

BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

Dolly's Hall
Naknek, Alaska
March 10, 2020
8:40 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nanci Morris Lyon, Acting Chair
Dan Dunaway
Lary Hill
William Maines
William Trefon
Richard Wilson

Acting Regional Council Coordinator,

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3

(Naknek, Alaska - 3/10/2020)

4

5

6

(On record)

7

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm going to
10 call the Bristol Bay RAC meeting to order at 8:35
11 today. Just so everybody knows in case somebody hasn't
12 heard, we don't have a quorum here yet. We are
13 expecting three more members to arrive about 9:30 or
14 10:00. Is Billy online? We're going to have at least
15 one of our members online as well.

15

16

17

MR. LIND: Billy Maines, are you online
this morning?

18

19

(No comments)

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's okay.
We still will be waiting for other three members as
well. In order to continue moving forward what we'd
like to start doing before our other people get here in
order to afford us a quorum is to go ahead and start
with reports.

27

28

29

Let's first start with introductions
and an invocation.

30

31

32

33

Richard, if you'd be so kind, we'd
appreciate that.

34

35

(Invocation)

36

37

38

39

40

41

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan, do you
want to start us off and then we'll go around the room
and then we'll have the folks on the phone introduce
themselves as well so everybody knows who's here and
who they're talking to.

42

43

44

45

46

MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
I'm Dan Dunaway. I live in Dillingham and on the
advisory committee also for Nushagak. That's it, I
guess.

47

48

49

50

MR. WILSON: Richard Wilson here.
Resident of Naknek. On the Naknek/Kvichak AC. I
missed the last round, but I think we're in good

1 standing. Good morning.

2

3 MR. LIND: Good morning, folks. My
4 name is Orville Lind. I'm the Native Liaison for the
5 Office of Subsistence Management. However, you have the
6 privilege of me working with you together to be the
7 council coordinator on behalf of Donald Mike, who is on
8 family leave. When we do have a quorum, Madame Chair,
9 if we could have a moment of silence for him and his
10 family.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Madame
15 Chair. Members. George Pappas, Office of Subsistence
16 Management, State Subsistence Liaison. I also sit on
17 the Board of Fish and Board of Game as liaison for
18 them. It's great to be back. It's been a few years.
19 I think Cliff Edenshaw was the council coordinator the
20 last time I was in this room.

21

22 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Madame Chair and
23 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm with the
24 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

25

26 MS. ALEXANDER: Good morning, everyone.
27 Susan Alexander, Refuge Manager, Alaska Peninsula and
28 Becharof National Wildlife Refuges.

29

30 MR. MACRI: Good morning. I'm Josh
31 Macri. I'll be the new LE for Fish and Wildlife
32 replacing Pete Harvey.

33

34 MS. CHISHOLM: Good morning, everyone.
35 I'm Linda Chisholm, the Cultural Resource Program
36 Manager and Subsistence Coordinator for Katmai,
37 Aniakchak and Alagnak Units.

38

39 MR. STURM: Good morning. Mark Sturm,
40 Superintendent, Katmai National Park and Preserve,
41 Aniakchak National Monument and Alagnak.

42

43 MR. LUX: Good morning. Jason Lux,
44 Chief Ranger of Katmai.

45

46 MR. HAMON: Good morning, Madame Chair
47 and Council. Troy Hamon, Natural Resource Manager for
48 the National Park Service in Southwest Alaska for the
49 same Katmai, Alagnak, Aniakchak group.

50

1 MR. BUMP: Good morning. David Bump
2 with the Wildlife Troopers. I supervise King Salmon
3 and Dillingham Posts.
4

5 MR. AYERS: Good morning, everyone.
6 This is Scott Ayers. I'm the Fisheries Biologist for
7 this region with the Office of Subsistence Management.
8 It's good to be here.
9

10 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Madame
11 Chair. Members of the Council and everyone. This is
12 Robbin LaVine and I'm an anthropologist with the Office
13 of Subsistence Management and it's always a pleasure to
14 be back in the beautiful Bristol Bay.
15

16 Thank you.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
19 everybody. Now can we get those who are joining us
20 online to introduce themselves.
21

22 MR. SEPPI: Good morning. This is
23 Bruce Seppi, Wildlife Biologist and Subsistence
24 Coordinator with BLM Anchorage Field Office.
25

26 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
27 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game.
28

29 MR. BORDEN: Good morning. This is Lee
30 Borden, Department of Fish and Game.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. If
33 there's nobody else, I certainly appreciate everybody
34 taking the time to do that. Now you guys know who you
35 have in the room and we know who we have on the phone.
36

37 We'll go ahead and move forward here
38 with what we can get done. I'd also like to remind
39 everybody, as I was reminded this morning, if we can
40 make sure that we only have one mic on at a time. The
41 folks online will have a lot easier time hearing us.
42

43 So it won't do us any good to place the
44 agenda on the table to approve it. I think we'll wait
45 on the roll call as well. I think we should jump into
46 our first agency report. Do we have tribal
47 governments? We don't have a person here. Do we have
48 them online?
49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
4 go to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Togiak.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: I think they're going to
7 try fly. Madame Chair, I was in correspondence with
8 the wildlife biologist last night. They were trying to
9 snowmachine over and had to turn back. Andy said he
10 was going to fly over this morning. My morning flight
11 yesterday out of Dillingham finally got here at 12:30,
12 so who knows.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
15 Dan. Are you guys prepared, Susan?

16

17 MS. GEORGETTE: Sure.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We'll
20 have the Fish and Wildlife, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof
21 report, please.

22

23 MS. GEORGETTE: Good morning, Madame
24 Chair. Members of the Council. Just as a hopeful note
25 in relation to Togiak, I gather that their pilot is
26 around and they have an aircraft at the moment, so they
27 may not be dependant on commercial. They may be able
28 to come in over here. I haven't heard anything from
29 them though. I said if you're coming, let me know so I
30 can get you.

31

32 Let me get some copies. Our report did
33 not make it into the book, so I can pass it around. So
34 just a couple of highlights. A brief update on the 9C
35 remainder, 9E caribou hunt. To date we have issued --
36 well, the Council may remember that for a couple of
37 years when that hunt was first started we ran it as a
38 lottery basing our numbers, working with the State on
39 making sure we weren't exceeding an acceptable harvest
40 for the state of the herd.

41

42 Then it was realized that the action of
43 the Federal Subsistence Board did not actually
44 authorize a lottery hunt, so it's now just a
45 registration hunt. Interestingly, the numbers that
46 we're seeing are pretty similar to what we were doing
47 for the lottery. So far we've given out four permits
48 for 9C remainder and 10 for 9E and no reported harvest
49 yet.

50

1 When we were doing the lottery we were
2 giving out five permits for 9C and 10 for 9E, so we're
3 right there. We didn't see a ton of competition for
4 the lottery anyway when we were doing it. That appears
5 to be about the level of interest we have.
6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: You said no harvest
8 reported today?
9

10 MS. GEORGETTE: No harvest reported
11 yet. I know there is some harvest happening, but if
12 it's not on the Refuge, they're not reporting it to us.
13 If they're hunting under a State Tier II on State land
14 or corporation land, then we wouldn't know that. I do
15 not have -- I'm hoping that Fish and Game will be able
16 to fill you in on Tier II because I don't have those
17 numbers.
18

19 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
20 Susan, it's only on Federal lands over there and the
21 area that you're talking about is there any caribou
22 near that area for consumption right now?
23

24 MS. GEORGETTE: I don't know right now.
25 One of the items a little further down my list is that
26 we still have no big game biologist. I know the State
27 has been doing some surveys. We were helping them out
28 some earlier in the fall. More recently -- I wish I
29 could answer that question for you. I know typically
30 there are some this time of year near Port Heiden, but
31 this year in particular I don't know.
32

33 MR. WILSON: I was just curious having
34 a real winter now what their migration might look like
35 compared to some of the past years. Thanks.
36

37 MS. GEORGETTE: That would be really
38 nice to know and I hate the fact that I'm sitting here
39 telling you I can't answer that question.
40

41 Any other questions on the caribou? I
42 think I heard someone sign on. Do you need to check in
43 to see who's on the phone?
44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Thank
46 you. We'll go ahead and do that. Who joined us on the
47 phone? If you could please introduce yourself to the
48 group, that would be appreciated.
49
50

1 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. This is
2 Chris McKee. I'm the Wildlife Division Supervisor at
3 OSM in Anchorage.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
6 Chris. We'll have the new members in the audience
7 introduce themselves as soon as we're done with this
8 report, please.

9
10 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you. So moving
11 to staffing. Unfortunately, yes, we still have no big
12 game biologist. We still have no anticipated date when
13 we will be able to hire a big game biologist. There is
14 some movement in that direction that I won't drag you
15 all through an explanation of all our machinations of
16 budget retooling and all of that. I am somewhat more
17 optimistic than I was the last time I sat here, but I
18 can't say within the next six months or anything like
19 that.

20
21 A very positive new staffing
22 development though is -- I'm going to let Josh Macri
23 introduce himself in a second. He is in training right
24 now and will be reporting in August as our new law
25 enforcement officer replacing Pete Harvey, who left
26 about a year ago. I'm going to hand the mic over to
27 Josh and let him tell you a little bit about himself.

28
29 MR. MACRI: Good morning. So my name
30 is Josh Macri again. I grew up in Maine and New
31 Hampshire. A little background about me. After high
32 school I went into the United States Marine Corps. I
33 did four years in the Marine Corps and decided to go to
34 college when I got out. I got a degree in conservation
35 law enforcement from Unity College in Maine.

36
37 Right from there I applied for U.S.
38 Fish and Wildlife by the advisory of Pete Harvey, who I
39 also went to school with. He said you've got to get up
40 to Alaska, it's an amazing place. I said, yeah, I'm
41 all about it and very excited and happy to be here to
42 help out the refuge and do whatever I can for you guys
43 as well. So that's a little background about me.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
48 and welcome. Thank you for your service too. Glad to
49 have you here.

50

1 MS. GEORGETTE: So I'll just mention a
2 couple of other things. There's more of a write-up in
3 our written report, but two of the projects that we
4 have going on that are not directly subsistence species
5 related, but I think are really important in the long
6 run and that is I know whenever we hear the Council
7 members' reports every meeting, everything we're all
8 experiencing is full of changes in our climate and our
9 vegetation patterns and patterns of movement of
10 animals.

11
12 We're doing two projects right now on
13 the Refuge to try to start quantifying some of those
14 changes. One of them is what's called the normalized
15 difference vegetation index. It's essentially an index
16 of vegetated community change. That being of course
17 habitat. How is our habitat changing. Then in
18 particular we have another study that focuses on
19 wetland habitats and trying to characterize change
20 there.

21
22 The first one of those is further along
23 than the other. Last summer they just kind of got
24 their study plots dialed in, so there's more work to do
25 there. We're excited to be able to start getting some
26 concrete quantified indicators of change that may allow
27 us to predict a little bit better where we're going and
28 how that might impact a really key species.

29
30 I guess the one other thing I'll
31 mention just kind of as a more community-oriented note.
32 I know some of you who are from the west side of the
33 bay might not have ties to this, but a lot of folks on
34 this side of the bay have ties to Bible Camp, which is
35 located on the Refuge and has a long history and a very
36 important site for a lot of people.

37
38 The buildings are now 50 years old and
39 they are falling apart. Unfortunately, because of
40 changes with the school districts, it's not really
41 feasible to do the science camps that we did for a
42 while out there. So most of the buildings are in the
43 process basically of demolishing themselves and we've
44 had to go out and do some quick response to keep things
45 from blowing around and creating a lot of mess.

46
47 It's become clear that we're going to
48 need to take the rest of those buildings down. Though
49 we will be leaving one building as an emergency shelter
50

1 because I know historically -- I mean it's a good place
2 to land. So I know it has been used as an emergency
3 shelter and we intend to maintain one building there to
4 keep that capacity so folks can use it for that.

5
6 We hope, Coronavirus willing, to have
7 an event at the end of this month to both inform people
8 of what I've just been telling you what the situation
9 is out there, and also we've been working over the last
10 year to gather stories and photos. We're going to have
11 kind of a celebration of Bible Camp and hopefully have
12 a nice potluck and a gathering to celebrate that place.

13
14 That's all I've got.

15
16 MR. WILSON: Thanks for the report. I
17 know I've mentioned in the past when we talk about not
18 having this program anymore I brought up the question
19 of what about closer to home here and what about closer
20 to port. If there was any monies or things available,
21 I just believe that if we can continue to keep our kids
22 learning about these things, it's a valuable thing. I
23 don't want to lose a program totally. I know it's kind
24 of going away and things are rotting out, but it just
25 seems like we ought to be able to find some effort
26 somewhere, get with some of the agencies or something
27 to keep something like this going in this community.

28
29 I just wanted to emphasize that.
30 Thanks.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

33
34 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you, Richard. I
35 agree with you and the reason that we're not doing the
36 program anymore has partly to do with money, more to do
37 with staff, which unfortunately, working for the
38 government even if you have money, it doesn't
39 necessarily mean you have staff.

40
41 The change we've made is not so much
42 cutting out programs working with young people, but
43 shifting the focus more to -- you know, the Science
44 Camp model is a very intensive week with 12 kids and
45 what we're doing now is more working with Boys and
46 Girls Clubs, working with the Parks & Rec Summer
47 Program, working in the schools both here and the
48 Bristol Bay Borough and also all the villages south
49 down along the Refuge to do more school programs,
50

1 summer programs, after-school programs where we're
2 touching a lot more kids.

3
4 We're interacting with a lot more kids,
5 but for a shorter period of time. Logistically, we
6 felt that that was allowing us to use our limited
7 resources in a way that would kind of spread the wealth
8 more, but it's almost kind of a philosophical question
9 of I wish we could do both and we haven't managed to do
10 that with our current level of staffing and with the
11 school districts no longer able to work with us on
12 that.

13
14 We could do a summer program along
15 those lines and that is still a possibility in my mind
16 if we can get the capacity to do it. Meanwhile, we've
17 been focusing on shorter term but larger volume, I
18 guess. More kids, but not for a whole week. So we are
19 still doing things, just not the longer-term program.

20
21 MR. WILSON: Thank you. There's just
22 no replacement for hands-on out there. There just
23 isn't. We all know that. But thanks.

24
25 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 I think it's great you're doing these habitat projects.
31 I'm trying to skim fast on here. How long do you
32 expect these to go on? Especially the wetlands one
33 where we probably had a lot less wetland last year. It
34 got so darn dry. I see there's some historical
35 background you can work off of. How long do you plan
36 to do it?

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MS. GEORGETTE: I wish I was more
41 conversant with the details of this than I am, but the
42 gist of it is that they're using a lot of imagery to
43 try to quantify that change. The fieldwork for the
44 NDVI is done. The fieldwork for the wetlands -- this
45 is terrible. I believe there's still some of that that
46 we're doing, but it's fairly short.

47
48 The fieldwork is just kind of a one
49 shot. It's not right now set up as a study where we're
50

1 going to be continuing to go out and get new data on
2 the ground, but this is a point comparison between here
3 and historical imagery to try to quantify what's
4 changed between then and now.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I have one
7 quick questions for you. The walrus. Have you guys
8 got any reports on them and did you monitor them this
9 last summer with all this heat and stuff? I know they
10 moved further south.

11
12 MS. GEORGETTE: They did. We did see
13 them some at Cape Greig though not as much. And we
14 didn't get down as far as Seniavin very much, but the
15 pattern seemed a little bit different with the movement
16 south. This year I don't have a lot of reports yet
17 this year.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm just
20 kind of worried about them little buggers with all that
21 heat.

22
23 MS. GEORGETTE: Me too.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anything
26 else?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

31
32 MR. LIND: Good morning. Orville Lind,
33 OSM.

34
35 Mr. Maines, are you online yet?

36
37 MR. MAINES: Yes, I am.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome,
40 Billy. Thanks for taking the time to call in. I know
41 it's difficult to do online, but we certainly
42 appreciate it. Just to get you up to date real quick
43 since you weren't with us when I was explaining things.
44 We're waiting on three of our members to arrive so
45 we'll have a quorum -- or two now. Until then we're
46 going through agency reports.

47
48 We also had some other folks join us
49 here. If you guys wouldn't mind coming up and
50

1 introducing yourself, I'd appreciate it.

2

3 MS. RUPP: Good morning. I apologize
4 for being late and I apologize for making my compatriot
5 be late. I flew in this morning from Anchorage. I
6 couldn't make it last night. Anyway, I'm Liza Rupp. I
7 am the Cultural Resources Program Manager and
8 Subsistence Coordinator for Lake Clark National Park.
9 Thank you very much.

10

11 Again, I'm sorry for being slightly
12 late.

13

14 MR. REAM: Good morning, Madame Chair.
15 Members of the Council. My name is Joshua Ream. My
16 Tlingit name is Xixch'i Toowoo. This is my first
17 Bristol Bay RAC meeting, although I did come to the
18 Park Service last summer and took a job as the Regional
19 Subsistence Program Manager replacing Clarence Summers
20 back in July. He has since retired, but I came over
21 from the Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of
22 Subsistence Management.

23

24 I was a cultural anthropologist there,
25 but I was assigned to the North Slope, the Northwest
26 Arctic and the Seward Peninsula. Now I have much more
27 of a statewide focus and I'm really excited to explore
28 other regions and to work for the Park Service. It's
29 been a really great experience thus far. I'm really
30 enjoying working with all of my colleagues in the
31 various Parks and I thank you for allowing me to be at
32 your meeting today.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome,
37 Josh. Thanks for being here. Okay. Let's keep moving
38 forward. BLM. Do we have a report from BLM? Okay.

39

40 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. I believe Mr.
41 Bruce is from BLM online.

42

43 MR. SEPPI: I'm here. Good morning,
44 everyone. I had intended to be in Naknek, but decided
45 to call in since I couldn't get back out of King Salmon
46 until Friday.

47

48 Anyway, I just wanted to talk a little
49 bit about staff changes. Dan Sharp, I think probably

50

1 many of you know him, retired in October and his
2 position will be replaced. The announcement for that
3 closed February 20th and we hope to have that position
4 filled before too long.

5
6 Also just wanted to let everybody know
7 that BLM has had an interagency agreement with the
8 Togiak Refuge for quite some time to monitor the
9 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. We're putting money into that
10 again this year. I think that will be especially
11 important since the herd is in such decline.

12
13 Also our Ranger Walker Gussy, our pilot
14 ranger, has been working out of Dillingham and Bethel
15 doing law enforcement with Fish and Wildlife Service
16 for the Mulchatna Herd this late winter and hopes to do
17 that some more as the season goes on here.

18
19 That's really all I have. Any
20 questions I can take too.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you for your
23 report. This is Dan Dunaway from Dillingham. I'm
24 super appreciative of the close coordination that BLM,
25 Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Game are doing on
26 caribou work over there. It's really great to see that
27 they work together. We need to as this herd is looking
28 really poor.

29
30 I would be very interested to hear if
31 your enforcement pilot has -- what they've seen.
32 Though I did talk to Chris Peterson yesterday and it
33 sounds like people are behaving themselves pretty well
34 out there. Anyway, thank you very much for the efforts
35 and the coordination.

36
37 MR. SEPPI: You bet. We intend to.
38 We've been doing that for quite some time and we intend
39 to continue. Thanks.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
42 Bruce. We appreciate your update very much. Also
43 please give Dan our best. He's worked hard for the
44 Council in past years and we certainly have appreciated
45 all he's done for us. Make sure he knows that, please.

46
47 MR. SEPPI: You bet.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

50

1 National Park Service, Lake Clark. By the way, you're
2 forgiven. We know how it is out here, so we appreciate
3 you being here.

4
5 MS. RUPP: Thank you, Madame Chair.
6 Again, for the record, Liza Rupp, Lake Clark Cultural
7 Resources Program Manager and Subsistence Coordinator.
8 What I've handed out is just a summary of all the
9 different projects, all the different divisions in the
10 Park will be working on this coming summer.

11
12 To begin with we have two
13 subsistence-related research projects listed here and
14 then one more that isn't listed here. We're hoping
15 this summer to enter into a cooperative agreement with
16 ADF&G to conduct a community harvest survey of Port
17 Alsworth. None of our resident zoned communities have
18 been surveyed since 2004, I think, so we are way
19 overdue.

20
21 Port Alsworth is an area that has
22 experienced a lot of demographic changes over the last
23 16 years, so we're interested to see how things have
24 changed and who is harvesting what and how the
25 community is using that. We're waiting to get approval
26 from Washington to enter into that agreement. The
27 money is there, so hopefully that will all move
28 through.

29
30 Otherwise, the other two projects are
31 continuing from last year. We're looking at beavers.
32 Our SRC wanted to know how beavers might be affecting
33 water quality and salmon habitat since there are many
34 fewer people trapping them nowadays in the Lake Clark
35 region. We're doing a combination of aerial surveys as
36 well as water quality assessments to see what we can
37 discern from that.

38
39 My colleague, Karen Evanoff, our
40 cultural anthropologist, has been working with her
41 counterpart at Denali to do a cross-community project
42 with Nikolai and Nondalton residents talking about
43 transference of subsistence knowledge between elders
44 and youth and between the communities. In Nikolai they
45 have moose camp where Nondalton has fish camp, so
46 they've brought elders to see.

47
48 So those are some of the highlights.
49 We are also helping with the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.
50

1 We helped with the photo census every summer, so we did
2 that last summer certainly for the part of the herd
3 that traditionally has come into the Park although many
4 fewer of them coming into the Park these days, but we
5 still help with that.

6
7 Then I do have one item although it
8 will require a quorum, so maybe we can come back to it.
9 We have one of our SRC members, Thomas Hedlund, is up
10 for renewal, so I sent a letter. I hope you received
11 it. So maybe later once you have a quorum we could
12 come back to that so that you could vote on
13 re-appointing him to the council.

14
15 I realize I just handed this out to
16 you, but if you have any questions I'm happy to answer.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
19 Yes, I did see that in your letter and we're obviously
20 -- or at least I'm excited to know that Tinny will be
21 back on board or I will certainly hope that we will
22 accept him back on board.

23
24 Did anybody have any questions for --
25 go ahead.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: You're saying beaver and
28 water quality. I'm thinking especially this last
29 summer, would the beaver actually be a good thing for
30 holding water? I also noticed in my stream survey days
31 that beaver dams are a lot more porous than people
32 realize. I was always amazed how -- either that or
33 some of those fish have climbing gear and I would find
34 them way back in there.

35
36 What were they thinking would happen
37 with water quality? I'm just curious.

38
39 MS. RUPP: So I think they're just --
40 so there's certain areas where the beavers have really
41 concentrated. One of our biggest cultural sites,
42 Kvichak, which is a National Historic Landmark, has
43 been actually rather negatively impacted by this
44 because they've dammed up this whole -- they used to be
45 fish ponds and they probably could still be fish ponds,
46 but now its inundated a lot of the pit houses, the
47 remnants of the settlement, because it's just sort of
48 flooded that whole area.

49
50

1 I think there's just concern amongst
2 people about whether the fish are making it up there.
3 We certainly do fish counts and we've been doing a lot
4 of EDNA work with our water because it's a nice way.
5 You don't actually have to see things to see whether or
6 not they've actually been there. I think they're just
7 going to be testing.

8
9 I actually don't know all of the
10 metrics they're going to be looking at, but I think
11 they're just going to be seeing what's using these
12 areas behind the dams and how many -- they did an
13 aerial survey last fall to see how many active dams
14 there are and food caches and compare that to historic
15 numbers because we do have some surveys from back in
16 the '90s and early 2000s.

17
18 So I can't actually answer your
19 question on what the metrics are that they're looking
20 at. I can certainly find that information out though.
21 If you would like me to, I am happy to pass it along.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'd actually
24 appreciate that. Also you mentioned the EDNA. I just
25 was down in Juneau in January and met Dr. Navarro where
26 I think they kind of began this. What I understand
27 it's environmental DNA where they sample water and they
28 can kind of count how many fish are there or something.
29 I didn't know it was becoming already somewhat in use.
30 Could you elaborate a little bit more on that for all
31 of us.

32
33 MS. RUPP: Sort of. I am an
34 archaeologist, not a biologist. My knowledge -- I
35 don't know if anyone from Katmai might be able to come
36 to my assistance. I know that the -- certainly in Lake
37 Clark we have been doing that specifically for elodea
38 is one thing we've been using it for over the last few
39 years because that's -- again, when you're doing the
40 rate samples, the chances of catching, you know -- I
41 mean if there is a large concentration, you'll probably
42 see it, but again if you're just looking for the
43 initial, you know, infection so to speak, the EDNA I
44 think they've said is probably a much better way of
45 doing it.

46
47 So I'm going to turn this over to Troy
48 before I say something that's totally not scientific.

49
50

1 (Laughter)

2
3 MR. HAMON: Members of the Council.
4 Madame Chairman. My name is Troy Hamon with the
5 National Park Service. I'm also not an expert on the
6 EDNA. I will say that she's characterized it fairly
7 well. The microscopic nature of the world that can be
8 pulled out of a sample is fairly extensive and
9 incredible. If you have a very species-specific marker
10 that you can look for, you can find a record of what's
11 left in the jeans of the animals, plants,
12 microorganisms that are in that environment.

13
14 They've done a lot of work on trying to
15 do that. We all share a lot of common genetics across
16 the entire animal kingdom for example, so they have to
17 be very specific. We're at a point now where there are
18 people who know this stuff really well, like Liza and
19 I, and they have done that very successfully.

20
21 The affordability of the sampling and
22 the testing is improving as we go. So our ability to
23 do these things is improving rapidly. Mostly it's been
24 limited to items of major concern at this point because
25 it's kind of a developing field and it's a developing
26 process for us as managers, but it is something that's
27 been giving us tools we didn't have before.

28
29 Especially this is a benefit in the
30 aquatic realm that we haven't figured out how to do
31 this kind of work in a terrestrial realm where there's
32 not an entire body of solution that carries this stuff
33 around. I know that they've been using it for elodea.
34 I don't know what else. Lake Clark and Wrangell, I
35 think, have been two of the leaders on this stuff.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Thanks for that. That's
38 kind of exciting because I hadn't even thought of
39 elodea. I know, Troy, you were the first one who told
40 me about it years ago that you're concerned. It's
41 fascinating. I've been hiking around in streams near
42 Dillingham and adding to the anadromous stream
43 catalogue from visually capturing or seeing fish in
44 places that weren't recorded yet myself. I'm kind of
45 excited to see you using that and keep us posted on it
46 in the future.

47
48 While I have the mic I want to also --
49 I'm in text contact with Lauren Watine of Fish and Game
50

1 in Dillingham. She is dialed in now, so if we have
2 question for her or when it comes time for her report,
3 she's listening in.
4

5 One last thing. I want to welcome Paul
6 Boskoffsky back there who came in as our public. Thank
7 you very much. Stuff is really interesting. Again,
8 interagency coordination on Mulchatna. Much
9 appreciated.
10

11 Thank you.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I've got one
14 more thing for you, Liza. Do we have any more new
15 reports on the mercury levels in Iliamna that we were
16 worried about?
17

18 MS. RUPP: I don't think so. If you
19 look on the third page, there's mercury in like food
20 webs that the Southwest Alaska Inventory & Monitoring
21 Network, otherwise known as SWAN, they are
22 starting a new project on that. I don't think we have
23 any updates from a couple years ago, but we will
24 obviously have new updates in the future.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
27 guess I lied because I actually have two questions.
28 Also, did we ever decide what the big bird kill-off was
29 caused by or do we have any more suppositions on what
30 that was surrounding?
31

32 MS. RUPP: So I know that Krista Bartz
33 published an article recently about that. There's
34 actually I think a story map. I'm not sure who's
35 hosting that. One of those online GIS-based story maps
36 about the die-off. My understanding is that it is --
37 again, it's food related. I can certainly get you -- I
38 don't have the article name in my head, but I think it
39 was in -- I don't know where that was published.
40 Anyway, it is available and I'm happy to get you --
41 send a copy through the coordinator so you guys could
42 read it from the scientist.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No,
45 absolutely, I appreciate that. I was assuming that
46 perhaps at least you would know where to point us, but
47 I think it would be of interest to all of us since we
48 followed that pretty closely when it first was
49 happening. If we could get that distributed, that
50

1 would be appreciated.

2

3 MS. RUPP: Yes, I'll certainly do that.
4 I'm sorry I don't have the citation in my head.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody else
7 have any questions.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
12 very much, Liza. Katmai, are you guys ready?

13

14 MR. STURM: Good morning, Madame Chair
15 and distinguished Council members. Again, Mark Sturm,
16 superintendent of Katmai National Park and Preserve,
17 Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve and the
18 Alagnak.

19

20 MS. CHISHOLM: Good morning, Madame
21 Chair and Council members. For the record my name is
22 Linda Chisholm and I am the Cultural Resource Program
23 Manager and Subsistence Coordinator for Katmai,
24 Aniakchak and Alagnak. I have two topics to share with
25 you this morning.

26

27 The first one is to provide an update
28 from the Aniakchak SRC on ptarmigan and Alaska hare
29 numbers from down in the 9E region. Folks down in
30 Aniakchak are reporting that ptarmigan numbers are
31 slightly up from what they had noticed in previous
32 years. Basically from what they could see ptarmigan
33 had been almost impossible to identify in terms of
34 seeing any numbers of birds, but this last fall they're
35 starting to see more.

36

37 We also had a discussion on Alaska
38 hares and Snowshoe hares. First, to make sure people
39 were confident in distinguishing between the two
40 species. Basically neither are in great numbers down
41 in 9E.

42

43 There's also concern for marine debris
44 that's washing ashore in the Port Heiden area. Members
45 also noted shearwater die-off in the Bristol Bay area
46 of Port Heiden as well.

47

48 If there aren't any questions, I'll go
49 on to my second topic.

50

1 MR. WILSON: That shearwater die-off,
2 is that just recently here through the winter months?

3
4 MS. CHISHOLM: No, that was from last
5 summer.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We're
8 talking large numbers of them or was it just an
9 abnormal?

10
11 MS. CHISHOLM: Well, anecdotally
12 speaking, it was abnormal for folks to see at least --
13 I don't want to overstate the numbers, but in the
14 hundreds.

15
16 MR. WILSON: One more thought there.
17 Basically their food sources is how close to the
18 surface. That must be what their problem is, right?
19 They just can't get at the food source. The food
20 source is down a little further. Is that kind of what
21 we're guessing at here?

22
23 MS. CHISHOLM: Well, like Liza said
24 earlier, I'm an archaeologist, not a biologist.....

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MS. CHISHOLM:but that is my
29 understanding that I have also heard is that it is a
30 scarcity of food for the shearwater.

31
32 MR. STURM: I'll just add on to what
33 Linda just said. That is correct and the paper that
34 Liza cited does have some more scientific information
35 that kind of summarizes the state of knowledge around
36 the issue surrounding shorebird mortality. We will be
37 absolutely able to get that article available to the
38 Council in a timely manner.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan, go
41 ahead.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: Linda, thanks. Is the
44 Park also involved in this Alaska hare tagging project?
45 I know there's some efforts to do that over near
46 Dillingham. I was just curious. We hear more and more
47 talk about Alaska hares. I hear some old-timers saying
48 they used to know where they could get a lot of them.
49 Now people are saying they're very rare.

50

1 MS. CHISHOLM: Mr. Dunaway, not to my
2 knowledge. I'll look at Mark.

3
4 MR. STURM: We are part of that
5 conversation and I think if there are known occurrences
6 in the Park, we would be participating in that. Yeah,
7 actively we have not only because there hasn't been any
8 detections.

9
10 MS. CHISHOLM: My second item is to
11 share some updates on the Pelagia Melgenak Monument.
12 This is a long time coming, but the Park is working
13 with the family, the heirs of Pelagia Melgenak to
14 produce a bronze bust based on historic photos of
15 Pelagia.

16
17 Pelagia Melgenak is a very familiar
18 name for many of us here in Bristol Bay. She lived at
19 Old Savonoski, which was one of the historic villages
20 that was inundated with ash after the 1912 Novarupta
21 event and she maintained her subsistence lifestyle at
22 Qit'rwik, which is the indigenous name for Brooks Camp.

23
24 Darlene Lind designed the bust and it
25 is preparing to go in production in Seattle. We hope
26 to have Pelagia on her way back home to Alaska in May.
27 We'll be working with the family to produce an
28 appropriate exhibit in history to tell her story.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's very
31 cool.

32
33 MR. WILSON: Yes, it is.

34
35 MR. STURM: Okay. I have some
36 additional announcements. If I could ask our law
37 enforcement program manager to come on up with me,
38 please. Would you mind introducing yourself, sir.

39
40 MR. LUX: Madame Chair, members of the
41 Council. Jason Lux. I serve as the senior law
42 enforcement officer and chief ranger for Katmai,
43 Alagnak and Aniakchak.

44
45 MR. STURM: Thank you. My first topic
46 relates to the red fish fishery that occurs each
47 October. I guess we just have a number of points I'd
48 like to highlight.

49
50

1 The National Park Service seasonal law
2 enforcement ranger contacted an Alaska Native family
3 who was engaged in their legal right to fish for red
4 fish near the mouth of the Brooks River last year.
5 Although the contact was brief and the ranger's error
6 in conducting this contact was recognized and corrected
7 promptly by other staff, it was nonetheless improper
8 and was inconsistent with the training our law
9 enforcement seasonal rangers receive during the
10 spring.

11
12 Katmai National Park and Preserve
13 wishes to publicly apologize to the qualified red
14 fishing community and in particular to the individuals
15 that were involved in this incident. Katmai National
16 Park and Preserve further wishes to emphasize that we
17 are taking this incident seriously and are working to
18 ensure that such incidents do not reoccur in the
19 future.

20
21 In this spirit the Park is available to
22 work with any and all concerned stakeholders who may
23 have concerns regarding this incident and wish to see
24 them addressed.

25
26 We thought that this warranted being
27 brought to the Bristol Bay RAC's attention.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
30 I definitely think that it's worthy bringing it to our
31 attention. I appreciate you acknowledging it as well.

32
33 Go ahead.

34
35 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 Thanks, Mark. I think we've come quite a ways actually
37 in this whole -- you know, with this process because
38 being able to access the fall fish up in there. I
39 appreciate the quick response. I know that community
40 members here now feel more at ease about going up and
41 getting red fish in the fall there. It's been quite an
42 improvement. Any public notices you can give there I
43 think it just kind of assures everybody that we're good
44 to go.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
47 Orville.

48
49 MR. LIND: Again, Orville Lind, OSM
50

1 Native Liaison. I wanted to share some information and
2 I love doing this presentation. A couple months ago I
3 was in Tallahassee Florida where I gave a presentation
4 of village protocol and Alaska styles of communication.
5 It went over really well, so they've asked me to come
6 back to the law enforcement happening where Josh is
7 going to attend in April doing the same presentation.

8
9 I'm just going to say I'd like to offer
10 my presentation to the Parks Service or whoever would
11 like to have it. It's a lot of fun. It talks about
12 diversity in cultures, which is everywhere. Just the
13 dos and don'ts when you prepare to come to a community,
14 a community meeting, talk to village councils. It's
15 very simple and I enjoy doing it. I'm available. Give
16 me a holler.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
21 Orville. I think that's very generous of you and it's
22 probably a great idea. Also before I forget I'm not
23 sure who was planning on picking up the folks coming
24 in. They're not here yet, but they're leaving now.

25
26 MR. STURM: Thank you, Mr. Wilson, for
27 your comments. I think the spirit of your comments are
28 exactly what the Park Service is hoping to achieve.
29 Obviously we have some work to do to fix some things
30 and we're trying to do just that. We just need to make
31 sure that our staff are properly trained and conduct
32 their contacts in a manner consistent with the spirit
33 of what you just described.

34
35 Similarly, Mr. Lind, thank you for that
36 generous offer. We will be taking you up on it. I
37 think we'll look forward to that training. Absolutely.

38
39 Are there any other questions about
40 that topic.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MR. STURM: All right. The next topic
45 are some Katmai National Park and Preserve compendium
46 updates. We were contacted by the Bristol Bay RAC and
47 asked to allow for comments to be submitted after a
48 comment period that had closed on February 15th. We
49 have verbally agreed that the RAC may submit their
50

1 comments by the 15th of March. We would ask that any
2 comments that the Bristol Bay RAC has would be
3 submitted to us by the 15th of March.
4

5 In that regard I guess I just want to
6 highlight that visitation to Katmai National Park and
7 Preserve has greatly increased over the past decade.
8 We are seeing more than double the historic levels of
9 visitation. In particular, this is occurring at Brooks
10 Camp. This is certainly creating some management
11 challenges for us both in receiving that additional
12 visitation and also some of the issues that that
13 additional visitation is creating.
14

15 Of immediate concern are changes in the
16 number and types of visitors who have been utilizing
17 the areas along the Brooks River. We see some guests
18 that perhaps they see other people in the river and
19 they go and expose themselves to unsafe situations and
20 this is a cause for concern, just the frequency of
21 exposure to those types of incidents is something that
22 we're trying to be responsive to.
23

24 I guess many current users of the river
25 are not properly prepared to do so and are frequently
26 again just not reading the bear presence and the
27 potential for danger and hazard properly and are
28 getting themselves in close proximity. Just something
29 that the park Service cannot ignore.
30

31 This winter we have proposed to
32 establish a permitting system in the Brooke River
33 corridor essentially requiring individuals that propose
34 to go into the river corridor to obtain a Park Service
35 permit. At the time of receiving the permit review
36 expected behaviors and proper bear etiquette and those
37 types of things and correspondingly be issued that
38 permit and be allowed to go about their day.
39

40 This does two things for us. It allows
41 us to kind of contact each individual that proposes to
42 go into the river and essentially have a conversation
43 with them. Most folks either have professional guides
44 that they're going into the river with or they are long
45 time users of the Brooks River, but that's not
46 everybody. So this gives us a chance to find those
47 folks that maybe aren't properly -- don't have the
48 proper knowledge or aren't properly prepared to go into
49 the river and have a conversation about what they're
50

1 proposing to do.

2

3 Secondarily, if someone is behaving
4 improperly in the river and putting themselves at risk
5 and causing my staff to have to respond to that
6 situation, it gives us the ability to take that permit
7 away and ask them to leave the river corridor.

8

9 Over the long term, the last thing I
10 will say about this before I'll open it up for
11 questions is that the Park Service is hoping to begin a
12 visitor use management plan. We're starting that
13 process. It will over the long term develop a plan
14 that will identify appropriate levels of use and types
15 of use for the river corridor. It will be something
16 that will be a very open and transparent process and
17 will take years to work through.

18

19 Ultimately it may help us more
20 effectively manage river use in a manner that's
21 consistent with the businesses and other individuals
22 that have historically come to use the river. This
23 permitting process is kind of a one size fits all kind
24 of approach that we are legally allowed to do under
25 existing regulation and it does help us to address some
26 of the underlying issues that I described previously
27 immediately.

28

29 With that I will take any questions.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
32 Richard.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Madame Chair. If
35 we can get an update on the mishap a couple years ago
36 on that trail, the road, please.

37

38 MR. STURM: Absolutely. We have been
39 in consultation with our Alaska Native partners and are
40 very close to having an agreement. We are to a point
41 this winter where we are asking the corresponding
42 interested counterparts to sign a programmatic
43 agreement that would allow us to begin to pick up the
44 road and develop a plan for what would come next. What
45 type of restoration activities would be appropriate.

46

47 There is also some discussion that I
48 think the Park Service is very much supportive of of
49 developing some interpretive content and taking this

50

1 negative incident and trying to make it into as
2 positive an outcome as possible. We're hoping to have
3 this agreement signed this winter and be able to do the
4 actual picking up of the unplanned road this coming
5 late summer, fall.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
10 Just for the Council members that are present and
11 online, I don't know if anybody else had contacted Mark
12 about the changes that he's proposing up at Brooks, but
13 I had personally as well and I appreciate you bringing
14 that forward and allowing us this leeway as Council
15 members.

16

17 I don't know necessarily that we or you
18 I should say are going to want to make -- I feel like I
19 almost need to recluse myself from it because my
20 situation is involved in a very intimate manner with my
21 business. I just felt like everybody else here should
22 be aware of it because it will affect your visit to the
23 Park in a very different manner than it's going to
24 affect my business.

25

26 Anyway, I just wanted to give a quick
27 explanation for those of you that are here so that you
28 knew why that was being brought forward because it is
29 going to change the way when you visit the Park that
30 you will be visiting the Park.

31

32 Go ahead.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 Yeah, I saw some news items and I was distracted with
36 other things. I guess acknowledging that you've got a
37 lot more folks going up there. I'm infrequently over
38 there. I think I'm immediately concerned about our fly
39 fishing academy where we popped in there, we got our
40 bear talk, we went fishing pretty quick.

41

42 So that's not been adequate? Now I've
43 heard some clown was trying to walk out on the falls.
44 I think if you left a few skeletons out there maybe you
45 wouldn't need more signs.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Where do I go to find

50

1 what's proposed? I read briefly in the newspaper and I
2 haven't followed it since.

3

4 MR. STURM: So we issued a press
5 release that we could share with you that would kind of
6 articulate the situation we're trying to address and
7 how we propose to address it. Also we'd be happy at
8 any break to talk to you at length about kind of what
9 our situation is.

10

11 Another element of what we would -- you
12 know, essentially we do have regulations that allow us
13 to do this. This is a permitting system. It's a type
14 of closure you can't go in until you have the permit.
15 Our intent is not to not issue permits. If someone is
16 insistent upon going, we will issue that permit, but if
17 they're not behaving properly, we will take that permit
18 away.

19

20 The second thing is it is possible that
21 we will also be intending to close certain reaches of
22 the river if there's a particular reason why. There
23 are some cultural resources of concern that we expect
24 to have a closure in place to protect those resources.
25 If there are other things that would cause us to close
26 a particular reach of river, it would also be part of
27 this process, but it would only go on so long as the
28 incident that's causing the concern is going on and
29 then we would open it.

30

31 I think there's a description about how
32 we do this already on trails where there's a sow that
33 has some cubs treed or something and we close that
34 trail for that period of time. Those kinds of things
35 we need to be able to do.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think I'll
38 kind of step off the path here too because Mark has to
39 be so polite. Basically, I mean you have things
40 happening like people that are really incapable of full
41 movement, whether it's due to age or physical
42 restrictions, in the river with bears moving towards
43 them and they're unable to move away from the bears
44 safely.

45

46 You have people wandering along the
47 river banks looking at bears with bears coming behind
48 them. They don't even have waders on and they've got
49 to cross the river in order to maintain distance from
50

1 bears. You have all these crazy things that Alaskans
2 would not be guilty of are happening up there because
3 we have so many visitors coming.

4

5 So if that gives you a better visual in
6 your mind about what's happening and what he's trying
7 to overcome, then good. That was the purpose.

8

9 Go ahead.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I did have
12 an opportunity after their proposed meeting there. It
13 just was at a time where I think community and things
14 were doing other things. So it didn't really go off
15 that well, but I did have an opportunity to come up and
16 stop and just personally visit them and see if anything
17 had come of it. It was a good time.

18

19 Thanks.

20

21 MR. STURM: Along those lines, Mr.
22 Wilson, our public meeting was scheduled on Valentine's
23 Day at about dinnertime. We won't be doing that
24 anymore. We figured that out way too late.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's why
29 you didn't see me there. My husband was like, no,
30 you're not.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. STURM: Yeah, that was a mistake.
35 Are there any other questions about this topic?

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MR. STURM: A couple other topics just
40 regarding Lake Camp which, for those of you that aren't
41 local here, it's just an area of access to the Naknek
42 River and lake system. It's within the Park. It's
43 drivable from here. We are proposing to expand the day
44 limit for parking in the Lake Camp area. Currently
45 it's limited to three days, to 14 days. We think that
46 this might accommodate certain types of users that like
47 to access the Park. We like people to come into Katmai
48 and enjoy it.

49

50

1 We're hoping that it won't cause
2 problems with congestion or space issues. We will be
3 watching that. But we are going to try it for 14 days
4 this year and hopefully it will be something that we
5 can adopt and institutionalize long term. So going
6 from 3 days to 14 days.
7

8 Then lastly you will notice that the
9 Park is intending to conduct some vegetation management
10 locally there at Lake Camp. We intend to cut down some
11 of the alders that have grown up. Hopefully that will
12 impact some of the bugs that attack you when you show
13 up out there. So we're going to be doing that this
14 spring.
15

16 MR. WILSON: What about all the
17 dead-fall up in the Park?
18

19 MR. STURM: We do have a considerable
20 amount of beetle kill in certain areas of the Park. We
21 are having discussions about doing some hazard tree
22 removal. I guess we're trying to get to a point where
23 we have a plan and just doing the plan. These things
24 take time.
25

26 If you're talking more expansively,
27 essentially hazard tree removal is where people are.
28 We try to remove those hazards by cutting down trees
29 that might through a wind event or something else fall
30 and cross where people are. But if we're talking a
31 much larger scale, we don't have any plans to address a
32 larger scale removal of those types of materials.
33

34 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I was kind of
35 referring to just the visit area there at Brooks
36 because the last visit there was a lot of dead trees
37 happening there because of the beetles and that. I was
38 just curious if anything else had come of that.
39

40 Thanks.
41

42 MR. STURM: Thank you. I think we have
43 just a couple more announcements if it's okay.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, Dan.
46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: Just a couple quick
48 things. I was around here before that Lake Camp
49 facility and it's sure nice to have it now rather than
50

1 being stuck in the bogs and no trespassing. I'm glad
2 to see you working to accommodate folks.

3
4 Richard has mentioned dead-fall and
5 beetle kill. I have to say that back in the early '90s
6 I visited Brooks and it was beautiful moss-draped
7 trees. The last time I went about three years ago I
8 was stunned. Flying over into there the amount of
9 beetle kill throughout the Park and then the whole
10 trail to Brooks and up the river was totally different.
11 I guess you really can't do anything about it, but what
12 a dramatic change just in my time here.

13
14 Again, thanks for the accommodation.
15 You probably can't do much, just let nature happen, as
16 far as the trees. It sure changed.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MR. STURM: Thank you, Mr. Dunaway. It
21 absolutely has changed even in my short time here in
22 the Park. We are trying to improve line of sight so
23 that people that are on our trail system do have the
24 visibility. That sunlight getting down into the
25 understory is causing vegetation to just kind of grow
26 much more robustly. So we are actively managing our
27 trail systems more so than we used to when there was a
28 closed canopy above.

29
30 It's just part of the nature of the
31 business, I guess.

32
33 Mr. Hamon, could you come up. Thanks,
34 Jason.

35
36 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair. Members of
37 the Council. Again, for the record, Troy Hamon with
38 the National Park Service. Follow up on a couple
39 items. I'm sorry I didn't have good enough
40 connectivity to get it while people were talking, but I
41 did look up the bird mortality events. Like I'm aware
42 of them, but I wanted to make sure what you were asking
43 for.

44
45 The two major ones, the 2014 to 2016
46 die-off was a murre die-off and the recently published
47 paper in PLOS, Public Library of Science, an online
48 journal. We can get you that citation or even a PDF of
49 it. It's open access. The results of that indicate
50

1 that that massive die-off of murre throughout the
2 North Pacific and especially the Bering Sea was
3 primarily due to temperature, heat.

4
5 This summer, the shearwater die-off
6 that has been reported, there were thousands reported
7 in the news releases and including right here in
8 Bristol Bay, including right here on Naknek Beach, that
9 is also a Bering and Chukchi Sea wide event. We don't
10 have a larger scale longer view of the data yet, but
11 the initial necropsy reports indicate starvation as a
12 primary cause of death, but whether or not in a larger
13 analysis that will be tied to something like climate or
14 temperature effects is something we won't know for a
15 while.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
18 Richard.

19
20 MR. WILSON: It's always puzzled me.
21 Here we are out in the bay here. We're still fishing.
22 It's like almost fall season. You see a lot of these
23 birds, these shearwaters can't fly anymore and they're
24 dying off on the beaches and you go, man, here we are
25 just after a salmon season and it just struck me as
26 different. It's happened for a couple years in a row
27 now and quite a few. You just drive by them and they
28 can't fly anymore and they barely move out of your way.
29 Here it is still summer and there's fish around. That
30 was always puzzling.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan, did you
33 have something?

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: No.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Go
38 ahead.

39
40 MR. HAMON: A couple other updates for
41 -- well, maybe I'll just add to what Mark was saying.
42 One of the things about the change in vegetation. Not
43 only are we clearing sight lines, but something we've
44 been doing on and off for the last decade, which we
45 never had to do before, is we actually clear vegetation
46 on bear trails away from the main trails because the
47 vegetation understory.

48
49 As the trees started to fall, it became
50

1 so difficult to walk through the forest that the bears
2 wouldn't leave the human trails if we didn't give them
3 a way to get off of them. Every time you see a bear
4 trail that's leaving a human trail, we've had people
5 with equipment back that trail and making sure that it
6 goes far enough that they can actually leave the human
7 trail. So that's not something we used to worry about.

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: I destroyed my waders in
10 one visit

11
12 MR. HAMON: Yeah, it's rough country
13 back in there if you don't have a way to get through
14 it. A couple things. We talked about moose surveys
15 coming up during the fall meeting. The weather and the
16 conditions were such that we did get a few moose
17 studies done. I don't have any results in hand for
18 that. We hand those over to the State.

19
20 We only got a couple of our areas done,
21 but the State is the coordinating manager of all that
22 data and I haven't had a chance to visit with Dave or
23 Chris about it. We didn't notice anything remarkable
24 in terms of large or small counts in the areas that we
25 did count. They were fairly normal. The only ones we
26 got to were the ones close to here. We didn't get to
27 the southern ones this go around.

28
29 So that's not a whole lot of news about
30 moose, but do you have questions about moose before I
31 move on?

32
33 MR. WILSON: You say close to here. Is
34 that 9C or 9B?

35
36 MR. HAMON: The areas that we counted
37 were the Angle/Takayofu Drainage and the Park border.
38 So Angle/Takayofu is the very upper headlands of the
39 King Salmon River where it comes out of the Park before
40 it turns into the King Salmon River and the Park border
41 area is that area just to the east of Big Creek from
42 what amounts to the very upper end of Big Creek north
43 to the south shore of Naknek Lake and the Alagnak
44 River, Branch River Trend Area we call it, which
45 basically runs from the outlets of Nonvianuk and
46 Kukaklek Lakes down to just about the braids near where
47 the Alagnak Wilderness Camps Lodge is.

48
49 So those are the areas we managed to
50

1 get to this year. Again, each of those areas is
2 usually in the 100 to 150 and they were all kind of in
3 that range as far as overall counts.
4

5 MR. WILSON: Along with that I'm kind
6 of curious. Any noticeable predation the wolf
7 population along with that? Since we had snow cover
8 you should have been able to kind of get a handle on
9 some of that too.
10

11 MR. HAMON: I wasn't the one flying the
12 surveys this year, so I don't know the answer to that.
13 Despite the fact that we're flying at the right time of
14 year and we have the cover, it is not common for us to
15 see more than one wolf sighting on a set of five days
16 of surveying. So it's hard for us to make a statement
17 about wolf activity unless it's substantially higher
18 than that. I will check with the pilot. I didn't hear
19 them comment on it when they came back, so I'm not
20 sure, but I don't have any indication that it was
21 noteworthy.
22

23 MR. WILSON: We'll probably have that
24 report this fall then more than likely, correct?
25

26 MR. HAMON: Yeah, we'll be able to pull
27 together kind of where the -- we'll be able to look at
28 the data and have a more cohesive report for you about
29 what we've come across over the last couple years.
30 We've been very much trying to work on bear data, so
31 our moose data is in collection but it's not been in
32 analysis because there hasn't been anything super
33 noteworthy about it.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
36

37 MR. HAMON: A couple things about
38 caribou. We're not a primary agency managing any of
39 the major herds. We're kind of at the edge of the
40 Mulchatna range. We're kind of at the edge of the
41 Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd range, so we often don't
42 spend a lot of time talking about caribou.
43

44 There is a couple things I did want to
45 visit with you guys though. One is as the Mulchatna
46 Herd reached a critical point in the issue to State
47 closure on the hunt and then the Federal system
48 initiated a closure, that action was managed by Togiak.
49 They're kind of the primary and they're a little less
50

1 familiar with the organization of 9C. So the statement
2 about 9C remainder and 9C and 9C Alagnak, they missed a
3 segment. So 9C Alagnak wasn't initially slated to be
4 closed. Not because it wasn't supposed to be. It's
5 just that they missed part of it.

6
7 So there was a follow-up action where
8 they noticed the mistake, called us because we hadn't
9 noticed it either, and initiated the subsequent closure
10 so that the entire Mulchatna Herd is closed. That was
11 the intent of their initial action.

12
13 The reason I mention that sequence of
14 events is because during that pattern of events the
15 Iliamna Advisory Committee requested that I call in and
16 I was part of their meeting. As they were trying to
17 understand what's open and what's closed and I was
18 explaining that it was all going to be closed, they
19 were asking about special opportunities or whether
20 there could be special opportunities on caribou up in
21 Katmai Preserve.

22
23 So a very short background. There is a
24 group of caribou that lives in the Preserve. That
25 group of caribou is not collared, it's not counted,
26 it's not got any composition data. We know it's there
27 because we come across it and if I know that I'm going
28 across certain areas of it, I can go find a few
29 caribou.

30
31 The most I've ever seen is probably
32 150-ish, so we assume there might be 200. Sometimes
33 you can't find more than 20. Sometimes you can only
34 find two. So in response to that question what we
35 told them was that we don't have the data to manage a
36 hunt on a caribou aggregation that small. I don't know
37 that we could call it a herd. It doesn't mean that we
38 couldn't try to do that, but I visited with the State
39 and Dave and Chris both feel like it's not feasible to
40 manage in terms of caribou for that small of a
41 population.

42
43 So if we were to try to follow through
44 on that, it would be something we'd need to take on
45 entirely within the agency. We're not necessarily set
46 up to do anything quickly even if it was manageable.
47 We would need to have a sense of whether the herd is
48 productive. In the case of caribou, it's not the case
49 that it's easy or reasonable to assume you can do a

50

1 bulls only harvest, so you can't just try to manage it
2 that way. You have to have an actual growing
3 population or surplus production to authorize a hunt.
4

5 The individual that was asking the
6 questions is familiar to the Council. It was Mr.
7 Alvarez. So I wanted to make sure that the Council is
8 familiar with his request and we are not discounting
9 it. We're not ready to do it and I fear that by the
10 time we had the data we'd be a couple years down the
11 road, but we are willing to go try to see what we can
12 learn about the group. At this point we're not in
13 possession of enough information to carry anything out.
14

15 MR. WILSON: Yeah, that's been a
16 conversation of ours for quite a while, that herd
17 there. First question, is it considered part of the
18 Mulchatna Herd?
19

20 MR. HAMON: Groups of caribou like that
21 as far as management they are considered a part of
22 whatever herd they fall into, but I don't know if you
23 had a collar on them whether or not there is really a
24 whole lot of mixing. I don't know if they came from
25 the Mulchatna Herd or if they came from the Northern
26 Peninsula Herd.
27

28 We have other groups that are like that
29 in a couple of places. I know of one on the east side
30 of Katmai Pass that hands out in the Upper Katmai
31 Valley. Sometimes there's five, sometimes 200. I
32 don't know that you'd consider them to be part of a
33 herd, but because they fall into the actual migration
34 range or the 20-year cycle range of Mulchatna Herd they
35 are considered part of the Mulchatna Herd. I think
36 like many other things they're probably their own
37 little separate group, but they're small enough that
38 they don't have a targeted management effort.
39

40 MR. WILSON: Thank you. The reason I
41 ask that is because those communities on that side of
42 the lake that hunt off of that herd, that have in the
43 past, have asked the question is this one open, is this
44 part of the Mulchatna. It's always been as far as I
45 can remember back in the '70s up there trapping it
46 always had a herd there. It doesn't migrate out. It
47 kind of reminds me of the Nushagak Herd where they got
48 their own little area and that's kind of where they
49 stay. So under the closure then is this herd also
50

1 closed?
2

3 MR. HAMON: Yes, they are in the area
4 that is managed as the Mulchatna Herd and it is part of
5 9C and it is closed. They also go into what would be
6 9A and that's also closed is my understanding. I
7 haven't looked at the 9A side.
8

9 The other thing to your point about the
10 Mulchatna Herd coming in there there are times and I
11 have seen in the winter of '99 and the winter of 2000
12 that entire bench between Kukaklek and Nonvianuk like a
13 moving mass of caribou, like the landscape is shifting
14 as you fly over. It's disorienting. That was a long
15 time ago.
16

17 MR. WILSON: This herd has been in a
18 way forgotten about or hasn't been recognized. I don't
19 know what the right verbiage is there. As far as
20 knowing what this herd looks like, its growth, I think
21 it should have some attention just like the rest of the
22 Mulchatna Herd.
23

24 If you're going to treat this herd in
25 openings and closures like the rest of the Mulchatna
26 Herd, then I think it also warrants the same respect to
27 see what's there and what's harvestable and what's not
28 because there are communities there that depend on that
29 herd.
30

31 If it's thriving or declining, you need
32 to know these things so that the people that are
33 harvesting those caribou aren't jeopardizing it or
34 they're able to get the resource that's due them. So I
35 just want to make that clear.
36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
38 Richard.
39

40 Dan.
41

42 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you for
43 bringing it up, Troy and Richard. I'm really glad you
44 had a more complete explanation because if they could
45 get three or four animals could make a nice difference
46 in the winter. Yeah, a little more attention though.
47 That's a lot of money for a small amount of animals. I
48 know you're challenged with that, but I sure appreciate
49 the explanation.
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MR. HAMON: If we're done with caribou,
4 I'll carry on and just follow up with a brief summary
5 of our bear monitoring situation. So we've been doing
6 bear monitoring on salmon streams and we've been doing
7 bear monitoring in coastal meadows. This coincides
8 with the timeframe when the State has recognized
9 declining bear numbers throughout Unit 9 and has
10 changed the sport harvest regulations to restrict them.

11
12 In our stream surveys and our meadow
13 surveys we do not see that within Katmai. If anything,
14 Aniakchak, our counts have been very low for a long
15 time. We don't have a history of counts there as long
16 as Katmai, so we don't know what's normal, but those
17 are increasing. At this point our counts are an
18 anomaly in all of Southwest Alaska. It may be because
19 there's a harvest effect as far as what's being seen
20 elsewhere. We're not seeing a shortage of bears in our
21 management.

22
23 The surveys we do are part of a
24 doctoral dissertation. We're trying to make use of --
25 there's a long record of these surveys. They're not
26 the way statisticians like surveys done, so we have a
27 student that's working on trying to kind of get a
28 handle on how to make use of them in a manner that's a
29 little more broad and a little less anecdotal. But
30 they do provide us a pretty good indication of bear
31 activity on the landscape because if you see a bear,
32 there's at least that many bears.

33
34 We also have a monitoring network that
35 is trying to figure out how to actually do more
36 rigorous statistically robust monitoring. We have
37 historically done a couple of different survey methods
38 here. The last couple were done with land transect
39 surveys. They're very expensive and time consuming.
40 There have been a lot of work from those data trying to
41 refine what they can do with the data so that we spend
42 less money collecting it.

43
44 They're now ready to go again. I
45 assisted with the survey last spring up on the coastal
46 area of Lake Clark. This spring we're going to be in
47 our coastal area in Katmai. We have other areas we'd
48 like to survey. Especially the Preserve where there's
49 a lot of multiple user group interest so that we would

50

1 have the data, but this is a spring bear hunt and we're
2 not going to be surveying bears in a hunted area during
3 a bear hunt. That will be a May effort and we'll use
4 that to see if that's a long-term solution to bear
5 monitoring.
6

7 The advantage of that is the bears are
8 distributed on the landscape and so it is a more
9 landscape statistically kind of -- you can generalize
10 your results across the landscape. The statistical
11 benefit is a budget problem because when the ecological
12 aggregations occur you can fly a lot less and get a lot
13 more actual sightings. We are trying to figure out how
14 to negotiate all of that so that we're using the
15 public's money in a reasonable manner, but this year
16 we'll be doing all three of these methods and hopefully
17 sometime in the next few years we'll coalesce on the
18 best ways to monitor going forward.
19

20 Questions about bears.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I just had a
23 comment I guess more than anything because if somebody
24 would have said that we were losing our bear numbers, I
25 definitely would have challenged that. There's so many
26 more bears now than there was 10 years ago. It's so
27 ridiculous.
28

29 MR. HAMON: I think the only other
30 thing is in relation to Mark's discussion about the
31 activity on the Brooks River. We have been monitoring
32 bears on site in person on both the Brooks River and
33 Marine Creek for a number of years, 20 plus. As a
34 result of that we also have actual counts of people
35 visible on the landscape in those same zones. One of
36 the things that we noticed, we were trying to -- a lot
37 of our challenges in the river have been reported by
38 staff and others as well, but when we were going back
39 and saying what is the actual on-the-ground change.
40

41 What we see from our data the angling
42 activity has been variable but high for a long time.
43 The non-angling activity in the river has gone up
44 remarkably at Brooks Camp and that's part of what we're
45 dealing with and that's what our data show.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I've got one
48 last question for you. Sorry, guys. We didn't hear
49 anything about the Pike Lake Trail and I'm wondering if
50

1 you have an update for us on that.

2

3 MR. HAMON: I'd be happy to tell you
4 what I can. I guess we have been waiting for guidance
5 from the region and from Washington about how to
6 proceed with that project as it relates to wilderness
7 management. The area in question is all eligible
8 wilderness. We anticipated having that guidance issued
9 and be able to kind of move forward with that project
10 back last August.

11

12 Unfortunately, times such as they are,
13 we haven't seen it and it's an election year and I
14 don't think we're likely to see it until after the
15 election. That being said, I can affirm that the Park
16 is still very much interested and supports some of the
17 proposals that we have been in discussions with the
18 community about and at the appropriate time when we are
19 able we will move forward with that project. That's
20 the best I can say.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'm
23 done now if everybody else is.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

28

29 MR. HAMON: Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome.

32

33 Please, go ahead.

34

35 MR. REAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 For the record, this is Joshua Ream. I'm the Regional
37 Subsistence Program Manager for the National Park
38 Service. I just wanted to touch on one more topic
39 while we're still on the Park's reports. That is the
40 eligibility and appointments to the SRCs.

41

42 As part of my job I am the group
43 management officer and so I oversee the seven Park SRCs
44 that we have statewide. So I'm trying to make sure
45 that we're appropriately tracking the term expirations
46 and the eligibilities for all the appointments. As
47 you're probably well aware, we have three appointing
48 sources for our SRCs. We have three members from RACs,
49 three members from the Governor's Office and three

50

1 members from DOI.

2

3 If you are an appointee from a RAC, the
4 eligibility requirements are a little more extensive.
5 You need to either be a resident of a resident-zoned
6 community or hold a 1344 subsistence permit and also be
7 a member of a RAC or an AC. So for Aniakchak SRC
8 that's a little problematic right now for the RAC in
9 that you are lacking representation from the Chigniks
10 and from lower Bristol Bay, which means that we have to
11 turn to the ACs for eligibility on the Aniakchak SRC.

12

13 There are currently three members that
14 you had appointed. Gerda Kosbruk, Mark Kosbruk and
15 Dawn Lind. Gerda and Mark are still on ACs, but Don is
16 not. You recently reappointed Gerda, so her term
17 doesn't expire for another year or so. Mark's term
18 will expire in November of this year, so in the fall
19 you should be looking to reappoint Mark if he's
20 interested or someone else to fill that seat. Then
21 we're going to need to find somebody interested on the
22 AC to fill Don Lind's seat. If you know somebody now,
23 we could take that appointment or we could do it in the
24 fall.

25

26 So I just wanted to make those upcoming
27 appointments known to you.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any ideas.

32

33 MR. WILSON: I don't at the moment
34 here, but what a growing concern down there. People
35 leaving and eligible people wanting to sit on these
36 councils and boards it sure is becoming a challenge.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I could not
39 agree more. We can't take action right now anyway
40 without a quorum, but I appreciate you bringing it to
41 our attention. I'm sure we'll keep it in mind.
42 Orville, hopefully you can help us out with that as
43 well.

44

45 Thank you very much.

46

47 MR. REAM: Of course. Lastly, Madame
48 Chair, I'm sure you're well aware of this, but
49 sometimes trying to get geographic representation on

50

1 the RACs it's good to at least consider holding a
2 meeting in the communities where you're deficient.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, if he's suggesting
9 RACs meeting in other communities, I think from a long
10 time ago we've been eager to try to do that and tried
11 to have one in Togiak once. I know at one point I was
12 thinking Port Heiden would be cool. Yeah, it's kind of
13 an ongoing problem to have adequate representative on
14 several SRCs. I'm wondering if we could talk to
15 Chignik about getting Don re-elected to the AC or
16 something so he could be on it because it's good to
17 have full representation. I hope we can work something
18 out.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

23

24 Orville.

25

26 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM. Just to remove
28 my hat from that and then go to my tribal visitation.
29 I have talked with the Chignik region and really tried
30 to light a fire under some of these folks. Basically
31 what's really happening, I believe, is any time you are
32 asked to do something and you don't quite understand
33 what it entails and what it's all about.

34

35 I would really encourage agencies to
36 maybe visit villages more during maybe a tribal meeting
37 or a festival. If you have any questions on how to do
38 that, I'd love to help you out. Josh and I have worked
39 together several times on tribal issues and he
40 definitely has a flare for getting it done. So I would
41 just offer again my assistance to any agencies to set
42 up tribal visits.

43

44 Qu yana. Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
47 very much. I love that idea and I think that we should
48 put that to work and use moving forward. Meet them on
49 their terms when they're gathered and when their ears

50

1 are open rather than ours. I agree.

2

3 What I want to do is back up a little
4 bit and give Andy a two-second notice that he's up
5 next.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Then we'll
10 move back down, Orville, if you're prepared to do the
11 BBNA report. That would be awesome. From there we'll
12 go on to ADF&G.

13

14 So Andy.

15

16 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 Council members. I apologize for being late. I'll
18 start on the agency report. It starts on Page 15. I
19 guess starting with Mulchatna Caribou.

20

21 Our Acting Refuge Manager Kenton Moos
22 was appointed the in-season manager and he ended up
23 closing the hunt down on both sides I believe right on
24 New Year's Eve it actually closed. He had support from
25 the Y-K Delta RAC, Western Interior RAC and I believe
26 from this RAC as well, along with other Native
27 organizations in the Kuskokwim area.

28

29 The State then followed suit I believe
30 a month later. What our manager did was just close the
31 Federal lands, but that left it open under the State
32 system for another month on non-Federal lands.

33

34 Kind of along those lines us and the
35 Yukon Delta Refuge have submitted a special action
36 request for the Federal Board to appoint an in-season
37 manager and be delegated authority to open and close
38 seasons. This would be for the upcoming regulatory
39 cycle 2020 and 2022. So that will be something you
40 guys will see hopefully before too long.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: In the fall?

43

44 MR. ADERMAN: I'd hope it would be
45 sooner than that. Just the length of time it took to
46 get the previous one through when the season was open.
47 We'd like to try to avoid that. I'm not saying it's
48 going to be closed right off the bat, but to have that
49 in place would be a good thing if it indeed needs to be
50

1 closed. So we'll see what this next photo census of
2 the count that is used to manage the herd by what it
3 turns up. If somehow there were caribou missed and we
4 find another 10 or 20,000 caribou, it's possible, but I
5 don't think it will happen.

6
7 Really under this scenario that we were
8 faced with there's no scenario where we could allow
9 harvest that would increase the herd. We are cognizant
10 of people relying on that. One of the things we think
11 Togiak Refuge those population objectives need to be
12 looked at is 30-80,000 really warranted at this time.
13 These caribou herds filled up really fast and then they
14 crashed. That's something we're going to be looking at
15 along with the State and the other agencies as well.

16
17 I'll leave it at that. I'm not sure if
18 our manager is on right now, if he has anything to add
19 for Mulchatna Caribou. Kenton, are you on?

20
21 MR. MOOS: I am on and if anybody has
22 any questions I'll try to help out or answer questions.

23
24 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. George
25 Pappas, OSM. Procedurally once we have a quorum we're
26 going to look at adding a presentation from the State
27 on the Mulchatna Herd and then we'll have a
28 presentation on the special action from Chris McKee
29 from OSM and we'll request the Council take action on
30 the special action. So that's where we are with the
31 subject matter. So maybe we can delay some of the
32 in-depth discussions until we have a quorum.

33
34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
37 That's why I asked you to remind me. Yeah, we do need
38 a full quorum in order to make this happen. I will
39 call that a preview.

40
41 If you have other items for us, Andy,
42 please go ahead.

43
44 MR. ADERMAN: Continuing on with
45 caribou. The second paragraph on Page 16. Just an
46 update on the current hunt. We're at 72 caribou
47 reported under the Federal hunt. Almost equal males
48 and females. I know of another seven that are taken
49 just north of the Federal hunt. An RC501 hunt. That
50

1 area remains open. It's primarily Nushagak Peninsula
2 Caribou that are in that area and that's a
3 may-be-announced hunt.
4

5 I'm going to move on to moose. I guess
6 one positive thing is we did some counts out west.
7 It's outside of your region. It's in southern Unit 18.
8 We just did these a couple weeks ago. In the Goodnews
9 River Drainage heading south, the minimum count was 446
10 moose. That's doubled since we did it back in 2012.
11 Just north of the Goodnews Drainage is the Arolik and
12 Kanektok River Drainages where we counted a minimum of
13 234. The previous count two years ago was 173. So
14 moose are doing well there yet.
15

16 I've talked with the area biologist in
17 Bethel, Patrick Jones. He did a survey on the lower
18 Kuskokwim and he said it looks like that population has
19 doubled since the last count. I don't know what the
20 actual numbers are. So it's increasing and probably at
21 a timely time. So that will probably be increased
22 quota on their moose harvest and take a little pressure
23 off of caribou if caribou is restricted.
24

25 The bottom of Page 17. I'm not sure if
26 I mentioned this at our fall meeting, but we continue
27 doing surveys on elodea and there's a little bit there
28 that we expanded the efforts due to increased funding
29 over to the east here looking at lakes. I guess the
30 good news is that no elodea has been found yet to date
31 in the areas looked at. We're hopeful to see that
32 funding again this year to continue that monitoring
33 effort.
34

35 I think that's probably it for my
36 report. If you have questions, I'll try to answer
37 them.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
40 Dan.
41

42 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 Andy, kind of back to caribou. We've had so much snow
44 this year. Have you flown the Nushagak Peninsula and
45 seen how the snow is affecting them or what is going on
46 down there?
47

48 Thanks.
49
50

1 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, I was just down
2 there last Tuesday flying and there's a lot of snow,
3 but some of the little hills have that grayish tint to
4 them where they're windblown. All the caribou except
5 one that I didn't find were on the peninsula. These
6 are the radio collars that we're tracking. I did have
7 a report from some folks that traveled through the
8 Kukaklek River Valley and saw caribou tracks. A group
9 of about 50, but it looked like they were going back to
10 the Nushagak Peninsula. I don't know what that means.
11 That might have been the group that had the collar I
12 didn't find.

13
14 I plan to get over there as soon as I
15 can.

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Thanks. I'm trying to
18 get down there and catch some myself and broke my
19 Sno-Go on my first try. It got me to thinking that it
20 may be fortunate that you've kind of re-evaluated
21 optimum herd size because the last time I went down
22 there hunting there was a lot less snow. Some of that
23 snow is really hard as I broke my suspension.

24
25 I was also wondering if some of these
26 overgrazed patches, if you want to call them that, or
27 the hilltops where the animals can get to and their
28 whole available food right now might be a little bit
29 restricted. Anyway, I'm thinking you made a good call
30 on a smaller herd size and I hope to help reduce it
31 soon.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
36 Andy.

37
38 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Orville, are
41 you prepared to go back to the Native organization?

42
43 MR. LIND: Yes.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
46 you.

47
48 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM. I just very
50

1 briefly the information you should have in front of you
2 is Supplement 6 that just identifies a Technical Review
3 on subsistence salmon networks in Bristol Bay and
4 Alaska Peninsula communities. Informational.

5

6 That's all I have, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
9 you. I remember seeing this. It's quite interesting
10 actually. Is there anybody else online from BBNA that
11 has a report they'd like to share.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
16 We'll go on to ADF&G reports. They're next in line. I
17 know we have a Chignik report. I also know we have
18 ADF&G online from Dillingham. I don't know if they're
19 giving that.

20

21 MR. LIND: ADF&G first.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So go
24 ahead ADF&G. We'd love to hear from you.

25

26 MS. WATINE: Good morning, everyone.
27 This Lauren Watine on the line. Can you hear me?

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, we
30 hear you. Can you say your name again, please.

31

32 MS. WATINE: Sorry. This is Lauren
33 Watine with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game out
34 in Dillingham. I'm the area wildlife biologist. I
35 realized I had my phone on speaker when I meant to have
36 it on handset. I apologize for that.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes. It's
39 much better now. Thank you for making that adjustment.

40

41 MS. WATINE: Good. I'm glad. Good
42 morning. I just want to provide an update on the
43 Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Hold on just
46 a second, please. We'll have you give us that update,
47 but we are waiting for the rest of our board members to
48 arrive to have a discussion about the Mulchatna Caribou
49 Herd. We are unable to take any actions at this point

50

1 because we do not have a quorum. We do expect our
2 people to be here at any time and then we're going to
3 put you guys under new business. So if you could hold
4 off on that information, I would appreciate it. I'd
5 like my whole board to be able to participate in
6 listening to the information and the discussion.
7

8 MS. WATINE: Absolutely. I just heard
9 that you wanted ADF&G to speak, so I jumped on it, but
10 I'm more than happy to wait. You just let me know when
11 you want me.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you so
14 much. I really appreciate you being ready to move on
15 it. Is there any other thing that you had for us to
16 report on other than the Mulchatna Caribou.
17

18 MS. WATINE: Briefly I can talk about
19 our 17B and C moose population. I think I mentioned at
20 the meeting in October that that population has been
21 declining pretty steadily over the last several years.
22 This past February we were able to conduct a population
23 survey for moose in 17C. They are still working on
24 analyzing that information. We do see that the
25 preliminary results suggest the population is still
26 declining.
27

28 Just so people are aware there will
29 likely be some changes to moose hunting for the fall
30 and winter in 17C for the 2020 and 2021 season. This
31 coming spring we're going to collar some more cows and
32 short yearlings. For the first time we're going to
33 collar moose calves to really pinpoint what the issue
34 is with calf recruitment and that is contributing to
35 this decline.
36

37 So until we know what the problem is
38 we're hoping to soften some of the pressure on the
39 population as best as we can without greatly affecting
40 user opportunity.
41

42 Earlier in the reports I think there
43 were questions about ptarmigan and Alaska hare. I can
44 speak to some of the work that's being done on Alaska
45 hare out in Unit 17 right now. We have gotten a bunny
46 collared and he is on the air and transmitting
47 locations to us pretty regularly every day. We are
48 getting some really good information on the species
49 that we just haven't had ever. So this is a very
50

1 exciting project for us.

2

3 We hope to be able to use this
4 information to start looking at the population and it's
5 health and what its trajectory is because, as has been
6 noted, there are some great concerns about this
7 population of rabbits. People used to see them on the
8 landscape in what can only be described as herds and
9 now it's really rare to even see one or two a year for
10 most folks.

11

12 So we're doing what we can to
13 contribute to our understanding of what's happening
14 with these hares and also learning more about them as a
15 species because we have very little information on
16 them.

17

18 Some other things that were brought up
19 to us with these really good winter conditions for the
20 first time in a number of years people were expecting
21 to hunt ptarmigan and get many on the landscape. I've
22 heard different things from different people. For the
23 most part what I've heard is that given the great
24 conditions we have for ptarmigan hunting people aren't
25 really seeing ptarmigan still. So that is somewhat
26 concerning. Any information people are able to share
27 with us about their observations on ptarmigan would go
28 a long ways towards helping us as we go and do some of
29 our survey efforts.

30

31 That's all I have until we talk
32 Mulchatna.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

35

36 Any questions.

37

38 Dan.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: Not so much questions and
41 I shared it already with Lauren, but I had friends
42 drive down from Port Alsworth to Dillingham. They saw
43 about six groups, small groups of ptarmigan, which
44 isn't very many over 265 miles. I've been
45 corresponding a little bit with Randy Alvarez and he's
46 been driving from Igiugig to Kukaklek and up that way
47 and he's saying he's seeing ptarmigan, but not in the
48 numbers like he used to.

49

50

1 Then another friend of mine was hunting
2 on the Nushagak Peninsula and he's the one who reminded
3 me, I didn't see a single ptarmigan. I think he ran
4 about 130 miles and didn't see a single one. I've been
5 out a little bit close to town where in some years I've
6 seen a few ptarmigan, but I haven't seen a single one
7 in a long time. I was hoping they would bounce back
8 better, but I don't know if they are yet.

9

10 Thanks.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
13 Dan.

14

15 Richard.

16

17 MR. WILSON: Just a comment too. This
18 fall I was getting reports from some of the people
19 around Kokhanok way that up in the higher levels they
20 were seeing more groups of ptarmigan, but nothing down
21 lower. At least in that region it was.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: We're getting the kind of
26 snows over there that should be forcing the birds down
27 I would think. I'd be curious if Andy or anybody --
28 when I used to fly to Togiak sometimes those
29 mountainsides would look like they're packed down with
30 bird tracks. But I'm not out flying around now, so I
31 don't know what I'm seeing.

32

33 Thanks.

34

35 MR. WILSON: I'd like to see that
36 collared ptarmigan.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. That
41 seems to be it. Thank you very much. We appreciate
42 the report. Is anybody else from Fish and Game on that
43 has a report for us.

44

45 MR. BORDEN: This is Lee Borden with
46 Sport Fish in Dillingham. I can give you a quick
47 little report.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That would be

50

1 appreciated, Lee. Go ahead.

2

3 MR. BORDEN: For the record this is Lee
4 Borden, the Area Management Biologist for Bristol Bay
5 Sport Fish Division. Yes, you did hear that right. I
6 am now officially the Area Management Biologist. For
7 those of you who don't know, Jason has moved up the
8 chain and taken a promotion in Anchorage. I have
9 filled the position now of the Area Manager for Sport
10 Fish. We're currently hiring for my replacement for
11 the Assistant Manager. Hopefully we get somebody in
12 place before the field season starts.

13

14 Just a little update of what we're
15 planning on doing this upcoming season just so you know
16 where we're at. We are going to be doing a king salmon
17 creole on the Togiak. We're going to follow that up
18 with a coho creole on the Nushagak and then we're going
19 to finish out our year doing another season of rainbow
20 creole on the Naknek. Aside from that we will likely
21 the following spring 2021 start doing a lot more work
22 over in Iliamna drainage with trout.

23

24 So that's kind of the foreseeable
25 future of work here in the upcoming year. If anybody
26 has any questions I can answer them, but I don't really
27 have a whole lot else for you at this time.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
30 Lee, very much.

31

32 Questions anybody.

33

34 Dan.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Lee. First,
37 congratulations for the promotion. Also when you say
38 trout, is it rainbow or chars or Dollies? I'm a little
39 curious on that.

40

41 MR. BORDEN: Yeah, Dan. We're going to
42 focus on rainbow trout and Dolly Varden when we're over
43 there. We're going to touch a handful of different
44 drainages. We're probably going to do a shotgun
45 approach. We're not going to necessarily do an
46 in-depth project on one drainage. We're just going to
47 get some boots on the ground and most likely do some
48 spawning side composition work and get crews out in the
49 field in Iliamna to check up on the trout and the Dolly

50

1 Varden.
2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Would you be planning
4 like Iliamna River, Gibraltar River or Copper River as
5 part of that activity.
6

7 MR. BORDEN: Yeah, those are all on the
8 agenda.
9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Great. I was glad to
11 hear it. I know we used to spend an awful lot of time
12 on the north side of the lake. I hear concerns for
13 Gibraltar and the sport activity there. I know in the
14 past we've had concerns on Iliamna River. That sounds
15 great to me to be covering more of the drainage and
16 more than one species. I wish you luck on it.
17

18 Thank you.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
21 Lee. Appreciate it very much. I'd like to welcome our
22 Council members for making the trip here this morning.
23 It's so good to have you. Now at long last we should
24 finally have a quorum.
25

26 To catch you guys up we've started with
27 agency reports and we only have a couple left. OSM is
28 the only one left. So I think we'll go ahead and
29 finish that and then do you want to take a quick break.
30 So let's have OSM give their presentation and then
31 we'll take a short 15-minute break. Thanks.
32

33 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you. George Pappas,
34 OSM. I have a couple page report for OSM. We'll start
35 off with the Federal Register notice concerning Council
36 meeting dates. OSM had rescheduled the winter 2020
37 Council meetings until March and early April to assure
38 compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act or
39 FACA. Thank you for your patience and for working with
40 us to reschedule these meetings. It has been a
41 challenge for many.
42

43 For the Council Charters. Updated
44 Council Charters will have been included in each
45 Council book, which includes new provisions that allows
46 for Councils to have alternate members. We are pleased
47 that the Secretary of Interior signed the Council
48 Charters making them valid through December 2021.
49
50

1 New Council member appointments. Last
2 year the Federal Subsistence Board received 63
3 applications to fill 46 vacant or expired seats. The
4 Board recommended that the Secretaries of Interior and
5 Agriculture reappoint 42 incumbents and new applicants
6 to the 10 Councils. Of these 22 appointments were
7 approved and arrangements were made for these
8 individuals to participate in the winter 2020 Council
9 meetings.

10
11 OSM has been pushed harder than ever to
12 recruit for additional Council nominations and
13 applications for our current appointment cycle plus
14 Council nomination application deadline was extended
15 through March 2nd. So that was just recently.

16
17 For the Assistant Regional Director of
18 OSM, which is the individual who is my boss and
19 everybody's boss at OSM, folks here know that Gene
20 Peltola vacated the ARD position at OSM in June 2018.
21 So for the last 21 months Thomas Doolittle did an
22 outstanding job leading OSM as the Acting ARD for our
23 program.

24
25 Thank you very much, Tom. He did a
26 wonderful job.

27
28 Ms. Susan Detwiler was recently
29 selected to be the new Assistant Regional Director,
30 ARD, for OSM. She expects to be here by the end of
31 March. Susan has over 25 years of experience working
32 in Alaska for Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest
33 Service. She first went to work for OSM and Fish and
34 Wildlife Service in 1989 when the Subsistence Program
35 consisted of two people.

36
37 After leaving OSM in 2000, Susan went
38 to work in other arenas for Fish and Wildlife including
39 the Congressional and Native American Liaison and
40 Endangered Species Coordinator in Alaska and the
41 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Division Chief in
42 Region 8, which is the California/Nevada area. Susan
43 has over 30 years of Federal experience.

44
45 She has a master's degree in natural
46 resource policy from UAF and a bachelor's degree of
47 wildlife management from Humboldt. She recently comes
48 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a
49 director of the Alaska Operations Office.

50

1 Susan says she's enjoyed her time in
2 the Subsistence Program and is very happy to be coming
3 back. So we're looking forward to her starting I
4 believe at the end of this month.

5
6 For other OSM staffing. Since fall of
7 2019 there's been a number of significant changes in
8 OSM. Tom Evans, our wildlife biologist, retired. One
9 of our wildlife biologists. While another wildlife
10 biologist, Megan Klosterman, left OSM for a position
11 with the National Park Service in North Dakota. Our
12 Budget Analyst Durand Tyler took a promotion with the
13 new Joint Administrative Operations Division or JAO.
14 Even though he has a new position he still continues to
15 help us arrange travel and other logistics for the
16 winter 2020 Council meeting.

17
18 OSM Executive Secretary Pam Raygor left
19 for a promotion at the Bureau of Safety and
20 Environmental Enforcement. Our Pathways anthropologist
21 student, Kristin Brummer, left to finish her master's
22 degree. Jared Stone, a fisheries biologist for the
23 Fisheries Division, took a promotion with Alaska Fish
24 and Wildlife Marine Mammals.

25
26 With all these departures OSM staffing
27 is down about 40 percent, which is fairly substantial.
28 The good news is OSM has filled four vacancies in the
29 last month. Tina Baker took a lateral transfer from
30 the JAO Division to become our Office of Subsistence
31 Management Administrative Specialist. Michelle
32 St. Peters returned to OSM after working for the
33 Wildlife and Sport Fish Division Program for about a
34 month to resume her duties as the Grants and Agreements
35 Specialist. While Sabrina Schmidt and Catherine Avery
36 were selected to fill two vacant administrative
37 assistant positions.

38
39 With these new arrivals OSM is still
40 down by 35 percent. However, at the end of the
41 calendar year we hope to fill these three to four more
42 additional vacancies. OSM is currently waiting on
43 Human Resources advertised one Fisheries Biologist
44 position and the Anthropology and Council Coordination
45 supervisory positions, leaving us down to 28 percent.

46
47 So it has been a challenge. We've all
48 pulled through. We're all covering for each other.
49 We've had an interesting year should we say, but I
50

1 believe we're meeting objectives and working hard
2 towards that direction.

3

4 If you have any other questions. I'm
5 covering for Donald Mike while he's addressing his
6 family situation and I have Vince Mathews from the
7 Northern Region subsistence coordinator for the refuges
8 is sitting in my position at the Board of Game and I'll
9 be returning to Fairbanks on Thursday morning to finish
10 the Board of Game process.

11

12 Unless you have any questions for us,
13 that will conclude our presentation.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
18 It's like you anticipated some of my questions. I was
19 pretty concerned to see three vacancies on our Council.
20 Here's a process pamphlet explaining this. I hope we
21 have some candidates. I know I've submitted my
22 application for when my expired. We're really missing
23 somebody from the southern part of our area. I think
24 the last meeting we really struggled with some issues
25 because we didn't have a voice from the Chigniks and
26 the Port Heidens. Surely there's somebody down there
27 that we can get on the Council here to help us out and
28 have the local knowledge.

29

30 I have some other comments, but I'll
31 wait for a response.

32

33 Thanks.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Orville.

36

37 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
39 Subsistence Management. Thank you for that, Mr.
40 Dunaway. Myself, Donald Mike and George have been
41 promoting the Regional Advisory Council application
42 sessions. Again, we extended it to March 2nd I believe
43 it was.

44

45 During a Chignik fisheries meeting,
46 which we can give a short report or George can, we were
47 told that two applied, then we had one that was going
48 to reapply because something happened last session.

49 The process for some reason it wasn't completed,

50

1 unknown. Anyway, we're working on it. We're hoping to
2 get some southern representation.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I will say
7 too, just FYI, it's not even just our area. I'm only
8 sitting here because a week ago I got my letter.
9 There's definitely some hold off back in D.C. that's
10 happening, DOI appointment. So that took forever.

11

12 Dan.

13

14 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you for
15 that. Especially it's hard to try to make a decision
16 when you don't have folks from the area that can
17 explain it. So even if there's some way of expediting
18 somebody from down there it would be wonderful.

19

20 Did I hear you right that we're going
21 to be able to have some alternate seats on these
22 Councils? Is that in this new Charter? I'm having
23 trouble keeping up with a lot of reading that just got
24 dropped on us this morning or am I confused on that.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. PAPPAS: The report that we put
29 together has been approved and is being shared with
30 every Council. They've been included in each Council
31 book and includes new provisions that allows for
32 Councils to have alternative members.

33

34 So it's in our Council books.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, Madame Chair.
37 Follow up. Today is a prime example why it would be
38 wonderful to have some alternates. Though welcome our
39 other members here. It's sure good to have a more
40 complete group on site. That's an interesting turn.

41

42 How are they going to go about
43 obtaining these alternates? Is that a special
44 application or what?

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. PAPPAS: I'd like to turn it over
49 to Dr. Josh Ream. He may have more information about

50

1 this.

2

3 MR. REAM: Thank you, Council members.

4 So another responsibility that I have with the Park
5 Service is serving as the agency's representative to
6 the Interagency Staff Committee and I do have a little
7 bit of information about the alternates. So the
8 allowance from the Secretaries is not to in an
9 individual meeting have an alternate that could sit in
10 for somebody that just can't be there, but it's only
11 for people that either resign or give up their seat for
12 one reason or another so that there's somebody that's
13 already been vetted that can then fill in behind that
14 seat when that person is no longer available.

15

16 I just wanted to make sure that you
17 were aware of that distinction and what alternate means
18 in terms of the permissions given from the Secretaries.
19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
22 for that. That's definitely different than the
23 definition I had in mind.

24

25 Anybody else.

26

27 Lary.

28

29 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. I just came
30 in and I'm trying to get my brain around all these
31 things. I was mainly concerned with hanging on real
32 hard as we were coming down through the turbulence. I
33 see our current Council members there are eight of us,
34 which conceivably could result in a tie on some issues,
35 which in a tie vote, according to Roberts, would mean
36 that the vote doesn't go through. It may not happen,
37 but I suggest we get more than eight.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
42 for that, Lary. I'm going to go ahead and have you and
43 Billy both introduce yourselves for the record because
44 we don't have you on there yet even though I've
45 acknowledged you. So if you would just real briefly
46 state your name and where you're from.

47

48 MR. TREFON: Billy Trefon from
49 Nondalton. Council member.

50

1 MR. HILL: Lary Hill from Iliamna.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

4

5 Do you also have the Chignik report for
6 us?

7

8 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Madame Chair. So
9 this wasn't included in the agenda topics, but Orville
10 and I were talking about this earlier. For the first
11 time there was some outreach to have the delegated
12 in-season manager, Orville and myself, to go down to
13 the Chigniks this summer to discuss the potential
14 issues and subsistence concerns if they had another run
15 failure like they did the previous year.

16

17 It's the first time I've been out
18 there. We held a community meeting in Chignik where we
19 had basically almost like a potlatch. We got together
20 and we discussed what are they looking for, what do
21 they want. Two years ago the early run did not
22 materialize, we're not meeting escapement goals. So
23 Federal public waters, if you recall from the maps, are
24 basically the upper five percent instead of doing it
25 all upriver in the entire watershed under Federal
26 subsistence fisheries jurisdiction.

27

28 We've had restrictions there before
29 with chinook salmon where they didn't make their goals.
30 In tandem, at the same time with the State, work
31 closely with them. The in-season manager, John Gerken,
32 on the Federal side wouldn't install a closure because
33 they weren't even coming close to the goals. Everybody
34 was in shock out there. They were reeling from the
35 previous year. This year was even worse.

36

37 So we had a meeting there and asked
38 them what do you want to do. Do you want a Federal
39 subsistence closure and some type of permitting system
40 that allows each community to harvest 100, 200 fish to
41 ensure that the next generation gets to split fish and
42 have an educational community program there or not.
43 Two year ago we did issue permits to each of the
44 communities. I'm not certain if folks used them. They
45 were really concerned about the numbers of fish going
46 up.

47

48 We had another meeting the next day in
49 Chignik Lagoon and had the same discussions. Everybody

50

1 was on board with the conservation. Being the former
2 manager out there, being the prime time when the fish
3 are supposed to be stacking up in the lagoon for the
4 first opener for the commercial and not seeing a single
5 jumper was concerning.
6

7 Running up the lagoon with Orville and
8 running into five, six whales in 10 feet of water
9 eating mud was concerning or scooping the primary
10 production out of the top. It was just wrong.
11 Everybody was shaking. Sometimes vocationally you
12 might have a rough year, but if you have a second rough
13 year, it was a difficult situation.
14

15 Now we did not make it to the lake. We
16 had various reasons. One of the reasons, we were going
17 up to the lagoon and half the lake was going down to
18 the beach to dig clams and go fishing, what have you
19 and that's another story. We have been invited back
20 out again to do some official tribal consultation.
21

22 I think we've been invited by the
23 Chignik Tribal Coalition that's been formed recently to
24 address some of these issues. Strength in numbers for
25 a voice. We'll head that direction again and see what
26 happens this summer. I don't have the forecast in
27 front of us. I'm uncertain. We don't know. They
28 don't have an answer for why the early run failed. Was
29 it the Blob, was it the -- we don't know, but it's very
30 concerning.
31

32 So we did a Federal subsistence closure
33 for the last two years. The State did not close their
34 waters. They can speak for themselves. They didn't
35 want to get between the folks and their freezers in a
36 tragic year with the low number of fish that they
37 harvest out there.
38

39 So shifting gears. Orville got to
40 participate. This is another resource report. Orville
41 went clam digging with one of the buddies out there and
42 sent the clams in for testing and they came back 1,800
43 parts per million for the paralytic shellfish disease,
44 which one clam would take down the whole family.
45

46 So being smart biologists, we got a few
47 of them, we gutted them, cleaned them up and sent in
48 just beautiful clear flesh with no guts, no viscera,
49 what have you. Maybe we'll trick them. They came back
50

1 at 900, which one clam is enough to kill three people.
2 Razor clams, the mussels.

3
4 This is like the second year or third
5 year and they are so hot. That's another resource they
6 can't touch. So there's a lot of concern out there and
7 we have a lot of concern. We will have an outreach to
8 the folks there again.

9
10 We did present at the Chignik Regional
11 Aquaculture Association meeting. Mr. Dunaway will be
12 excited about this, about potential FRMP, Fisheries
13 Resource Monitoring Programs on the south side.
14 They're excited about it. They're going to come up
15 with some ideas. They're getting their voices
16 organized. They missed the boat figuratively by a
17 month for submitting for the last go round, but they
18 weren't prepared yet.

19
20 So I'm excited. We might see some
21 projects come from that -- suggestions from that area
22 and definitely want to work through this Regional
23 Advisory Council. So possibly we'll see some -- for
24 years been looking for FRMP for Bristol Bay area.
25 There's all kinds of opportunities especially with the
26 subsistence disasters they've had in recent -- to look
27 at some ideas.

28
29 Fecundity, size. There's a big concern
30 from the residents of Chignik about male/female jack
31 ratios, what have you. Some different things have been
32 going on that people have not seen before in that part
33 of the world.

34
35 Having a subsistence meeting I'm kind
36 of excited because Orville and I have been -- we're not
37 bullies, but we've been pushing on the sons and
38 daughters of the men and women who have been on this
39 Regional Advisory Council to step up and possibly step
40 in. Some of them are starting to think about it and
41 are old enough to do so now. That makes me feel old
42 because they were out on their little inner tube with
43 arm floaties and now I might be presenting to them
44 soon. We're going to recruit as hard as we can to get
45 folks from your region to represent.

46
47 That's what I have. If you have any
48 questions. Orville, would you like to add on to it,
49 please.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Orville,
2 please go ahead.

3
4 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Orville Lind, Native liaison. Just to add to that.
6 The most recognized was the effort of the Office of
7 Subsistence Management finally going to a village and
8 actually get to introduce their staff, their roles and
9 responsibility as a subsistence office and get to know
10 the new region in-season manager.

11
12 So it was all very well -- I mean for
13 communities that didn't get any fish the summer before,
14 they put on one hell of a potluck for us with all their
15 best foods. Again, I'm lucky to be here because I
16 cleaned about 100 razors and my way is to have a fresh
17 razor as soon as I get it, but a good friend of mine
18 says, no, we just need to get them tested. So I'm glad
19 to be here.

20
21 Anyway, it was a great effort and it
22 was welcomed so much that we are invited to come back
23 again.

24
25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Questions.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I will
32 say that it just breaks my heart. I had heard that it
33 was tough down there, but that came back even tougher
34 than what I heard it was. Quite frankly it scares the
35 hell out of me for them too. So I'm all about it. I'm
36 thrilled to hear that they are coming together and a
37 coalition is being formed. I will certainly hope that
38 we can get a voice on this board from that coalition or
39 someplace in the community that will help guide us in
40 our future decision making for this other peninsula.

41
42 Thank you very much for bringing the
43 report.

44
45 Richard.

46
47 MR. WILSON: I'd just like to applaud
48 the staff for making the move. It's been a long while
49 since we've had, you know, that kind of presence in the
50

1 community. They're really needing it, you know. It
2 just goes to show that, you know, the job they're doing
3 my hat is off to them.

4
5 MR. PAPPAS: They've already provided
6 us a sheet of ideas and a lot of it is focused on red
7 fish late season, the wintertime 40-50 percent of the
8 protein comes from digging up red fish and they're
9 having problems finding them, there are other issues.
10 How can we get the youth involved with this. The
11 technology and everything available today.

12
13 What's next? I'm excited. I'm to the
14 point where I'm almost biased, so I have to step back
15 and let everybody else make the decisions, but I am
16 really excited about this process. I know that Dan has
17 called many times in the last 15 years saying what can
18 we do. I think they're going to tell us what we can
19 do.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Awesome.
22 Well, this is great. As we're usually doing we're
23 fixing problems and our problem today is going to be
24 with lunch. Lunch today is going to have to be down at
25 Eddie's because D&D's doesn't open until either
26 Wednesday or Thursday. I don't know. They're only
27 open on weekends.

28
29 That being said, did you have something
30 for us, Robbin?

31
32 MS. LAVINE: Lunch.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, okay.
35 So Robbin has been kind enough to get a menu so we can
36 call in orders, but we'll have to head down there.
37 That means -- you know, I'm going to try and get by
38 with an hour and 45. If we all get back earlier than
39 that, that will be great. I certainly won't put a
40 burden on it. I'm not planning to go there myself, but
41 we'll try and give an hour and 45, so we'll try and be
42 back here at 12:45 to reconvene again in order to make
43 sure that we can get the rest of the business handled.

44
45 I'll turn it over to you, Robbin, and
46 you can tell them your plan.

47
48 MS. LAVINE: We can do it off record.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely.
2 Then I'm going to go ahead and say at 11:00 o'clock
3 here we're going to adjourn for lunch.
4
5 Thank you.
6
7 (Off record)
8
9 (On record)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, I'm
12 going to go ahead and call the meeting back to order at
13 12:43 it looks like. And with that being said since we
14 now have a quorum present, let's start at the top of
15 our agenda -- well, we'll skip through the parts we've
16 already done such as invocation, but Orville, would you
17 like to do a call to order, please.
18
19 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
20 The meeting is called to order at 12:43 on the 10th.
21 And we'll start with Dan Dunaway.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MR. LIND: Is Dan Dunaway here.
26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 MR. LIND: Billy Trefon.
32
33 MR. TREFON: Here.
34
35 MR. LIND: Lary Hill.
36
37 MR. HILL: Here.
38
39 MR. LIND: Nanci Lyon.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Here.
42
43 MR. LIND: Richard Wilson.
44
45 MR. WILSON: Here.
46
47 MR. LIND: And online, Mr. Billie
48 Maines.
49
50

1 MR. MAINES: Here.
2
3 MR. LIND: Thank you. Madame Chair, we
4 have quorum.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
7 you, Orville. And that reminds me, too, could we
8 please have everybody on line identify themselves.
9 Billie, I'll excuse you since we already identified you
10 but everybody else who's back with us could you please
11 identify yourself.
12
13 MR. SEPPI: Hi, this is Bruce Seppi
14 with BLM, Anchorage Field Office.
15
16 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee, OSM in
17 Anchorage.
18
19 MR. BURCH: Mark Burch, Department of
20 Fish and Game in Palmer.
21
22 MS. WATINE: Lauren Watine, the Alaska
23 Department of Fish and Game in Dillingham.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
26 great, and not hearing any others then let's go ahead
27 and proceed.
28
29 We've done our welcome and
30 introductions and we won't go through that again.
31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Go ahead.
35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: If I may, Madame Chair, I
37 was just listening to a voicemail from Lauren. She's
38 on a really tight schedule because they're right in the
39 middle of capturing and collaring and stuff and maybe
40 we could just talk to her briefly here. I think she's
41 going to have to break here real quick. She's got a
42 pilot waiting and stuff, but I hear she's on so maybe
43 we could catch up to her.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
46 Let's do this then. Why don't we adopt an agenda with
47 the changes made and we can make that move on the
48 agenda so we can at least have it on the table and be
49 into official business, does that meet with everybody's
50

1 approval okay?

2

3

MR. TREFON: An open agenda?

4

5

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.

6

Yeah, and so do you want to -- Dan, do you want to go ahead with that if you've got the changes in mind.

7

8

9

MR. DUNAWAY: I move to have an open agenda and to address the items as time permits and try to take Lauren here at least. I don't know if she has time to even tell us more than that she's really busy or if she'd have time to discuss the Mulchatna. Because I understand she's got a pilot waiting.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

So that's my motion to have a flexible

17

agenda.

18

19

Thank you.

20

21

MR. TREFON: Second.

22

23

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. We have a motion and a second and we will go ahead and move forward with you, Lauren, because we appreciate you being here and we know this is an action item for us and we'd like to hear what you have to offer us in the way of information.

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

Thank you.

31

32

MS. WATINE: Absolutely, Madame Chair. Again, for the record, this is Lauren Watine, and I appreciate you guys altering the agenda a bit to accommodate me.

33

34

35

36

37

I am able to be on line until around 2:00, I just have to be able to get to my pilot so I want to make sure that I can help address any questions you guys might have as well as provide that update that I feel is very important for everyone to hear.

38

39

40

41

42

So with that said, I just -- there was a lot of discussions this morning of folks that have helped with the Mulchatna work and have their hands in the pie, so to speak, and I just want to bring it all together so that we have a good comprehensive idea of what's happening out on the landscape right now and the changes that have been made so far.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

1 So after our meeting in October, it was
2 determined that Federal in-season management would be
3 given to Togiak National Wildlife Refuge to make any
4 necessary decisions through the season on how to manage
5 the hunt for Mulchatna caribou so they could easily
6 match any State changes. So once the Refuge was given
7 that management authority they matched the State
8 reductions and then not too long after made the
9 decisions to close all hunting on Federal lands for the
10 Mulchatna caribou and that was right before the new
11 year. About two weeks later, Alaska Department of Fish
12 and Game met with the Board of Game at their meeting in
13 Nome to discuss the Mulchatna. We were very much on
14 the same page with the Refuge's decision but because we
15 knew we had a chance to speak with the Board and have
16 more public input we felt it was prudent to wait those
17 extra couple of weeks before making any sort of
18 decision. The Board really appreciate that chance to
19 hear what's happening and to weigh in on potential
20 decisions to be made and they felt that we had every
21 reason to close down the season, which is what we ended
22 up doing two weeks later at the end of January.

23
24 Given the current weather conditions
25 we've had, this is certainly a very good and very
26 important move because traveling conditions are
27 probably the best they've been in years and we could
28 have lost a lot of caribou this season at a point in
29 time when we have some great concern for this
30 population. So we're happy that we were able to close
31 down the hunt for this season in an effort to kind of
32 cushion the Mulchatna's population and learn what we
33 can about what's happening to it.

34
35 So since then we've worked a lot with
36 our partner agencies, several Federal agencies that
37 have all reported today and I want to thank all of you
38 guys for all of the work you've done to support the
39 Mulchatna with us. It's certainly an all hand's on
40 deck situation so we really appreciate your help and
41 the law enforcement being out on the landscape and
42 giving us more information on where the animals are
43 when we, ourselves, aren't able to be out there for
44 survey work has been really, really helpful.

45
46 So beyond some of that survey work
47 we've done on the State side and information we
48 received from Federal agencies and law enforcement,
49 we've had lots of discussions about other aspects of
50

1 what could be affecting the Mulchatna, which includes
2 predation, range quality. We've had several
3 discussions internally and then also directly with
4 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge about looking at range
5 quality for the Mulchatna and the best ways to go about
6 doing that and looking at change through time, what it
7 looked like back when the herd was peaking to what it
8 looks like now and if things are different, how that
9 might be impacting the Mulchatna's decline, if at all.

10

11 So in addition to collecting some of
12 this biological information and talking about future
13 work to understand what's going on, we've instituted a
14 communications plan, so when we made the decision to
15 close the hunt for the rest of the season, we didn't
16 close it right away because we needed a chance to get
17 the information out there to the many different
18 villages, and people that rely on this resource. So we
19 sent out information cards to all P.O. boxholders and
20 these cards were written in English and then also the
21 Native languages to let people know that this closure
22 is coming and to please report. We set out fliers in
23 villages and different towns, posters, we've called
24 tribal offices, and just done everything we can in the
25 short-term to let people know, one, that the closure
26 was coming, and, then, two, that the closure is in
27 effect at this point. So it hopefully isn't a surprise
28 to anyone that hunting for Mulchatna caribou right now
29 is not legal.

30

31 With that said, moving forward, we do
32 have a long-term communication plan that we're still
33 working on and hope to have in place and ready to go by
34 the end of this summer moving into the 2020 and 2021
35 regulatory year.

36

37 So in the coming weeks, starting a
38 couple weeks from now, actually we'll be capturing and
39 collaring anywhere from 40 to 60 Mulchatna caribou and
40 those animals will help us to conduct our post-calving
41 population estimate for the herd that we do every
42 single summer and depending on what that estimate
43 suggests, everyone should be aware that there is a very
44 real chance that the RC503 hunt will not open or it
45 will be substantially restricted if it opens at all.

46

47 So, again, I'm going to keep hammering
48 this home, if you could all help us to continue
49 encouraging users to report on their permits we would
50

1 really appreciate it.

2

3 Just some numbers to throw out there,
4 we issued over 2000 permits prior to closure and we've
5 received just over 1000 permit returns. From those
6 returns 113 animals were successfully harvested, 73
7 were bulls and 40 were cows. The rest of the returns
8 were unsuccessful or permittees did not hunt. And over
9 half of the permits we still need reports are from Unit
10 17 and then also the Bethel area, which are both the
11 hubs of our communities where we have the most people.

12

13 So something else that was mentioned by
14 Andy with the Refuge is how realistic are the current
15 population objectives that are written into
16 regulations. That is something we are discussing
17 internally and then also with the different Refuges,
18 moving forward, because we do feel that that needs to
19 be reevaluated and it's likely that this is something
20 that will be brought up to the Board of Game in January
21 2021. So on that note, as a reminder, I just want to
22 make sure everyone that's part of the public, which is
23 everyone listening today, and all of Alaska, has until
24 May 1st, 2020 to submit any proposals to Fish and Game,
25 and if you need any help, please, let me know, I'm
26 happy to advise and provide background to those that
27 are drafting proposals. I know that's the State
28 process and it's not Federal but everyone lives in the
29 state of Alaska that is on this Board and I feel like I
30 can certainly use this moment to remind you all that
31 this is something that you should be a part of and we
32 encourage greatly.

33

34 I'm sure there's several other topics
35 that you guys might want to hear about or have
36 questions about and I am here to answer any questions
37 you might have about Mulchatna caribou. I just wanted
38 to make sure I gave an update as best as I could with
39 the current information that we have right now.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
42 you, Lauren, we do have some questions here.

43

44 Richard.

45

46 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
47 Lauren, say the first question is, where are most of
48 these caribou right now rearing up, are they still over
49 there in 18, or, you know, I mean the majority of them,
50

1 I do realize we have a lot in 17 and some in 9B, do you
2 guys got any numbers on those yet or where the majority
3 of the calving possibly going to happen?
4

5 MS. WATINE: Yeah, so right now,
6 because we're not yet at calving season, the Mulchatna
7 is still pretty well split between east and west, so my
8 pilot right now is checking out the western area of the
9 Mulchatna's range so I don't have that up to date
10 information for you right now. But hold on, I did just
11 have this in front of me, I was going through
12 information yesterday about where our animals were and
13 they were still spending time, not too far from those
14 western villages where, you know, if we had really good
15 snow conditions, there would have been a lot of harvest
16 that was happening -- in terms of the eastern animals,
17 a lot of them have been around Levelock and our up
18 river villages and they had stayed around the up river
19 villages for a significant period of time. I can't say
20 if that's part of their normal pattern because, again,
21 we don't normally -- in the last five years anyway, we
22 haven't conducted surveys at this time of year, but
23 they were staying fairly close to those villages. And
24 I suspect a lot of it's had to do with the great amount
25 of snow we're getting. So near the villages there
26 would be, in theory, less snow for the Mulchatna
27 caribou to have to kind of push through and force their
28 way through and that could very well be why they were
29 staying near human settlements.
30

31 If that answers your question.
32

33 MR. WILSON: Yeah, thanks.
34

35 MS. WATINE: But they're not yet at the
36 calving grounds.
37

38 MR. WILSON: That helps. I mean you
39 know you're going east and west, you know there's a lot
40 of area in between there.
41

42 So another thought you were -- over
43 2000 permits that were handed out and you got just a
44 handful back, are the -- as a ratio, I guess I'm
45 looking to see what our local communities, how many of
46 those permits are they holding compared to the rest of
47 the state and if that's becoming an issue?
48

49 MS. WATINE: So the bulk of our
50

1 permitholders are people that live in the Mulchatna's
2 range. So I would say something like 500 permits or so
3 that we're still waiting on returns from our people in
4 Unit 17, so that's half of what we're missing right
5 now. I would say another 25 to 30 percent is from Unit
6 18, around Bethel. Our Alaskans that don't live in the
7 Mulchatna's range were pretty quick to report I would
8 say. We have, again, a handful of them that we're
9 still missing permits from but they -- we also just
10 don't issue as many permits outside of the Mulchatna's
11 range now as we used to in the past.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Go ahead,
14 Richard.

15
16 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I have just
17 one more for now. And I realize there's an aerial hunt
18 going on there now and there's several people who have
19 signed up for it and not many from right in this
20 general area but there are some throughout our region,
21 and I'm just curious, I know it's a little early to ask
22 but how is that predator control program going to date,
23 do we know?

24
25 MS. WATINE: Absolutely. I have a
26 brief update that I can provide on that and if I've
27 missed anything, Kris Peterson can probably -- I don't
28 know if she's on the line right now but she could help
29 fill in the blanks.

30
31 But this has been a really good year
32 for folks to participate in the control program. So we
33 have about seven pilots that are flying four to five
34 days a week, half a dozen others that are out there two
35 to three days a week. And as of last night we've had
36 23 wolves reported taken as part of that control
37 program, that aerial controlled program. That's not to
38 say anything about the trapping and hunting efforts
39 that are also taking place on the ground, usually out
40 of the up river villages. So it's -- I know we've had
41 anywhere from -- we might be up to about 15 to 20
42 animals that have been brought in to be sealed here in
43 Dillingham and those were all trapped or snared or
44 hunted animals. So this is so far looking to be like a
45 really, really good season for wolf harvest and the
46 controlled program. Maybe one of the best in the years
47 that it's been available.

48
49 And I don't know if Kris is on the line

50

1 but if she is and has anything to weigh in, could
2 probably use her for feedback.

3
4 MS. PETERSON: Yes, this is Kris,
5 Madame Chair. Lauren did a really good job of covering
6 pretty much everything I had prepared here. So about
7 the only thing -- a couple little things I could offer.

8
9 So far it has been good. It hasn't
10 been perfect. There's been times when we had quite a
11 few pilots out where the snow is so wind driven and
12 packed hard and they can't track the -- just because
13 there's good snow down around Dillingham or Ekwok or
14 wherever up in the upper reaches of the area, it might
15 have been completely blown out and be very -- I call it
16 cement snow, it's really hard to land on, it's really
17 hard to stop on when you land on it and they've had a
18 lot of troubles with that. But, still, we've got quite
19 a few pilots, more than in past years who are actually
20 getting in there and working at it. And as Lauren
21 said, there's somewhere around 23 wolves that have been
22 reported so far and we have another six weeks to go.
23 So with the continued cold weather and snow, this could
24 turn out to be a really good year.

25
26 Yeah, and -- yeah, if there's any
27 questions or anything I'd be glad to answer those, or
28 Lauren.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
31 you, Ladies.

32
33 Lary.

34
35 MR. HILL: This is Lary Hill from
36 Iliamna. A question about the aerial hunts. You said
37 there's like 23 so far this year, there were -- wolves
38 were taken. I'm curious about the remainder of the
39 wolves. The ones that are remaining in the area, are
40 they banded together and forming new packs or are they
41 leaving the area where they're threatened by the aerial
42 hunting?

43
44 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
45 Kris, I can address that. It is interesting this year
46 that we have multiple small packs instead of --
47 previous years we've tended to have a little bit larger
48 packs, this year there's quite a few smaller packs and
49 they're scattered all over the place. We don't have
50

1 any numbers that we can say how many there are but it
2 is a different picture that we're seeing as far as the
3 wolves go.

4
5 After they're hunted a few times from
6 the air, they do pick up on that and they are very good
7 at remaining in the timber, not letting themselves get
8 run out of the timber, so it is not an easy thing for
9 the pilots to go out and get all these wolves,
10 especially once they've been hunted a few times.

11
12 Some of them may -- it may be that they
13 leave the area entirely but I think, you know, the
14 habitat is good, there's definitely food source and
15 they're going -- personally I think they're just going
16 to come back in, they might take a short time out, but
17 yeah, they're difficult to hunt but the guys are
18 getting them so that's good.

19
20 MR. HILL: Okay. Through the Chair.
21 Same subject. The reason I'm asking this, I know that
22 sometimes the -- when the Alpha male and female is
23 killed in the pack they will join other packs and I'm
24 curious about any kind of collaring done to see if
25 these are moving elsewhere. The reason I'm asking this
26 is because just this year, and the first time in
27 probably 20 years, Iliamna Lake and Pedro Bay, in that
28 area, there was a pack of 25 wolves and that hasn't
29 happened. The last pack was about 15, that was about
30 20 years ago. That's why I'm asking, if they -- you
31 know, if you have any kind of collaring that shows
32 where these wolves go when their Alpha male or female
33 is killed and they went to join the other packs.

34
35 MS. PETERSON: We do have collars on a
36 fair number of the wolves and one of our research
37 biologists is attending that as a project, he's taking
38 care of all that data and trying to get pictures of how
39 many packs there are, where they're located, what they
40 do. And then he would probably have more information
41 on that.

42
43 We have not had any large packs
44 described or observed by any of our SCA (ph) pilots yet
45 this year. I just spent an hour or so on the phone
46 with one of our pilots who's spent a lot of time out
47 there and he said it is a little bit different this
48 year, he's seeing a lot of small packs and they seem to
49 be more scattered in their locations, they're not in --
50

1 it is different than when you have larger packs. These
2 are quite a few smaller packs, more scattered across
3 the landscape and that there's probably a lot of
4 reasons for that. But Nick Demma is our research
5 biologist, I don't know if he's on line or not but we
6 can pass that question on to him and get back with you
7 at some point.

8

9

MR. HILL: Okay, thank you.

10

11

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Billy.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And I thought that was a good thing. I mean maybe they could put 50 collars on the caribou on the east side, 50 collars on the caribou on the west side and find out where their migration routes are. A suggestion.

And my question about hunting, what's the hunting impact on the east side and the west side and do you have a population of the two, because it sounds like you're separating east and west and there's two different caribou herds.

Thank you.

MS. WATINE: Madame Chair. I can try to address some of these questions. Starting with, I guess, your last one, about how harvest is differed on the east and west side.

1 Much of the harvest occurs on the east
2 side in the fall and in winter much more occurs on the
3 west. We haven't fully broken it down quite yet. With
4 trying to look at the impact of this current harvest
5 season because we're still waiting to get reports in.
6 What I can say is it does look like once closure went
7 into effect in January, more animals had been taken on
8 the west side than the east side at this point -- or at
9 that point. So -- and that tracks pretty well with
10 what we've seen in previous years, which is when it's
11 all said and done at the end of the hunting season for
12 the Mulchatna caribou, more animals are taken on the
13 west than on the east.

14
15 Now, we kind of talk about them as west
16 and east animals just because after calving season,
17 they very much do sort of split out across the range as
18 two different groups. You know they're still part of
19 that historic range of the Mulchatna that we talk about
20 and there is some mixing of animals from the east into
21 the west and west into east, but not too much that we
22 can tell based on the collared animals that we have.
23 You have to remember, up to this point right now we
24 have 90 animals collared, but if you say that there
25 really are 13,500 animals on the landscape, 90 animals
26 is just like a drop in the bucket really. So one of
27 the things we're trying to do is beef up that
28 scientific information on this herd by adding more
29 collars to the herd on both sides of its range and also
30 doing more of this survey work that we just haven't
31 been doing in the last five to eight years. And the
32 more we can do some of that work the more we can get a
33 better understanding of, well, is the Mulchatna really
34 one herd or is it maybe two different herds now. You
35 -- we also have to remember that not too long ago the
36 Mulchatna Caribou Herd sort of consumed another herd
37 called the Kilbuck Herd, right, and the dynamics of how
38 the Kilbuck Herd was integrated into the Mulchatna
39 isn't really well understood. So there could be some
40 legacy effects of the Kilbuck Herd affecting what we're
41 seeing with the Mulchatna to the point where up until
42 now we thought of it as one herd, but maybe it's not,
43 you know, things -- things change on that landscape and
44 we try and put it into terms that we, as humans, can
45 understand, but the animals don't really care about
46 that too much.

47
48 So I hope that helps to answer your
49 question and I'm happy to do a little bit more
50

1 explaining if you have any other questions about it.

2

3 MR. HILL: Yeah, that pretty much
4 answers everything I'm -- I didn't know there was
5 already collared caribous out there. I was just
6 wondering if there was any way we can get this kind of
7 information to this meeting so we could see this -- the
8 way these caribou are migrating and moving.

9

10 MS. WATINE: So up until now all of our
11 collared animals have VHF collars, so we have to be out
12 on the landscape tracking them down to determine where
13 they are.

14

15 This coming spring, in just another
16 week or so, we're going to be putting GPS collars out
17 and VHF collars. So we'll have at least 40 animals
18 with GPS collars out there that can give us better
19 information on these migration or movement patterns and
20 hopefully answer some of these questions about, well,
21 do animals go east and west, or are they just staying
22 put, and how is that going to affect what we do with
23 this herd moving forward.

24

25 MR. TREFON: Okay, yeah, thank you.
26 Well, I grew up with the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and I
27 only knew them as just the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, I
28 didn't know there was a Kilbuck, or Mulchatna
29 combination there. And the migration I grew up with
30 was Twin Lakes, all the way down to Levelock area and
31 back, that was their traditional migration route. And
32 I really didn't want to throw this word in there but
33 since the mining operations came in that changed.

34

35 With that said, thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Dan.

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
40 Chair. I have a couple questions. I'll ask the
41 caribou one from Lauren first. Have you -- with this
42 much more snow than we've seen, does it appear that the
43 caribou are finding food okay, is there blown off
44 places, or what are you seeing out there in that
45 regard?

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. WATINE: That's a really great

50

1 question, Dan. You know I haven't been out there on
2 this last flight that was done, but when I was out
3 there I would say it was beginning of February, I mean
4 the caribou I was seeing was pretty fat and healthy.
5 Animals that were reported as harvested to us, we were
6 asking, you know, general questions, what do they look
7 like and no one noted anything off with their caribou
8 that they harvested, no one said that it was skinny or
9 that it had any sort of parasite that they could see.
10 So generally the animals we've been seeing on the
11 landscape have been pretty healthy looking and I'll be
12 talking with my pilot more in the next couple of hours
13 about what he's seeing out there today, to get a better
14 feeling for it. Because like you said, we've just
15 gotten a whole bunch of snow dumped on us and thing can
16 change in a couple months.

17
18 But, you know, we'll have an even
19 better idea in the next week or so when we go out and
20 we do these captures. We'll look at the body condition
21 of all the animals we capture. We'll be weighing
22 caribou, 10 month old animals, and then come May when
23 our research team comes in and we do some captures of
24 neonates of newborn caribou, we'll be doing weights
25 there as well and looking at animals on the landscape
26 and seeing how this winter has affected their health
27 overall.

28
29 But, I guess maybe a shorter answer to
30 your question is so far we're not seeing that the
31 animals are struggling to find food.

32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, great, thanks,
34 Lauren. That'd be great. And we've had this much and
35 more snow in the past, but I was just curious.

36
37 My other question is probably more for
38 Kris, I'm a little concerned this account of scattered
39 small packs, could we end up by fracturing packs have
40 more packs have more mating pairs making actually more
41 wolves and kind of defeating our very reason to have
42 this intensive management. I know I've had a couple
43 people feel that that can be a problem, I'm just
44 wondering what you're thinking?

45
46 Over.

47
48 Thanks.

49
50

1 MS. PETERSON: Yes, Dan. I don't
2 really have any information to offer on that. We do
3 have collared wolves out there and as I said we have a
4 research biologist who is following that information
5 and figuring out what it all is telling us. So far I
6 have not seen any indication that what we have seen
7 this year as far as smaller packs being more scattered
8 doesn't seem to be an increased problem in any way and
9 maybe it just needs longer to get more information on
10 it. But actually it's making them more accessible to
11 our pilots and I think we have -- so far we've had a
12 really good success rate with the pilots who are out
13 there all the time, they are more likely to run into
14 them. So I don't think it's going to be a problem.
15 It's just probably a result of having removed some
16 wolves the past year or two and now there are other
17 wolves moving in possibly or maturing and trying to
18 form their own pack and territory and they may not have
19 even been able to do that yet. So they -- that also
20 would account for them being a little more likely to be
21 taken out on the SPC program. But that's certainly
22 information that we'll follow up on and try and figure
23 that out and we'll certainly pass that on to the
24 Committee as we find those things out.

25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you, Kris for
27 that. I was reviewing some of the numbers you supplied
28 me earlier this year, we've taken quite a few wolves
29 over several years here and I've heard accounts of
30 somebody getting at least five or six already, one
31 person, up in NewStu, and I'm sure Skin Wysoki is doing
32 his very best to get a lot more than that.

33
34 So, anyway, thank you for the
35 information and that's all my questions.

36
37 Bye.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Lary.

40
41 MR. HILL: Just, excuse me, I don't
42 know who can answer this, or just a comment.

43
44 Years ago when I was doing some wolf
45 hunting and with some partners we were very successful
46 and I was cautioned by what I would call an Oldtimer,
47 not to kill off all the wolves, not to kill off too
48 many because the next breeding season they'd have an
49 Alpha A and Alpha B, two pairs of breeding pairs, and I
50

1 guess the instinct was to, when the pack is threatened,
2 their longevity is threatened, you know, they have more
3 breeding pairs to kind of make sure that the pack is
4 actually sustained.

5

6 That's just an observation.

7

8 MS. WATINE: Kris, do you mind if I
9 comment on that.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: No, go
12 ahead.

13

14 MS. PETERSON: Not a problem.

15

16 MS. WATINE: Okay. So wolves and a lot
17 of other canidae, canidae species like coyotes, they
18 have a pretty interesting reaction to high harvest and
19 we call it, in the literature it's called a density
20 dependent reaction, where the more animals you remove
21 from the landscape, there's something biologically
22 that's triggered in the animals that are left to
23 recognize that there's more space available so there's
24 more room for pup production. So something we have
25 seen in other places where we have predator control is
26 you do have more pups being born after a heavy harvest.
27 And that can also translate to more breeding females in
28 a pack. So typically you'll have a breeding pair, but
29 if there's a lot of, we'll call it, open habitat now,
30 because animals have been removed, you might see that
31 there are two breeding pairs in a pack. And that's
32 something that our research biologist is also looking
33 at at answering for what's happening with our wolf
34 packs with this wolf control, is really understanding,
35 what sort of effects, long-term, are we having by doing
36 this work and is it really helping to address the
37 question, or the potential issue of wolves impacting
38 the Mulchatna caribou.

39

40 So we don't know that what we're seeing
41 on the landscape right now is due to that fact that
42 there's more breeders on the landscape, but that is
43 something that has been documented in other areas.

44

45 MR. TREFON: Through the Chair, one
46 more question.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yes.

49

50

1 MR. TREFON: You're talking about like
2 a harvest instead of predator control for wolves, is
3 there a target number or percentage of wolves that you
4 would, you know, like to have taken care of?

5
6 MS. WATINE: So looking at the
7 documentation authorizing wolf control, it's just
8 maximum harvest. Remove as many wolves as you can
9 during the periods that predator control is an option.

10
11 MR. TREFON: Okay, thank you.

12
13 MS. WATINE: And we don't know how many
14 animals are out there but the goal is just maximum
15 harvest.

16
17 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
18 Kris. I could add a little bit to the gentleman's
19 question.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Sure.

22
23 MS. PETERSON: As Lauren said, it's
24 maximum harvest of wolves but it is within the wolf
25 control area, and that area was expanded two years
26 back, and it's now larger than it was. Again, we don't
27 know how many wolves are in there so we can't put a
28 number on it but to -- the purpose, the objective is to
29 remove as many wolves as possible within that area.
30 Which is over the grand scheme of things, is a very
31 small area when you look at all of wolf habitat. And
32 it's always assumed and thought that once you do that
33 there will be wolves move in from surrounding areas as
34 territory becomes available. If, however, the wolves
35 removal can occur at a time and to a scale that would
36 permit increased survival of the prey species of
37 concern, and in this case it would be caribou, such
38 that calf survival increased, then at some point the
39 survival of calves would hopefully give the caribou
40 population a boost and they would -- it would be more
41 able to withstand predation. Because if there is just
42 a small area that's being in the wolf control, then
43 you're not going to be able to remove all wolves there
44 permanently. That's not going to happen nor is it
45 desired.

46
47 So this is kind of an ongoing project
48 and the results might take multiple years to be felt
49 and documented or measured.

50

1 There have been other wolf control
2 projects that did have really good results, one of
3 those was down the Alaska Peninsula. But each of these
4 projects is in its own unique circumstances and has its
5 own characteristics in play and so it takes multiple
6 years to determine the outcome.

7
8 Hopefully that answers the question a
9 bit.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thanks for
14 the explanation.

15
16 Lary.

17
18 MR. HILL: Through the Chair. That
19 sounded like we're just saying kill them all. Kill off
20 all the wolves. Personally I don't like that idea.
21 There has to be some sort of balance. In other
22 countries, other states where they've killed off all
23 the wolves, the prey animals pretty much ate themselves
24 out of house and home and there's got to be some kind
25 of balance. I don't like just giving everybody free
26 reign, it's okay to go kill off every one of the
27 wolves. That's my personal feelings and I want to make
28 sure everybody hears that.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MS. PETERSON: Thank you. And I
33 appreciate that. I apparently did a terrible job of
34 saying what I was trying to say because that was
35 exactly my point, is that we aren't trying to kill all
36 the wolves. We are trying to remove the wolves in a
37 given well defined area to benefit calf survival.
38 There is no way that we can kill all the wolves there,
39 nor do we want to, this is -- and so I appreciate that
40 it's a concern, but that is not one of our objectives
41 and I apologize if I didn't say that correctly.

42
43 Yeah, we -- anyway, so, thank you for
44 raising the concern.

45
46 MR. HILL: All right, thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
49 Billie Maines, I wanted to ask you and see if you had
50

1 any questions.

2

3 MR. MAINES: I did but questions were
4 basically asked by the Council members there present.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
7 you. Don't be afraid to let me know when you do want
8 to have the floor, I'll be happy to give it to you.

9

10 Okay, any other questions from the
11 members here.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. I
16 think that was some very valuable information and thank
17 you very much Kris and Lauren, and best flying to you
18 Lauren and if you can stick around Kris, that might be
19 helpful when we get to our proposal that we need to
20 take action on.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. PETERSON: Thank you.

25

26 MS. WATINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. So
29 then let's back up now and I would like to back up and
30 have everybody stand and acknowledge, as you've noticed
31 Orville's taking over for Donald Mike in this session
32 and just for all of us to stand up and acknowledge a
33 moment of silence for he and his family, who are
34 struggling right now, would be really appreciated.

35

36 (Moment of silence)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
39 you. And with that, let's go ahead, since we have an
40 open agenda and we'll go back to our road map, I think,
41 and let's turn the mic over to Orville and you can do
42 election of officers since that's on our table this
43 time.

44

45 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 Election of officers right now section.

47

48 So we'll go ahead and open the floor to
49 nominations for the Chair for the Bristol Bay Regional
50

1 Advisory Council.
2
3 MR. WILSON: I'll nominate Nanci Lyon
4 for Chair position.
5
6 MR. HILL: I'll second.
7
8 MR. LIND: It has been seconded by
9 Lary.
10
11 MR. HILL: Yes.
12
13 MR. LIND: Discussion.
14
15 MR. TREFON: I move that nominations be
16 closed.
17
18 MR. LIND: Nominations to be closed,
19 motion by Billy Trefon.
20
21 MR. HILL: Second.
22
23 MR. LIND: Seconded by Lary Hill.
24
25 MR. TREFON: Question.
26
27 MR. LIND: Question's called for. All
28 in favor say aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 MR. LIND: All opposed, same sign.
33
34 (No opposing votes)
35
36 MR. LIND: Congratulations Nanci.
37
38 (Applause)
39
40 MR. LIND: You now have the floor.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: I'm going
43 to miss Molly. Okay. I'd like to open nominations
44 then for Vice Chair for the coming year.
45
46 Richard.
47
48 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I nominate
49 Dan Dunaway.
50

1 MR. TREFON: Second.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. I
4 have a nomination and a second, any other nominations.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: All in
9 favor of approving Dan Dunaway as our Vice Chair please
10 signify by saying aye.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: And Billie
15 Maines, I'm going to take it that you'll let us know if
16 you're in opposition.
17
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Perhaps we
22 lost him. Okay, hearing no opposition we will approve
23 Dan as our Vice Chair. And then we'll need nomination
24 for Secretary, please.
25
26 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. I'd like to
27 nominate Richard Wilson as the Secretary.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you.
30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: We have a
34 nomination and a second, for Dan Dunaway as our
35 Secretary.
36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: No, Richard.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Or, Richard
40 Wilson as our Secretary.....
41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: I could share.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: No, you
45 can't be that lucky.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Are there
50

1 any other nominations.
2
3 MR. TREFON: I move that nominations be
4 closed.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
7 Nominations will be closed, call for the question.
8
9 All in favor, please signify by saying
10 aye.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
15 motion passes. Congratulations Dan and Richard.
16
17 (Applause)
18
19 MR. WILSON: Congratulations to Nanci.
20
21 (Applause)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
24 Let's continue on then with review and approval of the
25 previous meeting minutes, if everybody's had a chance
26 to take a look at those. And if anybody would care to
27 put them on the table.
28
29 Go ahead, Dan.
30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to adopt.
32
33 MR. WILSON: Second.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Motion, and
36 a second by Richard to adopt the meeting minutes of
37 the.....
38
39 MR. TREFON: Question.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Question's
42 been called.
43
44 MR. TREFON: We're getting our work
45 done.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: All in
50

1 favor of approving the meeting minutes as presented,
2 please signify by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Opposed,
7 same sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. We
12 will approve those as presented.

13
14 Then let's go ahead and move on to
15 Council member reports from this last winter. Billie,
16 since you're on line I'll go ahead and ask you for your
17 report first, if you have anything you'd like to share
18 with us.

19
20 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
21 I have nothing to report at this time.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
24 you very much Billie.

25
26 Billy.

27
28 MR. TREFON: I got nothing to report.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
31 you.

32
33 Lary.

34
35 MR. HILL: I already said something
36 about what I wanted to report and that was a large wolf
37 pack in our area and that's really -- to me that's
38 really scary because you know how many moose that would
39 mean in order to feed that large amount of wolves. And
40 with the real bad snow conditions in our area, I'm
41 afraid that when we have this freeze and thaw, freeze
42 and thaw, the wolves will be able to run on the crust
43 but the moose won't be able to very well, and so that's
44 a concern. I don't know what we could do about it, but
45 it's just to note.

46
47 Ptarmigan. We talked about several
48 years in a row. I spoke to some of the local hunters
49 that have gone a long ways, you know, half way to
50

1 Dillingham, and they did spot a large, to them, flock
2 of ptarmigan on the conference of the northern
3 southfork of the (indiscernible) Lake. And there were
4 some across from Levelock back where the caribou used
5 to roam. But otherwise, locally, we see very few
6 ptarmigan.

7
8 The rabbits, I think, are in a low
9 cycle, you don't see many of those.

10
11 There weren't many moose caught this
12 fall because it was difficult to get to where the moose
13 were because the water was so low.

14
15 And, of course, the fish die-off was a
16 problem with the heat.

17
18 Otherwise, I guess, that's it.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
21 you.

22
23 Richard.

24
25 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 If you got your smelt hook, go smelting, there's lots
27 of them. It's crazy. Ever since October we've had a
28 real good run of smelt in all sizes, I mean all, you
29 know, and some of the -- it'd be curious to see what
30 age groups are in because we've had a very successful
31 season on smelting and they're still there, very
32 strong.

33
34 And same way with the Federal
35 subsistence users on our seals, lots of seals, you
36 know, get out and get your seals and help the salmon
37 population.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: And trout.

42
43 MR. WILSON: And a lot of the other
44 stuff we've already discussed, about the caribou and
45 things I've had on my mind, and the fall fish, red fish
46 take has been very good. We've had very good success
47 and working with entities to even improve that so we're
48 doing good.

49
50

1 Thanks.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you,

4 Richard.

5

6 Dan.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

9 I'm trying to think, I got a lot swirling through my
10 mind.

11

12 Last winter, I can't remember if it's
13 before, or just around when the Nushagak Advisory
14 Committee met and I'd been talking to Lauren and
15 talking to Togiak Refuge about the condition of the
16 Mulchatna caribou and I got pretty active, writing a
17 letter to the Board of Game, and calling some of the
18 biologists and even some of the Board of Game members.
19 For awhile I was concerned that the Department wasn't
20 going to act or close the hunt, then they ultimately
21 did and in good time, I think. So I appreciate that.

22

23 I had a friend that was hunting on the
24 Nushagak Peninsula and like I mentioned earlier,
25 mentioned, without prompting, that he saw very few
26 ptarmigan.

27

28 I guess people are doing a bit of
29 smelting around our area but I haven't heard of a lot
30 of it. I haven't done any.

31

32 I am worried a little bit about the
33 deep snow and the moose. There's some moose near my
34 property, I've been watching them and they're really
35 plowing around. And I've had moose in my yard plowing
36 around and foxes eating bird seed and moose eating bird
37 seed right under my deck and so it'll be interesting
38 but I'm real curious what the wildlife folks find come
39 next hunting season for caribou and moose. I'm kind of
40 concerned.

41

42 And I hope we have a normal summer
43 where we don't have fish dying in the warm water.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you,

48 Dan.

49

50

1 Yeah, and for my report, I always like
2 sitting on the panel here with Richard because he does
3 such a thorough job it makes my life easy. But, you
4 know, in addition to the things he's reported I totally
5 agree with him, if you want smelt, now's the time to go
6 get them, it won't take you long and there's all kinds
7 and sizes of them out there.

8
9 But also I'm anxious to see -- my big
10 concerns are for the extremes we've had both in heat
11 and cold, and I think it's going to take probably
12 several seasons for us to see exactly how it plays out
13 with both our fish and our animals and, you know, I
14 don't know, I guess this is the time we have to have
15 confidence that the Good Lord's going to keep things
16 the way they need to be kept because it probably will
17 only tell with time on what effects these extremes in
18 both directions are going to have on our fish and
19 wildlife. And I think we just need to remember to look
20 out for everybody here as the season nears, I think
21 especially of our friends down in Chigs, and down south
22 to Perryville, and remember our abundance is probably
23 going to be more than welcomed down there, too, if we
24 remember to share with them, as that time comes.

25
26 And I did get this, and, Randy, we'll
27 go ahead and have our coordinator's report, and then
28 anybody else, too, I'll take this as an opportunity to
29 let people in the audience know, if you'd like to be
30 heard on any issues whatsoever, there are blue cards in
31 the back and if you fill one out we'll be happy to hear
32 you at any point during this meeting.

33
34 So, Orville, you want to give the
35 coordinator's report.

36
37 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, thank you.
38 Orville Lind, acting Council coordinator and Native
39 liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management.

40
41 I, in Donald's absence, Madame Chair
42 and Council members, I do not have a coordinator's
43 report, however, I would like to point out to your
44 attention, the items that we would like to have added
45 to the agenda and just mention the one in front of you,
46 Nanci, is the annual report and also under new business
47 it would be the special action on WSA20-04.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
50

1 you. I'm going to -- for everybody else's information
2 let's add that as Item E underneath our new business.
3 And then I also think that we should add as Item F, our
4 approval for the SRC assignment of Tiney Hedlund that
5 we talked about earlier from Lake Clark. So I think
6 we'll make that F, unless somebody has a better idea.

7

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

12

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
seeing none, so we'll add both of those things.

13

14

Thank you, Donald [sic]

15

16

17

And, Randy, go ahead if you'd like to
come forward and share, as past Chairman of this
Council, share your wisdom please we always enjoy it.

18

19

20

MR. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Madame Chair.
Congratulations. There's a couple things I want to
comment on.

21

22

23

24

To begin with I guess I'll comment on
wolves. I've been living in Igiugig for 37 years
almost now. And I used to hunt them when it was legal
to land and shoot, in fact, I was decent at it, I
think. And the wolves, you know, there was plenty of
wolves, we kept the population down and ever since that
program went away. Then we were -- all the wolves were
harvested with snowmachines, hunting them. But the
last couple years, I feel, we hardly hadn't had any
snow so there wasn't very much -- there hadn't been
very much wolves harvested, hunting them. And, you
know, some people were still trapping them but it was
still hard to get out. So I think, you know, there's
more wolves because of that very little hunting
pressure. And this fall, in Igiugig, we had wolves
hanging around the village Carl Hill had one of his
dogs disappear and never did show back up, it was a
medium sized curly haired dog, I think the wolves had
got it. I seen one from my -- out my window one night
about 3:00 o'clock in the morning. The dog was barking
and so I finally got up and looked out the window and
it just happened at the right time because then I
looked out and the motion light came on and when it
came on, there was a white wolf just came out of the
trees right by the house but I haven't been able to
find that thing all winter. I've been looking around

49

50

1 for tracks. But I seen seven wolves up in the Preserve
2 about a week ago, a little over a week ago, they were
3 hunting the caribou up there. So, you know, it's kind
4 of discouraging that, I guess, the biologists said that
5 wolves are getting smaller groups, that tells me, like
6 some of you think that they could be breeding a lot
7 faster.

8
9 And we had some guys from Soldotna fly
10 over and they were staying in Igiugig for a few days
11 hunting wolves, and they saw some but they said the
12 snow was just too hard, they didn't get any after about
13 three days and then they left and went back.

14
15 But I know it's -- I don't like to see
16 too many wolves myself because it impacts the moose and
17 caribou too much, quite hard, you know, and so we need
18 these programs, especially if there's not going to be a
19 lot of caribou for harvesting -- available for
20 harvesting and I fully support being able to -- the
21 Department of Fish and Game doing that. I also serve
22 on -- well, I serve on the Lake Iliamna Fish and Game
23 Advisory Committee and as you know some of you guys do
24 also, Bill Trefon is also on our committee, and we were
25 discussing the Mulchatna caribou about a -- we had a
26 meeting I think it was a little over a month ago, up in
27 Iliamna and one of the topics was the closing of the
28 caribou, and we had Dave Peterson -- not Dave Peterson,
29 Dave Crowley, Kris Peterson but Dave was up at our
30 meeting, he's stationed in King Salmon and he reported
31 on the game for the State. And we were discussing the
32 closure on Mulchatna caribou. And I seen the notice --
33 the announcement that was put out and when it came out,
34 I wasn't sure -- well, let me back up a little bit.

35
36 There's a little herd of caribou that's
37 been up at Kukaklek for as long as I've been up at
38 Igiugig, I've seen them for at least 30 years up there.
39 And 30 years ago there was probably about, I'm
40 guessing, two dozen when I first saw them. But a
41 couple years ago there was probably 200 of them. And
42 we've been hunting them ever since. Mostly the only
43 hunting that occurs there usually is before -- there
44 was some big game hunting but that closed, I don't
45 know, about five years ago for Mulchatna caribou.
46 These are considered Mulchatna caribou but really
47 they've never left that area, they've been there all
48 the time. Kokhanok people will drive over in the fall
49 time and when they're usually around Marine Creek on
50

1 fourwheelers and get some. And usually in February and
2 March Igiugig people will drive back when they're on
3 the -- for some reason then they're on the other end of
4 the lake in the spring time, winter time, and they're
5 up there now, Carl Hill, yesterday, he said he took his
6 brother to Kokhanok and he seen three herds of them on
7 the hills right by the boundary line, the north, where
8 it -- not far from Iliamna Lake but it was still in the
9 Preserve, so this -- the caribou are there and there
10 are some wolves up there also but, you know, but we
11 need to be able to hunt them, the wolves that is, to
12 keep it -- otherwise, you know, seven -- I seen seven
13 wolves up there and seven wolves in a year's time could
14 take a lot of caribou.

15
16 But back to the caribou issue, when it
17 was closed, I seen the announcement and I read what it
18 was, it was 17, 9B and A, and that part of 9C that
19 drains into the Naknek River, well, then it occurred to
20 me that was still open up there because that's 9C but
21 that drains into the Kvichak so it didn't say -- the
22 announcement didn't mention anything about 9C that
23 drains into the Kvichak so I assumed it was still open.
24 So I called Kris Peterson and then she talked to Troy
25 Hamon and Troy said, well, the guy over in Togiak
26 didn't -- doesn't know anything about those caribou up
27 there but he said, well, it's -- the meaning -- the
28 intent was to close everywhere but, you know, I'm
29 wondering, and so are the people up there in Kokhanok
30 and Igiugig, does that need to be closed because what
31 little hunting Kokhanok and Igiugig does, the herd has
32 kept growing. So I'm wondering if -- and, you know,
33 Dave wasn't -- Dave Crowley, the Fish and Game said,
34 well, he wasn't really -- he was trying to talk it
35 down, he says, well, with only 200 caribou, it's such a
36 small herd to have a special hunt or anything, but
37 that's all there is for us, you know, the caribou, they
38 don't come -- the Mulchatna caribou don't come down
39 anymore. I think ever since they migrated north and
40 then when they were going to come back down there were
41 so many hunters on the Nushagak Hills that it turned
42 them and ever since that happened, they went way west
43 out to Quinhagak area and where they've never gone for
44 100 years. So they essentially don't come back
45 anymore, so people in Kokhanok and Igiugig were relying
46 on those caribou up there to get some caribou and now
47 that has closed, and I don't really think that was part
48 of the issue, those caribou, you know, because they had
49 been growing and what harvest was taking place was
50

1 minimal. And if it could be opened back up, I would
2 say maybe a Tier II or maybe a community like each
3 village could take a certain number of caribou,
4 whatever was determined viable, without, you know, it
5 going backwards.

6
7 So that's what I wanted to comment on,
8 was -- is because for the last I don't know how many
9 years people have been going up there and harvesting
10 those things and the population has continued to grow
11 until it got up to that high but now I'm concerned that
12 if there gets too many wolves up there then we could be
13 faced with a declining caribou herd.

14
15 So I just wanted to comment on that
16 issue and if it was -- because there was no dia -- I
17 think whoever closed this, from what I understand,
18 didn't know anything about this small caribou herd,
19 they're considered probably Mulchatna caribou but,
20 really, they stay there all year-round, and back in the
21 old days when that big herd went through, they went
22 through there but those caribou still stayed, so that's
23 what I wanted to comment on.

24
25 We talked briefly about this at our AC
26 meeting in Iliamna and Bill knows about it and so
27 that's the end of my comments.

28
29 Madame Chair.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
32 Thank you very much, Randy. Yeah, we heard about that
33 herd and the Park's -- and, actually, Troy, do you want
34 to come up and give just a brief synopsis because I
35 think Billy would appreciate hearing it as well because
36 he wasn't even here for it. But if you wouldn't mind,
37 I know you've already given us a quick report, but,
38 thank you.

39
40 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair. Members of
41 the Council. Troy Hamon with the National Park
42 Service.

43
44 And, Randy and I spoke during that
45 Iliamna Advisory Committee meeting. It's the first
46 time that I had heard a request for harvest opportunity
47 specific to that group of caribou. What I briefed the
48 Council on this morning was that I had talked to Randy
49 as part of that AC meeting, I was on the phone so I
50

1 wasn't physically in the room so I didn't realize that
2 you were there as well.
3

4 The couple of issues that we have, one
5 is that the State and the Federal systems are somewhat
6 different and so as a Federal system we can look at
7 opportunity that will pertain to whether or not there
8 could be a harvest opportunity on Federal land for
9 qualified local subsistence users. But the thing about
10 caribou, regardless, is that because it is a small herd
11 and because it's never actually had collars on and
12 because we've never had an actual census, we're not at
13 a point where we have in hand the information to manage
14 that harvest. So what -- at the same time the Federal
15 system is intended to support subsistence opportunity
16 and needs, so we recognize that as something that is a
17 reasonable task for us, but in order to be able to
18 respond affirmatively where we're trying to create an
19 opening, we need to be able to know that the harvest --
20 that the herd is capable of sustaining harvest and
21 actually even just knowing what the numbers are. Like,
22 Randy, I've seen that herd off and on for my 21 plus
23 years here in various stages. I am convinced that 200
24 is kind of the range of what might be there but we've
25 never managed to come across that many but we haven't
26 actually dedicated effort to counting them so we'll be
27 trying to start buy just getting a handle on what's up
28 there and we'll keep you updated as we have information
29 and I'll be visiting with the State to make sure that
30 we coordinate with them about how to conduct the count,
31 even just as far as time of year and what not, because
32 we've been doing a lot of wildlife work but we haven't
33 been an active participant in the caribou work on the
34 Mulchatna Herd or on the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd
35 because they're mostly not in our range. So as
36 biologists we're going to be trying to make sure that
37 our efforts to gain information are credible and
38 something that we can agree on with the State as we go
39 forward.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
42 Billy.
43

44 MR. TREFON: I'm looking at -- I've
45 seen tracks of those caribou, I never seen the caribou
46 herds myself, but last year on the Kokhanok, Popanoi
47 (ph) area, there was a substantial amount of caribou
48 tracks up in that country.
49
50

1 But my question is, looking at this map
2 here, it's mostly on State land, with some Park
3 Preserve, are you guys going to be working with the BLM
4 and the State to try and come up with a working plan to
5 hunt these herds or come up with a name for this herd?
6 Because like we were saying, we were saying it was part
7 of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, but it's more like of a
8 mystery herd that never left that area.

9
10 MR. HAMON: I imagine we'll start by
11 just seeing if we can figure out where to fly to count
12 them and go from there. All of our work where we've
13 encountered them is in the Preserve because that's
14 where we're going to, from or through, when we've come
15 across them. But since we haven't been out
16 specifically to find them, we haven't really got a
17 sense of what their travel range is, so even just you
18 telling me that they were up in the Popanoiu region,
19 that's actually something I wouldn't have known because
20 I don't fly around there.

21
22 MR. TREFON: They were there last year.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Richard.

25
26 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 So it is possible then, in-house, because it's Federal
28 lands, that we could make some separate provision for
29 the communities that are connected with that herd, is
30 that correct?

31
32 MR. HAMON: If we document a
33 harvestable surplus on the herd, the Federal
34 Subsistence Board has the authority to authorize a hunt
35 on Federal land, and so as an agency we can provide
36 that information, we can support it, but it actually
37 would be an action item for the RAC and for the Federal
38 Subsistence Board to provide for that hunt if that was
39 something that they wanted to do.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Go ahead,
42 Richard.

43
44 MR. WILSON: So if we came up with some
45 language to make this happen in a proposal and went to
46 your agency and asked for input on that language and
47 sent it on to the full Board, is that the proper
48 procedure in this one?

49
50

1 MR. HAMON: That is the nature of how
2 the hunt could be authorized. In order for us to be
3 comfortable telling you yea or nay as opposed to no
4 position, we'd have to make sure we, at least, can
5 count how many are there, but, yes, that is correct.
6

7 MR. WILSON: So, yeah, I realize
8 knowing the numbers is vital to their survival, but
9 it's also vital to know how many harvestable animals
10 have been there year after year, I mean how many has
11 been taken. So there is -- if you were to, you know,
12 go to those communities and research you would find,
13 quite quick, probably how many harvested animals every
14 year out of that herd and get a better idea of what,
15 you know, what your limits might be. So there is
16 methods I think that these communities would be more
17 than willing to work with the agency to try to get
18 something separate for this herd.
19

20 MR. HAMON: And, through the Chair.
21 The harvest records, to the extent that they help us
22 identify the region, it would certainly be something
23 that could be brought into play, that's most likely to
24 be accessed through the Office of Subsistence Staff
25 analysis process, probably that'd be my first
26 expectation. Because it -- I would probably call them
27 or they would be tasked with -- the actual harvest data
28 isn't something that we have in-house in our office
29 because it's usually something that's broader, or at
30 the State level, and they do the analysis regularly so
31 I would start by calling Orville's office and figuring
32 out who to talk to.
33

34 MR. WILSON: This is kind of
35 interesting because this is the first, that I could
36 remember, that we've even been stopped from hunting
37 that herd. It's always been open. So this is actually
38 a very first, being closed or being connected with the
39 Mulchatna Herd, is actually a first that we've had to
40 close down hunting on that herd there. And I mentioned
41 it earlier, Randy, that that herd kind of reminds me of
42 the one over in Nushagak, they really don't go
43 anywhere, they just got their own region that they hang
44 out in. And so it'd be pretty easy to keep track of.
45

46 So that's my comments for now, thanks.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yeah, thank
49 you. And I would add a comment, too. I mean to me it
50

1 seems unusual, because to me, just like Richard was
2 saying it's a first that it's been closed down. I've
3 been fully aware of the herd up there in all the years
4 that I've been here as well, and to me it's just kind
5 of like a herd that never got a name and so now we're
6 going to call it part of the Mulchatna Herd, and I'm
7 not sure that I'm very far off on that. So what about
8 possibly even being able, as Billy had alluded to
9 earlier, giving it a name and identifying it as its own
10 herd, would that make -- is that going to make anything
11 more easy or useful for you, Troy, or are you still --
12 I understand you still need to get numbers on your
13 control and harvest -- past harvest information.

14
15 MR. HAMON: As far as the naming of a
16 herd, I'm -- I would defer to the State on whether or
17 not it's separate and segregated enough to give it a
18 name after we have a chance to visit with them more.
19 But I don't -- if it's operating separately and if it's
20 large enough to be manageable then it would probably
21 would be something that could be reasonably done.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Go ahead,
24 George.

25
26 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, sorry to
27 interrupt. If you'd like a procedural rundown on the
28 options for this, for the Federal subsistence process,
29 we have Chris McKee on standby, if you want to go there
30 right now. We've all been here before, but if you want
31 to discuss the steps for it we can, and he's available.

32
33 Thank you, Madame Chair. Officially,
34 thank you, Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you,
37 George. And Chris we will have you do that, but I'm
38 going to ask you to do it when we get back to approving
39 this WSA20-04. Let's do that all at once.

40
41 Randy, you had something else you'd
42 like to add, please come forward.

43
44 MR. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 Randy Alvarez from Igiugig. Yeah, one more thing I
46 forgot to mention.

47
48 I don't see an issue with if the
49 Federal Subsistence Board were to make -- pass
50

1 regulations just to allow Kokhanok and Igiugig to hunt
2 these caribou because for instance up in Lake Clark,
3 people from Port Alsworth, or around Lake Clark,
4 Nondalton, Newhalen, and Iliamna and Pedro Bay can go
5 up in the Park and hunt sheep and moose and bear, but
6 Kokhanok residents or Igiugig residents are not able to
7 do that because of those regulations, so hence, I don't
8 see a problem with the Federal Subsistence Board making
9 regulations for just Kokhanok and Igiugig to hunt these
10 few caribou. That's what I wanted to say.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: I agree
15 with that, that's a good point.

16

17 Lary.

18

19 MR. HILL: Yes, Randy, thank you for
20 bringing that up. I live in Iliamna. I don't hunt
21 very much any more but I know people from as far away
22 as Port Alsworth or Lake Clark have gone up into that
23 area to hunt caribou. So that increased pressure with
24 our new modern snowmachines, I think it might be in
25 order if we could do something like a resident zone
26 kind of a deal with respect to that particular herd.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: I agree.
29 And I also would add that I see it as something that's
30 a better possibility than a lot of areas because most
31 of that is on Federal land. They spend most of their
32 time on Federal land in that area.

33

34 Dan.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think some of my
37 questions I'll wait for McKee calls in. But just to
38 ask Randy, would we want to consider including Popanoiou
39 (ph), I think you call them part of Kokhanok or what?

40

41 MR. ALVAREZ: I guess, yeah, that's
42 around, they're right there close to Kokhanok, they're
43 not really considered Kokhanok, but, yeah, that's where
44 they get their mail.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I just want to ask
47 because any time you start doing these kinds of things,
48 well, it's like the time we went to whatever tier it
49 was here, and all of a sudden there were a whole bunch

50

1 of Anchorage guys hunting and local folks weren't so
2 you got to be really, really careful.

3
4 So, yeah, thanks for bringing it up
5 Randy. I know I first became aware of it when last
6 fall when we were doing some call-ins and Gary spoke up
7 out in Kokhanok and some other people started speaking
8 up and so that was when I first became aware of it. So
9 I think as we go here hopefully we can see what the
10 procedures are and I'm imagining it'll be a little bit
11 of a lag here, you got to collect the data and do the
12 findings and all that but my sympathies really did go
13 out hearing Gary and a few folks say that, like I said
14 earlier today, you know, three or four, five caribou
15 per village can make a big difference and in the
16 village welfare and at the same time probably wouldn't
17 harm the caribou. So -- but you don't want half of
18 Anchorage flying in there either, so, thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Any other
21 comments or questions.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Go ahead,
26 Troy.

27
28 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair. Members of
29 the Council. One of the things that -- just a quick,
30 kind of process comment, as a Federal manager on this
31 area as well, and that is that the qualified residents
32 question is something that could be fairly separate and
33 may be more burdensome than helpful. And when I say
34 that there's already a caribou harvest in the books,
35 it's already got C&T for who is authorized and so you'd
36 be changing an entire C&T for the hunt, and the
37 question is just whether or not you're going to have an
38 open hunt really, that's the first part. Having a
39 separate list of qualified zones so in Lake Clark
40 there's a very defined set of qualified local villages
41 that's part of the process for a Park under ANILCA, and
42 it doesn't exist for a Preserve necessarily, that
43 doesn't mean you can't go there, but just so you know
44 that wouldn't necessarily be necessary and it wouldn't
45 really answer the question of whether the herd was
46 harvestable unless you get to the point where there's
47 so few that you're concerned that someone else is going
48 to come and cause trouble.

1 So just something to think about.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Point well
4 taken.

5

6 Orville.

7

8 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.

9 Troy, can you just clarify a little bit, are you
10 talking about zone communities within the Park and
11 Preserve?

12

13 MR. HAMON: No. So in a -- under
14 ANILCA, subsistence authorizations within National
15 Parks, like Lake Clark, or National Monuments like
16 Aniakchak, are more restricted to qualified resident
17 communities that are more defined with a history of use
18 in that specific area, and they're restricted to just
19 those. But outside of a Park or a Monument, so for
20 example in Preserves, the Councils and the Federal
21 Subsistence Board have authority to kind of view it on
22 a broader scale, and so right now there is a hunt, a
23 Federal subsistence hunt for caribou in the Preserve.
24 It's been closed as part of the Mulchatna Herd hunt.
25 If we choose to identify an area that's open because
26 it's not Mulchatna Herd, it's whatever this herd might
27 become, we'll say Kukaklek Herd, if there was a
28 Kukaklek Herd hunt that was specific in that area you
29 already have a C&T determination, you don't have to
30 create a new one and there isn't a Federal mandate for
31 village specific qualifications because it's not a Park
32 and it's not a Monument.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. Dan.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'm taking Troy's
37 lead. I think the simplest way to do it is probably
38 the smartest way so I really appreciate the -- yeah, it
39 would have been a matter of writing a little different
40 in the future and keeping it a Federal hunt. So thank
41 you very much.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yes, thank
44 you, Troy. Thank you, Randy, for coming forward and
45 bringing your concerns to us, we appreciate that.

46

47 And with that let's move forward.

48

49 We're going to -- I'm glad we have an

50

1 open agenda because that gives us lots of leeway and we
2 have some more time constraints, so I'd like to
3 approach actually E first, and we're going to start
4 with WSA20-04. And I'm not sure who's going to read
5 that in so that we can discuss it.

6
7 MR. PAPPAS: Chris.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Oh, on
10 line, Chris, okay, sounds good. Chris, I'm going to go
11 ahead and give you the floor, please.

12
13 MR. MCKEE: Okay, great, thank you.
14 Madame Chair and members of the Council. Again, for
15 the record my name is Chris McKee and I'm the Wildlife
16 Division supervisor at the Office of Subsistence
17 Management. I'm here to give you a brief overview of
18 Special Action Request WSA20-04.

19
20 I just want to note that at this time
21 the analysis is still in the early stages of review and
22 so I don't have a formal analysis that we could have
23 given you at the meeting, however, I wanted to give you
24 a brief overview of the request along with some
25 background information, a lot of which you've already
26 heard, so that the Council can at least make an
27 informed recommendation. And, again, as a reminder,
28 this is an action item for the Council and your
29 recommendation will be incorporated into the analysis
30 that will be considered by the Federal Subsistence
31 Board at a future date.

32
33 So with that, Temporary Wildlife
34 Special Action Request WSA20-04 was submitted by the
35 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.....

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Hang on.
38 Hang on, just one second for me, Chris, we're trying to
39 find it here. Do we have it in written form?

40
41 MR. MCKEE: No, you don't, like I said
42 you don't have an analysis, it's still very early in
43 the analysis stage so we don't really have anything
44 with a formal recommendation from OSM to present to you
45 so I just wanted to give you a very short briefing on
46 some background information so you could at least make,
47 you know, an informed recommendation, but, no, we don't
48 have a formal analysis that we have ready to present to
49 you at this point.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
2 you, Chris.

3
4 MR. MCKEE: Okay. Again, this was
5 submitted by the Togiak and Yukon Delta National
6 Wildlife Refuges and it requests that the Federal in-
7 season manager be delegated authority to open and close
8 seasons, announce harvest limits and sex restrictions
9 for caribou in all or portions of Units 9A, 9B, 9C,
10 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A and 19B for the 2020/2022
11 regulatory cycle. So -- and just as a matter of
12 detail, if the Board was to approve this request it
13 would be good for the next two following seasons, just
14 as a point of information. That's the regulatory
15 cycle, is two years.

16
17 So just a little bit of recent history.
18 In November 2019 the Federal Subsistence Board approved
19 Special Action Request WSA19-07, with modification to
20 decrease the harvest limit for Mulchatna caribou from
21 two one caribou across the range of the herd for the
22 2019/2020 regulatory year. The modification also
23 included closing Units 18, 19A and 19B to caribou
24 hunting except by Federally-qualified subsistence users
25 with a harvest limit of one bull caribou and delegating
26 authority to the Togiak National Wildlife manager to
27 open and close seasons throughout the range of the herd
28 and to set sex restrictions in Units 9A, B, C, 17A, B
29 and C for the regulatory 2019/2020 year. The Board
30 approved the request due to serious conservation
31 concerns for the herd and because of support from the
32 affected Regional Advisory Councils and local users.

33
34 Following this action by the Board, the
35 acting Togiak National Wildlife Refuge manager
36 exercised his delegated authority to close caribou
37 hunting on Federal public lands across the range of the
38 Mulchatna Herd on December 31st, 2019 for the remainder
39 of the season. And as of December 16th of last year 72
40 caribou had been reported harvested with an additional
41 seven caribou known to be harvested but not yet
42 reported, agency Staff determined no harvestable
43 surplus existed that would allow for herd growth and
44 agreed to close the season to promote herd recovery.

45
46 Shortly thereafter in January of 2020
47 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game issued an
48 emergency order which closed the RC503 caribou
49 registration permit hunt on the 31st of January of this
50

1 year and ADF&G issued the emergency order because of
2 the population declines exhibited in the herd.

3
4 So as you've heard already the most
5 recent population estimate for the herd in July of last
6 year was at 13,500 caribou which is less than half of
7 the State's minimum population objective. Estimates of
8 composition were made during October aerial surveys and
9 given that the eastern and western portion segments of
10 the herd have different seasonal ranges are therefore
11 subject to nutrition, predation and other factors,
12 composition ratios are summarized both collectively and
13 individually by population segment. As a whole the
14 herd experienced a steady increase in bull/cow ratios
15 between 2010 and 2016. In 2016 the ratio was 39 bulls
16 per 100 cows, which is the highest estimate since the
17 late 1990s. The most recent estimate in 2018 showed
18 the bull/cow ratio was 32 bulls per 100 cows, which is
19 below the State's minimum bull/cow objective of 35
20 bulls per 100 cows. Bull/cow ratios for the western
21 segment have typically been higher than those for the
22 eastern segment, though the difference has diminished
23 in recent years. In 2017 this relationship was
24 reversed. At that time the eastern population segment
25 had 33 bulls per 100 cows, while the western population
26 segment had 31 bulls per 100 cows.

27
28 Calf/cow ratios have been variable for
29 the herd, ranging from 16 calves per 100 cows in 2007
30 to 30 calves per 100 cows in 2011 and 2014. In 2018
31 there were 34 calves per 100 cows, which is above the
32 State's minimum objective of 30 calves per 100 cows and
33 is an improvement numbers seen in 2017. The calf/cow
34 ratio has varied significantly between population
35 segments between 2007 and 2013. The western population
36 segment had consistently higher calf/cow ratios in the
37 eastern segment, however that relationship has been
38 reversed since 2014. In 2017 the eastern segment had
39 28 cows per 100 cows, while the western segment had 18
40 calves per 100 cows. Current calf/cow ratios are
41 within the range of variability typical of herds
42 occupied in Interior and Southwest Alaska.

43
44 Now, in terms of harvest. Reported
45 harvest from the herd has decreased significantly since
46 the early 2000s when the herd was very large. Total
47 reported harvest of decline from about 4,000 caribou in
48 2000 to 238 caribou in 2018. Harvest among all user
49 groups declined during this period but the decline was
50

1 especially pronounced among non-local residents and
2 non-residents. Reduction of the State harvest limit in
3 2006 and elimination of the non-resident season in 2009
4 were influential in this decline. Currently harvest is
5 dominated by local users defined as those with a C&T
6 for caribou anywhere within the range of the herd.
7 Since 2009 the year the non-resident season was
8 eliminated 84 percent of reported harvest was
9 attributed to local residents, the remainder 49 caribou
10 were taken by non-local residents of Alaska. So the
11 magnitude of unreported harvest is unknown, household
12 survey data indicate that communities within the herd's
13 range harvest more caribou than harvest reports
14 suggest. Harvest is not evenly distributed across the
15 range of the herd. Since 2009 among local users, 54
16 percent of the harvest has occurred in Unit 18 and 17
17 percent has occurred in Unit 17. Less than 10 percent
18 of reported harvest by local users is attributable to
19 any other single unit. Converse trends exist for non-
20 local users with harvest in Unit 17 Bravo accounting for
21 53 percent, while Unit 18 only accounted for 20 percent
22 of the reported harvest among this user group since
23 2009. And then fewer than five caribou on average are
24 reported harvested each year by non-local users in any
25 other single unit. As I mentioned earlier, in 2019, 72
26 caribou have been reported harvested although some
27 harvest reports may be still outstanding, however,
28 information and observations from law enforcement
29 personnel indicate that actual harvest may have well
30 exceeded reported harvest.

31
32 If this request is approved by the
33 Board, the Federal in-season manager would receive
34 delegated authority to open and close seasons, announce
35 harvest limits, set sex restrictions across the range
36 of the herd for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 regulatory
37 years. While this change may decrease harvest
38 opportunities for Federally-qualified subsistence users
39 it may also help conserved the herd to ensure future
40 harvest opportunities.

41
42 Given the recent substantial declines
43 of the population, conservation measures are warranted.
44 Low calf/cow ratios in the western segment of the
45 population in 2016 to 2017 where most of the harvest
46 occurs further contribute to these conservation
47 concerns.

48
49 Furthermore, bull/cow ratios which have
50

1 been depressed since 2001 are hovering around the
2 State's minimum -- a minimum objective of 35 bulls per
3 100 cows.
4

5 And, then, finally, just as a point of
6 information, the Western Interior Regional Advisory
7 Council at its March 2nd to 3rd meeting voted to
8 support this special action request as submitted. They
9 stated that the herd needs to be protected, that
10 there's large brown bears in the calving grounds
11 killing and eating caribou and that the herd will need
12 protection for the next two years until the next
13 Federal wildlife regulatory cycle comes around. And
14 they stated that there needs to be an in-season manager
15 for this herd and that the Council would also like to
16 have this special action discussed by the Federal
17 Subsistence Board at its April meeting, next month in
18 Gakona.
19

20 So with that, Madame Chair, that's all
21 I had. If you have any questions, particularly on
22 process, because I have been listening, I'll be happy
23 to answer them.
24

25 Thank you.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, yes,
28 Chris, we do have questions.
29

30 Richard.
31

32 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 I guess the first question that popped out was, you
34 know, here we are extending now from the last okay and
35 now you're going into 18 and it sounds like you have a
36 resolution in that community as approved, what's
37 happening here, do we also have that same communication
38 with the Lake Clark people there and their agencies and
39 also with Katmai, realizing that you're encompassing
40 all of, you know, from 9A, B, C, 17 up into 18, that's
41 a lot of area for one agency to try to control,
42 realizing that it's still Mulchatna Herd we're talking
43 about, but are these other entities on board with this
44 broad agreement. I need to know that first before I
45 can continue.
46

47 Thanks.
48

49 MR. MCKEE: Yes, thank you. So, yeah,
50

1 it is a large area. I think the Federal Board felt
2 that it was more important and more efficient to have
3 one Federal in-season manager because obviously if they
4 were to delegate authority to all the different
5 managers that manage such a wide-ranging herd it would
6 have been a lot more complicated so I do know that the
7 acting wildlife manager there at Togiak, Kenton Moos,
8 was communicating a lot with all the different
9 interested entities and they also did a lot of outreach
10 in terms of their news release and other methods of
11 getting the word out. So I do know that the message
12 has been spread. I don't know specifically how those
13 other entities came down on how the Board acted during
14 the last special action, but, again, we're just
15 starting -- we're at the beginning of the process for
16 this special action.

17
18 I should note that we're going to have
19 public hearings that are required for a temporary
20 special action like we did in October of last year for
21 WSA19-07 so that'll also be more opportunity for both
22 the public and any other interested entities to comment
23 on what's being requested and that information is then
24 incorporated into the analysis and is made available to
25 the Board when they meet to make a decision on this
26 request.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Go ahead,
29 Richard.

30
31 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thanks.
32 Thanks, Chris. Yeah, thank you. You know sitting on
33 this Council here representing, you know, the vast area
34 that we're in here I would have to -- that type of
35 homework would have to be done for me in order to say
36 yea or nay to this because it wouldn't seem fair to
37 ask, you know, Togiak, to take on all this
38 responsibility if it's something that, you know, it
39 wasn't -- that everybody wasn't on board with. So I'd
40 like to hear from, you know, these other entities
41 whether they're on board with it before I can make a
42 good decision here.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.

45
46 Dan.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. I think
49 Richard your caution is wise. Also, though, I would

50

1 point out and maybe I was in the right place at the
2 right time for some of that, and, I forget, I listened
3 to several teleconferences but I was also aware that
4 some of the villages weren't hearing about it too well
5 and that's when I called Gary up in Kokhanok and I
6 think Ida in Igiugig and they got in on a couple of
7 those. It was a darn good effort but I think people
8 were still just busy enough for some communities, they
9 -- it was hard to stay up on it, it kind of caught them
10 by surprise.

11
12 Also I'm feeling caught a little bit by
13 surprise, that was a long talk, Mr. McKee, and if I
14 hadn't kind of emersed myself in this this winter I'd
15 have been feeling overwhelmed and if there's any way
16 possible when you have something of that order, give us
17 some sort of a written draft that we have a few days to
18 digest it on would be really nice.

19
20 And I want to add one other thing that
21 really motivated me to get more involved, was hearing
22 the representative from, and I'll probably mangle it,
23 Orutsararmiut, the Bethel Corporation, they have a
24 pretty good biological group there, and they were
25 adamant that even some of their members and others up
26 the Kuskokwim were grossly under reporting their
27 caribou harvest. I was surprised how strident that
28 tribe was about that.

29
30 I'm inclined to support this. Also,
31 though, I hope, with the added note to the adding of
32 sensitivity to this issue of -- I like the Kukaklek
33 Herd name, to -- for the agencies to be aware that
34 there might be kind of corners of this whole area that
35 might deserve special treatment. But, yeah, it is a
36 big area and maybe a little more outreach on the
37 teleconferences and advisement would be helpful. But I
38 thought they did a pretty good job.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Lary.

43
44 MR. HILL: Mentioning this, Richard, I
45 just happened to look back at some notes I received
46 from our cultural resources program manager,
47 subsistence coordinator, Liza Rupp, about the SRC
48 receiving a notice of proposed new wildlife action for
49 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, and then we were -- as

50

1 Billy and I are members of the Lake Clark SRC, we would
2 like to have any comments forwarded to our SRC and --
3 but we won't be meeting again until -- when is that,
4 February -- next month, April, so -- April 22nd, so I
5 don't know that -- we've been contacted but not -- are
6 there any requests of any actions or just any comments
7 would be forwarded to the RAC so that then if, I
8 believe, and I could be wrong, that we then could
9 comment on it, but as far as an organization goes, we
10 won't be able to do it until we have the SRC meeting in
11 April.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, I've
14 got a hand in the back room. Mark, do you want to come
15 forward and add some information.

16
17 MR. STURM: Thank you, Madame Chair.
18 Mark StUrm, Superintendent, Katmai National Park and
19 Preserve. I just wanted to speak to Mr. Wilson's
20 comments briefly.

21
22 I think we're still trying to
23 understand the totality and the complexity of the
24 issues surrounding the Mulchatna Herd. We have been
25 made aware of this proposal and are working to
26 understand it and understand any conceivable role that
27 our management areas might play in it. And so I think
28 we're working hard to get caught up but we have work to
29 do still before we could offer an opinion as to, you
30 know, whether or not this is something that the Park
31 would support.

32
33 I just wanted to add that in.

34
35 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you,
38 yes. Other questions.

39
40 Richard.

41
42 MR. WILSON: I just realized, you know,
43 this is time sensitive, you know, the things that
44 they're asking of us right now, it's time sensitive
45 because we're in a closure right now and whether they
46 open it or close it this fall kind of, you know, it's
47 all time sensitive. So I guess for me, approving, you
48 know, the work load to increase on Togiak's behalf, you
49 know, and I'm sure they'd be happy to do it, they've

50

1 been doing a great job on doing this, you know, just --
2 so I guess I -- in order for me to approve this kind of
3 action it would seem like we'd have to make sure that
4 we got the rest of the entities on board before this
5 Council, which I represent, be able to make a proper
6 answer or decision.

7

8 Am I off base?

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Dan.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Your caution is totally
13 understandable. I guess maybe I'm also more
14 comfortable with it. I've been getting to know this
15 Mr. Moos, I keep wanting to call him Moos because
16 that's how it's spelled. But he's got experience in
17 the Bethel, the YKDelta Refuge and also out at Galena,
18 so he's pretty plugged in, and now Togiak, he showed up
19 in, and I'm looking at Andy, but I think May or June,
20 he seems to have stepped in quite well. And my thought
21 is, that, I think they try to do this, just like in the
22 past, when we had, at one time, what was his name, Jim,
23 from the fisheries office here was the fish guy, in an
24 attempt to have somebody a lot more local versus D.C.
25 or Anchorage person making these decisions. So, again,
26 I'm inclined to support it.

27

28 But, yeah, they've got to proceed
29 carefully and I'm not, you know, fair question you're
30 asking Richard, if I understand, is you're kind of
31 looking -- of course, the Becharof people don't really
32 have a lot to do with Mulchatna Herd too often. We're
33 not hearing much from Fish and Game, you know, of
34 course that's not their jurisdiction in this case, but
35 I'm -- I'm inclined to support it and I think they'll
36 proceed with due caution as long as, you know, we ask
37 them to.

38

39 I feel like our concerns are pretty
40 well respected.

41

42 I see Orville putting his hand up, so,
43 anyway, thanks.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Orville, go
46 ahead, I'll give you the floor.

47

48 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 Orville Lind, Acting Coordinator, Native Liaison for

50

1 Office of Subsistence Management.

2

3 Just to let you know, and you guys know
4 this, but I feel that I have to mention it at this
5 time, that whenever we have a special action, and the
6 procedure to move forward, we do hold public meetings
7 in the communities that are affected, and also before
8 that we also, if requested, and if not, depending on
9 the issue, that we will hold tribal consultations with
10 the communities, with the tribal leaders and
11 corporation leaders on that subject.

12

13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
16 you. And I am going to make the assumption, too, that
17 all the entities, such as Park Service, BLM, Fish and
18 Game, Fish and Wildlife has all agreed that this should
19 be the point of reference, Togiak Refuge manager, for
20 this herd. I'm getting head shakes, so I guess that
21 that is also true.

22

23 Okay.

24

25 Richard, did you have another question.

26

27 MR. WILSON: I'm good.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.

30 Anybody else.

31

32 MR. MOOS: May I say something.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Please, go
35 ahead.

36

37 MR. MOOS: Good afternoon, Madame
38 Chair. This Kenton Moos, here in Dillingham, I've been
39 listening in.

40

41 And just wanted to quickly maybe help
42 clarify a little bit something here. The rationale
43 behind the special action request is exactly what
44 you're seeing here right now with this special action
45 request, it takes time. We have to go through a
46 procedure which requires time. And so the idea behind
47 this is to put an in-season manager in place so that
48 decisions can be made in a timely manner. As Lauren
49 referred to earlier, you know, we're not sure what's

50

1 going to happen this fall and if we just go with the
2 regulations as currently are printed in Federal
3 regulation, if we go through a closure it's going to
4 require a special action request which will take a
5 month to a month and a half potentially. So the idea
6 behind this is to get ahead of the curve here so that
7 we can make timely decisions and work with the State
8 to, hopefully do them jointly, and across the entire
9 range at the same time so that we can do it hand and
10 step, and it's a whole lot easier for the public to
11 understand any regulation or changes if we do them at
12 the same time.

13
14 So that's one of the major rationales
15 behind this special action request.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
18 you, Ken.

19
20 MR. MCKEE: Madame Chair, this is
21 Chris.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, go
24 ahead, Chris.

25
26 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I just want to echo
27 what Kenton just said and to his credit he was being
28 very proactive in submitting this when he did. Just as
29 a matter of back up, for process, it's already kind of
30 been mentioned, you know, as Orville said, we're going
31 to have public hearings, probably at least two, and
32 probably tribal consultation on this and before we can
33 even have those we have to put out news releases
34 announcing those hearings and we have to allow for a
35 minimum of at least two weeks from the time we put the
36 news release out until when we can even have the public
37 hearing and then all that information has to be
38 incorporated into the analysis and go through several
39 levels of review before anything is actually ready to
40 be presented to the Board for its action.

41
42 And, you know, in response to something
43 that was mentioned before, you know, I apologize for,
44 you know, maybe presenting a voluminous amount of
45 information but a lot of this stuff had been presented
46 to your Council last year for WSA19-07, so I was really
47 just presenting it as a matter of background, because
48 the other option would have been to just present what
49 the request was and I didn't think it was very

50

1 appropriate to, you know, give you just the request and
2 not have some type of background so that you can make
3 an informed recommendation. But your recommendation
4 along with that from the Western Interior, and then
5 next week when the YK RAC meets we'll be presenting to
6 them on this as well and all of that stuff will be
7 incorporated into the analysis. But as Kenton
8 mentioned, it is a long process, and it takes awhile
9 and that's why he chose to submit it when he did
10 because the Board, you know, if there's going to be an
11 actual permanent regulation on the books, the Board --
12 there's not going to be any opportunity for that
13 process to start until January of next year and then
14 the Board won't be meeting to actually take action on
15 it until, you know, the spring of 2022 and then, of
16 course, it wouldn't actually become regulation until
17 July of that year, so the special action process, along
18 with the fact that they're asking for this to be
19 effective for the whole next cycle would kind of cover
20 that vacancy, I guess, in time between now and when an
21 actual formal proposal might be submitted.

22
23 So like I said, it's a long process and
24 us getting this request when we did allows us to go
25 through this process and the goal is to get it to the
26 Board for their decision in time -- ahead of time
27 before the season starts on August 1st. So that's just
28 a matter of process, but as I mentioned, it is a long
29 process from start to finish.

30
31 So, thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
34 you for that. I've got a question for you Orville, or
35 George, are we supposed to treat this as a regular
36 proposal and go through the whole list of items or are
37 we supposed to just treat it as a recommendation and
38 move forward with it?

39
40 MR. PAPPAS: Hey, Chris, this is
41 George, can you please answer the question.

42
43 MR. MCKEE: As a matter of process I
44 think you'd still want to go at least through, you
45 know, some -- you don't have to -- you want to at least
46 go through the process and see whether -- our
47 opportunity for public input is going to be during the
48 public hearing so what we're really wanting, the
49 important fact is that we're asking for a

50

1 recommendation from this Council because the Councils
2 do have deference. But, again, the public will have an
3 opportunity to comment on the request during the public
4 hearings that we're going to have. So it's a little
5 bit different than going through the steps for a
6 proposal.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, yeah,
9 because just reviewing them we're not going to have any
10 agency comments because it's too new and fresh for that
11 and we won't have any advisory group comments because
12 we're the first to hear about it. We're not.....

13
14 MR. MCKEE: And -- and.....

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS:going
17 to have a summary of written public comments because we
18 haven't gone there yet.

19
20 MR. MCKEE: And, yeah, and.....

21
22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: So that
23 being said, I'm just going to ask, I guess, for Council
24 discussion and see if somebody has a recommendation on
25 the action that we can all agree on and they can put
26 that down for our comments and we'll vote on that.

27
28 So I'll open the floor, Dan, you want
29 to start us off.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, first off while you
32 were talking it sounded like Chris wanted to say a
33 little bit more so if we could let him speak up.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
36 Chris, so I'll give you the floor.

37
38 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, sorry about that. I
39 just wanted to comment that, you know, along with this,
40 you know, the State usually attends the public hearings
41 and makes comments and they also usually submit a
42 formal comment and position on the special action
43 request and that information from the public hearings
44 and any formal written comments that we get from them
45 are incorporated into the analysis so that the Board
46 will have in front of them when they make their
47 decision.

48
49 So that's all I wanted to say on that.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, Dan,
2 go ahead -- that's okay, go ahead, we'll go this way.

3
4 Richard.

5
6 MR. WILSON: I was just going to say
7 I'm perfectly willing at this point to make a
8 recommendation off of this Council, you know, to our
9 Federal Board, you know, for them to proceed with
10 having Togiak Refuge be the in-season manager of this
11 Mulchatna herd. Does that sound about what we're
12 looking for?

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Dan.

15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay, I had a
17 slight distraction there. But going back in my history
18 both on the Nushagak Advisory Committee and on this
19 Council, there was a time where our management was more
20 game unit by game unit and it was fragmented when it
21 came to the range of a particular herd and we slowly
22 brought it together to where we're trying to manage it
23 on a herd-wide, range-wide basis, rather than something
24 fragmented that the seasons weren't in synch and the
25 bag limits weren't in synch, so this is, I think,
26 following along the same lines, but, yeah, it ends up a
27 big chunk of country out there.

28
29 But, again, I'm inclined to support
30 their proposal.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Lary.

35
36 MR. HILL: This is in reference to
37 WSA20-04. It sounds like we want to have input from
38 the other organizations involved with this, that are
39 involved with this particular herd. Can we do
40 something to the fact that we have no objection to this
41 happening, to this thing happening and that referring,
42 perhaps, whether we approve or disapprove until we hear
43 from the other agencies.

44
45 MR. MOOS: May I interject here again,
46 this is Kenton.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yes, go
49 ahead.

50

1 MR. MOOS: Okay. Two points with this.
2 First of all, obviously the Federal Subsistence Board
3 is represented by all Federal agencies, so if they've
4 got issues with this proposal they most definitely can
5 bring it up then, obviously. But also in the letter of
6 delegation of authority that I received for being the
7 in-season manager of Mulchatna Herd, one of the things
8 that I am required to do is to consult with the State,
9 other Federal agencies as well as the RACs and then I
10 took it beyond that as well and consulted with Native
11 entities as well that have a voice in this. So
12 basically the other Federal agencies do have two
13 opportunities to voice opinion on this. And then Chris
14 can also correct me if I'm wrong, but also their Staff,
15 the InterAgency Staff Committees which review these
16 have had a chance to look at this and have already had
17 an opportunity, or will have an opportunity to talk
18 with OSM about this as well. So there is a very robust
19 means of -- I just can't go out -- let's just put it
20 this way, I just can't go out and make these decisions
21 on my own and I won't do that, trust me.
22

23 And also one clarification, too, is the
24 Federal Subsistence Board can name whoever they want to
25 be the in-season manager, I'm not asking for it, that's
26 for sure.
27

28 Hey, thanks.
29

30 MR. MCKEE: Madame Chair, this is
31 Chris.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
34 Chris, go ahead.
35

36 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, Kenton's right,
37 there's multiple ways for the agencies to voice their
38 position on this, not only during the public hearings
39 that I've already mentioned, but also Kenton's right,
40 the InterAgency Staff Committee, each agency is
41 represented on that committee and they are the final
42 process of review of the analysis that OSM writes
43 before it's finalized and goes on to the Board and they
44 will actually have a formal comment on this special
45 action request that will be incorporated into the
46 analysis. So, yes, the agencies will be involved.
47

48 And then again just to echo what Kenton
49 mentioned, his delegation of authority and any
50

1 delegation of authority to whoever the Board might name
2 as the in-season manager for this action, should they
3 approve it, all of our delegation of authority letters
4 have language in them that states that they have to
5 consult and communicate with a variety of the entities
6 that are related to the area and species in question.
7 So there's a lot of input that goes into any decisions
8 that are made by the in-season manager, and as Kenton
9 mentioned, before he makes a decision, he consults with
10 all these interested bodies and then can do whatever
11 beyond what is in the letter of delegation as well. So
12 there's a lot of communication that goes on both within
13 our system and then outside of it with the delegated
14 Federal manager. So lots of communication that goes on
15 before the Board -- before any action is taken on
16 however the Board comes down on it.

17

18 So just further clarification for an
19 addition on to what Kenton just mentioned.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
22 you, Chris. That's definitely a key piece of
23 information, Kenton, because I feel that it's much,
24 much more dangerous for us to have multiple entities to
25 manage one singular herd even though it touches so many
26 different areas. So knowing that is definitely helpful
27 for me.

28

29 George, did you have something.

30

31 MR. PAPPAS: Yes. And about the
32 agencies, the InterAgency Staff Committee, we have
33 Orville who's on the InterAgency Staff Committee, we
34 have Dr. Ream on there for NPS, we have Dr. Chen for
35 BIA, and we have BLM on line, so we have four of the
36 six ISC members. Forest Service is not on line, they
37 don't have jurisdiction in this area. And U.S. Fish
38 and Wildlife Service is not on line, the ISC member.
39 But we have a lot of folks here from the ISC, so in the
40 big picture -- and one other piece of information,
41 Kenton really enjoyed the fact that the State
42 recommended that his position be the in-season manager
43 during the last special action, he really enjoyed that
44 decision.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Well, then
49 I guess it's probably safe to say we do have one agency

50

1 that's already given their approval to this special
2 action.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Go ahead,
7 Josh.

8

9 MR. REAM: For the record, this is
10 Joshua Ream. I am the Park Service's representative to
11 the InterAgency Staff Committee. I just wanted to let
12 you know that the Board and the InterAgency Staff
13 Committee are aware of this herd that has been lumped
14 into or potential herd that's been lumped into the
15 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. And some of the concerns that
16 were raised during the public hearings last year from
17 residents of Kokhanok. We are aware of that. The
18 Federal Subsistence Board is aware of that and we're
19 tracking it. We're engaged in some very preliminary
20 internal conversations about how we're going to
21 research this herd in the future. I'm going to be
22 bringing on a graduate student intern and we're looking
23 at some projects that he or she could potentially be
24 interested in pursuing here in your region and that's
25 maybe one of the questions that we could apply to that
26 person's thesis.

27

28 Both in tracking how many animals there
29 are as part of that herd, if there's a harvestable
30 surplus, what the importance of that herd is to some of
31 the local communities, to Igiugig and to Kokhanok, so
32 that's one just way that we might be able to look into
33 it.

34

35 But we're tracking it. I look for
36 comments from both Lake Clark and from Katmai. And
37 I'll make sure that those comments make it to our
38 Federal Subsistence Board member, Don Stryker, right
39 now is continuing to act as the Regional Director for
40 the Park Service, but I also take those comments to the
41 InterAgency Staff Committee so that the other agencies
42 are aware of the concerns from our Parks at least.

43

44 Additionally, it's somewhat unfortunate
45 that the Lake Clark SRC is going to be meeting the same
46 week as the Federal Subsistence Board meets in Gakona,
47 but if the Board takes up this action at that meeting
48 and as long as it's later in the week I can try to make
49 sure that I'm in communication with Liza Rupp -- if the

50

1 SRC takes a position I'll make sure that our Regional
2 Director is aware of what that position is when he goes
3 to vote on this action.

4

5 So I just wanted to make you aware of
6 those things.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
11 you. Go ahead. Dan, go ahead.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'm inclined to
14 make a motion that we support this delegation and see
15 if anybody wants to second it.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Billy.

20

21 MR. TREFON: I'd just like some input
22 on this agency that's involved in here, we're always
23 talking about Federal agencies, where -- I wish I had
24 some State folks here that's involved because what
25 really brought my concern to why the State should be
26 involved, I mean looking at the map it's mostly State
27 land. I mean there's Park Service, BLM, Wildlife
28 Refuge and some Native allotments, but the State, like
29 when they shut down the caribou herd, I was really
30 disappointed that they shut the whole Federal lands and
31 they didn't shut down the State lands until almost a
32 month later, so to me that was like there was no
33 communication going on there.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Right. And
36 I -- go ahead, Dan.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I think, was it --
39 somebody said that Fish and Game did support the
40 concept of.....

41

42 MR. TREFON: But they didn't close it
43 down for another month.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: No, I think that -- well,
46 we heard a little bit of an explanation from Lauren, I
47 -- I'll say exactly what I'm thinking is that we've got
48 a number of new people in the State hierarchy and I
49 think they were a little bit slow to react on this

50

1 situation. They said they'd like to wait until they
2 had the Board meeting in Nome to take it before the
3 Board, but my understanding was the Board was saying,
4 why did you wait so long, but we had -- Lauren's new, I
5 think her supervisor's relatively new in his position
6 and I don't know beyond that. But I did hear that, I
7 think it was Josh, said that Fish and Game supported
8 the idea of Kenton, or the Togiak Refuge having the
9 lead. And since they -- you know, otherwise the State
10 doesn't have jurisdiction on the Federal lands so they
11 can do things somewhat separately.
12

13 I'm used to seeing it the opposite way,
14 where the State's acting first and the Feds second, so
15 I was really baffled when it was going the other way.
16 But -- and that's, again, partly why I got -- listened
17 into those teleconferences and listening and looking at
18 the data. I could even show you a copy of the letter I
19 sent to the Board of Game about saying, you know, hurry
20 up, close it, so -- but I think in a way this is kind
21 of a bureaucratic step, just to have somebody in place
22 to do this and just to have it in place before it's an
23 emergency and they're figuring out who's on first.
24

25 But, anyway, thank you.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Well, and
28 I'd also be curious to know if the answer to the
29 question is by making one person, in this instance, the
30 Togiak Refuge Manager, the manager of the herd, that
31 will allow this not to happen again; is that not a
32 correct assumption; if he has the say will that not
33 close State lands at the same time Federal lands are
34 closed?
35

36 MR. MCKEE: Madame Chair. The special
37 action request only applies to Federal public lands. So
38 any action that the Federal in-season manager takes
39 only applies to Federal lands, not State lands.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. So
42 then Fish and Game gave authority or requested his
43 participation in this for what reason?
44

45 MR. MCKEE: Well, I can't.....
46

47 MS. PETERSON: Well, Madame Chair.....
48

49 MR. MCKEE:really fully answer
50

1 that question other than to say that they -- I think
2 they -- I'm not sure but they probably just might have
3 stated they supported, you know, having a single
4 Federal entity being the Federal in-season manager for
5 purposes of action on Federal public lands. But I
6 don't want to speak for the State either.

7
8 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair. This is
9 Chris Peterson.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yeah,
12 Chris, go ahead.

13
14 MS. PETERSON: Hi. I'm sorry, I was
15 off on some other tasks here for a few moments and I
16 missed part of this.

17
18 But when -- I do have just a little bit
19 to offer here. What we have discussed, that I am aware
20 of, that the Department of Fish and Game, if -- if the
21 Federal side of this does support and go through with
22 this in-season manager, we would support having that
23 manager be, in this case, Togiak National Wildlife, as
24 it has a history of actually working with this herd,
25 doing research on the herd and has the most knowledge
26 to back up doing any management decisions. And so we
27 would support them as being that in-season manager. As
28 to whether or not we support actually having an in-
29 season manager, I honestly can't give you that, I have
30 not heard that passed down yet to my level. But we did
31 think that it was very important that if you do it,
32 that it should be someone who has a history and
33 knowledge and understanding of this herd so that we
34 would be able to work with them and hopefully not have
35 communication problems would be our reasoning.

36
37 So that may not be helpful but that's
38 what I could put in there, so, thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
41 you, Chris.

42
43 Dan.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, speaking from my
46 past career as the manager of the sportfishery in
47 Bristol Bay, it was a lot handier to have one Federal
48 person to contact, and I did have a couple of things
49 like that when I was -- and for the life of me I can't

50

1 remember his name, Jim, that was at the fisheries
2 office up here, it was a whole lot easier than if I had
3 to contact three or four different agencies, you know,
4 scattered from Bethel to King Salmon, so, there, again,
5 yeah, the State, other than being supportive, they're
6 mostly on the sidelines cheerleading on this, but it
7 does make their job easier too.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Billy.

10

11 MR. TREFON: Yeah, one of the reasons
12 why I brought this up here, is with this mystery herd
13 here, it's going to require State and Federal agencies
14 to come up with the laws and regulations on how to hunt
15 these things, and maybe that's another step that
16 they're going in the right direction and start working
17 together, because we need to with State and the Feds,
18 need to start coming on the same -- on the same page,
19 not a month later, saying, I don't know, maybe.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. Back
24 to the motion, we have a motion on the table, I'll see
25 if we have a second.

26

27 Richard.

28

29 MR. WILSON: Before you ask me for a
30 second, can I ask this, there's been some other input
31 here.

32

33 Understanding that this here is -- it's
34 two years, two years out, we're looking for the in-
35 season management for this, is it this coming season
36 and the season after that -- okay, so, you know, I'm
37 willing to accept this, you know, this recommendation
38 with the understanding, too, that you have this herd
39 that we talked about over in the Kukaklek area and it's
40 in the same umbrella, you know, so you're managing that
41 one also under the same -- I mean to put that into
42 consideration, possibly a different consideration,
43 while you're considering the rest of the herd, it's got
44 to be recognized at some point and I'm just trying to
45 put it in here to where, you know, at least to start
46 recognizing it as possibly a separate herd, under our
47 recommendation.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 And I'll second his motion.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. I'm
4 going to try and clarify then before we go any further.

5

6 So we have a recommendation to accept
7 the Special Action Request that has been, I'm just
8 going to say read to us, because we don't have anything
9 in writing in front of us, to allow the Togiak Refuge
10 Manager in-season management of the Mulchatna Herd with
11 the recognition that we further research the potential
12 of having a separate herd located over in the
13 Kukaklek/Kokhanok area that may need to be removed from
14 that Mulchatna Herd at some point in the future.

15

16 Is that correct?

17

18 (Council nods affirmatively)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. I'm
21 getting nods from both of my motioners.

22

23 Any further discussion.

24

25 MR. TREFON: I got one question for the
26 Lake Clark. How involved is the National Park with the
27 Mulchatna Caribou Herd on the east side, I mean I'm
28 hearing lots on the west side about involvement and
29 wildlife is managing our caribou, I know we got a lot
30 of programs in Lake Clark National Park that's been
31 monitoring our herds, are they working with them.

32

33 MS. RUPP: Madame Chair. For the
34 record, Liza Rupp, Lake Clark. And Buck Mangipan does
35 work at -- we worked with the photo census on the
36 eastern part of the herd this past summer and we will
37 do it again this coming summer so in that regard we are
38 working with the State. Otherwise, again, because the
39 herd isn't so much in the Park anymore, I don't know
40 how much involvement we have other than that, but we
41 are certainly, obviously actively interested in the
42 herd and help where we can, where it overlaps with our
43 jurisdiction.

44

45 MR. TREFON: You mean they changed
46 their calving grounds, they're not in Twin Lake Hills
47 anymore?

48

49 MS. RUPP: There are definitely a few

50

1 caribou in the Park but I think my understanding is --
2 I've only been here five years, so, but traditionally
3 there have been many more caribou -- I mean so there
4 are caribou in the Park but not in the same numbers as
5 they used to be.

6
7 MR. TREFON: Yeah, the Twin Hills,
8 between Twin and (indiscernible) Lake, that was the
9 primary -- that was the calving grounds for the
10 Mulchatna Caribou Herd until about 10 years ago, things
11 changed.

12
13 MR. WILSON: Question.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, the
16 question has been called. All in favor, I don't feel
17 like repeating the motion, but it's Special Action 20-
18 04, please signify by saying aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Billie
23 Maines.

24
25 MR. MAINES: Aye.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you.
28 Okay, that motion is going to carry, and, thank you
29 everybody for your participation in that.

30
31 With that one put behind us, let's move
32 backwards to Fisheries and Partners Program update,
33 OSM.

34
35 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair and Members of
36 the Council. Hello. For the record my name is Scott
37 Ayers, and I am the fisheries biologist at OSM. I work
38 here in the Bristol Bay region but also for the
39 Kodiak/Aleutian region and the Southcentral region, so
40 kind of that nice middle swath of the state, little
41 area.

42
43 So I will be providing an update on the
44 three programmatic areas today, the Fisheries
45 Regulatory cycle, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
46 Program, and our Partners Program. These will be brief
47 updates but, please ask questions as we move along and
48 I will do my best to help answer them.

49
50

1 So as far as the fisheries regulatory
2 cycle.

3
4 The Federal Subsistence Board is
5 accepting proposals this spring to change the Federal
6 regulations for the subsistence take of fish and
7 shellfish on Federal public lands and waters for the
8 2021 to 2023 regulatory cycle. You can find a flier in
9 your books starting on Page 12 for this process. The
10 Board will consider proposals to change Federal fish
11 and shellfish seasons, harvest limits, methods and
12 means and customary and traditional use determinations
13 until April 20th. So we have a little bit of time yet
14 to submit proposals.

15
16 There's a number of ways that proposals
17 can be submitted.

18
19 If you have a fishery proposal now that
20 the Council would like to submit as a Council, or as
21 individuals we can discuss that in a moment. You can
22 also submit proposals to OSM through the Council
23 coordinator, by hand, by mail, and there's an online
24 process that's also outlined in the books there that
25 can also be done. The proposals will be analyzed and
26 presented to the Councils during this fall meetings
27 this year and we will be seeking recommendations on
28 those proposals at that point in time. And those
29 proposals analysis and Council recommendations will be
30 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board for their
31 action at the January 2021 meeting.

32
33 In addition, this cycle we're going to
34 begin conducting reviews of closures of the Federal
35 Subsistence fisheries regulations, similar to what the
36 wildlife one that just went this last round. There are
37 currently 32 closures statewide, and we'll be reviewing
38 about half of those each regulatory cycle. There's
39 currently four closures in the regulations for the
40 Bristol Bay area. For this cycle we'll review the
41 closure on Russell Creek and Nurse Lagoon, and within
42 500 yards outside of the mouth of Nurse Lagoon.
43 Closures we'll take up for the next cycle will be,
44 there's three of them, Tazamina River and within a
45 quarter of a mile of the terminus of those waters,
46 waters within 300 feet of stream mouths used by salmon,
47 and Trout Creek on the Peninsula and within 500 yards
48 outside of its mouth. So in addition to the regulatory
49 proposals this fall we'll be discussing that Russell
50

1 Creek and Nurse Lagoon closure.

2

3 Additionally, regulatory cycle-wise,
4 currently we have three temporary special actions that
5 have been submitted to the Fisheries Program, all three
6 are related to the Kuskokwim River chinook salmon and
7 we're hoping that the timeline for those is early May
8 and we'll see what else happens, but that's it so far
9 for the fisheries end of things.

10

11 And let's see, are there any questions
12 related to the fisheries cycle.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: You're
17 good.

18

19 MR. AYERS: Awesome, good.

20

21 For the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
22 Program.

23

24 We're currently in the final phase of
25 the 2020 cycle. The Federal Subsistence Board met in
26 late January and made recommendations about the final
27 funding plan. We are still in the process of getting
28 our budget for this year but once we have all of that
29 squared away we'll be moving those selected projects
30 that we can afford and be notifying applicants of the
31 status of their submissions. With this cycle closing
32 we are back again to that period where we start asking
33 the Councils for development of priority information
34 needs for the next cycle, and that will happen this
35 coming fall. And we're going to ask, again, for
36 volunteers to meet telephonically a couple of times
37 this summer, from the Council, to work with folks from
38 the Kodiak/Aleutians Council to develop priority
39 information needs for this fall that would be brought
40 to both of the Councils for their final
41 recommendations. So if there's anyone on this Council
42 that would like to volunteer to help with that this
43 would be greatly appreciated.

44

45 I'm looking at Dan, and anyone else.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, Dan
48 has just volunteered so please sign him up.

49

50

1 MR. AYERS: Excellent, thank you, Dan.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: We've got
4 to get Chigs on there.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, definitely.

7

8 MR. AYERS: Absolutely, and that's been
9 an area that was brought up during the last cycle and
10 we're hoping to see some movement there, both on the
11 end of some priority information needs identified and
12 then also some folks submitting project proposals. And
13 I know, just as a quick side note, that there was a
14 discussion about EDNA this morning and the Council
15 seemed kind of interested in that. We do have one
16 project that is slated for potential funding this round
17 in Southeast Alaska looking at EDNA of eulchon and they
18 are doing a paired study with EDNA, both to look at
19 presence in the water but they're doing it with a
20 mark/recapture study to look at population size and
21 trying to determine whether or not they can use
22 concentration of DNA in the water samples matched with
23 the mark/recapture project to see if they can actually
24 use it for more of a population estimate and not just a
25 presence absence, and if they can make that work
26 they're going to try and apply it to other regional
27 streams.

28

29 That's it for FRMP.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: Question.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Dan.

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, just a quick
36 comment. That's interesting to know on the EDNA,
37 because my first experience was meeting Dr. Navarro
38 down there at UAS and I'm not sure if he's coming but
39 we, on the spot, invited him up for what we call a swim
40 meeting in Dillingham, and the WAUC, which is
41 coordinated, it's a Western Alaska University
42 Conference on local science, so if he comes up maybe
43 some of the Bristol Bay area biologists might see some
44 interest in this EDNA on a -- bring it out here and try
45 it out, which is environmental DNA, and they sample, I
46 guess the water and get an idea how many fish and what
47 kind of fish and where they are. So I'm hoping he can
48 come. I'll see.

49

50

1 So, thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
4 thanks. Go ahead, Scott.

5

6 MR. AYERS: The last section was just
7 on the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. And
8 our latest partners cycle has started in January of
9 this year, it's a four year cycle. Cody Larson with
10 BBNA, once, again, will be a Partners biologist and
11 we're really excited about that and he is in Togiak
12 right now, so obviously not here to present. But I
13 just wanted to note that BBNA was once, again,
14 successful.

15

16 And that's all I had for that.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
19 great. We like having you use our local organizations.
20 Any questions or comments, folks.

21

22 Go ahead.

23

24 MR. TREFON: On your DNA testing of the
25 lakes, would this be a first time, like a pilot
26 project, or a baseline?

27

28 MR. AYERS: Yeah, they're actually
29 doing it in the rivers in this case with the eulachon.
30 And they've been -- this is the first time that this
31 program would be funding it, if it gets funded but
32 they've been attempting to work on this process I think
33 for a couple of cycles, or for a couple of years, under
34 other funding up to this point, but I think that
35 they're making strides towards it. And I also know
36 that it's used in a number of places in Southcentral
37 Alaska with pike, in areas where they've been
38 introduced, where they're trying to sample lakes and
39 see whether or not they are there or not.

40

41 MR. TREFON: And then would this
42 testing be able to set a baseline for what's in the
43 lake at the present time and if so determine if there's
44 evasive species coming into the lake?

45

46 MR. AYERS: Thank you. Through the
47 Chair. There were some discussions earlier today that
48 spoke a little bit about how once a marker is developed
49 for an individual species, whether that's a fish or

50

1 there's been a lot of work looking at invasives like
2 elodea, as soon as those markers have been developed,
3 then they can be sampled in the water sample. So,
4 yeah, once there's a marker set in place then they can
5 look for those in the water.

6
7 MR. TREFON: That sounds like a good
8 program.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Dan.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: This may be way out, but
13 I'm going to ask you, do you know if the -- have they
14 experimented with EDNA in your silty waters. I'm
15 starting to think about Meshik River again, if there
16 was any way to get an idea but have they experimented
17 with silty water and EDNA?

18
19 MR. AYERS: I don't have any specific
20 background information to that but personally I don't
21 think that the silt load in the water necessarily would
22 affect this process completely. It's mostly a matter
23 of how long the DNA is still left in the water and an
24 ability to be traced. Eventually it degrades enough
25 that it's not traceable any longer.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. Any
28 more questions.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
33 great, thanks. Let's go ahead and take a 10 minute
34 break guys and stretch your legs.

35
36 (Off record)

37
38 (On record)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, I'll
41 call the meeting back to order.

42
43 And with that we are going to move
44 forward to Item C under our new business and go for the
45 call for the fish and shellfish proposals. And I'm
46 going to ask Heidi, with BBNA, who is here, to come up
47 and basically give us her report and I think she's
48 going to do it in conjunction with Cody Larson, who is
49 on the phone.

50

1 So, please, I'll go ahead and give you
2 the floor, Heidi.

3
4 MS. KRITZ: Good afternoon, Madame
5 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Heidi
6 Kritz. I work at the Bristol Bay Native Association in
7 the Natural Resources Department.

8
9 During the break I passed out a list of
10 proposals that we have to change Federal subsistence
11 fish and shellfish regulations. Cody, who is our
12 subsistence fisheries scientist has worked on these.
13 And I will just ask him to speak to them if he's on
14 line.

15
16 MR. LARSON: Thanks, Heidi. Thank you
17 for the opportunity, Madame Chair, and Council members.

18
19 So, again, it's another two year cycle
20 and time goes fairly quickly but this year I put a
21 couple of items down for thoughts on some suggestions
22 for the Council to consider with amending the regional
23 regulations. And I came up with five and each of them
24 has not been prompted by any sort of contentious
25 points, it's more to make the regulations a little more
26 precise in where they apply, in which waters to be a
27 little more user friendly, to make it a little more
28 understandable for the users to say, you know, what
29 regulations apply where. And then there are a couple
30 other sort of amendments to sort of simplify is what I
31 had in mind. So these are for the Council's
32 consideration to put forward this cycle and if not to
33 put forward, then to have any comments as to amendments
34 that anyone would like to see prior to, you know, April
35 20th, as Scott had mentioned earlier.

36
37 If there's any discussion I'd be happy
38 to answer any questions on these, or if you'd like me
39 to go through them I can do that as well.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, Cody,
42 yeah, you've got them laid out really nice here and I'm
43 going to ask if you would go through each one and just
44 hit the highlights for us and give us your reasoning
45 behind it and then we'll see if there's questions on
46 them and I think that will be the quickest way through.
47 Is that okay with my Council.

48
49 (Council nods affirmatively)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, we're
2 getting nods here so if you could do that, Cody, we
3 don't need anything lengthy but just give us your ideas
4 and highlights.

5
6 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 So I think that the summary, which is the color-coded
8 sheet, I think is probably going to be the easiest,
9 although this is not a single proposal, this is for
10 each one of the individual proposals. So if anyone
11 wanted to tweak them individually that's okay, but this
12 is just a summary.

13
14 So Proposal 1, I just pulled up the
15 CFRs explicitly rather than the regulation book, and
16 this is the language that's in yellow here. So right
17 now, as is, when the Federal regulations were adopted
18 from the State in 1999 or 2000 for the first booklet,
19 it just kind of copy/pasted the commercial fishing
20 districts, and within Bristol Bay, none of the
21 commercial fishing districts are -- well, all of the
22 commercial fishing districts are in the marine waters
23 and none of them are within or adjacent to any
24 conservation system units. And so my suggestion, to
25 repeal any of the references to the commercial salmon
26 fishing districts, because they're not within or
27 adjacent to any non-marine waters of CSUs, meaning they
28 wouldn't apply to the blue booklet, or the Federal
29 regulatory booklet. And I think in doing that it would
30 simplify, or it would, at least, be more precise with
31 the location of where those waters are, where that
32 booklet applies.

33
34 Does anyone have any discussions or
35 comments on those?

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: I'm
38 understanding you to say, basically it's just a
39 clarification -- a change for clarification for
40 regulation; is that correct?

41
42 MR. LARSON: Yes, that's correct,
43 Madame Chair. And so just anywhere it references to
44 commercial fishing districts in all of those yellow
45 spots, just to eliminate that as they're not applicable
46 to Federal regulations, Federal subsistence
47 regulations.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
50

1 you. Any questions.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. The Council seems to have that one under grasp. Let's move on to number 2.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. LARSON: Great. So Proposal No. 2 speaks to the Igegik River and Igegik River, in the Federal regulations is on a scheduled open -- like scheduled closures is what it is, and so the Federally-adjacent waters of the Igegik River are actually only like a mile or two from where the outlet of Lake Becharof is, so it's not for the -- you know, the waters are -- this wouldn't apply for the entire river, it would apply to the Federal waters of the Upper Igegik River and all of the other districts have repealed their sort of weekly and rolling closures, and so this regulation is actually more restrictive than the State subsistence regulations, I think by the nature of the Federal regulations they should not be more restrictive than State but at least equal to, of not, provide for a rural preference as well. And so that's the one in green there, is to repeal that weekly schedule for the Upper Egegik River.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you, Cody. Questions from the Council members. I think that one is fairly as simple as well.

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, please continue to number 3.

MR. LARSON: Great, thank you, Madame Chair. So Proposal No. 3 is that teal or aqua color. And I'm not sure of the origination of this but Scott had mentioned this as a closure and so it is a closure of Federal waters of taking fish within 300 feet of a stream mouth. That is kind of an area where I know a lot of folks do target fish and so this isn't species specific, it's saying, you know, no fish at all within Federal waters within 300 feet of a stream mouth. I think that the intent of this may have been to not restrict migratory fish from passing into stream mouths, and some of the language that the State has used is to not allow for set gillnets to obstruct more than one half of the width of a stream or of any channel or side channel of a stream.

1 So my recommendation or a thought for
2 the Council to recommend was to allow for the taking of
3 fish, that could be with a rod and reel, it could be --
4 I mean there's just -- any of those methods within 300
5 feet of stream mouths, but to specify that we're not
6 going to allow for blocking of the stream or channel
7 with a set gillnet.

8
9 Is there any discussion on the third
10 proposal there.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Dan.

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Cody. I
15 want to make sure I'm reading this right. In the blue
16 you've got some lined through and then you have a
17 parenthesis, bold, is the parenthesis, bold, is that
18 new language you're proposing and then the line through
19 was the removed suggestion.

20
21 Over.

22
23 MR. LARSON: Through the Chair. Yep,
24 thanks, Dan for that clarification.

25
26 Yeah, so the bold and parenthesis is
27 not in regulation right now, that is new language, and
28 then the strike-through was the old language or could
29 be the old language if the proposal as suggested and
30 adopted.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Good Dan.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay, I wanted to
35 make sure I'm reading it right. Would you happen to
36 know if this has been enforced at all or has it been an
37 issue. I'm just curious what you know about the
38 history of this regulation. I think a lot of people
39 might be totally unaware of it. So -- and I see George
40 putting his hand up, too, so thanks.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yeah,
43 George, go ahead.

44
45 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. In about
46 2000, I remember the Fish and Wildlife Service from
47 King Salmon coming down to the Chignik weir going
48 through regulations to put in or copy from the State
49 regulations, and this is a standard comm fish mouth
50

1 closure where I have -- and you probably -- I don't
2 know if you have, but I've put up hundreds, if not
3 thousands of markers in my day, 100 yards each side of
4 -- and it's a standard statewide bit. I don't know why
5 it's up here and if it is 100 yards from the mouth on
6 the Bristol Bay area, you're normally, you know, 50
7 miles from Federal public waters, so there are several
8 of these. We found one the other day that you're not
9 allowed to hunt albino moose under Federal subsistence
10 regulations near Denali Park and we were all trying to
11 figure out where that came from.

12
13 So there are some in there that do need
14 to be updated.

15
16 Thank you, Madame Chair.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you
19 for that explanation, George. Cody, did you have
20 anything you wanted to add?

21
22 MR. LARSON: Nope. Madame Chair,
23 that's more history than I understand on it. It just
24 seemed like an area where folks, you know, do fish for
25 subsistence and to not allow for it seems -- without
26 some reasoning.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
29 great, I don't see any other questions on that, let's
30 move on to 4.

31
32 MR. LARSON: Great. Thanks. So
33 Proposal 4 is in the purple there and it -- I'm reading
34 it myself again to sort of refresh myself. It looks
35 like -- oh, okay, yep.

36
37 So these regulations are more
38 restrictive than the State subsistence fishing
39 regulations. And, again, it is something that I think
40 that the intent of the Federal regulations is to at
41 least be as liberal as the State if not for a rural
42 preference.

43
44 And specifying the dipnets within this
45 is specifically for salmon. So with other species, you
46 know, the general provisions apply, but specifically
47 this is for salmon and this has to do with a regulation
48 that passed at the Board of Fish this last cycle in
49 Ugashik and Weary Rivers which are waters within the
50

1 Togiak Refuge and so because it's allowable under the
2 State regulations for salmon, then this would allow for
3 it to also be allowable under Federal regulations. So
4 it would match the State.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
7 you. Questions.

8
9 Lary.

10
11 MR. HILL: On this CFR 100.27(d), you
12 may also take salmon by beach seines, not exceeding 24
13 fathoms in length excluding the tributaries, the beach
14 seine, does that mean one end has to be anchored to the
15 beach?

16
17 MR. LARSON: Through the Chair. I
18 believe that a beach seine is operated from the beach
19 and I think ultimately both ends have to be attached to
20 the beach but if there's anybody who can clarify.

21
22 MR. HILL: Okay.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Could you
25 give us the explanation again, please, Cody, we had a
26 mic on here and we couldn't hear all of it.

27
28 MR. LARSON: Yep. So the way that I've
29 seen beach seines operated is that one end is fixed to
30 the beach and then the other end, a lot of times is
31 operated with a skiff, but ultimately it's brought back
32 to the beach and the seine is retrieved, not into the
33 skiff, but retrieved on to the beach.

34
35 MR. HILL: Okay. That's what I was
36 thinking. But also we had a problem last summer with
37 the water in the Newhalen River. The actual set
38 gillnets and beach seines couldn't get the fish because
39 they were out in the deep cold water. And so some of
40 us had to actually drift down the middle of the river
41 with a net to get any fish, otherwise we wouldn't have
42 gotten it. So is there anything in this that we can
43 address something like that.

44
45 MR. LARSON: Madame Chair, if I have
46 the floor, there's a suggestion to allow for seine,
47 rather than just beach seine in the purple may
48 alleviate that for salmon specifically. Now, with the
49 other species, the general provisions apply and I
50

1 believe seine is allowable for species other than
2 salmon. But if, in the purple, we were to eliminate
3 the word, beach, that may alleviate that -- for that
4 condition there with the beach seine. Or,
5 alternatively, another proposal could be proposed to
6 Section D there to take salmon by seines not exceeding
7 25 fathoms in length, or more explicit beach seine or
8 seine, that may be an option, at least, to be real
9 precise there in Lake Clark for salmon.

10

11 MR. HILL: So you'd eliminate the word,
12 beach, then and just have seines?

13

14 MR. LARSON: This is not my area of
15 what's the difference between a beach seine or a seine,
16 or if the word, seining, also encompasses beach seine.
17 But I believe that in the general provisions there is a
18 line item for each. One is a beach seine, and another
19 is a seine. So I think to be safe it would be both to
20 allow for that.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
23 you, Cody. I think George has looked up our
24 definitions for us.

25

26 MR. PAPPAS: Yes. Page 92 of the
27 Federal subsistence handy-dandy here, a beach seine
28 means a floating net which is designed to surround fish
29 which is set from and haul to the beach.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: So that
32 being said, Lary, I think we would be wiser to add
33 seine in there rather than removing beach seine because
34 the definitions probably vary.

35

36 Billy.

37

38 MR. TREFON: It did sound like what
39 he's referring to is driftnetting, if you had to drift
40 in the middle of the river with a net to catch fish,
41 his question is does it apply.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Dan.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: Typically I've always --
46 driftnetting in my mind is drift gillnetting.

47

48 MR. TREFON: Yes.

49

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I know for tagging fish
2 we have walked down the beach with a line and the other
3 boat's out in the water and drag along and so you
4 ultimately deploy it from the beach, walk it down,
5 maybe you can't always walk it and pull it back. I
6 don't see a definition for seine, just beach seine in
7 this handy-dandy.

8
9 MR. TREFON: Because he's referring to
10 drifting down the -- with a net.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Right. Well, but they'll
13 ultimately be seined and you can release what you don't
14 want, if they're not gilled.

15
16 MR. TREFON: But if they're drifting
17 with a seine you're not going to catch nothing.

18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I have.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Looking
24 over your shoulder, Dan, there are two different
25 definitions for drift gillnet and gillnet, though, how
26 similar or unsimilar are they?

27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair. The
29 gillnet they have to catch them by the gills or, you
30 know, they untangle in the net. Gillnet means net
31 primarily designed to catch fish by entanglement in a
32 mesh that contains a single sheet of webbing and hangs
33 between cork and lead fish from the surface of the
34 water. Drift gillnet means drifting-- a drifting
35 gillnet's not been intentionally staked, anchored or
36 otherwise fixed in one place.

37
38 So -- except that the seine doesn't
39 entangle them, you know, unless they happen to be just
40 the perfect size for whatever mesh you've got.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: But to
43 overcome this issue, though, Lary's pointed out, maybe
44 we would have to add drift seine in there and then come
45 up with a definition for that. It looks like maybe
46 we've got something that isn't yet further defined.

47
48 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. I realize this
49 is an unusual situation. But it has happened before,
50

1 where the fish don't go along the edge of the beach
2 where ordinarily we would use the beach seine. It's
3 better. You don't have to kill every fish you get, you
4 just take what you need. But these are, you know, not
5 ordinary circumstances, but when it does happen, you
6 really wouldn't have that many people doing it because
7 when you get your subsistence fish you want to get as
8 much as you can, as soon as you can, instead of taking
9 three weeks to get your fish because the season isn't
10 very long. And there are only certain areas where you
11 can drift and do that, there are so many snags and
12 rocks and stuff, so it's not going to be just an
13 ordinary person going out and trying it. These people
14 are going to be very skilled and know what they're
15 doing.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you,
18 Lary.

19
20 Troy.

21
22 MR. HAMON: Madame Chairman. Troy Hamon
23 with the National Park Service. I've used a lot of
24 seines. I have a lot of experience using seines. I
25 was looking at the regulation to try to understand it
26 from my standpoint. I'm not a law enforcement officer.

27
28 I see what you're discussing is a gear
29 restriction. It does not, in my initial read, say how
30 you can use the gear. I'm not aware of a seine that's
31 made that's not either a beach seine or a purse seine.
32 Those are both gears that are authorized in this
33 booklet. How you use it, I think is kind of a separate
34 question, and I don't see that called out in the
35 regulations. So I don't know that you need a change or
36 to authorize what Lary's doing.

37
38 I will also tell you as a former expert
39 practitioner of using a beach seine in creative ways to
40 accomplish captures of fish in places where they're not
41 made for, they are a highly preferable option, if
42 feasible, because they don't tangle the fish, they're a
43 lot easier to release a fish unharmed, if it's not your
44 target species, and as a manager I would be happy to
45 encourage the use of seines wherever feasible as
46 opposed to gillnets.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
49 you.
50

1 Go ahead, Lary.

2
3 MR. HILL: Thank you. That's kind of
4 what I'm after. We don't want to be, you know,
5 ticketed, or cited for illegal fishing just for our
6 subsistence needs. And frankly there are some over
7 zealous agents that would love a chance to, you know,
8 catch us doing something wrong, that's just my personal
9 take on it. So if we could have this, other than just
10 an understanding, well, I'm not -- everybody has an
11 understanding and people who do the law enforcement go
12 by regulations and they're not objective, they're
13 subjective.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
16 you.

17
18 Billy.

19
20 MR. TREFON: Yeah, with a seine, my
21 experience with a seine, I mean since the late '70s,
22 early '80s, Nondalton people have been using a seine
23 all the time and we fought with the State for a long
24 time. Well, before it was illegal to use a seine, it
25 was right down, illegal, and their argument was, at
26 that time, was that people will be coming in there and
27 taking all the roe and leaving the males, that was
28 their biggest concern. And we were like, everybody
29 else, we're not in there to be -- we're just taking --
30 if we want 40 fish, we're going to grab 30 fish and let
31 the other 300 go without any harm. So seining, I
32 think, is actually, like he said, that's the way to go
33 for fishing, it's better management of your fish,
34 you're not killing everything off.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you.

37
38 George.

39
40 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, George Pappas here.
41 And there isn't a definition for drift seine. It just
42 says you have to start from the beach and return to the
43 beach. It doesn't mean you have to drive a stake in
44 the beach, you know, I've seen it done with horses,
45 people, fourwheelers, with somebody in a skiff going
46 out, you know, people in waders, what have you.

47
48 And also I believe that's an
49 alternative gear that's allowed in the Yukon and
50

1 Kuskokwim area during times of king conservation, they
2 can restrict to beach seines, dipnets, what have you,
3 that allow you to release fish with the reduced
4 mortality possibilities.

5
6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Very good.
9 Any other comments on the seine.

10
11 Go ahead, Lary.

12
13 MR. HILL: If there's already a
14 regulation in place that allows us to use a seine like
15 we described, we don't need a new one.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: I couldn't
18 agree more.

19
20 Okay, go ahead, Scott.

21
22 MR. AYERS: Sorry to add one more voice
23 to this conversation.

24
25 As it currently stands right now in the
26 regulations there's only one area that allows seines
27 and that's in Lake Clark and excluding its tributaries.
28 What Cody is suggesting in the purple section is that
29 that may be a qualified gear for using -- for the take
30 of salmon throughout the area. So that would be the
31 clarification there.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
34 you.

35
36 Okay, go ahead, Lary.

37
38 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. Just
39 reference to history, I've been a member of the SRC at
40 Lake Clark National Park since 1982 and frankly it took
41 us about 20 years or longer to get permission to use
42 seines, at least 20 or maybe even longer. The fyke
43 net, it took 30 years to get that permission. It's a
44 long process. So I just wanted to let you guys know
45 that it's -- I don't want us to lose sight of this kind
46 of privilege that we fought so long and hard for, we
47 don't want to have it taken away.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
50

1 you. Scott, did you have a reply.

2

3

4 MR. AYERS: Well, I just wanted to
5 restate that I'm certainly not advocating for any of
6 Cody's proposals here but I think he did a nice job of
7 going through the regulations instead of looking at the
8 book specifically and just going through the codified
9 Federal regulations and noting where there were
10 opportunities to make clarifications and I'm just happy
11 to see that he's presented that to you all.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

50

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: I couldn't
agree more.

Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, he was using an
impressive broom. But, Cody, I wanted to clarify was
it your intent to broaden the use of seines throughout
Bristol Bay, or strictly for Lake Clark?

MR. LARSON: Through the Chair.
Thanks, Dan. So I did include beach seine, in that, it
has been a documented use and I've personally seen it
used in say like Togiak Lake for, you know, for red
fish a lot of times. It is a gillnet that is being
operated as a beach seine, but also folks from
Manokotak going up into the -- near the mouth of the
Ongokie and Red Leaf Creek and in the Imonka, to also,
you know, to take salmon specifically.

So a beach seine, you know, is
allowable for like Dolly Varden and whitefish and other
species within these CSUs, but it has been documented
that salmon are also being taken and targeted by the
use of beach seines. So it's allowable for other
species currently but this would be an exception for
salmon and most likely this would be spawning salmon or
red fish.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Go ahead,
Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Cody.
And, yes, I'm aware of exactly what you're talking
about. I think it even, you know, kind of seine with a
gillnet, I think even around Dillingham some. And the
one place I'm concerned, but I'm not sure who would --
I don't think the Feds have jurisdiction, is I hear

1 complaints from the Ekwok area that some people seine
2 the kings out of the Nushagak, and they're out in the
3 middle where there's some suspected king salmon
4 spawning and that could be an excessive type of gear
5 use there. But for red fish near Mission Lodge or
6 upper Wood River, I commonly hear more used for red
7 fish than anything else.

8
9 So anyway if you have comments on that
10 or -- but I want to -- I'm kind of thinking that State
11 regs would be enforced on the Nushagak where I'd have
12 my greatest concern over.

13
14 MR. LARSON: Through the Chair. That's
15 a great point, Dan, is none of these regulations apply
16 to anywhere on the Nushagak that I'm aware of. That
17 river is not within or adjacent waters to a CSU. There
18 may be a small portion, you know, up at the outlet of
19 Twin Lakes there that may be Preserve, Lake Clark
20 Preserve, but, yeah, none of these would apply to the
21 Nushagak River.

22
23 And that's another point in amending
24 these regulations is to really clarify for users where
25 these regulations apply and so, yeah, the Nushagak, I
26 believe, would be all under State subsistence
27 regulations.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you very much for
30 that clarification, Cody. Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, very
33 good. Do you want to finish up with number 5 then.

34
35 MR. LARSON: Yep, thanks, Madame Chair.

36
37 So number 5 is a bit of language that
38 kind of pointed to -- it pointed to gear that's not
39 referenced anywhere, so it's just sort of like, it's
40 language that goes into the abyss. So this one is you
41 may take fish other than salmon, herring, caplin and,
42 you know, all of these other species, then the other
43 ones that are required on a permit and it says, in this
44 part, and so this part of -- which is the regional
45 regulations, doesn't list gear, however, the general
46 provisions for taking of the fish does list all of
47 those other methods that are allowable. And then it
48 remains unless restricted under terms of the
49 subsistence fishing permits, which would leave room for
50

1 additional fishing permits for other species, say like
2 Dolly Varden or whitefish or something. Right now
3 there are no, you know, permits for these other
4 species, but leaving that language in there would allow
5 for restrictions from the general provisions if a
6 permit system was to be set up for a future species.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
9 great. Questions.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, it
14 looks like everybody has grasped that concept as well.
15 And with that I will ask what the wishes of the Board
16 might be.

17
18 Dan.

19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, so can we clarify
21 is BBNA seeking Council support on these proposals?

22
23 MR. LARSON: Through the Chair. Dan.
24 This is just some thoughts that I had as someone who
25 works with a lot of subsistence fisheries, users and
26 get a lot of questions about the regulations, and in
27 interpreting them myself, I found that in the few years
28 that I've been working with BBNA they -- they haven't
29 really changed from the copy/pasted regs from early on
30 except for some of the Lake Clark stuff has been more
31 active, so this is, you know, just the Bristol Bay
32 region ones and it's something I wanted to suggest for
33 the Council to consider submitting as a Council and,
34 if, you know, April 20th is kind of around the corner
35 in terms of meetings for the Council, and so if you
36 were to take action it would be at this meeting would
37 be the opportunity to do that, if not, you know, I can
38 take your comments on these and I -- I didn't -- I
39 don't think I found any changes with the comments from
40 the Council but it's -- I'm, you know, presenting it as
41 an opportunity for the Council to take it up
42 themselves, if not, yeah, I'll probably be submitting
43 these as is with -- through BBNA.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Cody. I
46 understand them a lot better than when you tried to
47 explain them to me at the post office a month or two
48 ago.

49
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm favorably impressed
4 but I'd like to see what the other Council members --
5 at minimum, I would absolutely encourage you to submit
6 them in a full form. We have a discussion going on at
7 the other end of the table here so we might have more
8 comments, I'll step back.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yes,
13 gentlemen, did you want to share your discussion with
14 the rest of the Board, please.

15

16 MR. TREFON: Yes, I do.

17

18 I'm looking at this Proposal 5 and I
19 had a question about a fyke net, and that's what he was
20 trying to explain to me. And I was just asking if it
21 was legal to fish with a fyke net, I mean to me it
22 looks like a fish trap but he said it's not a trap,
23 it's a way to catch fish.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yeah, and I
26 believe it's very restricted in where a person could
27 use it, or at least it was at one point because I was
28 part of the Council way back when we approved that. Do
29 you have the information on that, Scott.

30

31 MR. AYERS: Yeah, this was a unique
32 proposal that came before this Council and ended up
33 getting passed by the Board. I think it's one of the
34 few spots in these regulations that deals with fyke
35 nets at all and it is rather restrictive, including
36 that all materials used to construct the fyke net and
37 lead must be made of wood and removed from the water
38 when the fyke net and lead is no longer in use. And my
39 understanding was that this was a means of passing on
40 longterm traditional knowledge. It does require a
41 permit, and to my knowledge the permit has not been
42 requested at this point in time -- has yet to be
43 requested.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Lary.

46

47 MR. HILL: Okay. This has -- this
48 particular way of killing fish for our needs was
49 developed a long time ago, it's customary and

50

1 traditional. And up at the Lake Clark National Park
2 area where it was traditionally used. We tried for 20
3 some years to get this particular type of getting fish
4 to be legal. But at that time the -- who does it,
5 Secretary of Interior, would not approve until they
6 were not going to give any credence to our traditional
7 knowledge and, yes, that we had used this stuff in the
8 past, it had to be referred to in a book, written text,
9 with a library of Congress reference number and there
10 had to be a picture of it. We could not call it a fish
11 trap. Fish traps are illegal. Therefore, I found a
12 book that was published in 1939 by an ethnographer who
13 documented this type of ways of getting fish. And what
14 you do is you have a stream, the stream is going down
15 stream, you start and you put a line of, pull, and you
16 put the brush in between and you direct the -- the
17 salmon will follow up and it's not all the way across
18 the stream, it's part of the way and it comes up at an
19 angle like that and at the end of this angle there's a
20 little box. And this angle is so that the fish are not
21 going to go back down stream, so you take your -- get
22 the fish out of there, and when you're all done, you
23 pull it out, you take it out and you're done. But that
24 -- it took like 30 years, and it depended on getting
25 that one picture from that book.

26
27 And that's my understanding -- it's not
28 a net, but it's called that because of the restrictions
29 that you can't call it a fish trap. That's my
30 recollection of how and what it was.

31
32 MR. TREFON: Yeah, but I've actually
33 seen those as a kid but I didn't know it was called a
34 fyke net, and to me like I said it's a trap, it's not a
35 net.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. I'm
38 going to forbid you calling it a fish trap here then
39 because we're in Federal presence.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. WILSON: That's why crab pots are
44 pots not traps.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. Back
49 to my initial question, what are the wishes of the
50

1 Board, would you like to forward with these proposals
2 and approve them for submission on this go around, or
3 take them under consideration for a year, right, a
4 year?
5

6 MR. AYERS: My understanding of what
7 Cody's asking is whether or not this Council would like
8 to take these up on their own and if not, that he would
9 potentially be interested in submitting them himself,
10 but he would rather have the Council take them up, if
11 it was interested or inclined.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
14 Thank you. I missed that so I'm glad to know that he
15 would follow through if not.
16

17 Richard.
18

19 MR. WILSON: I guess I would be more
20 inclined since he's the proponent of these that it
21 would be under his umbrella and not ours unless we've
22 had a lot more discussion from different entities on
23 some of the wordage here, you know, I'd feel more
24 comfortable with him introducing it rather than this
25 Council here at this time.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Anyone
28 else.
29

30 Billy.
31

32 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I know Cody does
33 really good work when he submits proposal, he's the one
34 that helped me with the rod and reel and also with the
35 chumming law so I mean I put a lot of faith in his
36 work, I mean he gives us good information he doesn't
37 deviate and mislead us. So I would say I'd support it.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
40 Anybody else.
41

42 Dan.
43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm along the side -- I
45 want to be supportive but I think let Cody do the work.
46 I know Donald's up to his eyeballs in writing but at
47 this point, you know, work some through some of the
48 technicalities and bring the complete language back. I
49 think you've done a lot of good work, Cody, thank you.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, Cody.
2 It sounds like you've got support but everybody wants
3 to see you continue to follow through with it at this
4 point. And I'm assuming that it's going to end up in
5 front of us again for our official support -- yes, and
6 I'm getting lots of head nods for that, so please move
7 forward, everybody's applauding the work and I think
8 we've got approval for that.

9

10 Okay.

11

12 Did you have anything else for us
13 Heidi.

14

15 MS. KRITZ: (Shakes head negatively)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
18 you. Let's go on to our review and approve FY2019
19 annual report, which is supplement one. I wanted to
20 make sure on that one so I didn't have it wrong.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to adopt.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. I
25 have a motion on the table, do I have a second.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Second.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. I
30 have a motion and a second to adopt this letter as
31 presented. Is there any discussion.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MR. TREFON: Question.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
38 Question's been called. All in favor of approving the
39 letter as presented, please signify by saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Opposed,
44 same sign.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. Once
49 again, Mr. Maines, I'm going to assume that you agreed

50

1 with us on that, we will approve it.

2

3 Trying to make sure that we've got
4 everything we need to. I believe we still have number
5 4; is that correct, supplement No. 4 that we need to
6 address.

7

8 MR. LIND: That's correct, Madame
9 Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. And
12 who should we turn to for that one, please, Orville.

13

14 MR. LIND: Danielle Stickman, are you
15 on line.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. LIND: Danielle Stickman, are you
20 on line.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: It's
25 supplement number 4 and it looks like this.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Are you
30 going to try and get her.

31

32 MR. LIND: I'm going to try.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.

35

36 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. We also have
37 another action item and that's the SRC nomination.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, thank
40 you very much. Let's move on to that while Orville
41 works on getting Danielle on line. Liza, go ahead.

42

43 MS. RUPP: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 For the record, Liza Rupp, Lake Clark National Park and
45 Preserve.

46

47 And I have one item of business, which
48 is the reappointment, should you choose, for Tiney
49 Hedlund, as a RAC appointed SRC member for the Lake

50

1 Clark National Park SRC, so his official term is up, I
2 think on March 16th officially so this is very timely.
3 And I contacted Tiney and he would like to continue and
4 he has been -- he's on the Lake Iliamna Advisory
5 Council, and has been, according to my notes, since
6 2004, so he qualifies as a RAC appointed member.

7

8 So that is my request, thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
11 Wishes of the Board.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: I move to approve Thomas
14 Tiney Hedlund. I've known him since about 1975, he's a
15 vast resource of knowledge and a great storyteller. I
16 kind of miss him being on here but -- so anyway I'd
17 like to move to approve him.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. TREFON: Second.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. I've
24 got a motion and a second to approve Tiney Hedlund back
25 on the Lake Clark SRC.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Question.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Question's
30 been called. All in favor please signify by saying
31 aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you.
36 Opposed, same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Motion
41 carries.

42

43 MS. RUPP: Thank you very much.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: I just want to thank
48 Billie Maines for hanging in there because I know how
49 hard it is to do it on the phone, you're a good man

50

1 Billie, thank you.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Have we had
4 any luck getting Ms. Stickman.
5
6 MR. LIND: (Shakes head negatively)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Do we have
9 anybody who can give us a quick briefing.
10
11 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. At this point
12 I don't know of anybody in the -- I guess it's Fish and
13 Game, is it?
14
15 MR. HILL: Landscape Conservation
16 Cooperative.
17
18 MR. LIND: The Western Alaska Landscape
19 Conservation Cooperative, do we have anybody here that
20 knows anything about that.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yes, go
25 ahead, Dan.
26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think this is a
28 pretty thorough and good summary of what their
29 activities are. We fairly often get an update from
30 them, I'm inclined to thank them for their pamphlet and
31 read it and we could move on if they're not available.
32
33 Thank you.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Lary.
36
37 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. I am part of
38 this by default. And it was a way to get people who
39 know about these areas that are being talked about now,
40 some of it, the experiences we've learned just by
41 living in the area, is being applied in a sense that we
42 all have to work together from old, what do you call
43 it, TEK, traditional ecological knowledge and today's
44 basic science. This is just my opinion on it, which
45 compliments what our knowledge of what we've already
46 had from living over the years.
47
48 I like this idea and I think it's
49 something that we should continue to work on.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Great.
2 Thank you, Lary, I appreciate that explanation a whole
3 lot and, yeah, from what I'm reading here the goals are
4 admirable and timely both.

5
6 Any other comments.

7
8 MR. WILSON: This is not an action
9 item?

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: No, it is
12 not.

13
14 MR. WILSON: Okay.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, good
17 enough. Then let's move on to -- did I miss anything
18 or can we move on to future meeting dates.

19
20 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. We have one
21 last item and that's under OSM under B, tribal
22 engagement, and that's me and I'll be very brief.

23
24 Tribal engagement sessions through all
25 10 regions have been completed, and I will continue,
26 again, to do tribal engagement sessions with the tribes
27 during RAC sessions or before or after, whichever the
28 request is. And the whole purpose to that is to keep
29 everybody updated on the process of consultations, why
30 we do them, where we do them and all the purposes.

31
32 So just a quick update.

33
34 I've done, now, 11 of those, and then
35 with this next round now, at this time, I'm just giving
36 the RAC members update on -- I've completed, I believe,
37 150 tribes, as you know we have 229 tribes here and in
38 six years I think that's a huge fete, and it's not
39 without the cooperation of the people themselves, so it
40 takes that to work also.

41
42 We are continuing to visit corporations
43 in Anchorage. The Acting ARD and myself have been
44 going to the corporation offices in Anchorage and
45 introducing ourselves and the roles and
46 responsibilities for the Office of Subsistence
47 Management and that seems to be going over real well
48 because now we've got two requests that we need to fill
49 here in the near future.

50

1 I think tribal consultation is getting
2 stronger. We're definitely getting a lot more special
3 actions and -- because I think people are getting the
4 process down and I think that whole process does matter
5 and it's really becoming clear that we are listening to
6 the voice out there and we're making it happen.

7
8 That's all I have, Madame Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you.

11
12 Richard.

13
14 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Orville. You
15 are the man for the job, really appreciate it. We're
16 getting a lot more out there than I can remember since
17 I've been sitting on this Council so really appreciate
18 it.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: I echo
21 those thanks and commend you for a terrific job well
22 done.

23
24 Did we have somebody on line that
25 wanted to speak.

26
27 MS. STICKMAN: Madame Chair. This is
28 Danielle Stickman. I apologize if you guys were
29 calling my name. I'm just calling on to listen in for
30 the last few minutes.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Well, thank
33 you, we appreciate you being here. We were admiring
34 your wonderful sheet of presentation there, do you want
35 to give us a brief explanation.

36
37 MS. STICKMAN: Yes. Sorry it's been a
38 busy week and I forgot that I was presenting today to
39 the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council.

40
41 So thank you, Madame Chair, and members
42 of the Council. My name is Danielle Stickman and I am
43 the network coordinator for what has been known as the
44 Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative and
45 I've been in this position for almost a year. I
46 started last May.

47
48 And so I'm sure most of you guys have
49 heard about the landscape conservation cooperatives,
50

1 they were once under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2 and received an abundance of funding until about 2017
3 when the funding was cut and when the funding was cut
4 the Alaska Conservation Foundation continued to see the
5 value of these cooperatives and found some outside
6 funding to continue these. So these cooperatives are
7 basically partnerships if you haven't heard of these
8 LCCs, we are led by our steering committee members. So
9 right now from Bristol Bay we have Bristol Bay Native
10 Association, we have Cassandra from the BBNA Natural
11 Resources Department on our steering committee and
12 Gayla Hoseth as well. And we used to have someone from
13 U.S. Fish and Wildlife, I think it was Susanna Henry
14 was on our steering committee and right now we're
15 lacking in Bristol Bay representation so we've been
16 reaching -- there has been interest from some community
17 members to start as a listening position on the
18 steering committee.

19
20 So the steering committees are made up
21 of representatives from Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game, the Bureau of Land Management, NOAA, the State of
23 Alaska, the Department of Commerce Community and
24 Economic Development, the U.S. Geological survey and
25 quite a few others and in the past we've had funding to
26 distribute so as a cooperative we had funding to give
27 out to different areas throughout Western Alaska. So
28 that area from just above Kotzebue down to False Pass
29 and that also involved Kodiak, which is a big area. We
30 no longer have those amount of funds to distribute but
31 we're still working on projects.

32
33 So the three active LCCs that currently
34 have coordinators like myself are the Aleutian Bering
35 Sea Initiative, Western Alaska and Northwest Boreal,
36 and we all met last week in Anchorage to kind of relook
37 at our priorities of just -- also as a state but also
38 in our three regions. And for Western Alaska there are
39 priorities for projects moving forward for 2020, we're
40 looking at trying to expand stream temperature
41 monitoring throughout Bristol Bay and looking at YK
42 Delta, along with -- you guys might have remembered
43 from 2016 there was a series of coastal resiliency
44 workshops and some adaptation plans were from those so
45 we were looking at expanding those to kind of really
46 look at areas within Western Alaska that are
47 experiencing high changes in their environment due to
48 climate change. And there are a few other projects but
49 I won't go too far in, I know it's towards the end of
50

1 the day.

2

3 But I did want to mention that we're
4 still active even though we're not under the U.S. Fish
5 and Wildlife Service, we are still active and still
6 doing projects in each of our regions and still
7 convening. And one of those things is also involving a
8 newsletter and recruiting new members, and although
9 we're not giving out funding like we used to, we're
10 still helping our partners connect and kind of build
11 off of some other projects that are happening.

12

13 Yeah, so this is the worksheet that I
14 provided, a brief summary, and I'll be -- if members of
15 the Council are interested in a recap from last week
16 and our priorities moving forward I'd be happy to share
17 that with Donald and he can share that with the rest of
18 you. But I think that's about it.

19

20 I wish I could be there, yeah, it would
21 be great to be out in the region again.

22

23 Any questions.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you,
26 Danielle. Yeah, really appreciate knowing about this
27 and look forward to hearing further reports.

28

29 Any questions, Council members.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Nope, we're
34 getting thumb's up, though, thank you very much for
35 taking the time to join us today and giving us that
36 explanation and, again, we will look forward to updates
37 from you.

38

39 MS. STICKMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
40 and thank you members of the Council.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. With
43 that then anything else that I needed to do or might
44 have missed.

45

46 So then let's go on to future meeting
47 dates, let's confirm fall 2020 meeting date and
48 location first of all, which I believe ours is
49 scheduled for October 28th and 29th in Dillingham.

50

1 MR. LIND: Yes, Madame Chair. Right
2 now I'd like to have Mr. Scott Ayers share what the
3 other Council meeting dates are so we can actually see
4 what's open.
5

6 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair. You are
7 correct for the fall 2020 meeting it is slated for 28th
8 and 29th in Dillingham so that would be your first
9 action item is to handle that.
10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Anybody
12 have problems with those dates.
13

14 Mr. Maines, I know that sometimes that
15 conflicts with travel for you, will those dates work
16 for you?
17

18 MR. MAINES: Yeah, that's fine, since
19 I'm retired now.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Sweet.
22 Anybody else have a conflict with those dates that they
23 know of at this point.
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
28 Somebody want to put them on the table to approve them.
29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, Madame Chair, I'll
31 move to approve October 28th, 29, 2020, the fall
32 meeting in Dillingham.
33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, I
35 have a motion, do I have a second.
36

37 MR. WILSON: Second.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: A motion
40 and a second. Call for the question.
41

42 MR. HILL: Question.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: All in
45 favor please signify by saying aye.
46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Opposed,
50

1 same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.

6 We'll stick with those dates then.

7

8 MR. AYERS: All right, Madame Chair.

9 And for the winter 2021 cycle, the window opens

10 February 1st and closes March 12th. There have been
11 three Regional Advisory Councils that have met so far
12 and have selected dates.

13

14 The Western Interior RAC has selected
15 February 17th and 18th.

16

17 The Southcentral Regional Advisory
18 Council has selected February 24th and 25th.

19

20 The Eastern Interior Council has
21 selected March 4th and 5th.

22

23 We try not to have more than two
24 meetings in any week, so this effectively leaves the
25 calendar completely open for you at this point.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. Does
28 somebody want to propose dates.

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: These dates are
31 too late.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: I agree and
34 I think these dates are too late because I know most of
35 you who had to travel to join us had fun trying to get
36 reservations because we've got regional basketball and
37 spring break going on right now.

38

39 So do we want to go back to our
40 original second week in February that we had this year
41 planned until our notice got flushed.

42

43 MR. WILSON: That'll work.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay. So
46 the 9th and 10th of February.

47

48 (Council nods affirmatively)

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Seeing nods
2 I'll make that proposal but I need a motion.
3
4 MR. WILSON: I make a motion.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay, I've
7 got a motion, do I have a second.
8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
12 We've got a motion for our winter meeting to be
13 February 9th and 10th, 2021 here in Naknek, King Salmon
14 area again. All in favor please signify by saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: aye.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Opposed,
19 same sign.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
24 motion carries.
25
26 With that let's go to closing comments.
27
28 Billie, since you're on line, any
29 closing comments you'd like to share with us?
30
31 MR. MAINES: Not at this time, Madame
32 Chair. Thank you.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Well, thank
35 you very much for joining us all day I know it's been
36 tough and we certainly appreciate you going through the
37 trouble of doing so and I hope you're enjoying your
38 retirement.
39
40 Orville.
41
42 MR. LIND: Billie, before you leave,
43 can you give me your phone number real quick.
44
45 MR. MAINES: 907-842-2455.
46
47 MR. LIND: Thank you.
48
49 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Orville.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay,
2 awesome. Dan.

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I want to thank
5 folks for their confidence in me as being an officer.
6 I thought that was pretty interesting. I'm really glad
7 we caught Danielle, because I learned a lot more than I
8 expected to from explanations. And it's always a
9 pleasure to work with everybody, everybody brings some
10 insight to their corner of the world, and I just hope
11 we can get a Chignik corner represented.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Richard.

16
17 MR. WILSON: Thanks to all the
18 agencies. I always feel that's the important part, you
19 know, of getting our information from our agencies so
20 that we can all make good decisions.

21
22 One suggestion, I know that we do it
23 over there in Dillingham in the fall, is we invite, you
24 know, school kids to participate, and it would be nice
25 to try to coordinate that here even if it's a, you
26 know, senior class, or something for just a bit. You
27 know we're always looking for younger blood in this and
28 maybe it'll spark an interest, or if not interest in
29 sitting here, you know, there might be interest, you
30 know, in some of the agencies. So I just want to
31 encourage that.

32
33 Thanks.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yeah, I
36 couldn't agree more, and I guess that was what my
37 comment was alluding to, too, is it couldn't be a worse
38 time because most of our kids are gone.

39
40 Lary.

41
42 MR. HILL: Well, I was going to say
43 that my closing comments were that I had no closing
44 comments.

45
46 But some of us in this group make a lot
47 of personal sacrifices to get here, which speaks to the
48 commitment that we have to this organization and the
49 work that we do. Also the professional Staff, too,
50

1 that come here. I know there's a lot of paperwork
2 piling up in your offices when you're coming out here.
3 So for whatever reason you're here, I appreciate you
4 showing up, and I'm glad we met. I'm glad I was here
5 to make it -- I was able to make it here today, which
6 is probably normal flying, half of our flight, I was
7 holding on with both hands and feet and sucking myself
8 up in my seatbelt to get here, it -- but again it's the
9 commitment. I was kind of whining about coming over
10 here, and my wife said, you know what -- she didn't say
11 it -- but in so many words, but you made this
12 commitment to get on this board, you go.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. HILL: So with that in mind, thank
17 you to everybody for coming here, I appreciate all of
18 your time.

19

20 And lastly, I need somebody to replace
21 me, come on.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. HILL: See you later.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Thank you,
28 Lary. Thank you for being here, too.

29

30 Billy.

31

32 MR. TREFON: Well, I don't really have
33 much left to say but I really do appreciate coming to
34 these meetings here because they're so informative
35 about our fish and wildlife, the health of our wildlife
36 and our game, and working agencies -- working together,
37 very closely together, trying to make all the rest of
38 us in the state and our area, our fishing and hunting
39 is as easy and comfortable as possible instead of
40 having law enforcement implying a bunch of laws. I'm
41 glad we're here. And like Lary said it was kind of
42 interesting getting down here yesterday and I do
43 apologize for being a day late but it -- I mean I don't
44 hold nothing against Donald, Donald's got something
45 going on in his family so it was not fault it was just
46 something that just happened and we were just late
47 because of scheduling and the weather. It was really
48 windy.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Orville.

2

3 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 I'm just appreciative that, you know, these Regional
5 Advisory Councils are really becoming important -- more
6 important so the people are asking questions and, you
7 know, sometimes timing is not the best so we don't get
8 a lot of public, and so that's understandable, but I
9 tell you what they will call, call me, and, you know,
10 they'll ask questions so really if you don't see the
11 public here, they really are concerned and we have such
12 great RAC members that share the information once they
13 leave this meeting, it's great. So I'm not too
14 concerned about the public not being here with this RAC
15 because since 1993 I've worked with this Regional
16 Advisory Council and they've done a really excellent
17 job and so my hat's off to you.

18

19 The other thing is that, you know, I
20 want to really applaud Donald, you know, for doing what
21 he could do at this certain situation. He did all the
22 travel. Since I was new, I didn't know how to do all
23 the RAC travel so he took it upon himself to make it
24 happen so I applaud him for doing that. And he's still
25 figuring things out to get these folks back.

26

27 So with that I want to thank Donald for
28 all his hard work also.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair and Council
31 members.

32

33 Qu yana.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Yes, thank
36 you, Orville. And I would echo that, Donald has been
37 getting a hold of me yesterday and today to keep me
38 updated on everything going on. No matter how many
39 times I tell him just to pay attention to family, that
40 we'll figure it out, he's still insists on making sure
41 things run smooth even in his absence. So I also take
42 my hat off to him and thank him very deeply for his
43 devotion to this RAC and Board and everything that he's
44 done for us.

45

46 I also would say that I certainly hope
47 -- I want to see us try to be able to, and I understand
48 it's government so the wheels move slow, but I really
49 want to see some relief for the Chigs down there and
50

1 figure out what is going on so that we can get some
2 relief for our neighbors down south and I ask everybody
3 to put their thinking caps on in the audience as well
4 as up here at this table, in any way that we can
5 expedite relief for them as quickly as possible, I
6 think would be a wise move for us and something that I
7 know they would appreciate.

8

9 So with that, go ahead, Billy.

10

11 MR. TREFON: One more. Congratulations
12 on the newly elected -- speech.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: No
17 speeches. You've heard enough from me today, but I
18 thank you very much and I'm humbled by your confidence
19 in me as well and I will do my very best. Please don't
20 hesitate to let me know if I'm doing some things in
21 some way that you do not approve of.

22

23 Richard.

24

25 MR. WILSON: I just want to recognize
26 Molly, you know, for sitting in that chair all these
27 years and all the homework and stuff that she's done.
28 She's been very instrumental to me, I know, and to a
29 lot of members here so, so much appreciate her time
30 here.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Absolutely.
33 Because she's represented us statewide as well so I
34 totally agree. And she's been a great representative
35 for us in the statewide conference as well.

36

37 George, did you have something else.

38

39 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, very much.
40 Since I'm not a FACIA certified coordinator like Orville
41 is, so I can ask questions that might not be totally on
42 center.

43

44 So you asked, you mentioned the
45 Chigniks, if we do have a subsistence meeting and we
46 can somehow, and I'm not sure if it's legal or not, to
47 have a RAC member attend the meeting with us, would you
48 like to identify someone at this meeting.

49

50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Do you know
4 when the meeting's going to be. I have gone to them
5 before so I would assume that it's legal because I
6 think I've been down there twice already.

7

8 MR. PAPPAS: I don't know, I'm new to
9 the traveling, and that capacity. It would be before
10 the fisheries began, it would probably be the first
11 week or two of June, so it would probably be a two day
12 meeting, probably start the Chignik Lake, and have
13 three different meetings, maybe three different days,
14 or two in one day, I don't know how it would work. But
15 the light went on when you were talking about it,
16 something to think about.

17

18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 MR. WILSON: When was that.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Maybe the
23 first week or two of June, probably before June 10th.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Our problem
26 is the Guide Academy, but I would certainly be open
27 once you had dates set, I could let you know if I would
28 be available or not, but Dan and I are both probably
29 committed. I didn't hear that you formally were but I
30 know I am.

31

32 MR. PAPPAS: It's a tough time of year,
33 it just came to my mind. We'll keep you informed
34 Madame Chair and members of the Regional Advisory
35 Council if something comes up, and if it can happen,
36 but we'll keep you informed, or if we can
37 teleconference in someone in for an hour, I don't know,
38 just a thought.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: That would
41 be awesome. I think I -- if I can't be there, you
42 know, I would really appreciate somebody trying to at
43 least call in. I loved the two meetings that I did
44 attend down there and I know it's very appreciated for
45 them to know that we're listening and that we have a
46 presence for them and a ear for them.

47

48 Dan.

49

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Along that lines I want
2 to commend you, George, and the other folks that went
3 down. I think that kind of stuff, I mean they are in
4 desperate straits and to see folks show up and, you
5 know, prove they care and, you know, they got some
6 ideas going and got some people interested and that's a
7 good step and if we can follow through and carry on
8 with it it's great. And if somehow I am available,
9 I've only been on the runway there or anchored off in
10 the bay, so I'd be fascinated to go if I can. But I
11 don't know -- I kind of have doubts, so thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYONS: Okay.
14 4:37.

15
16 I'm going to call this meeting
17 adjourned and thank everybody.

18
19 (Off record)

20
21 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered _____ through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 10th day of March at Naknek, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 31st day of March 2018.

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