're talking about.

49

50

1 Anyway, the other thing -- I have two
2 more questions. You and I talked about partnering on
3 an eradication project and I think we need to figure
4 that out, you know, getting our new grant up and
5 running. So we can talk about that separately.

6
7 Did a pair of foxes get released on the
8 island recently and do you have any info on that?

9
10 MR. DELEHANTY: Thank you, Chris. I
11 should have thought to include that in my oral report,
12 although I don't have anything written on it. Yes. So
13 Unalaska Island has a native population of red fox and
14 through sort of a series of unfortunate circumstances
15 two arctic fox hitched a ride from the Pribilof Islands
16 on a fishing vessel and ultimately were allowed to go
17 free on -- it was actually on Amaknak. I get sloppy
18 and refer to the whole thing as Unalaska. They were
19 actually on Amaknak Island. We worked with the
20 Department of Fish and Game and Unalaska Corporation
21 and USDA Wildlife Services and the Fish and Wildlife
22 Service all kind of got together and tried to figure
23 out an appropriate response and we ended up paying --
24 asking U.S. Department of Agriculture, they're the
25 experts at this sort of thing, to send a crew out
26 there. So they spent two weeks. They left the island,
27 I don't know, a week or 10 days ago or something now,
28 searching for those two foxes. We were concerned about
29 a population of a new species potentially becoming
30 present on the island and there's also a potential for
31 disease transmission to the native red fox. Just for a
32 lot of reasons it's not desirable to bring a new
33 species to a place where it doesn't belong and let it
34 go. They searched long and hard and they found many,
35 many foxes. They ultimately became convinced there
36 were no arctic fox on Amaknak Island. If they were
37 alive still, they had to have crossed onto Unalaska
38 Island. They did shoot one fox that had the outer
39 appearance of an arctic fox over near the waste
40 processing facility there. What is that, a mile or two
41 west, I think, of town if I'm remembering right.

42
43 MR. PRICE: Yes.

44
45 MR. DELEHANTY: But there's a little
46 uncertainty over the species identification of it and
47 the State veterinarian has that animal and even the
48 State vet was scratching her head and was doing a DNA
49 test of that specimen.

50

1 That's everything that I know about it.
2 We were very concerned. It's entirely possible that
3 the red fox killed the arctic fox. They tend to be
4 bigger and more aggressive and will often kill arctic
5 fox. We can hope that that happened, but hope wasn't
6 enough all on its own, thus the response.

7
8 There are places like St. Matthew
9 Island where both species exist side by side, so that's
10 at least theoretically possible for Unalaska. So
11 that's why we thought it was important to make that
12 investment and try and eliminate that possibility from
13 occurring.

14
15 MR. PRICE: All right, Steve. Thank
16 you for that report. I appreciate it.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
19 Steve. I believe that concludes this portion of our
20 agenda. We appreciate you taking the time and look
21 forward to hearing from you in the future. I guess
22 we'll figure out what we do on trying to -- what the
23 process is in trying to create some sort of management
24 plan with Adak.

25
26 MR. DELEHANTY: Thank you all again for
27 your patience and your time. As a courtesy, I think I
28 should sign off so that others could get back on the
29 call. Correct me if that's wrong.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think at this
32 point I think the next one we'll have is the Migratory
33 Birds and I think Julian is online.

34
35 MR. FISCHER: Madame Chair.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

38
39 MR. FISCHER: Hi. Julian Fischer here
40 from the Migratory Birds Division. I just want to
41 check to see if you can hear me okay.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I can hear you
44 nice and clear.

45
46 MR. FISCHER: Excellent. Okay, thank
47 you, Madame Chair and members of the Council.

48
49 Before I start I just want to confirm
50

1 that Steve did hang up because we have another member
2 of Migratory Bird Management, Tamara, our outreach
3 specialist who's going to be taking on the latter half
4 of this emperor goose presentation. So, Steve, if you
5 haven't hung up it would be great if you could and make
6 room for Tamara, I just sent her a note to try again.
7 She's been trying to join the call all day.

8
9 So without further adieu, my name's
10 Julian Fischer. I've got a presentation here for you
11 and this was posted to the RAC website yesterday. I
12 don't know if you've had an opportunity to access that,
13 Madame Chair. Is that available to you at this time?

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We did get some
16 handouts, I'm just trying to figure out which one
17 exactly we're looking at.

18
19 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
20 Donald. I sent out an electronic copy to all Council
21 members yesterday and I had it posted on our website.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

24
25 MR. MIKE: And the presentation title
26 is Emperor Goose Population Status and Management,
27 Migratory Bird Management, Julian Fischer, waterfowl
28 specialist.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, we've got
31 it -- I've got it.

32
33 MR. FISCHER: Okay, thank you. So
34 without further adieu here, my name's Julian Fischer.
35 I'm a supervisory wildlife biologist with the waterfowl
36 section of Migratory Bird Management. We're a division
37 of the Fish and Wildlife Service. We're based in
38 Anchorage. And my role is to supervise the aerial
39 survey program comprised of three waterfowl biologist
40 pilots. Currently we have a Staff of two pilots and we
41 have several trained aerial observers. We have some
42 quantitative support that run the numbers for us. we
43 also have specialists in mapping and data analysis and
44 presentation. And those folks are pictured on the
45 second slide there.

46
47 On the third slide you'll see the three
48 aircraft that we use for our aerial surveys for
49 waterfowl. They're a Cessna 206 aircraft with
50

1 amphibious floats allowing us to land on both water and
2 land. Generally we're flying over large water bodies
3 and so given that we're flying at low level we use the
4 floats for safety and then the wheels, of course, for
5 landing strips for refueling.

6
7 On the next two slides are just -- i'd
8 just like to go over those very quickly. The technique
9 we use for most of our surveys is straight line
10 transects, whereby we have an observer on either side
11 of the aircraft recording all the waterfowl
12 observations within the 200 meter strip, and we
13 calculate density by looking at number of birds. And
14 there's an example on the following slide that's titled
15 extrapolation, which just is simply showing that we are
16 sampling of strips of habitat, estimating the
17 proportion of the area that we're sampling and the
18 number of birds that we see in that sample, and then
19 expanding it to the full area that we sample. So in
20 that example it's a 10 percent sample fraction, so that
21 results in a multiplier of 10.

22
23 I'm not going to dwell on that but I'd
24 be happy to take some questions later, if you have
25 some.

26
27 So I'm talking today about emperor
28 geese. It's one of the species of focus for our
29 program currently. The slide entitled Emperor Goose
30 Distribution, shows a map of the state of Alaska as
31 well the eastern portion of Russia. And what you'll
32 see there is in red, the area circled in red is the
33 winter distribution of emperor geese, is where emperors
34 currently are. It includes Kodiak, out through the
35 Aleutians, and the Alaska Peninsula. And so the
36 emperors will arrive there following -- in the fall,
37 they'll arrive, they'll start spreading out throughout
38 that range. Come spring time, starting pretty -- like
39 now, they're probably on the move and they'll probably
40 be staging along wetland areas on the north side of the
41 Peninsula primarily and come May they'll shoot up to
42 the Yukon Delta coastal area where about 90 percent of
43 them are going to breed -- or 90 percent of the
44 breeding occurs. There's also some areas further to
45 the north, on the Seward Peninsula and in very small
46 densities along the coastal areas of the Chukotka
47 Peninsula, Russia, very few birds are nesting there,
48 but the bulk of them really are on the Yukon Delta.

49
50

1 And we can talk about some other life
2 history traits if it's of interest later, but I know
3 that you've got a lot to cover on this meeting, so I'm
4 going to proceed to the next slide.
5

6 This shows a couple of management
7 plans. This slide is titled 2016 Management Plan. So
8 emperor goose is managed both by the Alaska Migratory
9 Bird CoManagement Council, which is a collaborative
10 management process with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
11 Service, State of Alaska, Fish and Game, and a number
12 of Native representatives representing areas throughout
13 the state of Alaska. And the regulations for harvest
14 are outlined in the management plan on the right there,
15 the Alaska Migratory Bird CoManagement Council,
16 management plan for emperor goose. That was revised in
17 2016. And at the same time, and in concert with that
18 plan was a Pacific Flyaway Council plan that was
19 actually developed with the same group of people but
20 that is directing the management of emperors during the
21 fall and winter period. And in both of those plans,
22 the emperor goose subcommittee selected the Yukon Delta
23 aerial survey, the breeding pairs survey that occurs in
24 late May and early June on the coastal zone of the
25 Yukon Delta. This is an area where the birds are
26 concentrated and the area can be sufficiently sampled
27 and you can get an estimate, population estimate and a
28 measure of variance around each annual estimate. So
29 that is the current tool that is being used to evaluate
30 where the -- how the population is doing, is it
31 growing, stable or declining. And in these management
32 plans there were also population objectives and some
33 decision thresholds that were outlined.
34

35 And on the next slide, a summary of the
36 emperor goose hunt, some of those rules are outlined.
37

38 So essentially when the population
39 index from that aerial survey is about 28,000 and the
40 spring and summer hunt will be practiced in a
41 traditional manner, the hunt opens on the 2nd of April
42 and it goes through the 31st of August, then there's a
43 30 day closure during the principal nesting period.
44 During the fall and winter period, this is managed by
45 the state of Alaska, they have a permit hunt, which
46 you're probably familiar with, there's a statewide
47 quota of a thousand permits -- or a thousand emperor
48 geese that can be potentially harvested using that
49 permit, which allows for one goose per person and the
50

1 registration and reporting is required for that hunt.

2

3 If the population drops below 28,000,
4 but remains above 23,000 conservation measures are
5 considered under both plans. And if the population
6 drops below 23,000 then hunting is closed in the
7 following year.

8

9 So on the next slide there's emperor
10 goose population breeding ground index. That shows
11 those three different levels of management in the three
12 colors, if you're looking at a color printout. The
13 green zone, which is when the population is above
14 28,000, that indicates that there's a thousand birds
15 that could be taken statewide in fall and winter, and
16 that a traditional subsistence hunt can occur during
17 the spring and summer period. The yellow zone is that
18 conservation measure area and then the red zone is
19 below 23,000 and that's when the hunt would be closed.
20 So the good news, of course, is that since the
21 mid'1980s the population has been variable but has
22 climbed substantially through time. And in 2017 the
23 hunt was reopened after being closed for a number of
24 years. What's important to note here is that that high
25 point that was in 2016, and then the following two
26 years the population was a bit lower, and in 2019, last
27 summer, the aerial count dropped into the yellow zone,
28 so our antenna is up and we're watching this population
29 closely.

30

31 As a result of this drop into the
32 conservation measure area, the State of Alaska is
33 reducing the statewide quota of fall/winter period
34 emperors that can be taken to 500 birds, and during the
35 spring/summer subsistence hunt period, conservations
36 are going to be implemented now and Tamara Zeller, if
37 she's on the phone, will describe that side of things
38 to you in a minute when I'm done.

39

40 So on the next slide here, I just
41 wanted to present some numbers that our colleagues from
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game provided. This is
43 numbers of birds that were taken during the fall/winter
44 period under the permit program. On Kodiak the numbers
45 have ranged from 25 this last year to 33 the first
46 year; and the Aleutians and Pribilofs a low of 16 to a
47 high of 26, and statewide the numbers were a low of 129
48 and a high of 150. Relatively few birds have ben taken
49 and reported under this fall/winter period.

50

1 So I just wanted to present that.

2

3 And let me see if I've got other slides
4 here.

5

6 The following slide is a summary of our
7 most recent aerial survey during winter of the Kodiak
8 region, we -- our office really focuses mostly on the
9 breeding period and in some cases as Patrick Fitzmorris
10 said, awhile ago, during his report, we do conduct some
11 winter surveys in areas of primary concentration.
12 Kodiak does have emperors that congregate along the
13 eastern shoreline and there's probably some other
14 locations around the island as well. But the last time
15 we did a survey was in 2015 and we counted about 6,600
16 emperor geese with the highest densities down in that
17 southeast portion of the island. The Kodiak survey --
18 winter survey is really not part of the management
19 consideration for opening and closing harvest but it's
20 of great interest to see if there's been any shifts in
21 distribution of the species.

22

23 And that's all I've got for the time
24 being, for my presentation. And before we shift into
25 Tamara's presentation on outreach, I'd be happy to take
26 any questions, Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
29 your report. Do we have any questions at this time.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Council comments
34 or questions in regards to the report.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Pat here.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's a good
41 report, glad to see that. We'll have to see what that
42 winter survey was. I'm not a member of AMBCC but for
43 our Council I often go to their meetings to listen and
44 I know our local folks have been hoping for some way to
45 adjust things because of -- the season. And
46 unfortunately the subsistence season, which local folks
47 used to participate in is such that for a number, the
48 critters are gone, I don't know if Coral is there,
49 Coral, I think, is a member of the AMBCC, but she might

50

1 want to go over some of the points that their group has
2 been trying to pursue.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
7 Coral, did you have any comments in regard to that.

8
9 MS. CHERNOFF: No, I don't, not at this
10 time. I think Julian and then the next presenter are
11 pretty much going to cover what we've been doing with
12 the emperor goose management plan.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
17 Coral. Any other comments.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, I
22 guess we'll go ahead and continue on.

23
24 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, hi, this is Julian,
25 again. I just want to see if Tamara Zeller, our
26 outreach specialist has had the opportunity to join the
27 call.

28
29 MS. ZELLER: I did. I finally made it
30 in. It's a hard place to get in. Can you all hear me
31 okay?

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, we can hear
34 you fine. Glad you got on line, go ahead.

35
36 MS. ZELLER: So I'm not sure -- can you
37 guys see my presentation, I'm not sure what the format
38 is there?

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Donald,
41 is there another.....

42
43 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, I can see mine.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:document
46 that I don't -- I didn't have.....

47
48 MR. MIKE: Yeah, I sent it out --
49 Madame Chair, this is Donald Mike. I sent the document
50

1 out to the Council members yesterday and if you don't
2 have it I'll go ahead and forward it again, and the
3 title of the presentation is Emperor Goose
4 Conservation Outreach, Tamara Zeller. I'll just go
5 ahead and forward the email again to all Council
6 members.

7
8 MS. ZELLER: Okay, let me know when you
9 want me to go.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, if you
12 want, you can go ahead and get started and hopefully
13 we'll get this -- I don't have it, I'm not sure if I'm
14 missing it, I will look again on my email so go ahead.

15
16 MS. ZELLER: (poor phone connection)
17 Okay. It ties in really well with -- Julian did a good
18 job of explaining sort of the biology and where we're
19 at.

20
21 My talk is just briefly to let you guys
22 know what we're doing as far as outreach measures to
23 help conserve emperor geese. So if you do have the
24 presentation, I'm moving on to the second slide.

25
26 It's called outreach and education
27 emperor geese and it has pictures of the management
28 plan.

29
30 As Julian mentioned, these management
31 plans were redone in the late -- in 2016, around
32 emperor geese, and one of the outreach for management
33 was identify this outreach and education. So in
34 anticipation of the opening of the harvest in 2017, a
35 group of us got together from the State, from the
36 Federal government and from AMBCC and we formed an
37 emperor goose outreach committee and we worked on an
38 outreach and education plan. We then updated it in
39 2018/2019. So we identified a bunch of tasks and
40 messages and efforts realizing that what we could
41 realistically accomplished was going to be limited by
42 Staff time and budget. So folks brought, you know, the
43 plan back to their areas and did what they could with
44 what we all discussed.

45
46 Moving on to the next slide, which
47 should show a graph similar to one that Julian showed
48 you of the green, yellow and red areas, looking at the
49 indicated bird -- the emperor geese -- the emperor
50

1 goose population on the YK Delta and the survey that we
2 use to assess that. As he mentioned we are in the
3 yellow, meaning that the population's at a level that
4 the AMBCC decided to increase outreach and education
5 efforts in 2020 to try and help the birds maybe get
6 back into the green and do some efforts to understand
7 what's going on and reduce harvest. So that was where
8 we are at.

9
10 So we had -- moving on to the next
11 slide, which says, outcome from 2019 emperor goose
12 outreach meeting. After that decision was made at the
13 fall AMBCC meeting in 2019 we got together, the group
14 that -- the original educational group got together and
15 reassessed sort of our goals, what's going on and we
16 need to change our messages and basically we decided
17 it's a similar goal but we wanted to raise awareness
18 about emperor numbers, that they may be declining and
19 we need everybody's help to conserve them for future
20 generations and hunting opportunities. And
21 understanding that there may be other factors -- the
22 decline -- but we only have control of the harvest, so
23 I think that's an important point, I mean we're not
24 pointing the finger at harvest, but we can't control a
25 lot of the other factors and we still don't know what
26 some of them may be, so we can only do our best on what
27 we have control over. So we have a draft fact sheet
28 that -- for 2019 -- or for 2020 that has the same
29 messages as 2017 and that -- and the main message is
30 our elders they hunt for the future, and that was,
31 again, done in a joint meeting with several partners.

32
33 And then moving on to the next slide,
34 we were able to get some support for hiring a public
35 relations firm, recognizing that we just don't have the
36 Staff capacity and/or a lot of the expertise to do a
37 really strong communications campaign, so to speak, and
38 so we hired a firm called International Datasystems to
39 work on this effort. They are a Native, Alaska owned,
40 woman owned company, I've worked with them before, they
41 are wonderful. They do a lot of cross-cultural
42 communications and they've been very involved in
43 communities across Alaska, and bilingual, multi-
44 lingual, so we're really excited to be working with
45 them. We had a kick off meeting this morning but
46 things are behind, as usual. But the whole work plan
47 idea is to really work with the stakeholder groups in
48 the village to understand what messages we really want
49 to get out there, get community participation and
50

1 involve youth and really work on understanding the
2 story of emperor geese through the lens of elders and
3 the folks that rely on emperors for subsistence and
4 (indiscernible) as part of their culture.
5

6 Unfortunate -- well, I don't think
7 unfortunately, we're all in this weird situation right
8 now, the effort was going to really be focused on
9 getting out into the villages, so we obviously are
10 assessing what that's going to look like given our
11 travel restrictions and the current state of affairs,
12 so I guess stay tuned for that, as we're all in the
13 same boat.
14

15 And I did want to point out, while we
16 were going to focus our outreach effort rangewide,
17 we're going to do our outreach rangewide, but a focus
18 is going to be primarily on the YK Delta and Kodiak,
19 primarily because -- well, because that's where a
20 majority of emperors breed, on the YK Delta, but also I
21 applied for a grant, and was awarded a grant and those
22 two geographies, those two areas are part of the grant
23 -- grantors focus areas. So I just wanted to point
24 that out. So I'll be specifically looking to work
25 really closely with the folks in Kodiak and the YK
26 Delta.
27

28 And then the last slide is a plea for
29 some help. I think we all can help get these messages
30 out. Kelly and Coral have done a great job, already
31 working on the past several years, in translating
32 things and making a -- adapting fliers for their Kodiak
33 communities and so we're going to continue with --
34 hopefully with that partnership.
35

36 And I'm happy to come -- well, I'm
37 happy to virtually present at any other meetings that
38 might be identified and my contact information is at
39 the bottom there.
40

41 So that's all I had, if you guys had
42 any questions.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
45 Tamara. Are there any questions at this time.
46

47 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Della.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead,
50

1 it sounds like Rebecca.

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, this is Rebecca.
4 What is the primary method you're trying to get across
5 at the community level. Is it to decrease the amount
6 of take, like is that kind of the basic message you're
7 trying to convey?

8

9 MS. ZELLER: Yeah, I think we all
10 realize that we want -- we want future generations to
11 have the opportunity to harvest emperors and so we --
12 we're trying to do all these plans to keep that
13 opportunity alive. And because they have -- there are
14 a lot of biological factors that an emperor -- the
15 emperors are -- so they don't reneest when eggs are
16 taken, they only nest every three or -- like they don't
17 nest every year, so a lot of challenges for their life
18 history, so, yeah, essentially we're asking folks to
19 reduce their take of emperor geese, maybe take one or
20 harvest other geese if they have the opportunity, but
21 those are some of the messages that we really need to
22 work more directly with the communities to see if they
23 resonate, see if they make sense, see if that is what --
24 how -- if they have other suggestions, I should say,
25 but that is what the group came up with.

26

27 Those are all.....

28

29 MS. SKINNER: And -- and.....

30

31 MS. ZELLER:messages I think.....

32

33 MS. SKINNER: And then just a follow
34 up, what is your -- what is your primary message as far
35 as taking an adult goose, which you might do in Kodiak,
36 versus, going out and collecting eggs when they're
37 nesting. Are you -- what messages are you conveying to
38 each of those different kind of stages of life for the
39 emperor goose?

40

41 MS. ZELLER: For communities on the YK
42 Delta where they encounter breeding emperors, we are --
43 the message is are not to take eggs if possible,
44 because they don't reneest, or take a sing -- and then
45 target -- you know, a emperor geese instead of flock
46 for the -- for the -- when you guys -- when you guys
47 see them in Kodiak during the fall, they're really hard
48 to tell but if -- if you have the opportunity to take
49 young birds instead of adults, that's the best strategy

50

1 because if you're taking adults you're taking breeders
2 out of the population. Unfortunately it can be tough
3 to tell them apart and so maybe that's what we'll -- we
4 can focus our efforts on, is some ID, identification,
5 so they -- they are different for the
6 different.....(trails off)

7

8 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
11 there any other questions or comments for Tamara.

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral, I just
14 have a comment.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: I think in regards to
19 Rebecca's question, in putting out the outreach
20 material, what we did is we -- we really steered away
21 from -- in our meetings, making an impression that
22 hunters were the problem, and we wanted to continue to
23 encourage people to hunt and gather, but we did -- we
24 basically really kind of explored and really honed in
25 our messages from messages that were already, you know,
26 out there in the community, like, you know, take only
27 what you need, take only a couple eggs, don't take
28 everything, and then we sort of looked at some things
29 in regards with -- to breeding. So we sort of put
30 messages out towards that. We talked about the -- I
31 think the biology, we got a heavy dose of, you know,
32 how they breed, where they go, juveniles, nesters, we
33 really got into that. We really had just intensive
34 discussion on the biology of the birds as well as we
35 were really careful about the messages that we put out
36 because the Native caucus was pretty sensitive on, you
37 know, not making it seem like hunting and gathering and
38 your food was a bad thing.

39

40 So, mostly -- well, all the messages
41 really come from a real strong biological point as well
42 as these being just Native ideas of hunting and
43 gathering.

44

45 MS. ZELLER: Is this Coral?

46

47 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a

50

1 question or comment for Coral.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, this is Pat, I have
4 one.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Coral, were you
9 folks able to solve that 500 yard restriction on the
10 road system for hunting?

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I don't know if
15 there's some other time to talk about it. I guess, in
16 -- briefly, we had a road system closure and at the
17 last meeting we got our proposal passed, that we can
18 hunt on the road system, but it excludes Aleutian and
19 Arctic terns as well as emperor geese, and mugulls, so
20 those are still prohibited for hunting or egg gathering
21 on the road system. That's just a brief summary, but
22 you can get more information at our AMBCC meeting on
23 the 24th, which I hope you'll call in to, it'll be a
24 teleconference meeting.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
27 Coral. Is there any more questions or comments.

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF: I have a question for
30 Julian, if he is -- if he's still on line, this is
31 Coral.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead.

34

35 MR. FISCHER: I'm still on the line.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

38

39 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi, Julian. I have a
40 question, so this year I don't know what is happening
41 right now with the -- the season is supposed to open on
42 April 2nd, is there any information you have on that,
43 if that is going to happen or if that's going to happen
44 on time or was there something about a published rule
45 or was that only concerning the new road system
46 proposal -- the hunting season? Are we sort of backed
47 up on what's happening with that?

48

49 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, thanks for the

50

1 question, Coral.

2

3 I want to be careful on responding
4 because I don't have a precise answer for you but I --
5 I will say the plan is to have the season open on time
6 on April 2nd. It's possible that not all of the
7 regulations that were approved last spring will be
8 effective until a second round of Federal Register
9 documents comes out, which might be a little bit later
10 in the summer. So there is a huge back log that we're
11 trying to get control over. And the latest situation
12 with the response to the Coronavirus and the fact that
13 most people are not physically at their normal work
14 places is not going to help, but I can assure you that
15 there is a very firm commitment to get everything
16 published and completed on time.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, does that
19 answer your question?

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: It does answer my
22 question. I guess I just kind of brought that up
23 because I am concerned that, you know, we're talking
24 about subsistence and I know we're on emperor geese but
25 as far as the migratory bird sys -- the bird season
26 goes, you know, it's hard for people to know what's
27 going on if there's no published books and regulations.
28 So I thought this might be, at our subsistence meeting,
29 kind of a good forum to let us know what's going on.

30

31 MR. FISCHER: Fair enough. Well, I
32 have not been involved in that regulation step, but I
33 am in the office that is responsible for it so I will
34 certainly have an update for your question at your
35 meeting next week on Tuesday at 11:00, and I will get
36 in touch with the chief of Migratory Birds to give me
37 an update on how that's coming along.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Does that
40 wrap this portion up of our agenda?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody
45 need a break at this time or should we continue moving
46 forward.

47

48 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
49 Donald. I do need a break.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, let's take
2 10 minutes and then we'll just continue on if that's
3 okay with everyone.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll get back
8 here at 3:00 o'clock, how is that, that gives everybody
9 15 minutes.

10
11 MS. CHERNOFF: Sounds good.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we'll
14 reconvene and next up will be National Park Service and
15 then ADF&G at 3:00 o'clock.

16
17 (Off record)

18
19 (On record)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, everyone
22 we'll go ahead and call the meeting back to order.

23
24 The next item on the list is the report
25 for National Park Service.

26
27 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is Donald
28 Mike.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

31
32 MR. MIKE: Yeah, we already did the
33 role for those folks on line, I didn't hear anybody
34 from National Park Service.

35
36 So I guess the only thing I forgot to
37 include was the Marine Mammals. I don't know if they
38 have any Staff from marine mammals but they sent a --
39 from the November 6th Southeast sea otter stakeholder
40 meeting, it's just a summary and just for your
41 reference I emailed it to all Council members but it's
42 available to you for your reference.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So
45 basically we don't have anybody on line for National
46 Parks and/or Marine Mammals at this time.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there anyone
2 on line from Marine Mammals?

3
4 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
5 Donald. I was corresponding with the Marine Mammal
6 folks, they weren't sure if they would be available
7 during this meeting but they provided a summary of the
8 Southeast stakeholder meeting.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I guess
11 at this point maybe we just ask if anybody has any
12 comments in regard to this summary.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, go ahead.

17
18 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I need to go up to
19 my computer and find their summary but one thing that
20 I've been trying to find out from Marine Mammals for
21 more than a year and that was the question of last time
22 we talked to them, I think it was a year ago, and that
23 is, why Kodiak is included with the Western Division
24 and the Western Division is classified as highly
25 endangered or something like that, and I did ask a year
26 ago for some clarification on that and never really got
27 a response I don't think. So it would be good if they
28 could get that information to Donald so that we could
29 understand their definition of regions and endangered
30 and what not.

31
32 Thank you, very much.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
35 And maybe as a suggestion -- does anybody else have any
36 comments in regard to the November 6 meeting summary.

37
38 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair, this is
39 Coral.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

42
43 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi. I know I read that
44 and they don't give too much information but there's
45 really great information about what happened with the
46 meeting if you go to the website of the meeting, you'll
47 see we had 14 or 15 breakout groups and a lot of
48 information was brought forward there, and they
49 recorded all the sort of summaries of that, that

50

1 happened. So it's really interesting if you want to
2 look at that, that -- let's see, what is their -- give
3 me a minute and I can think of -- is it sea otter.....
4

5 M R . M I K E : I t ' s
6 seaottersstakeholders.com.
7

8 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. Thank you.
9 Seaottersstakeholders.com, and they have video
10 presentations on there and there's a lot of great
11 information. And I know I -- I went to the meeting and
12 I just -- I guess I want to thank -- Rebecca Skinner
13 helped me go to that meeting, herself and myself, paid
14 for that trip and it was really a great eye opener.
15 Their populations are about 27,000 and looking at that,
16 and I think I've seen estimations of our seeing at
17 about 2,300, so it's kind of an interesting --
18 interesting to look through all that information if you
19 could go take a look at that, all the stuff that
20 they're dealing with. You know, because eventually our
21 populations are going to reach a point where ours
22 become a problem.
23

24 So it is good information for getting
25 way ahead of the game and seeing kind of where our
26 future lies. So I recommend you all look at that. And
27 I know some people on the island here are working at
28 sea otter issues and I'm going to be more -- after that
29 meeting I think I'm going to be more forward about
30 maybe organizing something here. I think it's really
31 necessary.
32

33 I know they looked at -- I think they
34 have -- I forget the words they used, but they're
35 looking at essentially -- and we might have heard this
36 at a meeting, but essentially they have decided on a
37 number that is going to be their sort of population
38 threshold before they start to do anything and that was
39 interesting in looking at, I wonder if we, yet, have a
40 population threshold. I know we're still listed as
41 endangered, but since they've had that sort of number
42 for awhile, it'd be interesting to find out if -- and
43 to be involved in looking to the future to see how they
44 determine what that threshold number's going to be and
45 what that would mean to all of us, artists, fishermen,
46 subsistence users, clam diggers, shellfish gatherers.
47 So, yeah, there's just a lot of good information there.
48 And it just gave me a really good head's up and, yeah,
49 I'd like to thank Rebecca Skinner and myself for
50

1 getting to that meeting, it was pretty valuable.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: And the Sun'aq Tribe.

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: Oh, yes, Sun'aq Tribe
8 also. Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I
11 was wondering because I thought that they were taking
12 the lead in trying to create some sort of working
13 group.

14

15 So any other comments for Rebecca or
16 Coral.

17

18 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.
19 J.J.Marsh at the Sun'aq Tribe reached out to me, it was
20 either earlier this month or at the end of last month
21 wanting to know -- it was via text, it was very short,
22 but I think her question was, how could they kind of
23 best bring the sea otter issue back before the RAC. I
24 guess I'm not sure if Kelly Krueger is still on line, I
25 know this is challenging since we have limited spots
26 available for people to call in, but I agree, Della, I
27 do think the tribe is looking at taking a leadership
28 role and what I would suggest is the sea otter -- our
29 little sea otter subcommittee group follow back up with
30 the tribe unless they're on line, if Kelly's on line,
31 it'd be great to hear back from her. But that would be
32 my recommendation for next steps, is when the committee
33 meets just make sure we interface somehow with the
34 Sun'aq Tribe.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I think
37 maybe before the meeting's over we should maybe
38 possibly go that -- or maybe just for even now, just go
39 on record requesting that we continue that partnership
40 in trying to support this group.

41

42 The other part of it, I think, we
43 discussed it at the statewide level, this was brought
44 up a couple times on the statewide level, and it seemed
45 like we were hopeful to try to send a couple people
46 from our RAC to Southeast meetings and I'm not even
47 sure exactly what happened. At this point there's been
48 so many changes and things going on since our last
49 meeting, so, Donald, I don't know if you know anything

50

1 or any updates in regard to that information.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 Donald Mike, Council coordinator. Yeah, the November
5 6th Southeast sea otter stakeholder meeting, I was
6 trying to find some funding to sponsor Coral and
7 Rebecca's travel to the stakeholder meeting in Juneau
8 and I didn't have any success in finding some funding
9 to sponsor their trip to Southeast Alaska. And I'd
10 like to express my appreciation to Coral and Rebecca
11 for, you know, taking the initiative to find some
12 funding to get their trips paid for down for this
13 stakeholder's meeting in Juneau. But the Council is
14 right, we need to get the working group sea otter
15 committee together -- a working group, and discuss, you
16 know, discuss Pat Holmes' concerns about the status of
17 the Kodiak sea otter population and probably get the
18 Sun'aq Tribe. But just for your reference, Chris
19 Price, you are part of the working group and early on
20 we included Natasha Hayden, to be part of the working
21 group from this Council, so once this meeting is over,
22 probably in the next couple of months I can send out a
23 poll to find out when we can meet as a working group to
24 again address the sea otter population in the Kodiak
25 region. And then we'll go from there.

26

27 Thank you, Madame Chair.

28

29 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
32 Rebecca.

33

34 MS. SKINNER: So I'd like to request a
35 letter be sent to Marine Mammals and I guess I'll just
36 go ahead and do it here instead of waiting until the
37 end of the meeting.

38

39 But the two items for the letter would
40 be request for information.

41

42 One would -- is what Pat asked for,
43 which I wrote down, but Pat may need to clarify or
44 correct, why are we included with the Western
45 population, and why is our area included with that.

46

47 And, then, two, is there a threshold
48 number, and/or how is the threshold number set. So
49 does Marine Mammals set that, is that part of a

50

1 regional management plan.

2

3 And I think getting information back on
4 those two questions would -- that will be helpful to
5 feed into the sea otter working group. And I think
6 that at least as far as Pat's question, that's
7 something that we've asked before, so I think it's
8 appropriate that we, you know, send another letter to
9 Marine Mammals asking them for that information.

10

11 And I can make that in the form of a
12 motion, if someone wants to second it.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Second.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Thanks, Pat.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. A
19 motion's been made by Rebecca in regard to information --
20 a letter for information requesting on the sea otter --
21 in regard to the Western population and the threshold,
22 and to get that letter prior to a management plan
23 meeting.

24

25 Is there any discussion.

26

27 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair, this is
28 Coral.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: I was wondering too if
33 we might -- I don't know what -- since Rebecca made the
34 motion, to think of adding to that, any or all copies
35 of surveys. Because I remember sometime, maybe in
36 January, there was a letter that went to, I think the
37 city, or the borough, saying that they were doing a
38 survey or something and asking if they had anything to
39 report about sea otters, any changes or anything. And
40 I don't know if Rebecca could pull that up on an email
41 or Donald, I got the email from someone, but there is
42 that five year -- I think they said they do five year
43 surveys and so their five year survey timing was up and
44 they were looking for information. So if we could get
45 all of those surveys, if they have a five year survey
46 that they're supposed to be doing, there should be
47 quite a few of those out there.

48

49 And, yeah, that -- I don't know if we

50

1 should add that to information we're asking for.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think that would
4 be good. Madame Chair, this is Pat, if I may.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: We had also asked when we
9 did get one of the survey's information to us and I
10 don't know if it was the Refuge, or the Marine Mammal
11 folks, but we had requested that we get a distribution
12 on their survey, not just a whole island-wide one,
13 because I know the folks up in Port Lions and some of
14 the other villages have seen quite large pods or groups
15 of sea otters, just like we had a couple years ago,
16 where we had 50 to 100 of them in Womens Bay and they
17 basically cleaned out the king crab. I think we need
18 to have specific information as to where the otters are
19 so that that gives people in the villages some idea,
20 not only for their handicrafts, but the impacts on
21 subsistence use. And so how many and where.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
26 And it seems like I recall that report was done by the
27 Kodiak Refuge, in their report the last time we had a
28 meeting.

29

30 All right, is there any objections to
31 the additions, I guess, do we need to amend the motion
32 or just agree that we'll add this to Rebecca's motion
33 for request for information on a letter.

34

35 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, and I'm okay adding
36 that on to my motion.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So we
39 have a motion made by Rebecca and seconded by Pat, and
40 we had a call for discussion so any questions. Call
41 for question at this time.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
46 all in favor signify by saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
2 sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Donald you'll
7 get that letter together and maybe a draft out to us so
8 if there's any tweaks to it we can get that sent off
9 right away so hopefully to get a response in the next
10 couple months so that this working group can meet
11 possibly in May, prior to salmon and the busy,
12 hopefully fishing -- busy fishing.

13
14 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Mike Donald,
15 Council coordinator. I'll get the correspondence
16 started and I'll work along with Rebecca Skinner on the
17 language and make sure we captured everything on the
18 letter.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
23 Thank you, everybody.

24
25 All right, we'll move on.

26
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
28 Division of Subsistence. And it looks like we have a
29 supplement number 2 that was emailed.

30
31 MS. KEATING: Yeah, good afternoon,
32 this is Jackie Keating with the Division of
33 Subsistence, Fish and Game. And, thanks, Madame Chair,
34 and to the Council, for the opportunity to talk to you.

35
36 As you mentioned it is supplement
37 number 2 in your meeting materials, and if you don't
38 have it in front of you no big deal, my presentation's
39 going to be fairly informal. We're not diving into any
40 study results, but I just kind of want to walk through
41 this one page summary that outlines our various
42 projects and where we are with them and then, of
43 course, I'm happy to answer any questions afterwards.

44
45 The top of that handout just has a
46 quick note about some Staff changes. Bromlin Jones and
47 I, we've both been with the Division for awhile, but we
48 both recently moved into the resource specialist
49 positions, Bromlin for Bristol Bay and then myself for
50

1 Kodiak and Southcentral, currently Unalaska at the
2 moment as well. So we just wanted to put our contact
3 info there in case anyone has questions or concerns
4 with subsistence things or any of the regulatory
5 processes, please feel free to be in touch with us
6 about anything.

7
8 We've got three different projects at
9 the moment that are funded by the Fisheries Resource
10 and Monitoring Program. So I'm just going to walk
11 through each of those, what we've done so far and what
12 our next plans are.

13
14 I'll start with FRMP18-450, which is
15 changing regulations, changing environment, changing
16 practices of study of fish harvest practices in
17 Unalaska. As you might remember what we've already
18 done for this is last summer we went out and did
19 community scoping meetings and what we called
20 groundtruthing, so that we could come up with a
21 household sample. What we planned to do was be on the
22 ground for the better part of April doing household
23 harvest surveys. Of course our top priority is the
24 safety of the communities that we work in, so we do not
25 want to add any added risk to an already stressful
26 situation so we've decided, of course, to not do
27 surveys in April. At the moment, our plan is to make a
28 final decision on this at the end of the month as to
29 just how far we're going to delay it, we'll see how
30 things look in a couple weeks. Doing surveys in the
31 late spring this year, it's not completely off the
32 table yet, so there's a possibility we could do this in
33 May. The alternative is to delay until the fall. If
34 this happens we'll do kind of a modified harvest year
35 so that we're able to capture the 2020 summer harvest
36 season. It'll still be a 12 month season, just shifted
37 a little bit. That's of course different than our kind
38 of standard January through December calendar year.
39 This, of course, for a timeline is a decision that
40 we're making with the tribe, working very closely with
41 them. Whenever they're ready for us and the community
42 feels good about us coming out we'll be ready to hit
43 the ground running.

44
45 But I do want to take a moment to thank
46 both Chris and Kate at the tribe, they've been really,
47 really great to work with. Kate's been helping us
48 recruit local research assistants so we're really
49 excited to get out there when the time comes.

50

1 A couple other really cool components
2 of this project we're excited about, we've been working
3 with the Aleut Corporation. They're funding at least
4 one internship for a student shareholder to help us out
5 with the research so we're really excited about that
6 happening. We're also planning to do a talk at the
7 Museum of the Aleutians to really go over in detail how
8 our research works and how people can work with us and
9 use the data that we produce and navigate regulatory
10 processes and things like that.

11
12 So we're really looking forward to
13 getting out there when we can, and that's just an
14 update for that one.

15
16 Next I'll switch to Kodiak.

17
18 I'll start with FRMP18-451, which is
19 subsistence harvest trends of salmon and non-salmon
20 fish with a focus on Olga and Akalura Lakes. I've
21 talked about this one in the past as well. Last year
22 around this time, I think it was February or March we
23 did surveys in Old Harbor, Larsen Bay and Akhiok.
24 Unfortunately we weren't able to get consent to go to
25 Karluk. Where we are with that is in the final stages
26 of doing the data analysis for all three of those
27 communities. And, again, we had planned to present
28 those preliminary results at the Kodiak Marine Science
29 Symposium here but, of course, that's not going to be
30 happening this year. So what we're looking at now is
31 still trying to get out to the communities to do a data
32 review. Obviously this is a lot better to do in person
33 but as a back up plan, if we need to provide materials
34 and then have discussions over the phone to keep the
35 project moving then we can do that too, but we're still
36 hopeful to be able to get out in the communities, if
37 not late spring, then some time in the summer to go
38 over that.

39
40 This project ends in December so you'll
41 be seeing the final report for that sometime, certainly
42 by this time next year.

43
44 And then last, but not least, we have a
45 third project that we just got our official funding
46 notice for. Subsistence harvest trends of salmon and
47 non-salmon fish for the Kodiak road system. And first
48 I just want to start out by thanking everybody who
49 helped make it happen. I want to thank the Council for
50

1 identifying the project need and for supporting our
2 proposal. I want to thank Tom and Kelly at Sun'aq,
3 they're our co-investigators on this and we're really
4 excited to work with them. And the Kodiak Refuge is
5 supporting us as well. So we haven't done
6 comprehensive surveys in Kodiak since 1993, this is
7 definitely a needed project so we're really excited to
8 be able to go do it.

9
10 What that's going to look like, is our
11 funding kicks in for that in July, so we'll be down
12 there some time in the fall to do the community scoping
13 meetings and start talking about recruiting for local
14 research assistants. We're planning to work with
15 Sun'aq for this, to help us identify both tribal
16 members and other community members who would be good
17 at being research assistants. But I'll use this as a
18 plug, anyone that knows folks both in Unalaska and
19 Kodiak, to for this project, our research is only
20 possible because of the people that we work with in the
21 communities. So anyone interested in being involved my
22 contact info is on that form, please feel free to put
23 them in touch with me.

24
25 I won't get too into this project at
26 the moment. I know this Council's expressed interest
27 in us giving a longer presentation on exactly how we do
28 our comprehensive surveys with important topics like
29 the sampling methods and how we maintain
30 confidentiality and things like that. We're definitely
31 interested in giving that presentation but it's one
32 that's probably better done in person so we'd love to
33 do that at the fall meeting, if possible, then we can
34 really dive into the details and also share some
35 results on the southwest Kodiak village project.

36
37 And I think the last thing I'll say is
38 I remember when we were coming up with the PIN for the
39 Kodiak road system project, at that time we had talked
40 about Ouzinkie and Port Lions too, and I just want to
41 make the point that we weren't neglecting that. When
42 we were putting this proposal together, it's such a big
43 undertaking to survey the road system and it was
44 becoming such a big financial number that we decided to
45 only focus on the road system for now. With that said,
46 if the Ouzinkie and Port Lions and reliable salmon
47 harvest estimates show up in this next cycle of
48 priority information needs, that's definitely on our
49 radar and I would like to put a proposal together to
50

1 address that as well. That would give us updated
2 harvest numbers for the whole island.

3
4 With that I'll just take any questions
5 if there are any.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
10 Jackie.

11
12 Are there any questions or comments for
13 Jackie at this time.

14
15 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, this is Coral.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

18
19 MS. CHERNOFF: In your road system --
20 let's see in your road system surveys, what -- how many
21 households or individuals do you plan on surveying?

22
23 MS. KEATING: Hey, Coral, yeah, thanks
24 for that question. I can get into that a little bit.

25
26 We're planning on doing 260 households
27 and it's going to be a geographically stratified
28 sample. So what that means is the minimum number of
29 households that we can sample in a region is 30 so
30 we'll be doing 30 households for the Kodiak station or
31 like folks that live on Base, and then besides that
32 it's split between Kodiak city and then any other road
33 connected area is a separate thing. So I think we're
34 pulling like I want to say 120 each out of the city and
35 then road connected, but I can doublecheck that for
36 you. And so that would be part of the fall trip, is
37 getting the most up to date address list that we can
38 for all those areas and then doing groundtruthing to
39 see what that looks like, and then over the winter we'd
40 work on pulling a random sample out of that.

41
42 In the past we've tried to do
43 stratified based on who held subsistence salmon permits
44 and who didn't but that gets really messy because the
45 addresses didn't match with like who owned houses and
46 who rented and it got just really complicated, so we'll
47 address who has permits but we're not going to stratify
48 on that.

49
50

1 MS. CHERNOFF: So some people -- so
2 some of these that you're surveying may not have or
3 they'll all have subsistence permits, is that -- or
4 some may not?
5

6 MS. KEATING: Some may not, yeah,
7 because we're doing a comprehensive survey and so it's
8 for all resources, and it's also -- when we do our
9 comprehensives it's not just harvest, it's sharing, so
10 it captures that whole picture of how things move
11 throughout the community. So we're not only concerned
12 with who has a permit and who's harvesting, we're
13 concerned with who's using what resources and what's
14 being shared, if that makes sense.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Does that
17 cover your question.
18

19 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I think it did.
20 Thank you.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
23 comments or questions.
24

25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair, Pat.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
28

29 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think it's really
30 good to have Subsistence Division involved in this.
31 The last survey that was done out at Unalaska was a
32 very expensive one by a stateside Phd, who had her own
33 vision, and really ended up with a survey that couldn't
34 really be reproduced and so getting folks back on the
35 ground, particularly with local research assistants,
36 the Q-Tribe, and Unalaska and Aleut Corporation, I
37 think that's just really great and I'm glad we're able
38 to get the work done on the south end and hopefully
39 folks will be able, in the future, for Ouzinkie and
40 Port Lions and I'm really looking forward to Kodiak
41 being covered because I remember '93 when that was
42 done, and prior to that it was a lot more frequent, but
43 with the budget cuts to the State and Federal
44 government it just hasn't happened.
45

46 So anyway my hat's off to you Jackie
47 and the rest of your crew for putting this together and
48 it took our Council quite a bit of arguing on PINS and
49 stuff to get these things in the works, two or three
50

1 years worth, so thank you very much.
2

3 MS. KEATING: Thanks, Pat. We're
4 looking forward to working with you even more so
5 appreciate it.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Are there
8 any other comments or questions for Jackie.
9

10 (No comments)
11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
13 thank you, Jackie, for your report and we look forward
14 to working and hearing from you as you move forward.
15

16 MS. KEATING: Great, thanks very much,
17 appreciate it.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Next item on the
20 agenda is Buskin River sockeye salmon fishery and stock
21 assessment project, Mark Witteveen, supplement number
22 3.
23

24 MR. WITTEVEEN: Thank you, Madame
25 Chairman, Council members. The oral report, I guess,
26 the slides are in supplement number 1, I think, it's
27 not numbered, but Buskin River PowerPoint presentation
28 if people want to pull that up.
29

30 Yeah, my name is Mark Witteveen. I'm
31 assistant area management biologist for the Kodiak area
32 for sportfish.
33

34 If you look at the first slide it's
35 just the title slide but I'm just going to summarize
36 the broad strokes of our sockeye assessment project
37 this year. The written report has a lot more detail,
38 so I'm not going to belabor that, but just kind of hit
39 the broad strokes and let you guys know that the -- the
40 kind of different things we observed this year and how
41 things went.
42

43 So if you go to slide number 2, this is
44 a bar graph. The red bars are the Buskin River
45 escapement and the blue bars are the Lake Louise
46 escapement. As you can see this year we exceeded the
47 upper escapement goal. We had about 12,297 fish escape
48 and the goal is five to 8,000. We did liberalize the
49 sportfishery and the subsistence fishery was wide open
50

1 as well. Well, subsistence harvest to date is not very
2 high, it looks like we got about 600 fish so far with
3 the permits returned and we got about 67 percent of the
4 permits returned. The ten year average of that is
5 almost 3,500 so despite pretty good escapement we
6 didn't get much harvest and anecdotally the sport
7 harvest was also kind of off.

8
9 And I think there's a couple of reasons
10 for that. If we go to the next slide, slide three.
11 You'll see a red bar graph of the daily escapement and
12 a line that shows the cumulative escapement. A lot of
13 times we'll get a big push of fish in May and a lot of
14 people focus effort there and then we'll get a pretty
15 normal distribution so a real distinct peak of
16 escapement and that's when people catch most of their
17 fish. And so you see this year all those bars are
18 spread out pretty far, the fish just kind of trickled
19 in, you see a couple of peaks that probably have to do
20 with high tide cycles and so they just didn't appear to
21 come in a big push this year, which makes them less
22 available to a gillnet.

23
24 If you go to the next slide, slide
25 four, there's a couple of different lines here. The
26 red line, the left most line is the recent average of
27 timings so date across the horizontal axis and the
28 percentage of return across the vertical. The green
29 line represents last year, which as we all remember,
30 was very poor. It was very late times. You see the
31 line only continues through the 60 percent number
32 through July so we've actually got a fair amount of the
33 escapement after July, which is probably indicative of,
34 you know, low numbers overall rather than a big number
35 returning in July. And then the blue line is this year
36 so a little bit closer to normal from last year but
37 still a little bit later so that late May, sort of crab
38 festival time, of everybody going out and getting fish,
39 they really weren't that available.

40
41 If we go to slide number 5, this one is
42 sort of, unfortunately kind of a bar graph carnival,
43 but basically the bars represent the four main age
44 classes of fish and then the black line is the run
45 size. So the bars are in percentage. And just a
46 couple of things I wanted to pick out of this. If we
47 look at 2017, there's the blue bar, which represents
48 age 1.2 fish, that was really low, and that's why we
49 kind of predicted 2018 was going to be bad because a
50

1 lot of times the 1.2s from a given year come back as
2 1.3s the next year, and so if we don't see many in a
3 certain year we don't expect a big run in the next
4 year. And so you can see that next year, 2018, the
5 black line is very low and as we know we didn't make
6 the escapement goal and it was really poor. So what's
7 interesting about that, is we look at that blue line
8 now, in 2019, we predicted a pretty poor return for
9 2019 and we got a pretty poor return with the exception
10 of those 1.2 fish that aren't normally included in our
11 prediction. So that number's pretty unprecedented and
12 we can't put a lot of stock into it, we don't have
13 sportfish harvest. But if you look at slide number 6,
14 this is a graph of 1.2 fish across the horizontal axis
15 and 1.3 fish the next year across the Y axis. And so
16 as we've talked about in the past, sort of fish math,
17 1.2 fish from a given year are direct siblings to 1.3
18 fish from the next year and they spent the same one
19 year in the fresh water, they spent two of the same
20 years in the ocean and then the 1.3 fish just happened
21 to spend another year in the ocean and returned the
22 next year. So they're a pretty good predictor tool for
23 a run in the next year, forecasting tool. So if we
24 look at the black dots, we see that they're kind of
25 positively correlated, the line through them is sort of
26 a best fit. And if we plug in the 2019 1.2s we get
27 that red dot, which is outside the range of the data so
28 statistically we can't really do much with it, the
29 data's incomplete. But, if anything, I would be
30 cautiously optimistic about a pretty strong run at
31 Buskin this year. And, Buskin, as far as salmon
32 systems go is pretty good to run numbers on because
33 there's not a big commercial mixed stock fishery around
34 to pick off fish, you know, that we can't account for
35 easily without a stock assessment project in the ocean.

36
37 So I wouldn't put a lot of stock in it
38 but I'm cautiously optimistic about 2020.

39
40 And, you know, a colder winter that
41 we've seen this year may affect that, I think probably
42 warm winters are not good, so hopefully cold is better.

43
44 And then on to the last slide, I just
45 wanted to touch on our intern program again. We had
46 two great interns this year from Kodiak High School.
47 2018 both of our interns came back and worked for the
48 Department, one in Kodiak and one in Bristol Bay, so
49 currently we're looking at 22 of 28 interns during this
50

1 program have come back and worked for the Department as
2 permanent technicians. So that continues to be a
3 really good program. We're recruiting right now for
4 interns for the upcoming season and hopefully we'll get
5 some. We're also working with Sun'aq and we'll likely
6 get a couple interns for a couple weeks each this year,
7 and we got a couple good ones last year and gave them a
8 good variety of stuff to do.

9
10 So that's basically kind of the
11 highlights of stuff I wanted to pick out of that
12 report. There's lots more details in there and I'm
13 happy to answer any questions.

14
15 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mark, I think
20 probably the first year here you've gotten everything
21 that I would have had questions on. From talking to
22 people that did try to fish and I think you implied it
23 in your written part, there was quite a bit of problems
24 in June, in particular, with folks with sea lions and
25 seals getting fish and tearing up their nets and a lot
26 of folks I know only did it one time and then went home
27 and mended their nets and tried to find some other
28 place to fish. So that was kind of a bummer. Maybe
29 Sun'aq can have a traditional June seal barbecue or
30 something.

31
32 But, anyway, great job, John, and I
33 think your intern program is really swell. So you're
34 doing really fine.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. WITTEVEEN: Thanks, Pat. And
39 another thing I did want to mention about the
40 subsistence harvest, yeah, we did hear a lot about sea
41 lion predation of subsistence caught fish.

42
43 Another thing that I inferred with a
44 lot of 1.2s came smaller fish because normally we see a
45 lot of 3 ocean fish. So with a lot of 2 ocean fish,
46 the fish were smaller than average. I think they --
47 oh, the males anyway averaged 439 millimeters with the
48 last five year average of 482. So those fish would
49 have slipped through the gillnets more. And so that
50

1 might have made the Buskin River run a little less
2 catchable this year as well.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
5 more comments at this time.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any questions.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
14 thank you for your report.

15
16 We will continue to move on.

17
18 The next item on the agenda for OSM is
19 general update supplement number 4, Chris McKee.

20
21 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair, if I can
22 interrupt. This is Tyler Lawson with Fish and Game. I
23 wanted to talk about the McLees weir for a moment if
24 it's not a problem.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, no, go
27 ahead, I didn't see it on the agenda here, but, no, go
28 ahead, that's fine.

29
30 MR. LAWSON: So real quick, just to
31 introduce myself. I'm the new assistant area
32 management biologist for the South Peninsula and
33 Aleutian Islands, and look forward to working with the
34 RAC and all of the stakeholders in that region.

35
36 And just the main thing I have to say
37 is in that capacity I'll be kind of leading the State's
38 responsibilities for the McLees Lake weir, which we
39 recently got notice of the funding for from Fish and
40 Wildlife. So we are currently working to shore up our
41 job description, eventually the hiring of the two
42 technicians to manage that weir, and also working to
43 get all the supplies and equipment in order. And so as
44 long as there aren't any kind of hiccups with the
45 Covid-19, we're hoping to get that up and running kind
46 of early to mid-June and once again provide some good
47 escapement information for that McLees Lake system.

48
49 Aside from that I'll be standing by for
50

1 questions.
2

3 I know Pat emailed us a question about
4 McLees subsistence last year and Kathy Whiteside is
5 here and she has a few numbers to share about that real
6 quick.
7

8 MS. WHITESIDE: Hi. Kathy Whiteside
9 here. So I just wanted to update the RAC.
10

11 McLees subsistence in 2018 harvested
12 1,338 sockeye and 85 percent of the permits returned in
13 2018, and 90 percent of all Unalaska sockeye harvest
14 was from McLees.
15

16 In 2019 we've only had 38 percent of
17 permits returned so far so we expect that number to go
18 up. So this is kind of preliminary but 731 sockeye
19 have been reported to be harvested in 2019. And also
20 the harvest was reported as early as June 22nd to as
21 late as September 10th.
22

23 MR. LAWSON: Any questions.
24

25 MR. HOLMES: Wow, that's quite a range
26 of timing and thank you very much for looking that up
27 for me -- or for us.
28

29 MS. WHITESIDE: Not a problem, Pat.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
32 I think we'll make note to make sure we add this on our
33 agenda, that we usually have more reports on ADF&G from
34 both Kodiak and Aleutians in our future meetings.
35

36 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
39

40 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I did call up Fish
41 and Game, they've been trying all day trying to get on
42 and I talked to Jeff Wadley, the regional management
43 supervisor for finfish and he was going to try to get
44 people on but they just were not able to connect, and I
45 suspect the same from the folks from the villages
46 because I called all the villages and sent notes to
47 them on the island. And so I think this debacle of
48 teleconferencing just kind of bit things in the
49 backside, so, anyway, they were trying.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
2 And I think given that we were the first regional
3 conference called, as they move down the line that
4 they're aware that they need to have a different method
5 and more lines available. But I think we're moving on
6 and doing good. I thank everybody that has been able
7 to get on for doing the reports and providing the
8 materials that they have.

9
10 Is there anybody else on line from
11 ADF&G that may have been missed or may have something
12 that they would like to report.

13
14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, I
18 thank you all for your reports.

19
20 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Donald Mike.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
23 Donald.

24
25 MR. MIKE: If Kathy Whiteside and Ty
26 have a written narrative, if they can email me a copy I
27 can share it with the Council.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. That
30 would be good, thank you.

31
32 So moving on to Office of Subsistence
33 Management under A, general update, supplement four.
34 Chris.

35
36 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 Can you hear me?

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I can hear you
40 clearly, loud and clear.

41
42 MR. MCKEE: Okay. For the record my
43 name is Chris McKee and I'm the Wildlife Division
44 Supervisor here at OSM and I'm just here to give a
45 short OSM update.

46
47 As most of the Council members are
48 aware the Office of Subsistence Management had to
49 reschedule the winter 2020 Council meetings until March
50

1 and early April to ensure compliance with the Federal
2 Advisory Committee Act, and we certainly thank all of
3 you, this Council's members and all the other Councils
4 for their patience and working with us to reschedule
5 these meetings. We know it was quite an undertaking.
6

7 Updated Council charters have been
8 included in each of the Council books that we've
9 printed out and sent out to everyone, which includes
10 the new provisions that allows Councils to have
11 alternate members and we are pleased that the Secretary
12 of Interior signed the Council Charters making them
13 valid through December of next year. Last year the
14 Federal Subsistence Board received 63 applications to
15 fill 46 vacant or expired seats. The Board recommended
16 to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to
17 appoint and reappoint 42 incumbents and new applicants
18 to the 10 Councils. Of these, 22 appointments were
19 approved and arrangements were made for these
20 individuals to participate in the winter 2020 Council
21 meetings.
22

23 OSM pushed harder than ever to recruit
24 for additional Council member nominations and
25 applications for the current appointment cycle, plus
26 the Council nomination application deadline was
27 extended through March 2nd.
28

29 As many of you will remember, Gene
30 Peltola vacated the Assistant Regional Director
31 position at OSM in June of 2018 and over the last 21
32 months, Thomas Doolittle has done an outstanding job
33 leading OSM as the Acting ARD and we certainly thank
34 Tom for all his work in this endeavor.
35

36 Recently, Ms. Susan Detwiler was
37 selected to be the new ARD for OSM. She expects to be
38 here by the end of March. Susan has over 25 years of
39 experience working in Alaska with the U.S. Fish and
40 Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service. She
41 first went to work for OSM and the Fish and Wildlife
42 Service in 1989 when the subsistence program consisted
43 of just two people. After leaving OSM in 2000, Susan
44 went to work in other areas with Fish and Wildlife,
45 including as the Congressional and Native American
46 Liaison and Endangered Species Coordinator in Alaska
47 and the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Division
48 Chief in Region 8, the California and Nevada area.
49
50

1 Susan has over 30 years of Federal
2 service. She has a Master's Degree in natural resource
3 policy from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and a
4 Bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Humboldt
5 State University. More recently, Sue comes from the
6 Director for the Alaska Operations Office. Susan said
7 that she enjoyed her time with the Subsistence Program
8 and is very happy to be coming back. So we hope
9 everybody will welcome Susan to OSM when she gets here
10 towards the end of this month.

11

12 In terms of some other OSM Staffing.

13

14 Since the fall 2019 Council meetings
15 there have been a number of Staffing changes here at
16 OSM. Tom Evans, one of our wildlife biologists retired
17 while another one of our wildlife biologist, Megan
18 Klosterman, left OSM for a position with the National
19 Park Service in North Dakota. Our budget analyst,
20 Durand Tyler, took a promotion with the new Joint
21 Administrative Operations Division, or JAO. Even in
22 his new position, Durand has continued to help arrange
23 travel and other logistics for these winter 2020
24 Council meetings. Additionally, OSM's executive
25 secretary, Pam Raygor, left for a promotion at the
26 Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Our
27 pathways anthropology student, Christine Brummer, left
28 to finish her Master's degree. Jared Stone, a
29 fisheries biologist took a promotion with the Alaska
30 Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammals Program.

31

32 With these departures OSM Staffing was
33 down about 40 percent.

34

35 The good news is that OSM filled four
36 vacancies this past month. Tina Baker, took a lateral
37 transfer from the JAO Division to become OSM's
38 administrative specialist. Michelle St. Peters,
39 returned to OSM after working for the Wildlife
40 Sportfish Restoration Program for about a month to
41 resume her duties as the grants and agreement
42 specialist. While Sabrina Schmidt and Catherine Avery
43 were selected to fill two vacant administrative
44 assistant positions.

45

46 With these new arrivals, OSM is still
47 down about 35 percent, however, by the end of this
48 calendar year we hope to fill at least three to four
49 additional vacancies. OSM is currently waiting on

50

1 human resources to advertise one fisheries biologist
2 position, and the anthropology and Council coordination
3 supervisory positions as well, which would leave us
4 down 28 percent.
5

6 So with that, that's the short report I
7 have for OSM and if any of you have any questions on
8 that I'd be happy to entertain them at this time.
9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair.
11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Do
13 we have any comments or questions in regard to the
14 report from Chris.
15

16 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pat.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
19

20 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, it would be
21 interesting on the applications for Councils to know
22 what was specific to our region.
23

24 And I had mentioned earlier, you might
25 not have been on line, unfortunate circumstance on some
26 of our former members, I'm wondering, I guess one of
27 them supposedly turned in the wrong paperwork but
28 somebody sent him the wrong paperwork, but I'm
29 wondering is an alternate position a quicker
30 replacement because losing Rick Koso from Adak is
31 hurtful to our Council, and I'm just wondering is
32 there some way that we can get that position reviewed
33 and hopefully get him back on, either as an alternate
34 or as a full-time member.
35

36 Thank you.
37

38 MR. MCKEE: Well, I don't have any
39 specific information that is specific to your region.
40 Donald, I'm not sure if you have anything that you can
41 maybe fill in for that. But the process for getting
42 people approved and either initially put on Councils or
43 reappointed is kind of out of OSM's hands, it happens
44 in D.C., and we're really not privy as to the reasons
45 why people are or are not selected. So it'd be really
46 difficult for me to answer that question.
47

48 MR. HOLMES: How can we communicate
49 with them?
50

1 MR. MCKEE: With the folks in D.C., you
2 mean?

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, who calls the shots
5 and can we ask them how they were made?

6
7 MR. MCKEE: I'm not certain that we
8 can. I mean like I said, even OSM is not privy to the
9 reasons why somebody is or is not appointed. That
10 happens well above our level. And like I said, we're
11 just not -- we just are not made aware at any point as
12 to why somebody is or is not appointed to a Council.
13 It's kind of a -- it's just not something that we are
14 available -- that have available to us in terms of
15 information as to how people are appointed or not. So.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, this is
18 Della. While you were trying to get on line this
19 morning, Tom Doolittle did give an update because we
20 discussed with our Council having the two vacant
21 positions and, you know, I think if this Council, in
22 our annual report, a request to the OSM Board to review
23 that, because it does have an impact on our Council
24 when this happens. And I know that this is a
25 discussion at the last statewide meeting, that this was
26 brought up and discussed also and, you know, he
27 mentioned that they do -- in regard to that particular
28 time, the discussion had been that some of the Councils
29 had replacement of people that were new and the Council
30 members that were there, who had been there for many,
31 many years were not reappointed, and he did stress this
32 morning that they have told them to please try to work
33 with these Councils in reappointing people that have
34 the knowledge and the background and the history during
35 the selection. But there is a process and at some
36 point they basically don't have any control on what
37 they do, they can only recommend, is what I understand.

38
39 MR. MCKEE: That's exactly right.

40
41 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is Donald
42 Mike.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. MIKE: Yeah, to add to Chris
47 McKee's comments. Nominations is a process and it
48 takes about a year to complete and when an incumbent's
49 term is coming up they have to reapply and new
50

1 applicants, they can submit their names and it goes
2 through a nomination's process, that we do some
3 interviews and develop recommendations for the Federal
4 Subsistence Board to consider and the Board either --
5 they take the names and submit them to D.C., for
6 approval of the Secretary of Interior. But it's a
7 process that we have to go through. That's why, who to
8 contact, you know, as a private citizen you can make
9 your concerns known to your Senator. But we are not
10 allowed to lobby to any offices or lobby any
11 politicians in D.C.

12

13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
16 other comments or questions.

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair, Coral.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

21

22 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, so back to Pat had
23 mentioned the alternate member, so how does -- how does
24 -- what does that mean and how does that work to get
25 alternate members?

26

27 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Donald.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. MIKE: Yeah, our program has been
32 talking about the alternates for Council members and
33 that has been approved to be part of our charter, and
34 during the nominations process, you know, I think our
35 panel and the Federal Subsistence Board submit names
36 for alternate seats for those that are not able to
37 commit to serve on the Council, but alternate names are
38 submitted to the Secretary of Interior's office. But
39 as far as having alternates, it should be on our
40 charter, but it's not, so -- okay, if you look at your
41 charter on Page 59, alternate members may be appointed
42 to the Council through a vacancy if they occur out of
43 cycle. So that's on Page 59 of your meeting materials.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 MS. SKINNER: Della.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,

50

1 Rebecca.

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, so I did hear Tom
4 Doolittle's report out this morning and I'm wondering
5 if anyone can clarify or answer, do we have two
6 vacancies because there were not enough applicants or
7 do we have vacancies because there were enough
8 applicants but back in D.C., they didn't like the names
9 in front of them? So that's one question.

10

11 Subpart to that question, can we get
12 region specific information about how many applications
13 there were?

14

15 And then my third question, since these
16 seats just flat out weren't appointed, are they still
17 going to be viewed as vacancies that occur within a
18 cycle and so they would be available to have an
19 alternate put in?

20

21 And then I guess, sub-question to that,
22 that kind of feels like gaming the system by someone?

23

24 So anybody who wants to take a crack at
25 those questions/comments, I'd appreciate a little more
26 information.

27

28 Thanks.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
31 Rebecca. And I think to add to your discussion, and
32 this might be, Donald, I'm hoping you're taking notes
33 on this, because I think this is something that we need
34 to take to the attention of the Federal Subsistence
35 Board, when you look at our list in the vacancies,
36 there's two people from the Aleutians here, me and
37 Chris, we're missing two more people from the list that
38 didn't get reappointed. And the other question, or
39 point that was brought up, and I'm not sure which
40 member got the wrong application and whether his
41 application got in in time to be a part of the
42 selection process, I'm not sure what happened there.
43 So I don't know -- it's unfortunate Tom is not on line,
44 but I just want to make sure he gets this information
45 or somehow we make sure that the Federal Subsistence
46 Board gets these lists of concerns or questions and we
47 get an answer.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is

50

1 Donald.

2

3 For this nomination cycle, we had
4 difficulty trying to recruit some applicants for all
5 the regions, statewide, to get more applicants to serve
6 on the Councils. So this year we did not get much more
7 applicants. We'll see how -- these two vacancies for
8 the Kodiak/Aleutians may be vacant for another term.
9 But like I said earlier, we did not have enough
10 applicants to fill all the vacancies that may be open,
11 that are currently vacant right now.

12

13 But as far as the two seats that were
14 held by our past members, those names were forwarded,
15 except for Antone Shelikoff, he was not interested in
16 reapplying, so his name was not submitted for
17 consideration.

18

19 So the other applicants names were
20 submitted to Washington, D.C., to the Secretary's
21 office and from there this is the result, we did not
22 get any reappointments for some other reason so --
23 which I will be staying out of and we'll have our --
24 I'll have our Deputy Assistant Regional Director,
25 Acting Deputy contact the Council or get more
26 information for all.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I'd
31 appreciate it, because I sure hate for us to be missing
32 these seats if there's applicants going into this next
33 year, it does not seem right to me. Kodiak is well
34 represented if you look at what they have, the
35 Aleutians we are spread out and the people that we've
36 had, at least, were able to try to make -- you know,
37 have information from out west and central and eastern,
38 and that's really helpful to us. So I'm not sure what
39 the answer is at this time but I think I, for one, am
40 going to give Tom a call here in the next day, either
41 tomorrow or Monday.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, Pat.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering if Becky
48 could write down her questions to help out Donald and
49 that way we'd get -- Becky has such a precise mind set

50

1 and good verbal skills, I think that would be a good
2 way to get things down for our communications as to
3 whoever can answer those questions.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MS. SKINNER: Yes, and I can go ahead
8 and do that.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
11 Rebecca. And, Donald, they'll get that to you and we
12 will move forward.

13
14 MR. MIKE: Okay, Madame Chair, thank
15 you. And Orville Lind, our tribal Native liaison, was
16 trying to get on line. Is Orville Lind on line with
17 us?

18
19 MR. LIND: Yeah, can you hear me
20 Donald?

21
22 MR. MIKE: Loud and clear.

23
24 MR. LIND: Okay, I'm on.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And you're up on
27 the agenda.

28
29 MR. LIND: Hello, can you hear me now?

30
31 MR. MIKE: Yeah, I can hear you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can hear you
34 loud and clear.

35
36 MR. LIND: Okay, I can't hear anybody
37 else but you, Donald, but I'll try.

38
39 So I'm just trying to give a brief
40 overview of the tribal engagement session. Usually
41 I'll start off with a presentation but, however, the
42 circumstances, that's not happening. I will say that I
43 have completed all 10 regions on the tribal engagement
44 session and it has gone very well. I just would
45 encourage tribal members, folks that are on the RACs,
46 encourage tribal members and youth to engage in the
47 Regional Advisory Council meetings.

48
49 We are getting better at it. And we

50

1 are definitely getting more people involved in our
2 teleconferences, for one, but also at our RAC meetings.
3 And I think Bristol Bay was round two, so we will
4 continue to do tribal engagement sessions for the new
5 RAC members as we go through this cycle and we'll
6 continue to try to involve our youth and new members.
7

8 That's all I had, Madame Chair and
9 Council members. Good to hear you on line.
10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
12 Orville. Any comments or questions for Orville at this
13 time.
14

15 (No comments)
16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
18 Hearing none, we will continue on. And what we're
19 going to need to do at this point is to move back up on
20 our agenda and before I do that I want to ask if
21 there's any public or tribal comments on non-agenda
22 items. I don't know if anybody was able to get on
23 line, we've been having difficulties today.
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,
28 hearing none. I think we need to move back up on our
29 agenda. We have two items, I think, prior and that is
30 election of officers and then under Item No. 10, review
31 and approve FY2019 annual report. And then I think we
32 can move on to future meeting dates.
33

34 Does that sound correct to everybody?
35

36 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that sounds good,
37 Madame Chair. If I might work on the officers, I would
38 suggest or make a motion that we continue with our
39 present folks, particularly, since Melissa is out
40 chasing bison and what not, and just kind of continue
41 with the same people we have.
42

43 Thank you.
44

45 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
46 Donald.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
49 Donald.
50

1 MR. MIKE: So just to make sure with
2 the Council's process, we're back on agenda Item No. 6,
3 election of officers. And I hear Mr. Holmes suggesting
4 that we retain the current officers as identified and I
5 think it would be better if Mr. Holmes states on the
6 record -- that he suggests that the current officers be
7 retained and seek consensus or we can do individual
8 voice votes.

9
10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11
12 MS. CHERNOFF: Well.....

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess I think
15 that's what I was trying to say anyway.

16
17 Madame Chair, I would like to make a
18 motion that we retain our current officers and see if
19 there's any objections and develop a consensus.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
24 Do I hear a second.

25
26 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair, I -- this
27 is Coral.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

30
31 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I would like to --
32 I would like to put Rebecca Skinner's name forward for
33 Chair, and -- and are we starting with Chair and then
34 going to Vice Chair and then Secretary or how is this
35 working because I would like to move -- I would like to
36 suggest Chris Price as Vice Chair and Rebecca as Chair,
37 so I don't know how we're going about this.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
40 Donald.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
43 Donald.

44
45 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Mr. Holmes
46 made a motion to retain the current officers and he did
47 not have a second on that motion so we're still up for
48 discussion how the Council would like to proceed as far
49 as election of officers.

50

1 So if the Council wishes to continue
2 electing the Chair, we need to open the nominations for
3 Chair.
4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Let's
8 see, right now we got a couple things going. Number 1,
9 you have a motion on the floor from Pat. The issue I
10 have here is Melissa's not here, we have two vacant
11 seats and we're making -- we're trying to elect
12 officers, so I don't know what the answer is. And I
13 haven't heard Sam at all this afternoon, Sam, are you
14 even still on line?
15

16 MR. ROHRER: Yes, Ma'am, I'm here, I'm
17 just listening. I'll chime in if I need to.
18

19 Thanks.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
22 So I don't know where we're at with this.
23

24 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair, Coral.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.
27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I -- I would like
29 to proceed in the manner that we have in the past where
30 we nominate and elect a Chair, nominate and elect a
31 Vice President -- Vice Chair, and then nominate and
32 elect a Secretary. And as far as Melissa not being
33 here, I think sometimes we don't have our full -- our
34 full Council in order -- or present, which is fine with
35 me, as long as we've met our quorum, I think we should
36 just proceed.
37

38 Except for that I don't know how we
39 nominate -- are we allowed to nominate somebody who is
40 not here; I guess I just have a question about that
41 also, otherwise I would like to just proceed with each
42 Chair on its own. I guess -- yeah, as we've done in
43 the past.
44

45 MR. PRICE: This is Chris. Do we know
46 who's interested in being in different offices, have
47 people even said that, I might have missed that.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I don't think
50

1 anybody has. I think at this point we have --
2 currently I'm the Chair, and Melissa is Vice Chair and
3 Rebecca is the Secretary.

4
5 So if you guys from Kodiak want to go,
6 have it, I'm not -- I'm going to be honest, I have
7 concerns with this process right now. There's two
8 people from the Aleutians, that's me and Chris, so but
9 if you -- you know, it's the decision of the Council
10 and the quorum that is in place at this time, so -- and
11 technically when we do the election of officers it gets
12 turned over to the Council coordinator to make the call
13 for the various positions.

14
15 MS. SKINNER: Della.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

18
19 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, this is Rebecca. I
20 guess I'm going to agree with -- with Coral. I think
21 that there's a process in place for this. We're only
22 short one seated member. We've operate -- you know, we
23 have -- we've taken votes or operated before where
24 people were absent for whatever reason. I -- I hear
25 your concerns about having the two vacant seats but I
26 would not be comfortable leaving this meeting without
27 electing the officers because the officers go for a
28 year and if we don't do it today, we -- we're not going
29 to meet again until probably September. So I think
30 that the officers do need to be selected today and I --
31 I think we -- we have a processthat's outlined in our --
32 whatever you call that, our manual, and I think we
33 should just follow that. And then as far as whoever's
34 going to get nominated, I mean we'll just follow the
35 process.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Donald, do
38 you want to take the floor at this point.

39
40 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
41 Donald Mike, Council coordinator. So it's the wish of
42 the Council to go forward with the election of officers
43 and as the Coordinator, I am now opening nominations
44 for Chair.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Donald, I'd like to
47 nominate Della Trumble as our Chair. She's done a
48 great job for years and really can multi-task. She's a
49 wonderful mom to our whole Council and keeps us in line
50

1 and I'd like to see her continue.
2

3 MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
4 Holmes. A nomination for Chair made by Mr. Pat Homes.
5 Any other nominations.
6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, this is Coral. And
8 I guess to -- to nominate, are we also commenting about
9 our nominations, or how does that work.
10

11 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Co.....
12

13 MS. CHERNOFF:I'd like to nom --
14 first of all I'd like to nominate Rebecca for Chair,
15 Rebecca Skinner.
16

17 MR. MIKE: Okay. So Madame Chair, or
18 Council members, for this process we're just doing
19 nominations, we're not going to -- I'm not going to
20 consider any comments, it's an election of officers and
21 we're going to nominate the Chair and go down the line
22 and.....
23

24 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.
25

26 MR. MIKE:Ms. Coral Chernoff
27 nominated Rebecca. Any other nominations.
28

29 (No comments)
30

31 MR. MIKE: If not, I need someone to
32 call for the closure of nominations and we can take
33 action on this vote.
34

35 MR. ROHRER: This is Sam. I'll move
36 that nominations cease.
37

38 MR. MIKE: Okay. I got Sam Rohrer
39 moved to close nominations. And we have two
40 nominations for Chair. Mr. Holmes nominated Della
41 Trumble and Coral Chernoff nominated Rebecca Skinner.
42

43 MS. CHERNOFF: Do I need to make a.....
44

45 MR. MIKE: I'll do a voice vote, if we
46 can go forward. The first one will be -- the first
47 nomination for Chair is Della Trumble and I'll do a
48 roll call vote.
49
50

1 Mr. Pat Holmes.
2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, this is
4 Della. I think you just need to go to each Council
5 member and they can say who they're voting for instead
6 of going to this individually to each member for each.
7

8 MR. MIKE: I'm sorry, can you repeat.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'd recommend
11 you just, if you call the Council member, they can tell
12 you who they're voting for, and don't do it
13 individually by person that they're voting on, just go
14 to each Council member and ask them to say who they're
15 voting for.
16

17 MR. MIKE: Okay. So this will be a few
18 minutes and I'll have Staff help me out.
19

20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Did we lose Pat?
21

22 MR. HOLMES: No, I'm here.
23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It sounded like
25 somebody dropped the line a minute ago -- okay, thanks.
26

27 MR. MIKE: Okay. So if the Council can
28 sit tight for now I'm going to call the Council members
29 and get their vote and I'll get a tally in a few
30 minutes.
31

32 (Pause)
33

34 MR. MIKE: Council members, this is
35 Donald Mike again. I got a little confused on the
36 process. The process can go forward, and when I go
37 through the list of Council members, I request each
38 Council member -- which nomination they would prefer;
39 is that correct?
40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, that is
42 correct.
43

44 MR. MIKE: Okay. Okay, Mr. Pat Holmes,
45 we had two nominations open for Chair, Della Trumble
46 and Rebecca Skinner.
47

48 Mr. Holmes.
49
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Della.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Okay. Mr. Sam Rohrer.
4
5 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, this is Sam, I'll
6 vote for Della.
7
8 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chris Price.
9
10 MR. PRICE: Yeah, I'll vote for Della.
11
12 MR. MIKE: Ms. Coral Chernoff.
13
14 MS. CHERNOFF: I'll vote for Rebecca
15 Skinner.
16
17 MR. MIKE: Ms. Rebecca Skinner.
18
19 MS. SKINNER: I'll vote for Rebecca.
20
21 MR. MIKE: Ms. Della Trumble.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Della.
24
25 MR. MIKE: Ms. Natasha Hayden.
26
27 MS. HAYDEN: Della.
28
29 MR. MIKE: And Melissa Berns is
30 excused. Madame Chair, we have five votes for you and
31 two votes for Rebecca.
32
33 And you are the Chair and I'll hand the
34 gavel over to you to open the nominations for the new
35 officers.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
38 Donald. And thank you everyone, I'll continue to do
39 the best I can as we move forward.
40
41 With that, I'd like to open the floor
42 for nominations for Vice Chair.
43
44 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, who was our last
45 Vice Chair, I beg your pardon?
46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That was
48 Melissa.
49
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Okay. And is she dropping
2 out, if not, I'd like to nominate her.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: She's not
5 dropping out that I am aware of.
6
7 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
8 Donald.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
11 Donald.
12
13 MR. MIKE: Yeah, my current roster I
14 have in front of me the Vice Chair was Rebecca Skinner
15 and the Secretary was Melissa Berns.
16
17 MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.
20
21 MR. ROHRER: This is Sam, I'd nominate
22 Rebecca Skinner for Vice Chair.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
25 nominations.
26
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If not can we
31 get a motion to close nominations.
32
33 MR. PRICE: Motion to close
34 nominations.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do I hear a
37 second.
38
39 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that you
42 Coral?
43
44 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, it is.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. A
47 motion made and seconded for Rebecca Skinner as Vice
48 Chair. There's no other nominations so I guess we will
49 proceed with that one.
50

1 The next officer seat is Secretary seat
2 and this was Melissa last year. So open the floor for
3 nominations for Secretary.

4
5 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd like to nominate
6 Melissa.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat Holmes
9 nominated Melissa Berns, or I guess her name isn't
10 Berns anymore. Is there any.....

11
12 MS. CHERNOFF: And I guess.....

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:more
15 nominations?

16
17 MS. CHERNOFF: No, but this is Coral
18 and I just think -- well, I questioned at the
19 beginning, can we nominate somebody who's not here. I
20 just want to make sure of that before we move forward.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Well, with Robert's Rules
23 it's quite kosher.

24
25 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Hearing
28 no other nominations, do I hear a motion to close.

29
30 MR. PRICE: Motion to close, this is
31 Chris.

32
33 MR. ROHRER: I'll second it, this is
34 Sam.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.
37 Motion by Chris, seconded by Sam. I think that's all
38 in favor since we had the one applicant, so we will
39 continue on with Melissa. And, Donald, I recommend
40 that you contact her and let her know for sure in case
41 she has any reason that she will not be able to take
42 the position and let us know.

43
44 MR. MIKE: Okay, Madame Chair, I will.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
47 you everybody.

48
49 And we'll continue to move on.

50

1 And then I think I just want to say to
2 everybody that I appreciate everybody's involvement. I
3 see a lot of what everybody's doing all the time and
4 the Council does a lot, it's very active, very
5 appreciative. And I hope that we can get these vacant
6 seats and then figure this issue out with the
7 alternates because we've got to get that figured out
8 sooner than later, preferably before our fall meeting.

9

10 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, just speaking to
19 that, I don't know if this is the appropriate time but
20 I would also suggest that we definitely figure out
21 what's the process for moving forward and getting some
22 alternate members. I guess since you just mentioned it
23 I would suggest -- I don't know at what point in this
24 meeting or at the end, I would suggest that we move
25 forward on -- on that happening.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I
30 fully agree.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is Donald
33 Mike.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
36 Donald.

37

38 MR. MIKE: I apologize to all those
39 participants on this teleconference. My teleconference
40 card had a limit of 20 and I didn't realize that and I
41 just got more information as far as additional
42 teleconference lines that we can now accommodate up to
43 100 people so I'll use that new number from now on.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
48 Donald.

49

50

1 All right, I guess we'll move on. The
2 next item on the agenda is to review and approve FY2019
3 annual report, Page 21 in the book.

4
5 MS. SKINNER: Della.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

8
9 MS. SKINNER: I sent some proposed
10 language to Donald earlier amending -- let me get to
11 the -- I think it was number 5, that has to do with the
12 agency reports and I'm trying to flip over to that.
13 Okay.

14
15 And I can get that email opened and
16 read my suggested change, but I tried to, in my
17 suggested language, just highlight how important it is
18 for the agencies to get to the reports to us early so
19 that they can become part of the meeting book. So
20 instead of -- right now it says; however it is more
21 convenient for the Council to absorb these reports if
22 they're included in the Council meeting book -- I
23 didn't like the word convenient, I think, imperative is
24 a better word so that's the word I used. And then I
25 did reference the fact that especially when we're
26 teleconferencing, it would have been a lot easier if
27 these reports were all in one book and then we could
28 say, oh, it's Page 50 of the packet and we could all
29 get there, instead of trying to figure out which
30 attachment or which presentation we needed to navigate
31 to. And to make it easier, like I said, I did send a
32 whole -- I rewrote -- I mean the paragraph remains
33 essentially the same but I did send that language to
34 Donald and maybe he could send it out to the Council,
35 or I can open up the email and read it. That was one
36 suggested change that I had to the annual report.

37
38 The other suggested change is to ask
39 for more clarification on how the alternate seats work
40 but I couldn't remember how long it usually takes to
41 get responses to our annual report. So if we're not
42 going to get that before our September meeting, then
43 maybe that could be a separate correspondence rather
44 than including it in the annual report. But I think --
45 so I read the language in the charter, I get that, but
46 I think there's a lot of questions around process. So
47 with the alternate seats, where do the names come from.
48 Are they going to solicit names, are they pulling names
49 out of the pool of people who have already applied, how
50

1 exactly does that work. Do they go through the same
2 vetting process, is that -- does it take a year to
3 appoint them, or is it shorter. I mean the Council
4 doesn't usually get to weigh in on the applicants
5 anyway so I guess there's not going to be an
6 opportunity for that. But I think that the alternate
7 seats are a new thing and we have a lot of questions
8 about how it works. So if we think we're going to get
9 a response back to our annual report before our
10 September meeting I'd like to include a section about
11 that, but if not, then I would recommend that we do a
12 separate letter asking for a clarification.

13

14 MR. REAM: Madame Chair.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Those were the two
17 changes I had.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
20 Rebecca. Donald, was that you.

21

22 MR. REAM: That was Joshua Ream. I'm
23 with the National Park Service. I'm the Regional
24 Subsistence Coordinator, also on the InterAgency Staff
25 Committee and I can answer a couple of the questions
26 regarding the alternates if you would like me to.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, that
29 would be helpful.

30

31 MR. REAM: So the Bristol Bay RAC had
32 similar questions I think as you guys did. And I
33 haven't been on the line throughout the day so I
34 apologize if I'm not answering the exact questions that
35 you want.

36

37 The alternates were approved by the
38 Secretary's office and will be vetted along side of all
39 of the other applicants during each round and they are
40 meant only to be used whenever a seat is vacated for
41 any reason. If somebody resigns from the Council, or
42 if they unfortunately pass away or whatever the reason
43 is for their seat to be vacated, that way somebody is
44 in the wings and able to fill in behind them.

45

46 So are there any other questions along
47 those lines that I can answer. But just to clarify
48 they're not available just to sit in for individual
49 meetings when somebody can't be there.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: I have a.....
2
3 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I guess I.....
4
5 MR. HOLMES:question for you.....
6
7 MS. SKINNER: This is.....
8
9 MR. HOLMES:Pat. You said for
10 vacated seat, does that mean when a person dies and
11 resigns or if the seat is vacated by this mysterious
12 process and the Department of Interior.
13
14 MR. REAM: If a seat is vacant for any
15 reason, if there are alternates available that have
16 been vetted, they would be eligible to sit in those
17 seats.
18
19 MS. SKINNER: And then this is Rebecca.
20 So a follow up, I'm not sure if you were on when Donald
21 spoke to this a little bit this afternoon, but he
22 indicated that there were not enough applications in
23 our region to fill all of the seat, I guess that would
24 lead me to believe we don't have alternates for our
25 region because if there were enough names to be
26 considered as an alternate it seems like they should
27 have just been considered for the seat in the first
28 place. Can you tell me if that assumption is correct
29 or can you speak to that at all.
30
31 And then I guess, so if the alternates
32 are vetted at the same time as the original seat, they
33 would be available immediately so as soon as there's a
34 vacancy they just slide right into that spot.
35
36 So I guess kind of two questions.
37
38 MR. REAM: That is correct. If they've
39 already been vetted and they don't currently have a
40 seat and a seat is vacated they're immediately
41 available to be in that seat.
42
43 Now, just even if you had enough
44 applications or more than enough applications to fill
45 all the seats and have vacancies in the background or
46 alternates waiting, it doesn't mean that they're going
47 to pass the vetting process. So you could have 100
48 applications and not one of them come back, hopefully
49 that would never happen, but we don't get a reason --
50

1 the Federal Subsistence Program doesn't get a reason
2 from Washington as to why applications are approved or
3 not approved.
4

5 MS. SKINNER: Right. Can you answer,
6 though, do we have alternates right now for our region
7 that were approved?
8

9 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is Donald
10 Mike. I accidentally got disconnected so I'm back on
11 line. So sorry about that.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So
14 Rebecca has a question of whether or not the
15 Kodiak/Aleutians has alternates that have already been
16 approved, can anyone answer that question?
17

18 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Donald Mike,
19 Council coordinator. To my knowledge we don't
20 currently have any alternates for the Kodiak/Aleutians
21 region.
22

23 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So a follow up to
24 that. Since we don't have alternates that have already
25 been vetted, am I generally correct in assuming that
26 it's going to take a long time to fill the two
27 vacancies we have because normally the vetting process,
28 what is it like almost nine or 12 months, is that
29 correct or is there a fast-track method to get these
30 seats filled?
31

32 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Donald Mike.
33 There is no fast-track. We have a one year process of
34 going through the nominations process. The process
35 includes the InterAgency Panel that does the interview
36 and they rank and evaluate each applicant based on
37 their subsistence knowledge or other sport and
38 recreational use knowledge and that process takes about
39 a couple three months and then it goes forward to the
40 Federal Subsistence Board and they approve that list of
41 nominations to send to the Secretary of Interior for
42 approval, so that -- typically we get a response back
43 from the Secretary of Interior by end of the year but
44 these last couple of years we didn't have -- we did not
45 get any new appointments, or reappointments until the
46 new year started.
47

48 Thank you, Madame Chair.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Donald. And maybe as a follow up question with this
3 discussion, is, these seats are vacant, is it possible
4 we have people that have applied, they just haven't
5 been confirmed because that has happened before in the
6 past and it seemed like in the past, that those people
7 would've been part of this meeting until there was a
8 change so that we can continue on with our process.

9
10 Do you know the answer to that, Donald?

11
12 MR. MIKE: No, I don't have an answer
13 to that right now.

14
15 Thank you, Madame Chair.

16
17 MS. SKINNER: Della.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

20
21 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, so based on the
22 discussion and the explanation we've heard, I think I
23 would like an item included in our annual report,
24 primarily because I guess I've just been reminded that
25 after the InterAgency panel does the interview then
26 makes recommendations then it goes to the Federal
27 Subsistence Board that approves the list of nominations
28 and then it goes to the Secretary of the Interior, so I
29 think -- while the hold up may be in D.C., I don't
30 think it hurts to remind the Federal Subsistence Board
31 that when there is delays or lags or changes of process
32 or whatever we -- we think is leading to the situation
33 currently, that that really does impact how our RAC
34 functions and how our RAC feels about our work. So I
35 don't know what exact language I would use except to
36 note I think we've gotten -- identified some concerns
37 with the process, I would think those would be
38 highlighted, and then just make sure that we have -- we
39 very clearly understand how this process works today
40 and going forward. So that would kind of be the nature
41 of that paragraph for the annual report.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
44 Rebecca. I fully agree. I think the other piece of
45 this that is of a concern with this process is once
46 they hit that deadline and it's a week before, maybe,
47 or two weeks before that we have nobody applying,
48 somebody should let us know so we can -- if we have to
49 do outreach, to make sure we can all help the people
50

1 that were on here reapply, and/or find people that we
2 can get to fill those positions because I think it's
3 important. Especially in this day and age when there's
4 so many things going on with the commercial fisheries
5 and, if possible, the -- the dependency on subsistence
6 use increasing in the future, I mean we're in some
7 changing times.

8

9 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I would add
12 number 12 to this and then with the issue involving the
13 vacant seats and the alternate seat appointments.

14

15 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is Donald
16 Mike.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pat.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
21 Donald.

22

23 MR. MIKE: If there's a Council member
24 wishing to speak on this subject I will defer to the
25 Council members before I speak, thank you.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pat.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: I think your point that
32 you made at the end plus Becky's ones, that I was
33 wondering if perhaps you two would want to work on a
34 paragraph to point out the need for us to be advised so
35 that if there is not enough candidates, I think that's
36 an important thing to have in that paragraph, or Item
37 No. 12.

38

39 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Donald Mike.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
42 Donald.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Madame Chair. I'll
45 make note on the annual report on Page 24 to include
46 No. 12, nominations, and alternates and how the Council
47 wishes to get a clear understanding on how the process
48 works.

49

50

1 And getting back to Rebecca -- Ms.
2 Skinner's comments under agency reports. Please send
3 me an email with the new language. If that's okay with
4 the Council I can take that new language and just
5 replace the one we have on Page 23.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pat.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to see the
12 paragraph. I do disagree with Rebecca on it. I
13 understand her desires to have reports, if they're
14 possibly available at the time, but quite often,
15 particularly when we have fisheries going on, some
16 folks do not have the luxury of being able to put
17 together a report when we are asking them to come in
18 and comment on something and sometimes we call up the
19 Game Division, or Wildlife Division, I guess they call
20 it and ask, well, gee, what about this, and so quite
21 often -- I think we always have to expect that some
22 reports that we get are not going to come in beforehand
23 so that we can read them, simply because those people
24 and those agencies sometimes are totally buried in
25 their actual work at the time and so some of it -- if
26 it's possible I think it's good. I think more
27 convenient is a good strategy but not essential because
28 that's just not possible to do and I would not want to
29 see those people not respond to us when we call them up
30 before a meeting and say, gee, can you give us some
31 information on changing the deer harvest for Kodiak,
32 and that might not be on the schedule, but if a person
33 that's involved in that and they're out flying mountain
34 goat surveys at the time, there's going to be times
35 where it's just not feasible. And so I would like to
36 see the paragraph myself and I don't think that it's
37 essential to have those reports.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
42 Maybe as a suggestion, Rebecca, I've got it in front of
43 me, you might want to just take a minute and read it
44 out loud and that way I think that might help with
45 Pat's -- with Pat is trying to say.

46

47 But I have to be honest, it doesn't
48 necessarily look like it's telling people you need to
49 do this, and you need to not -- in the future, it's

50

1 requesting maybe that it's imperative but it's -- and
2 it's appreciated that -- and preferable are the, I
3 think, are the words that Rebecca has used.

4
5 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I can go ahead and
6 read it.

7
8 Okay, so the Council appreciates
9 written reports, agencies prepare and submit for
10 Council meetings, however, it is imperative that the
11 Council receive these reports in advance of the meeting
12 and preferable if they are received in time to be
13 included in the Council meeting book. This is
14 particularly true when meetings are wholly telephonic,
15 as with the case for the March 2020 meeting due to
16 Covid-19 concerns. Council coordinators begin outreach
17 to agencies and request reports several months in
18 advance of Council meetings. While most agencies
19 respond to outreach within 24 to 48 hours, several
20 agencies did not provide meeting materials until 24, 48
21 or 72 hours before the meeting. And this was
22 referencing the 2018 meeting in the original language.

23
24 The Council understands that land
25 management agency Staff conduct field work during the
26 summer season, however, RAC meetings are scheduled six
27 to 12 months in advance, which provides ample notice to
28 agency Staff to prepare and submit meeting materials by
29 the deadline. The Council also understands that last
30 minute information sometimes becomes available and
31 notes that newly acquired information can be shared
32 verbally to augment a previously submitted written
33 report.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Pat, did you
36 get that?

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Yes, I do. I disagree
39 because salmon people are working right now on the
40 herring fishery. You got people that, I mean those
41 things do not occur in the manner in which you would
42 expect them to be. And, you know, I think the word
43 desirable is more important, I don't think it's such a
44 strident problem and I -- that's it.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other
47 Council comments. Chris, do you have a comment in
48 regards to this?

49
50

1 MR. PRICE: I'm kind of neutral on
2 this. And I just, you know, I'm going to trust you
3 wiser folks to help guide us through this. This is
4 really not my expertise but I'm trying to take it all
5 in.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Sam.

8
9 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, my only comment, you
10 know, it just sounds like we're in disagreement over
11 one word. Pat wants a little bit of a -- I don't know
12 what the right term is, a less forceful word maybe than
13 what Rebecca's looking for. It seems like we can find
14 a compromise of something in the middle. Although I
15 don't have the word. But it seems to me like we could
16 find some compromise in the middle.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
19 Coral.

20
21 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm -- I'm fine with the
22 wording. I'm good with it. I -- I think it is
23 important that we get materials and I think it's never
24 a surprise that they have to provide a report. We have
25 these meetings twice a year, same time every year, year
26 after year, so there is no surprise about providing
27 these reports. And if we don't have these reports, we
28 don't have the information in front of us, I think it
29 makes it harder to do our job. So I have no issue with
30 the wording.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
35 Natasha.

36
37 MS. HAYDEN: I think I agree with both
38 of them. I agree that it is imperative for us to have
39 the information to be able to do a service to our
40 responsibilities but I also understand where Pat's
41 coming from, that those people do know -- I mean they
42 already know that it's their responsibility, we're
43 striking a tone with them that is just, you know, I
44 don't -- I mean I don't know what the problem is, why
45 they're not able to get the information provided to us
46 to get it in our packets in the way that Rebecca's
47 requesting and that we need. And so I guess I'm kind
48 of with Sam, I would prefer that we'd be able to find a
49 compromise so that we don't just have to go one way or
50

1 the other. I'm not sure if that's what we're doing
2 right now.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
5 Natasha.

6
7 And maybe, Donald -- I know Donald puts
8 this request out early and I know that he -- we'll talk
9 and I'll say push it out again, try to get -- and
10 everybody, a lot of times is so busy, if you got an
11 issue, the case of having to shut down salmon or
12 something critical going on somewhere or an emergency
13 going on somewhere, this also sets them back, and then
14 if you look at the Kodiak RAC -- or the Kodiak Refuge
15 report, it was done in January because our meeting was
16 supposed to be in February and now we are into March so
17 there's extenuating circumstances and this has been an
18 ongoing issue for as long as I've been involved with
19 the RACs. And I realize I think -- you know I agree
20 with what everybody is saying, I realize how important
21 it is, it helps us as Councils to make responsible
22 decisions and good decisions and getting more
23 information if we need to prior to the meeting, but I
24 have a feeling that this is going to continue, but I
25 think if we continue to stress it as an important issue
26 for us, because I know it is important for all
27 Councils, this is brought up statewide also, that we
28 just keep pushing that as a potential possibility that
29 people take the time to try to get these in in a more
30 timely manner.

31
32 Given that, I think -- I'm not sure,
33 Rebecca, if you can -- so you've heard what everybody's
34 said, maybe rewording this a little bit so it's not
35 like we're quite demanding, but requesting and I mean
36 you've made it very clear.....

37
38 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I.....

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:how
41 important it is.

42
43 MS. SKINNER:guess, you know, if
44 the word, imperative, is the problem it can be changed
45 to important, but I will say I did not like the word,
46 convenient, because that makes it sound like -- so it
47 brought an image to my head that we're all lounging
48 around on the couch eating chocolates and we're like,
49 oh, yeah, it'd be convenient if we got that report
50

1 ahead of time, and that's not at all what this is. As
2 was already pointed out by a couple of the other
3 Council members, we need this information to do our
4 job, it's -- it's not convenient, we need it. And I
5 get that the people that provide the reports are busy
6 and some of them have seasonal work that doesn't -- may
7 not mesh well with the Council meeting cycle, however,
8 I think that the Kodiak Refuge, they always get their
9 written report in early and so some agencies are able
10 to do it and that -- I guess I'm kind of with Natasha,
11 I don't understand why others seem unwilling or unable
12 to get their reports in.

13
14 So what I'm intending to do is stress
15 that this is important, it's not a small thing, it's a
16 big thing. And it -- I guess the tone, I wasn't
17 striving for a strident tone, but I also think it's
18 important that we're pretty firm and consistent in our
19 messaging, which is, these reports are important and if
20 we don't get it ahead of time, we don't have time to
21 read it and really think about what was in the report,
22 then we're trying to absorb information on the fly
23 during the meeting, and that's not going to yield the
24 best results. So that's really where I was trying to
25 go with it.

26
27 MS. HAYDEN: I think it would be fine
28 to put it in there as being necessary. I definitely
29 agree, important is, at the very least as strong as we
30 would want to go and, you know, just being able to
31 convey to them that it -- I think saying it's necessary
32 is appropriate.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, go
37 ahead, Pat.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: I think you hit it on the
40 head, I think that using the word, important, would be
41 the way to handle it and you don't really need to have
42 all this discussion at the end, don't receive them 24,
43 48, 72 hours before the meeting, just say that it would
44 -- it's important to receive them on time prior to the
45 suggested submission time by the coordinator and just
46 let it go at that.

47
48 And I guess the reason, if you folks
49 don't understand this, is that you have never been
50

1 involved and doing that. It would be, like, Becky,
2 like if you were handling a court case 12 hours a day
3 for months on end, the same case, then it becomes --
4 somebody comes in and says, could you give us a report
5 on car parking on Rezanof, you have important
6 information to give on that, but sometimes it's just
7 very difficult to achieve, and I'm sorry if that
8 offends you because, you know, particularly in finfish
9 management, it's really tough, they're operating short,
10 they don't have enough people, you start this time of
11 year with herring, they just finished up a Board
12 meeting, yeah, they could probably give you the Board
13 report, but it would be 40 pages and all you need is
14 them to say, it looks like the three ocean sockeye were
15 missing two years ago and we're kind of expecting that
16 we're going to have shortcomings on subsistence sockeye
17 this year and that's the key thing. Why do you need 40
18 pages.

19
20 So I think just lay it out, say it's --
21 however it's important for the Council to absorb these,
22 to have these reports prior to the meeting -- prior to
23 the deadline, prior to the meeting and just let it go
24 at that.

25
26 But, anyway.....

27
28 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, and.....

29
30 MR. HOLMES:thank you.

31
32 MS. SKINNER:and, Della, I want
33 to follow up. It sounds like Pat has issues with
34 language that was in -- the original language which was
35 in our 2018 report, so I don't care if that language,
36 about the 48 or 72 hours is in there or not, what's
37 important to me is that either the word, important or
38 necessary, be in there in relation to the value of
39 these reports for the Council. Anything beyond that
40 you can strike it out. I was just retaining language
41 that was already in the draft report.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I see
46 that. I see that Rebecca. And I think I would easily
47 agree without looking at both drafts on this. So, yes,
48 Pat, I think I know what you're getting at and we all
49 do, but I think maybe, Donald, as we move forward
50

1 before prior to the fall meeting and once you send your
2 first notice out to the agencies, send them out every
3 Monday, they'll get tired of you and get you a report.
4 Maybe that will work, just keep reminding them and I
5 understand it's tough to do.

6
7 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Madame
8 Chair, Donald Mike. It sounds like we're reaching a
9 consensus on the agency reports, however it is
10 important, and then replace convenient with important.
11 Is that a consensus among the Council or does the
12 Council need to further discuss?

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I think
15 important, yeah.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think we've
18 reached the middle ground.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Important and
21 preferable, I think that preferable is, I think, a key
22 word in here. We've taken out imperative, I think
23 important and preferable, I think are key words here is
24 my recommendation.

25
26 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you, Madame
27 Chair. If we're done with that subject, I'd like to
28 point out to Item No. 6, Izembek National Wildlife RIT
29 program. During the course of the Council meeting
30 today, I believe I heard Mr. Holmes state that the RIT
31 in the Kodiak office is very important to have. So I
32 suggest that we include Kodiak and Izembek National
33 Wildlife Refuge Information Technician as a subject
34 line for Item 6. We'll just include Kodiak into the
35 issue.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
40 comments in regards to that.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I think just
45 adding the history for the -- since Tonya's been not
46 with -- Kodiak into that paragraph, the last time the
47 RIT was from -- had a position in Kodiak.

48
49 MR. MIKE: Okay. I'll insert some
50

1 language to that effect.
2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And then we've
4 got the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Staffing. I
5 think that that issue with the Staffing continues to be
6 of concern. I know Pat, you strongly agree with this.
7 We brought this up and talked a little bit about it at
8 the statewide level and they're basically looking at
9 possibly doing this, and part of it has to do with
10 funding, and -- but my concern is when they're doing
11 this and not talking to the communities and how it's
12 going to affect them, and the public process is huge, I
13 think, you know, sending people out to the communities
14 and saying, well, we're just here to talk to people
15 that we might be doing this, and we're looking at doing
16 it in the future, and having this Refuge mainly run out
17 of King Salmon, but not sending any information out to
18 the communities, to say, hey, we've got a couple people
19 that are coming to town and would like to discuss --
20 and this is what they're wanting to talk about and it's
21 just kind of taken a little bit by surprise, I mean,
22 for me, being involved in this whole process and having
23 people show up that way, I was pretty surprised. But
24 the public process and input, I think, is important,
25 and not only taking the recommendations from this
26 Council in regard to the Refuge system, Kodiak and
27 Izembek.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
32

33 MR. HOLMES: Yes. I think your
34 summation there is really good. I think we could
35 achieve that in that second sentence.
36

37 The Council fully supports maintaining
38 a full Staff at then put, including the Refuge manager
39 position, and, you know, then we've got it down --
40 because I just can't help but think that the previous
41 Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, when we
42 started having our discussions about the caribou
43 problem, he said that they would make the Izembek
44 Refuge their operations for that goal, would be a
45 priority, and I don't see why that priority is changed.
46 And if you, you know, go on line and you look, yes,
47 they're short 35 -- you know, they're down 35 percent
48 in positions, but some of the positions that are being
49 filled are nowhere near as important as having a
50

1 manager on the grounds to make those decisions and to
2 achieve those priority goals. So I think this -- if I
3 might suggest, we just make that addition there,
4 including the manager position in that second sentence,
5 and I think that'd cover it.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
8 Any other comments.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Donald,
13 you got all that.

14
15 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair, I have
16 all that. And I would include Item No. 12, that's the
17 nominations process. In the meantime we had an outline
18 in our office -- that was developed from our office on
19 the Regional Advisory appointment process so I'm going
20 to send that out to everyone. Hopefully this will
21 clarify all the questions you had during our earlier
22 discussions on the nominations and alternate seats.

23
24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, maybe,
27 Donald, can we go to Item No. 4. I know we had this
28 discussion statewide. I brought this up to the Board's
29 attention with this FRMP, do you recall -- because you
30 know we had requested to try to have some RAC members
31 or at least be involved in the process, do you recall
32 what the answer was. I know somebody had went through
33 this extensive report on how this process worked at the
34 time.

35
36 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Donald Mike,
37 Council coordinator. As far as the project selection
38 process I'm going to defer to Scott Ayers. He's the
39 topic expert on this.

40
41 Scott.

42
43 MR. AYERS: Good afternoon, Madame
44 Chair. This is Scott Ayers, again, for the record.

45
46 I see that you have something in your
47 draft letter here to the Board and to be honest I
48 haven't been able to look to that at this point in
49 time, so if you had a specific question related to the
50

1 FRMP process, I could try and answer it, if that helps.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I think
4 the question is, we had requested -- I know this
5 Council had requested, having Council members involved
6 in the selection process as they go through, you know,
7 the different steps in selecting the FRMP and the
8 projects that are selected. Maybe what was decided, I
9 don't think anything was decided, I know that the
10 information was brought to their attention and someone
11 had made an extensive report on how this process works
12 but I don't think they gave us an answer.

13

14 MR. AYERS: The process, as it's
15 currently outlined, has a handful of different steps
16 and the primary step that the Council is involved in is
17 the development of the priority information needs that
18 guides the rest of how each cycle will play out.
19 Beyond that, the whole process is laid out through our
20 notice of funding opportunity and it gives each
21 distinct part of the process, and the Council just
22 simply isn't a part of the project selection process.
23 They do provide input into that process through
24 comments on the materials that are provided, but they
25 are not distinctly involved in the selection of the
26 projects that are submitted.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pat.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, 20 years or so when
33 I first got started in the RAC that was the process,
34 either the Chair or an elected member that was familiar
35 with the FRMPs was a part of the process. That got
36 dropped. And I would suggest that -- oh, excuse me,
37 I'm just old here and sometimes grumpy, but, you know,
38 in this discussion here, on Number 4, it's pretty well
39 written out, and that's really the issue. And to talk
40 and find out that it took us, what, four years to get
41 this funding back, I don't remember for sure, but a
42 long time, and one of the assumptions I heard from one
43 of the people that was involved in the process, and
44 they told it to us at our meeting, you could probably
45 go back in the records there, they told us that they
46 assumed that Alaska Department of Fish and Game would
47 be able to pay for that weir and that was at a time
48 when the Department had severe cut backs, right now,
49 and, in fact, at that time when that whole question

50

1 came up, the Department, for the last several years has
2 to do test fisheries to catch salmon in order to have
3 enough money to man the weirs in order to open the
4 fisheries, and there, flat, is not the funds at the
5 time, and so that was a miss-assumption. And so if we
6 would have had someone from our Council involved in
7 that, or had the -- the whole argument is process
8 versus need. And I think that's really spelled out
9 well in the letter and really need to go back in time
10 and see when we had that and why it was dropped because
11 we honestly feel that we were ignored on this for a
12 long time.

13
14 And another case in point, the
15 subsistence survey for Unalaska. When the last one was
16 done, I know myself and others, raised some questions
17 on the technique on doing that and it turned out that
18 that survey was not repeatable, and so you need to have
19 input.

20
21 And I get the same kind of feeling from
22 talking to members of all the other Councils, there
23 needs to be a bet -- I don't know, I won't go on any
24 more, I think the paragraph as spelled out as to what
25 we feel is important.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
30 Any other comments.

31
32 MS. SKINNER: Della.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
35 Rebecca.

36
37 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, sorry, this isn't
38 on this topic. I'm going back to the Council
39 appointments and I'm -- I guess I would like to add in
40 a question, is the Federal government trying to reduce
41 the size of the RACs. Because I'm going through
42 looking at the -- how big the RACs were -- like if you
43 just go to the OSM website and then looking at the new
44 appointments, which shows the total number of people on
45 each of the RACs and consistently the new numbers, most
46 of them are eight and nine, I think the highest was 10
47 and that's only like one of them so far. And the
48 numbers are cut down from -- you know, some of them had
49 up to 13 members before, and, so as I'm looking at this
50

1 I'm thinking, well, what this looks like is they're
2 just trying to make the RACs smaller. And I guess I
3 would like to include that as a question. And if
4 that's really what they're doing, it would be nice to
5 know that so that, as a RAC, we -- because our charter
6 says 10, and I think it'd be useful for us if we are
7 going to be reduced to eight, then we should actually
8 be able to have a conversation about that.

9
10 And I just -- I guess I'm feeling like,
11 you know, it wasn't just -- yeah, I don't know, I don't
12 know why they didn't appoint all of the seats but if
13 they really are trying to reduce the size of the RACs,
14 I think they should tell the RACs that's what they're
15 doing. And I would like that added to the paragraph
16 that addresses the RAC appointments.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I would agree.
19 Does anybody else maybe not degree, or have any
20 comments.

21
22 MR. ROHRER: I would agree, we should
23 ask that question.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, that
26 sounds good.

27
28 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Donald Mike.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
31 Donald.

32
33 MR. MIKE: Yeah, it shows on our
34 charter we have 10 Council members and it is on our
35 charter, so the Federal government is not trying to
36 reduce the number of seats on the Council. For
37 example, we have a 13 member Council for Southcentral
38 and Southeast and other regions have 10 members each on
39 their Council, which is clearly stated on our charter.
40 But for quorum purposes, you know, currently we have
41 eight seated members and two vacant seats, for a quorum
42 we need five members present. So we do have 10 members
43 that's identified on our charter, but for quorum
44 purposes we have currently eight members seated and to
45 run a meeting we need five members presented.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
50

1 Donald. And just going back to what Rebecca is saying,
2 as I understand it, is the fact that she'd looked at
3 the various regions and looking at the actual
4 appointments that have been completed to date and it
5 appears that they are lacking appointments and the
6 amount of seats that they're supposed to have per their
7 charter. So her question is, is there something in the
8 future that they're looking at making these RACs
9 smaller, or to cut funding, or what exactly is possibly
10 going on. Is there something going on that we need to
11 be thinking about in the future. I think that is what
12 her question is.

13
14 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
15 understand. And I won't speculate on that.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
20 Anything else on this report that anybody would like to
21 add.

22
23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I have one to
27 think about. Pat, you can help me with this.

28
29 Going back to the number for the
30 requests on annual surveys on Adak, I would like to
31 recommend maybe we add, and trying to start a process
32 to figure out who would be involved, number 1, and who
33 would take the lead on this, to put together a caribou
34 management plan for Adak. I am not sure how that
35 process would start, I know with 9B and 10, you know,
36 those had been in place for many, many years, but
37 create a new one and if they're willing to, who's going
38 to take that -- take the responsibility to that.

39
40 Pat, what are your thoughts on that?

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair. I
43 think that that's a good idea. I think that perhaps
44 the best route would be if we're going to add that as --
45 I don't know if we're adding that as a thing in our
46 list, if we are then I think it was suggested by a
47 Federal Staff member that the most expedient way to
48 initiate that would be to have outreach to Fish and
49 Game, you've got also the -- I don't know if Aleut
50

1 Corporation or which tribal group is involved at Adak,
2 but I think if we were to -- I think we should just
3 make a statement that we'd like to see a management
4 plan developed and we would suggest that it start with
5 the area management biologist, I forget his name, he's
6 a good guy, he's talked to us a lot, in King Salmon, I
7 think, and that we'd like to see the coordinated effort
8 between Fish and Wildlife Service Maritimes and the
9 Department, try to develop a management plan for
10 caribou in the Central Aleutians, or Adak, Kagalaska.
11 I think that would be the best way to go, Ma'am.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
14 Any other comments in regards to that.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other items
19 to add to this report.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, so I
24 guess.....

25
26 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: On eight, I think we'll
31 probably be going on a bit tomorrow, I could call Rick
32 Koso and ask him about this. The access of harvest
33 limits on subsistence salmon. I think that that could
34 be solved, and I think I might have suggested it to
35 them, if they were to talk with Lisa CrillmanScott
36 (ph), who is the overall salmon manager for the
37 Peninsula and the Aleutians, and also that young
38 gentleman that just commented is her assistant, because
39 I don't think we need to go to the Federal government
40 for setting up harvest limits for subsistence, that can
41 be done with direct discussions with the area biologist
42 and probably it'd be done a whole heck of a lot
43 quicker. They could probably come up with a plan
44 before spring, or maybe I could even give Lisa a call
45 here tonight or tomorrow morning and just see if we
46 even need to have that in there. Because some of the
47 areas on Kodiak, the rural areas, a few years back,
48 this was so difficult to get reports from small numbers
49 of people scattered around the islands, that they
50

1 looked at what the probable harvest was and said, gee,
2 you don't even need to have a subsistence report, we'll
3 just rely on a five year survey from subsistence or
4 something because the actual harvest is
5 inconsequential.
6

7 But let me, if it would be okay with
8 you, if you wanted to assign me the task, I could check
9 on that with Rick, see what he wanted and talk to Lisa
10 CrillmanScott (ph) and see if that might be solved
11 without going to the Federal Board, because I think we
12 could end up with things being a whole lot more
13 complicated in going that direction.
14

15 Thank you, Ma'am.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
18 Pat, you alluded to us continuing on tomorrow, I think
19 the plan is to finish up today. I think after this
20 portion we're down to confirming annual meeting dates
21 -- or the next dates of the meetings and locations. So
22 maybe with that we can kind of leave this in here, and
23 if you find out different can you get that information
24 to Donald, on whether this should be an issue that's
25 probably more resolved with the State than it is
26 Federal.
27

28 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Roger that, I could
29 do that at your direction. Madame Chair, thank you.
30 I'll follow up on that tomorrow and just see if we can
31 come up with a problem solution and just drop it.
32

33 And I had one more comment on Item No.
34 11, if I may.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
37

38 MR. HOLMES: It says request to share
39 NOAA information, Gulf of Alaska, with all 10 Councils.
40 I think that's good. Down in the first, second, third
41 line it talks about sea temperatures, feeding
42 conditions, and then it says salmon survival, but I
43 think it -- if -- it should list cod, halibut and crab,
44 or fish survival, rather than just salmon, because it's
45 a broader concept that's being affected by the blob
46 than just salmon.
47

48 So if you could just massage that,
49 maybe just drop salmon, and put in fisheries, or fish
50

1 survival -- fish and shellfish, that would be precise.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
6 You got that, Donald.

7

8 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair, Donald
9 Mike. I can just drop off salmon and insert fin and
10 shellfish survival -- fin fish and shellfish.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. All
15 right, any other items.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, I
20 guess, Donald, you'll get that draft to us as soon as
21 you get it complete.

22

23 MR. MIKE: I'll get a draft out as soon
24 as it's completed, Madame Chair. And hopefully by next
25 week, towards the end, it'll be up for further review
26 by the Council, and then once approved you can sign it
27 and it'll go forward to the Board.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
30 would appreciate it. And speaking of the Board, have
31 they -- I know the meeting is cancelled, are there any
32 possibility that they'll set up something by
33 teleconference or just try to reschedule at a very
34 later date, do you know what the plan is at this time?

35

36 MR. MIKE: The plan for now is to go
37 forward with the meeting via teleconference, and
38 definitely information will be forwarded to all Council
39 Chairs for additional details and we'll go from there.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. All
42 right, Council, moving on, Item No. 12, future meeting
43 dates. It looks like the first one is confirming the
44 fall 2020 date and location. I believe this in the
45 book on Page 50.

46

47 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Donald Mike.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,

50

1 Donald.

2

3 MR. MIKE: I'd like to get Chris
4 Price's feedback on the Life Forum Conference. He
5 indicated earlier in the meeting that the Life Forum is
6 going to be held September 2, 3 and 4 in Unalaska and
7 this Council had discussed the possibility of having a
8 meeting in conjunction with the Life Forum Conference,
9 is that still the wish of the Council.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I don't have any
12 problems with that. I know we were able to get to Cold
13 Bay last year so do any of the other Council members --
14 what are your thoughts on this. I guess let's talk
15 about each Council member, what your thoughts are on
16 the date and the location and whether you'll be able to
17 go and participate.

18

19 I'll start with you, Sam, because I
20 know bear hunting is going to be spring this year, are
21 you going to be guiding at this time of the year?

22

23 MR. ROHRER: We're talking for the fall
24 ones, no, I am -- that's fishing season for me but I
25 can normally slip away in August for some time, we're
26 looking at the dates that are August 24th through the
27 28th, correct?

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, I think they
30 got us in here, let's see, yeah, it.....

31

32 MR. ROHRER: That's what.....

33

34 MR. PRICE: September 3rd and 4th is
35 the new dates.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, September
38 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

39

40 MR. ROHRER: Come back to me. Let me
41 look, sorry I was looking at the dates in the booklet
42 on Page 50 and those are August 24th, so let me look at
43 those. What dates are those again, the 2nd through the
44 what?

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: 2nd, 3rd and 4th
47 of September.

48

49 MR. ROHRER: Okay, let me look. Maybe

50

1 come back to me.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Coral.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, are you
8 still on line, how are you with those date changes.

9

10 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi. I'm okay with those
11 dates and the time. I guess the only concern I have is
12 that if we go out there, like what -- usually we're
13 somewhere just for the dates of our meeting, so if we
14 go out there during that time, will we -- we'll just be
15 in our meeting all day, so if we're going to do that I
16 would consider having our meeting with one free day
17 before that or one after that, or think about how
18 that's going to work. Because I assume all their
19 events and meetings and going's on are going to be
20 during the day time, which our meeting would also be
21 during the day time, and how that would conflict with
22 anybody making it to our meetings or us being involved
23 somehow at their events.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think, Coral,
26 in the past when we did this, and we were able to pull
27 it off, it was long days, but we were able to do it.
28 We had the -- we went to the -- in this case, the Forum
29 during the day, and we had our meeting in the evening,
30 starting at 6:00, usually went from like 6:00 to 9:00,
31 possibly, it was long days but we were able to get our
32 agenda completed within two evenings.

33

34 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I'm -- I'm -- I'm
35 good with the dates and the place but I just -- that
36 just came to my mind how that would all work when we
37 got there. But otherwise I'm good -- I'm good with the
38 dates and the time and the place, yeah.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I think your
41 recommendation, a day earlier, too, would help, that we
42 could hopefully take care of most of that business the
43 first day and then if we need to go into an evening, go
44 in an evening on one of the other two days to wrap up.

45

46 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I think making our
47 -- making our second day fall on their most scheduled
48 day, in case we get -- you know, we don't have that
49 much and our meeting ends up being just one day then we
50

1 have more opportunity to meet people or maybe
2 tentatively schedule like a table there or something to
3 talk about subsistence, or have a presentation.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sounds good. We
6 had a lot of participation from the community when we
7 had our meeting there last time, it was very good, yes.

8
9 Rebecca.

10
11 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I'm sorry, is the
12 question -- can you just repeat the question?

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question is
15 the dates changed on the Forum from the last week in
16 August to the 2nd, -- September 2nd, 3rd and 4th
17 and.....

18
19 MS. SKINNER: Okay.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:Coral
22 suggested possibly going a day earlier to -- going a
23 day earlier and have the Kodiak/Aleutian, and wrap up
24 in an evening if we have to; during the days are the
25 Forum.

26
27 MS. SKINNER: Okay. And you're not
28 looking for additional feedback on that, the September
29 10th and 11th dates, because we're -- we're not
30 considering those now, we're just considering trying to
31 coordinate with the Life Forum, or the Coastal
32 Conference.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, and I
35 think that's correct. And what we may do and what we
36 have done in the past is this is our first choice and
37 this is our second choice. In this case our second
38 choice would be the 10th and 11th in Cold Bay or Sand
39 Point.

40
41 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Yeah, I think
42 tentatively either sets of those dates are okay. I --
43 I guess I just want to say I am -- I do -- I guess I'm
44 going to wait to see what happens with Covid-19, if it
45 -- if, by then, it's tapering -- the restrictions and
46 concerns and what not are tapering off, or if they will
47 have escalated, or if they're, you know, plateau'd but
48 they might impact our travel, but, yeah, assuming that
49 that's not an issue, I'm okay with either the last week

50

1 in August or the first full week in September, and I'm
2 okay with either Cold Bay or Unalaska.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, that
5 sounds good.

6
7 MR. ROHRER: Della, this is Sam, can I
8 jump back in here.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead,
11 Sam.

12
13 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, unfortunately both
14 those dates are equally bad for me. The beginning of
15 September is just a tough time with fishing trips I
16 have. But, of course, as Rebecca said with the whole
17 Covid-19 thing, who knows, we might not have any
18 clients anyways. But with that being said, I mean,
19 obviously we can't plan the meeting just around my
20 schedule, so if there's any changes, if I, at all can
21 make it, or call in by teleconference, I will. But
22 those are going to be challenging for me. The August
23 dates, that's just an easier time for me to get away
24 but, again, you know, don't change it just on my
25 account.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, okay.

28
29 MR. ROHRER: Sorry, Della, I'm bummed.
30 I'd really like to make it out to Unalaska, so if I can
31 at all make it I will.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah,
34 definitely. It was well worth the trip when we did
35 this last time. Tremendous amount of information, it
36 was amazing.

37
38 Natasha.

39
40 MR. HAYDEN: Yes, I'm with Coral, and I
41 definitely would be in favor of trying to schedule the
42 meeting so that we could have some overlap and then be
43 available to attend some of the events around that --
44 around the conference.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Pat, did
47 you have a comment, or did I call your name -- I'm
48 getting tired.

49
50

1 Pat.

2
3 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madame Chair, this is
4 Pat. I'd like to do the Unalaska thing and hopefully
5 Sam, if we have a specific date, either if we went
6 early or maybe take a look at the -- I just blocked
7 that out -- because there might be one of those
8 sessions that social interactions, or I don't know what
9 it was, it might not be as important, but I think it
10 would be really good to get out there because I think
11 as individuals, we need to be doing some outreach on
12 trying to get other people to apply and I think we --
13 it would be good to get, you know, another -- get Rick
14 back, A, but, B, somebody else from the Aleutians or
15 the Pribilofs and so I know a lot of folks from the
16 Pribs will be down there and so that would give us a
17 lot of good interactions and then we may well have some
18 interactions with some of the Bristol Bay folks. I
19 wouldn't be surprised to see Mary Chythlook or Dan
20 Dunaway show up because they're all part of that
21 village interactions, and so I think we need to be
22 working on that.

23
24 And I think on the outreach, we also
25 need to keep in mind and that would be something for
26 Sam, is, you know, we're required to have, what, two of
27 our positions that relate to sportfishing and
28 commercial guiding, and so it would be good maybe to
29 have somebody as an alternate, you know, a retired
30 guide or something from Kodiak, that could fit in on
31 those as an alternate. So I think we should be -- we
32 could use this just to get our thoughts going on how to
33 get more people applying and to come up with some
34 possible alternatives, people.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
39 All right, I guess -- I think we've pretty well come up
40 with a consensus then to go with the September 2nd, 3rd
41 and 4th, preferably possibly the 1st -- September 1st
42 for our meeting to start and to be able to continue on
43 to attend the quorum. To be honest with you, I'd want
44 to get out of there on the 4th and get home hopefully
45 the 5th because it's the Labor Day weekend and the
46 silver salmon derbies in our communities are huge, if
47 we can have them. So the only other thing that I have
48 a concern with the dates is that. But I'll definitely
49 work with it, to do what I need to do.

50

1 So I guess Donald, we pretty well have
2 set the dates for the fall meeting. Do we want to take
3 a look at the winter meetings.

4
5 MR. MIKE: Yes, we do, Madame Chair.
6 So if the Council has Council consensus that we will
7 meet on the September 1 and September 2 and overlap
8 with the quorum, so September 1 and 2 are our Council
9 dates; is that correct?

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

12
13 MR. MIKE: Okay.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Donald.....

16
17 MR. MIKE: Then going to our winter
18 meeting.....

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, hold up.

21
22 MR. MIKE: Pardon.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, hold up
25 a second. So this is how you present this. Because we
26 didn't have to travel for this meeting, there's funding
27 to travel to the Unalaska meeting. So just throwing
28 that out there. But all of this depends on the status
29 on where we're at with the Covid-19 issue.

30
31 MR. MIKE: That's correct, yep.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead.

34
35 MR. MIKE: Okay. On Page 51 we have
36 our 2021 Council meeting calendar. The week of
37 February 22nd and the week of March 8th, March 15th,
38 week of March 22, are free, and the week of February
39 14th and the week of February 28th, there are already
40 two Regional Advisory Councils scheduled for those
41 weeks, so we need to avoid those weeks; the week of
42 February 14th and February 28th.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pat.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Well, I would suggest
49 three days in the middle of that week of March 8th, and
50

1 that's kind of like middle of the month and do that
2 here in Kodiak, I guess, that's where we usually
3 schedule so all given that we're not worrying about
4 bugs and viruses anymore.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anybody else
9 have any recommended dates.

10
11 MS. HAYDEN: I think that's fine. That
12 should work fine for me so far, tentatively. This is
13 Natasha.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
16 Coral.

17
18 MS. CHERNOFF: That -- any of that time
19 works for me. Are we setting a date, like March 9th
20 and 10th, Tuesday and Wednesday or Wednesday and
21 Thursday.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe let's just
24 possibly take a look at that week of March 8th because
25 most likely people can travel in on the 8th and the
26 meeting can start on the 9th and 10th.

27
28 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. Yeah, any time
29 that week works for me.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam, is that
32 good for you.

33
34 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, I'm just trying to
35 look and see when Board of Game meetings are for that
36 same time period, and I haven't gotten that pulled up
37 yet, but tentatively I don't have anything else
38 scheduled, but I would like to see if it conflicts with
39 Board of Game.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Chris.

42
43 MR. PRICE: I'm good. I'm good for now
44 with those dates.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

47
48 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, and I just pulled up
49 and the Board of Game is the following week, the 12th
50

1 through the 19th, so, yeah, that would be good.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All
4 right, we'll do tentative dates then the 9th and 10th
5 of March.

6

7 Donald.

8

9 MR. MIKE: Yep, I got it noted, thank
10 you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. I
13 think basically that covers our agenda today. It's
14 been an interesting day but we managed to do it. I'm
15 going to go ahead and do closing comments from the
16 various Council members, and, Pat, I guess, I will
17 start with you.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I guess my
20 main point is it's just so productive to be working
21 with all these good folks that we have and particularly
22 with you as Chair, you move the meeting right along and
23 you keep track of things and I'm really impressed and I
24 think we've got a good group and hopefully we can find
25 some way to get outreach to get our membership back up
26 or, you know, get Rick back on board.

27

28 So that's all I have to say.

29

30 I thought the comments from everybody
31 this time were really good and so I'm just proud about
32 still being on the RAC.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
35 Thank you for your input, your valuable knowledge and
36 history has always been -- you just need to keep that
37 going.

38

39 Sam.

40

41 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, just, thanks
42 everyone, for being on here today. I know it's always
43 challenging to do these things by teleconference, I
44 think it's better when we can sit there face to face
45 and see each other but -- a little easier to
46 participate, but just appreciate everyone hanging in
47 there today.

48

49 That's all I got.

50

1 Thanks, Della, for continuing to be
2 willing to be Chairperson, so, thanks.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.
5 And thank you for everything that you do also in the
6 process.

7
8 Chris.

9
10 MR. PRICE: Hey, everybody. Hey,
11 thanks again for an amazing meeting, we did it. I
12 couldn't -- I think it was a great idea to try and get
13 it done in one day, I really appreciate that. It's
14 been a crazy week here. Our community's been getting
15 hit with lots of different things over the last -- this
16 whole year, but I'm just super excited for you guys to
17 potentially come out in the fall, I hope that we're
18 over these concerns that we're all facing. And I just
19 want to thank Della for her awesome Chairmanship today
20 of this meeting and keeping us on track and everybody's
21 comments.

22
23 Thank you very much.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
26 Chris. And, yeah, just a note on Unalaska, they've
27 been through a lot this past year and we just follow
28 with prayers for that community, and on top of
29 everything else that's going on worldwide, to just add
30 to the community losses that they've had has been
31 tremendous, so our heart's are with you Chris. So,
32 thank you.

33
34 Coral.

35
36 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I just want to say
37 thank you for getting us through this meeting. It has
38 been a little bit of a challenge to be on and for you
39 to organize everybody and all the phone stuff.

40
41 I'd also like to say thank you to
42 everybody who sits on this Council. I think it's
43 really important, especially in these times where, you
44 know, I -- I -- most of my adult life I've really
45 thought about subsistence and how important it is and
46 food security and in these times where we're sort of
47 shut down, being an artist, that's fine, I do all my
48 art, I stay inside, and eat everything out of our
49 freezer. We haven't made any extra, you know, grocery
50

1 store stops, not even for toilet paper, but I just
2 thank everyone for taking their time because this is
3 important. Many of us live in places with grocery
4 stores but there are many places in our area that do
5 not have grocery stores so this is really, really
6 important for us to take seriously.

7
8 And I just want to say, I guess
9 everybody be safe and stay healthy.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
14 Coral. And while you're on, too, before I get to
15 Rebecca, just thankful to you and Rebecca for your
16 participation and going to the meeting in regards to
17 the sea otter. I think that's so important for Kodiak
18 at this time and your participation, I think, is well
19 appreciated.

20

21 Rebecca.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, just to clarify, I
24 did not attend the sea otter meeting, I just helped
25 coordinate or try to get assistance for Coral to
26 attend.

27

28 So two things.

29

30 I did send some draft language
31 regarding the appointments and vacancies. I sent that
32 to Donald and a CC to Della. And I did include the
33 numbers for each of the RACs so I finished going
34 through the list, and in looking at it, I mean every
35 single RAC was shorted on membership by anywhere from
36 two to four people. So this is not just the
37 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC that has vacancies, this is across
38 the board. Every single RAC was not appointed the same
39 amount of people they had, you know, as of the end of
40 2019. But I did send some draft language that could go
41 into the annual report. Della, you can take a look at
42 that and adjust it as necessary.

43

44 And then I've brought this up before,
45 I'm going to bring it up again. I still think it would
46 be useful for our RAC to have a good discussion about
47 what I call succession planning. So I think every time
48 we have a member who's been on the RAC for awhile that
49 doesn't get reappointed, there's comments that, oh, we

50

1 need to get them back on, what I've said in the past if
2 you keep the same people on the RAC all the time then
3 there's not room for new people to come on and kind of
4 learn the process. And so succession planning would be
5 ensuring that you have a mix of people who've been on
6 for a long time and then newer people and then we
7 continue to struggle with this balance between the, I
8 guess I'll call them the three subregions, so the
9 chain, the Peninsula and the Kodiak Archipelago, and to
10 some extent I think there needs -- there should -- it
11 would help to have discussion about succession planning
12 at that sub-regional level as well. So if we have
13 members that have been on for awhile from certain
14 regions, are we -- you know, are we doing targeted
15 outreach or what -- you know, who -- who do we think we
16 want to target.

17
18 And I think we've had brief snippets of
19 discussion on this but at a future meeting I'm hoping
20 that we can set aside a good chunk of time and maybe
21 somebody can help facilitate that conversation, whether
22 it's Donald, or whether it's somebody that works more
23 -- or interacts more directly with the nomination
24 process, whatever, but I do think instead of leaving
25 ourselves in a position where stuff is happening to us
26 as a Council, or we're reacting to, you know, vacancies
27 or certain people not getting appointed. I think that
28 proactively having discussions and, you know, maybe
29 having a plan and be more strategic in what we do, I
30 could see a lot of value in that. So my plug is to
31 have that on a future agenda.

32
33 Other than that, actually I thought
34 today went fairly well other than the fact that there
35 weren't enough spots on the phone for everyone who
36 wanted to call in. I participate in a lot of telephonic
37 meetings and I was wondering how today would go with
38 everyone being telephonic but I thought it went really
39 well. And I also just wanted to thank all of the
40 Council members and then all of the Staff for the time
41 and energy that you guys put into this.

42
43 Thanks.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
46 Rebecca. Appreciate your comments. And we will take
47 your suggestions into consideration for the next
48 meeting.

49
50

1 Natasha, are you still on line here,
2 are you ready?
3

4 MS. HAYDEN: Yes, still here. Thanks,
5 Della. I'm just going to echo what's already been
6 said. I think everybody's done a really great job
7 under these circumstances. I am also actually somewhat
8 impressed at how things went today. I think that's a
9 testimony to Della, your leadership, and, Donald, all
10 of your hard work. I appreciated all of the discussion
11 that everybody participated in, I think it makes a
12 better process if people are bringing their comments
13 and thoughts and suggestions and points of view. And I
14 look forward to hopefully going to Unalaska in
15 September, that is actually quite exciting for me.
16

17 So, thank you very much.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
20 Natasha.
21

22 All right, I will say thank you to
23 everybody wholeheartedly. A lot of us are involved in
24 many different things and on many levels. Chris, you
25 made comment about all the things that the Tribe had to
26 do this week, I'm just trying to keep up here between
27 our -- I work as the CEO for the King Cove Village
28 Corporation and then we have a holding company and a
29 couple 8As and just getting hit from all the
30 directions, and changes from the city, and the
31 statewide level, and national level and it's just been --
32 it's been overwhelming, and I can imagine with
33 everybody, and what you're involved in, you know, how
34 this impacts all of us and all I can say is I pray that
35 we all, our families, and everyone basically survive
36 this and get through this with minimal negative
37 effects.
38

39 I think we've got that -- you know, I
40 laughed when I seen a comment on FaceBook recently that
41 if anybody thought the problem was going to be Friday
42 the 13th and all that happened this week, it's been
43 overwhelming. And then you add that to our, you know,
44 it has an affect on our subsistence, our commercial
45 fisheries, our sport, our cultural, art, the resources
46 that we utilize to survive off of, we've got a lot on
47 our plate at this time, and it definitely is
48 overwhelming.
49

50

1 But I think we continue to move forward
2 and do the best we can because that's all we can do. I
3 think we've got a good group of people that continue to
4 do that and I very much appreciate all of you and your
5 knowledge, and I thank you for your continued support
6 in Chairing and I'll do the best I can as we continue
7 forward in this next year.

8
9 But other than that I just can't say
10 enough, I appreciate everyone and I thank you a lot.
11 Yeah, I think everybody did great in participating in
12 this meeting today.

13
14 Donald.

15
16 MR. MIKE: I'm here, Madame Chair.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Do you
19 have any comments before we make a motion to adjourn.

20
21 MR. MIKE: The only comment I have is I
22 really appreciate the dedicated hard work that you guys
23 provide for all the subsistence users in the
24 Kodiak/Aleutians region. Without you it wouldn't be a
25 successful program. Thank you all.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
28 Donald.

29
30 All right, then let's entertain a
31 motion to adjourn.

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 MR. PRICE: Hello, Pat.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Move to adjourn.

38
39 MR. PRICE: Second.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, a motion
42 to adjourn by who, Pat and a second by Chris?

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Yep.

45
46 MR. PRICE: Yep.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.
49 Discussion.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question. All
4 in favor by saying aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks everyone.
9
10 (Off record)
11
12 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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