

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE - Alaska  
March 16, 2020  
9:27 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alissa Rogers, Chair  
Thomas Alstrom  
John Andrew  
James Landlord  
Carl Maxie  
Raymond Oney  
Phillip Peter  
Richard Slats

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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

(Teleconference - 3/16/2020)

(On record)

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MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We'll go ahead and call this meeting to order at 9:27 a.m. I want to thank you all for participating in the Yukon Kuskokwim Federal Subsistence Advisory Council meeting. Today is the 16th of March, and we have some wonderful weather here in Bethel. We greatly would appreciate everyone's patience. And as Eva had already mentioned, before we started, if you're having difficulties, please let Eva know and then also if you would like to change out to a different type of land line or go to your council's tribal offices so you could hear better, please let us know before you leave, and if Council members, if you do end up going anywhere, please let us know, we want to make sure we maintain quorum at all times.

For this morning, I would like to ask any of our Council members for a prayer this morning, we'll go ahead and see if any of you guys want to go ahead and start us off with a prayer this morning.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, hearing none, Phillip Peter, did you want to do our morning prayer.

MR. PETER: Yeah, I'll do it in my Yup'ik way.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, sounds good to me, go right ahead.

MR. PETER: Okay.

(Prayer -- Yup'ik)

MS. PATTON: Quyana, Phillip.

MR. PETER: Yeah.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you so much, Phillip.

1 MR. PETER: Yeah.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Carl, was  
4 that you joining us again?

5

6 MR. MAXIE: Yes, Ma'am. I'm at the  
7 tribal office with the tribal Staff.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you so  
10 much. Welcome.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, good,  
13 perfect. Thank you for calling in, and I'm glad you're  
14 able to meet at your tribal office.

15

16 I do want to say, Eva, if you could  
17 relay and maybe draft a letter to let them know that  
18 having a meeting this morning has had extreme  
19 difficulties and a lot of technical difficulties that  
20 have delayed our meeting to the time that's pretty much  
21 a half an hour, it'd be greatly appreciated so that our  
22 Federal government knows that having teleconference  
23 meetings at this capacity is very cumbersome and  
24 difficult. That we do not prefer to have these  
25 meetings over teleconference, we prefer to have  
26 meetings face to face and that just because we're  
27 having a teleconference right now should not reflect an  
28 actual leeway to continuously having teleconference  
29 meeting or an alternative for having teleconference  
30 meetings over having a face to face meeting for any  
31 type of budget savings. I understand that it's really  
32 important that we continue to have these meetings, but  
33 our preference is that we'd like these meetings in  
34 person so that it doesn't cause these type of technical  
35 difficulties, and, also having meetings face to face is  
36 a little more --it allows the public to be here and be  
37 present and be heard in a personal matter rather than  
38 just hearing them over the phone.

39

40 So if that's okay with you, just to  
41 write a letter and let them know, to our government,  
42 that having meetings over a teleconference is not  
43 preferred.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,  
46 thank you. Yes, indeed, the meetings we always strive  
47 to hold in person, both for the Councils and for public  
48 hearings, due to the very unusual circumstances outside  
49 of everyone's control, we did proceed by holding the

50

1 meetings by teleconference so that we didn't have to  
2 cancel them. We wanted to ensure the Council was able  
3 to meet in some capacity and to still hold the public  
4 hearing.

5

6 We can definitely add that to the  
7 Council's annual report, which we are going to be  
8 discussing and that would be an excellent way to convey  
9 that message to the Board as well.

10

11 And we would like to extend our  
12 gratitude to all the Council members who have shifted  
13 gears on very short notice to be able to call in this  
14 morning, and for all the public and all of our  
15 participants in the meeting. We really appreciate all  
16 your efforts to be able to have this meeting and  
17 connect with each other, and we'll just need to be a  
18 little bit kind with everybody and try to help support  
19 each other for this meeting.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. PETERS: (In Yup'ik).

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.  
26 We'll go ahead and call this meeting for roll call.

27

28 Ray Oney, do you have everyone's name,  
29 if not, we can defer it to Eva to do roll call.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
34 I can go ahead with roll call.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That'd be  
37 perfectly greatly appreciated. Thank you, Eva.

38

39 MS. PATTON: John Andrew, Kwethluk.

40

41 MR. ANDREW: Here.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Morning John.

44

45 Thomas Alstrom, Alakanuk.

46

47 MR. ALSTROM: Present.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Tom.

50

1 James Landlord, Mountain Village.  
2  
3 MR. LANDLORD: Present. Here.  
4  
5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James.  
6  
7 Alissa Rogers, Bethel.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Present.  
10  
11 MS. PATTON: Phillip Peter, Sr.,  
12 Akiachak.  
13  
14 MR. PETER: Present.  
15  
16 MS. PATTON: Carl Maxie, Sr.,  
17 Napaskiak.  
18  
19 MR. MAXIE: Present.  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: Raymond Oney, Alakanuk.  
22  
23 MR. ONEY: I'm here.  
24  
25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray.  
26  
27 Robert Aloysius. I just spoke with him  
28 this morning, he just returned from the hospital last  
29 night, so we would like to extend our best wishes to  
30 Robert. He's resting at home at his daughter's place  
31 right now. So our thoughts are with Robert, and he's  
32 with us here in spirit.  
33  
34 So Robert Aloysius is excused.  
35  
36 And Richard Slats will be joining the  
37 meeting in two or three hours when he arrives back home  
38 in Chevak, so we expect to have Richard a little later  
39 this morning, or first thing this afternoon.  
40  
41 Madame Chair and Council. Our current  
42 membership on the Council -- we currently have four  
43 vacant seats so we have nine members, and we have one,  
44 two, three, four, five, six, seven currently present,  
45 so we have quorum. And, again, Richard, will join us a  
46 little later this morning. So we do have quorum.  
47  
48 Thank you, Madame Chair.  
49  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.  
2 Greatly appreciate it.

3  
4 All right, we'll go ahead and do  
5 welcome and introductions. Eva, do you just want to  
6 call people out as the roll call and then -- on the  
7 roll call, is their names, and then we'll go ahead and  
8 just have people introduce themselves.

9  
10 MS. PATTON: Okay, welcome everyone.  
11 We'll start with brief introductions.

12  
13 For everyone on the Council, we will  
14 have Council member reports coming up next, so a brief  
15 introduction of yourself.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, would it be  
18 possible that we could go down the roll call list with  
19 everyone's name and then we can go from there. I don't  
20 think we'll just start off, so if you can just call  
21 them by their names and have them say their first name,  
22 their last name, their affiliation and then I think  
23 that would be a lot more quicker process.

24  
25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
26 Yes, indeed, so a brief introduction and I'll just call  
27 out Council members one by one so that you can chime in  
28 and introduce yourself and your village.

29  
30 We'll start with John Andrew.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 MS. PATTON: John Andrew, would you  
35 like to briefly introduce yourself.

36  
37 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you. My  
38 name's John Andrew. I'm a Council RAC member from  
39 Kwethluk. I'm listening in from my home and I'm  
40 enjoying the weather over here and nobody else.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, John.

45  
46 Thomas Alstrom.

47  
48 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, hello, this is  
49 Thomas Alstrom. I'm from Alakanuk. I was just

50

1 recently been selected to the committee here, so I'm  
2 new to the committee and so I'm basically learning as I  
3 go along. So all right.

4  
5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Thomas, and  
6 welcome.

7  
8 James Landlord.

9  
10 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, good morning. James  
11 Landlord from Mountain Village. I'm a RAC member and I  
12 also sit on the tribal council. Good morning.

13  
14 MS. PATTON: Good morning, James.

15  
16 Phillip Peter, Sr.

17  
18 MR. PETER: My name is Phillip Peter.  
19 I've been in the community and the weather is really  
20 good out there for hunting car -- look for bear dens.  
21 (Indiscernible) to the back country to look for  
22 ptarmigans and the bear dens. I was supposed to go  
23 with them today but I called them yesterday that we're  
24 going to have a Federal Regional Advisory Council  
25 meeting this morning.

26  
27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Phillip. Thank  
28 you so much for joining us, and by teleconference as  
29 well. We wish we were all there with the nice weather.

30  
31 Carl Maxie, Sr.

32  
33 MR. MAXIE: Good morning, this is Carl  
34 Maxie, Napaskiak. I scheduled my day today for the RAC  
35 meeting. Good morning.

36  
37 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Thank you,  
38 Carl.

39  
40 Raymond Oney.

41  
42 MR. ONEY: Yes, thank you, Eva. Ray  
43 Oney here from Alakanuk, currently the Secretary. And  
44 I would like to also a little comment from Tom Salchan  
45 to the Council for comments. Good morning everyone.

46  
47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray. And  
48 Alissa Rogers.

49  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, good morning.  
2 My name is Alissa Nadine Rogers. I am the Chairman of  
3 the Federal Subsistence Advisory Regional Council. And  
4 I've been here pretty much all my life, minus six  
5 years, when I went off to college.  
6

7 My mom's side of the family comes from  
8 Alakanuk, my dad's side comes from Hooper Bay. And  
9 I've been here in Bethel pretty much my whole entire  
10 life subsisting all over the place and being shipped  
11 out to family to go meet -- because our family's so  
12 huge, it's all over the place, so, yeah.  
13

14 Other than that I greatly appreciate  
15 you guys being here and thank you so much for having  
16 this over the teleconference, and I apologize because  
17 of the teleconference, I know we're going to have some  
18 technical difficulties continuously throughout the day  
19 but, please, be patient with us and forgive us for  
20 having to follow through with procedure and having to  
21 have our conferences be a teleconference -- our  
22 meetings over teleconferences. It is definitely a  
23 first we're having these type of meetings over  
24 teleconference -- well, since a very, very long time.  
25 So just go ahead and bear with us and I greatly  
26 appreciate all of your patience for this time.  
27

28 Thank you so much, I'll pass it over to  
29 Eva. Eva, do you want to introduce yourself.  
30

31 MS. PATTON: Good morning everyone.  
32 Eva Patton, Council coordinator for the Yukon Kuskokwim  
33 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.  
34

35 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Madame  
36 Chairman, and Council members. My name is Greg  
37 Risdahl. I am the subsistence fisheries division lead,  
38 and the Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director here  
39 at OSM.  
40

41 MS. KENNER: Hello. My name is Pippa  
42 Kenner, and I'm the anthropologist for the YK Delta  
43 Council, and I am here in Anchorage at OSM.  
44

45 MR. DOOLITTLE: And I am Tom Doolittle,  
46 and I am the Acting Assistant Regional Director for  
47 OSM. And I just want to thank everybody for their  
48 patience in a very unique circumstance and I appreciate  
49 everybody being able to change schedules, and I'm  
50

1 always willing to, of course, be able to answer any  
2 questions that you may have either now or throughout  
3 the meeting so thank you for accommodating the  
4 teleconference call.

5  
6 And if one thing I can leave you with  
7 is nothing beats face to face, and to me, I did  
8 everything in my power to try to get a face to face  
9 meeting but it would not have been responsible to our  
10 elderly and people that have other underlying health  
11 conditions and as -- in many of our communities to have  
12 a face to face meeting considering of what we know  
13 today. And you will see a lot of our functions over  
14 the next few weeks probably move to being telework  
15 functions, and using a lot more of the virtual way of  
16 communication until this thing passes.

17  
18 So, again, thanks for your patience and  
19 have a good meeting despite doing it via phone.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Tom. And maybe  
24 we'll take it back to the folks that have joined us on  
25 teleconference. For folks that haven't already  
26 introduced yourself, if you haven't introduced yourself  
27 on teleconference yet this morning, you can please let  
28 us know who you are and who you're representing.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 MR. JONES: Patrick Jones, Alaska  
33 Department of Fish and Game here in Bethel.

34  
35 TROOPER GUSSEY: Walker Gussey, Bureau  
36 of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office, based out  
37 of Anchorage today.

38  
39 MS. MILLION: Good morning.

40  
41 MR. JORDAN: Good morning -- oh, sorry.

42  
43 MS. MILLION: Bonnie Million. Good  
44 morning, Bonnie Million, Field Manager for the BLM's  
45 Anchorage Field Office in Anchorage.

46  
47 MR. JORDAN: Moses Jordan, Natural  
48 Resource Director, ONC in Bethel.

49  
50

1 MR. DECOSSAS: Gary DeCossas, fisheries  
2 biologist, Yukon Delta.  
3  
4 MS. JALLEN: Deena Jallen, Alaska  
5 Department of Fish and Game, Yukon River summer season  
6 assistant manager in Anchorage.  
7  
8 MR. OSTER: Keith Oster, Alaska  
9 Department of Fish and Game, assistant area wildlife  
10 biologist.  
11  
12 MS. LAVINE: Robbin LaVine,  
13 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence  
14 Management.  
15  
16 MR. SMITH: Hello everybody. Nicholas  
17 Smith, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, area  
18 management biologist for fisheries.  
19  
20 MS. DAMBERG: Carol Damberg, U.S. Fish  
21 and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Regional Subsistence  
22 Coordinator.  
23  
24  
25 MR. WILLIAMS: Mike Williams,  
26 (Indiscernible), James Nicolai, and Bobby Williams from  
27 Akiak Native Community.  
28  
29 Thank you.  
30  
31 MR. HARRIS: Frank Harris, fish  
32 biologist OSM.  
33  
34 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee, Wildlife  
35 Division supervisor, OSM.  
36  
37 MS. STICKMAN: Good morning everyone,  
38 this is Danielle Stickman. I'm the network coordinator  
39 for the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation  
40 Cooperative based here in Anchorage.  
41  
42 MS. WATINE: This is Lauren Watine with  
43 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, area wildlife  
44 biologist out of Dillingham.  
45  
46 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman.....  
47  
48 MS. HOOPER: Jennifer Hooper.....  
49  
50

1 MR. ADERMAN: .....Togiak National  
2 Wildlife Refuge, Dillingham.

3  
4 MS. HOOPER: .....AVCP.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'm sorry, can  
7 you say that again, and then I heard Jennifer Hooper  
8 right after, so can you say that one more time.

9  
10 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, Togiak  
11 National Wildlife Refuge, Dillingham.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Andy.  
14 Go ahead, Jennifer.

15  
16 MS. HOOPER: Thank you. Jennifer  
17 Hooper, AVCP, Bethel.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

20  
21 MS. PELTOLA: Good morning, this is  
22 Mary Peltola.

23  
24 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann  
25 with.....

26  
27 MS. PELTOLA: I'm with the Kuskokwim  
28 River InterTribal Fish Commission.

29  
30 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann with  
31 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon fisheries.

32  
33 MR. NICORI: James Nicori, member of  
34 the InterTribal Fish Commission, Kwethluk.

35  
36 MR. BORN: This is Ray Born, Yukon  
37 Delta Refuge in Bethel. Thank you.

38  
39 MR. BARON: Good morning, this is  
40 William (indiscernible) Baron, I'm an anthropologist at  
41 University of Wisconsin in Madison and I've been  
42 working in Akiak.

43  
44 MS. ESQUIBLE: This is Janessa Esquible  
45 working for ONC and I'm based here in Bethel.

46  
47 MR. NICORI: Mark Nicori in Kwethluk.

48  
49 MR. OLIK: Evan Olik from Kwethluk IRA.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Can you repeat your name  
2 again, please.  
3  
4 MR. OLIK: Evan Olik from OVK,  
5 Kwethluk.  
6  
7 MS. PATTON: Thank you.  
8  
9 MR. NICOLAI: Evan Nicolai at Kwethluk.  
10  
11 MS. PATTON: Okay, good morning  
12 everyone. Anyone else on line who has not yet  
13 introduced themselves. If you haven't spoken up yet  
14 this morning and have joined us on teleconference.  
15  
16 MR. TULIK: Chris Tulik with the Yukon  
17 Delta Refuge.  
18  
19 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Chris.  
20  
21 MR. TULIK: Good morning.  
22  
23 MR. JENKINS: Wayne Jenkins with Yukon  
24 River Drainage Fisheries Association is on the line,  
25 Eva.  
26  
27 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you Wayne.  
28  
29 MR. NICOLAI: (Indiscernible) Nicolai  
30 in Kwethluk for the Organized Village of Kwethluk and  
31 the Kwethluk IRA Council.  
32  
33 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry, could you  
34 please repeat your name again.  
35  
36 MR. PASTER: Good morning, Alakanuk  
37 Tribe.  
38  
39 MS. PATTON: Can you repeat your name  
40 again, I didn't quite catch it.  
41  
42 MR. PASTER: David Paster, Alakanuk  
43 Tribe.  
44  
45 MS. PATTON: Good morning, thank you.  
46  
47 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Madame Chair  
48 and Council members, this is Glenn Chen. I'm the  
49 Subsistence Branch Chief with Bureau of Indian Affairs.  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Glenn.  
2 Okay, well, it sounds like we've had introductions from  
3 everybody who's joined us on teleconference. Just a  
4 friendly reminder again to keep the background noise  
5 down to a minimum, to mute your phones or hit star six  
6 to mute, and then you just hit start six again to  
7 unmute in order to speak. Especially for agency folks,  
8 please don't put us on hold if you get an incoming call  
9 because we get stuck on Muzak and nobody can hear then.  
10 So it sounds like everybody's coming through loud and  
11 clear.

12  
13 Madame Chair Rogers, are you able to  
14 hear everybody okay?

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, Ma'am, thank  
17 you, Eva.

18  
19 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. Okay,  
20 we'll move on to review and adopt agenda.

21  
22 Madame Chair Rogers, I will add we do  
23 have a couple additions to the agenda, specifically two  
24 special action requests that have come in. One for the  
25 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, and the fisheries special  
26 actions. So we will be adding those to the agenda.  
27 And as we walk through the agenda I can make a  
28 suggestion where we'll include those on the agenda for  
29 best timing and flow for the Council.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any Council  
32 member have any changes, deletions, anything you want  
33 to add or delete from our agenda at this time?

34  
35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, and Council,  
39 if I may.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.

42  
43 MS. PATTON: I would like to request  
44 that we -- under Council member reports, that we have a  
45 moment to recognize the late Harry Wilde, who was a  
46 long time Council member and long time esteemed Chair  
47 of the YK Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

2

3 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, Phillip.

4

5 Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, go ahead.

8

9 MR. PETER: I'd like to make a motion  
10 to accept the agenda and the two special actions  
11 included.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,  
14 Phillip. Eva, do you want to go ahead and tell us  
15 where you want to insert these in so we can follow  
16 through with this motion.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair,  
19 and Council.

20

21 We are recommending the Mulchatna  
22 Caribou Herd wildlife special action actually come  
23 early on in the meeting as the first item under new  
24 business. So you'll see on Page 2 of your agenda,  
25 under 10, new business, we would like to have a brief  
26 update on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd from ADF&G  
27 biologist Lauren Watine, and then Chris McKee is  
28 available to provide an overview for the Council on  
29 that special action request. And we are asking the  
30 Council's recommendation on that special action. So  
31 we'd like to put that at the beginning before we get  
32 into all the fisheries discussion.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. So I heard  
35 you saying that No. 10 under new business, Item A is  
36 going to be Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

37

38 Item B is going to be Fisheries  
39 Resource Monitoring Program update.

40

41 Item C is going to be call for Federal  
42 fish and shellfish proposal.

43

44 Item D will be review and approve  
45 FY2019 annual report.

46

47 Can you restate the second item that  
48 you wanted to add to this, I didn't quite catch that  
49 one.

50

1 MS. PATTON: To the special action  
2 request?

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, Ma'am.

5  
6 MS. PATTON: So we're recommending --  
7 Lauren Watine is on line as a biologist for the  
8 Mulchatna Caribou Herd to provide the Council with a  
9 brief update on the herd, and then Chris McKee will  
10 present an overview of the wildlife special action.  
11 And that's so the Council has the latest information to  
12 consider when making a recommendation on the special  
13 action.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, thank you,  
16 Eva. And what was the second thing you wanted to  
17 insert into the agenda?

18  
19 MS. PATTON: We have several fisheries  
20 special actions that have been submitted that are all  
21 combined under one public hearing tonight, so the  
22 process will be, we're encouraging the Council to  
23 participate in the public hearing tonight so you can  
24 hear feedback on those fisheries special actions, and  
25 then to add the special action discussion tomorrow,  
26 likely in the afternoon after we discuss all of the  
27 Kuskokwim updates. Around that, we're suggesting we  
28 kind of rearrange a little bit the agency reports just  
29 so that there's a cohesive dialogue so we have all the  
30 Yukon discussions kind of in a linear fashion and then  
31 have all the Kuskokwim River management discussions  
32 together. We do have a couple tribal representatives  
33 calling in to address the fisheries special action, and  
34 so we're suggesting it might be helpful that we group  
35 all of that Kuskokwim discussion together so that would  
36 come -- you know, once we get down to the Kuskokwim  
37 River InterTribal Fish Commission, some of our tribal  
38 reports addressing the Kuskokwim, we do have some  
39 updates from ADF&G on fisheries as well, that those  
40 come together on the agenda, and then take up the  
41 fisheries special action. Again, so the Council has  
42 all the latest information prior to making a  
43 recommendation.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Folks, if  
46 you go to Item No. 11, and just at the top, we're going  
47 to put Yukon River first and everything that has to do  
48 with the Yukon River first, we're going to talk about.

49  
50

1                   And then for our second item we're  
2 going to talk everything that has to do with the  
3 Kuskokwim afterwards.  
4

5                   And then the third item is going to be  
6 the special action recommendation.  
7

8                   Eva, do we have anybody on line who  
9 could update us with the International Treaty for the  
10 Yukon River?  
11

12                   MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
13 We do have Gerald Maschmann on line and he will be  
14 providing an overview and discussion on the Yukon  
15 River.  
16

17                   MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Perfect, thank  
18 you.  
19

20                   MS. PATTON: Thank you.  
21

22                   MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Anybody  
23 else have any additional or changes that we need at  
24 this time?  
25

26                   (No comments)  
27

28                   MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any further  
29 discussion.  
30

31                   MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray  
32 Born.  
33

34                   MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, hi,  
35 Ray.  
36

37                   MR. BORN: I'd like to -- good morning.  
38 I would like to have the Alaska Department of Fish and  
39 Game provide their wildlife reports prior to the agency  
40 reports, at least for Yukon Delta, that way they cover  
41 some of the items of interest for the RAC and I don't  
42 need to cover them in my actual report. If that would  
43 be acceptable.  
44

45                   Thank you.  
46

47                   MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. So, Ray,  
48 are you asking that we split out your report?  
49  
50

1 MR. BORN: I think I'm asking Alaska  
2 Department of Fish and Game do their report prior to  
3 the Fish and Wildlife Service reports under agency  
4 reports.  
5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. So for the  
7 agency, our line would go, it will go ADF&G, U.S. Fish  
8 and Wildlife Service, and then the Fish Commission --  
9 oh, wait, no, it goes Tribal governments and then the  
10 Fish Commission.  
11

12 MR. BORN: Correct, yeah. And then I  
13 would go -- after the tribal governments, Native  
14 organizations and mine says Yukon River Drainage  
15 Fishery Association, I guess after that I'd put ADF&G,  
16 and then Fish and Wildlife Service and then BLM after  
17 that.  
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.  
20

21 MR. BORN: Thank you.  
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.  
24 Any further discussion.  
25

26 (No comments)  
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Anyone else want  
29 to make changes or adjustments at this time?  
30

31 (No comments)  
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, hearing  
34 none, we'll go ahead -- oh, shucks, we had a motion on  
35 the floor by Mr. Phillip Peter, but we didn't get a  
36 second.  
37

38 MR. LANDLORD: This is James Landlord,  
39 Council member. I second Phillip Peter's motion.  
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, James.  
42 Let's see, so we'll go ahead and make the changes to  
43 Item 10.  
44

45 Our first item under new business is  
46 going to be the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.  
47

48 Under Item 11, with agency reports.  
49  
50

1 We're going to start off with the Yukon  
2 River, the Kuskokwim and then get into special  
3 recommendations.  
4

5 When we split off to the Yukon River  
6 and the Kuskokwim River, the order is going to be that  
7 ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service give their  
8 reports to those rivers in regards to fisheries and  
9 then tribal governments, and Fish Commission will come  
10 after that, in those reports for both Yukon and  
11 Kuskokwim.  
12

13 And then I believe that's all the  
14 changes that we had at this time.  
15

16 Any further discussion, if not, can we  
17 go ahead and get a question and vote on this.  
18

19 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. Question.  
20 Ray Oney.  
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.  
23

24 All those in favor of accepting the  
25 adoption of the agenda with the current changes that I  
26 described go ahead and say aye.  
27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.  
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those  
31 opposed, same sign.  
32

33 (No opposing votes)  
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hearing none, the  
36 agenda has been adopted.  
37

38 (Teleconference interference -  
39 participants not muted - music playing)  
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, Eva,  
42 I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to you for  
43 election of officers.  
44

45 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,  
46 there appears to be some music in the background.  
47

48 (Laughter)  
49  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Just a reminder to hit  
2 star six to mute.

3  
4 Madame Chair and Council. I would have  
5 a recommendation, if the Council wishes, if the Council  
6 would like to defer taking action on election of  
7 officers until Richard Slats has joined us on  
8 teleconference, so we have as much of the Council as  
9 possible. It's at the wish of the Council.

10  
11 (Music playing)

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: For those of you  
14 on line, please star six to mute your phones, we are  
15 getting some music in the background. Go ahead and  
16 star six to mute your phone, if not, if you're using a  
17 cell phone, go ahead and hit the mute button on your  
18 menu. It'd be greatly appreciated. We want to be  
19 respectful to everyone who's trying to listen in on  
20 this teleconference.

21  
22 Thank you very much we'd greatly  
23 appreciate it.

24  
25 All right, is there anyone opposed to  
26 holding off elections until Richard Slats gets on line?

27  
28 (No objection)

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: If not we'll go  
31 ahead and move on.

32  
33 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

36  
37 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew from Kwethluk.  
38 I move that we defer the elections until we get another  
39 member, Richard Slats in.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, John  
44 Andrew. Can I get a second.

45  
46 MR. ONEY: Second. Ray Oney.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray  
49 Oney. All those in favor of holding off on elections

50

1 say aye.

2

3

IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right.

6

Anyone opposed, same sign.

7

8

(No opposing votes)

9

10

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, we'll

11

go ahead and hold off on elections until we get Richard

12

Slats on the phone.

13

14

All right, let's go ahead and review  
and approve previous meetings minutes. Is there anyone  
-- go ahead if you see any changes, if you haven't read  
the meeting minutes already, go ahead and take a moment  
to review them, make changes, additions, any  
corrections, spellings, any names that need to be  
fixed, anything that, quote wise, that you'd like to  
have changed in regards to what you remember and what  
you don't think was recorded correctly, go ahead and  
review those meeting minutes, and if you find anything  
go ahead and speak up and you can make those changes at  
this time.

25

26

27

(Pause)

28

29

MS. PATTON: Again, those meeting

30

minutes are found on Page 5 of your meeting books.

31

32

(Pause)

33

34

MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

35

36

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: John Andrew, I

37

head you, go ahead.

38

39

MR. ANDREW: Yeah, I move that we adopt

40

the minutes of November 6 through 8th, 2019.

41

42

MR. PETER: Second.

43

44

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, John.

45

46

Call the question.

47

48

MR. MAXIE: I have a question, this is

49

Carl.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Carl.

2

3 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, on the followup on  
4 the 2020 meeting, the fisheries resource monitoring, at  
5 this meeting we're going to have an update on it?

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That is correct,  
8 Carl.

9

10 MR. MAXIE: Thank you.

11

12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I couldn't  
13 understand him, what did he just say?

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: He was asking for  
16 an update on the Fisheries Monitoring Program from the  
17 last update that we had last fall.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

24

25 MR. ONEY: Yeah, good morning. Ray  
26 Oney here again. Maybe if I can get an update on the  
27 wildlife proposals that we submitted last year, how  
28 many of them have been accepted or if they're any  
29 changes on those proposals that we submitted as they  
30 are or if there was amendments to the wildlife  
31 proposals that we adopted last year.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.  
34 That's a really, really good question.

35

36 Eva, are we going to have a Federal  
37 Subsistence Board meeting this year in regards to -- in  
38 light of our current situation with this government  
39 shut down, or Federal travel hold, et cetera, et  
40 cetera.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,  
43 thank you for that action -- or that question. We have  
44 Tom Doolittle here who can respond to that.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Madame Chair, if I may.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Tom.  
2 Thank you very much, greatly appreciate you being here  
3 today.  
4

5 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet. The Board is  
6 having an emergency executive session tomorrow at 900  
7 by teleconference, and we are looking at a go, no-go  
8 for the meeting in Gakona, and we're looking at  
9 alternative means such as teleconference and virtual  
10 means to accommodate it if it's a no-go. So, you know,  
11 the Board will look at it collectively and you'll see a  
12 press release probably by mid-week about what the  
13 decisions are. And the way things are rapidly  
14 evolving, I think the decisions are going to be a  
15 little bit more clear relative to -- but would need to  
16 get a large gathering together -- but we also  
17 understand full well what the economic impacts to not  
18 having a meeting where essentially we've, you know,  
19 booked all the lodging and we want to get ahead of that  
20 by -- the meeting by almost a month, you know, so we  
21 can give vendors and others forewarning if it is  
22 decided to be cancelled.  
23

24 Anyways that's -- you know what I know.  
25

26 Thank you.  
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Tom.  
29 So it sounds like we're going to have a wait and see  
30 next week and hear from the press release on if we're  
31 going to have a Federal Subsistence Board meeting and  
32 then we'll be able to get some information and updates  
33 on those wildlife proposals, Ray.  
34

35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, Madame Chair,  
36 you're correct. And hopefully we'll have that  
37 information to you this week.  
38

39 MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you.  
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.  
42

43 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We will  
44 definitely be reaching.....  
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,  
47 so.....  
48

49 MS. PATTON: .....out to the Councils  
50

1 as soon as we can with an update on that. And just to  
2 let everybody know it is a long process, so that  
3 wildlife regulatory Federal Subsistence Board meeting  
4 was scheduled for that third week of April, so no  
5 action has yet been taken on any of those wildlife  
6 proposals that the Council's made recommendations on at  
7 your last fall meeting. So usually those wildlife  
8 Board meetings take place in the spring.

9

10 We can also -- maybe when we're getting  
11 agency reports and updates tomorrow, too, the Council  
12 did submit recommendations on a number of Board of Game  
13 proposals, and if there's any updates that can be  
14 shared there in terms of the final actions on -- from  
15 the Board of Game on those wildlife proposals.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, sounds  
20 good. Ray, did you want to -- Eva, do we have this  
21 anywhere or can we take this up during a -- let's see,  
22 maybe an Office of Subsistence Management agency report  
23 where you guys can discuss the proposals since we  
24 already have you on the agenda?

25

26 MS. PATTON: Yes, absolutely we can  
27 provide that update, and I think that would be a good  
28 place to do it at the tail end there since we have a  
29 full agenda with all the fisheries discussion.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, I'm  
36 going ahead and writing you in to give myself a  
37 reminder.

38

39 Thank you, Ray.

40

41 Anyone else want to make some  
42 additions, changes or anything to our current meeting  
43 minutes, our previous meeting minutes in front of us  
44 today?

45

46 MR. ANDREW: Question on the motion.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.  
49 Question's been called by Mr. John Andrew. All those

50

1 in favor of adopting the current meeting minutes say  
2 aye.

3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those  
7 opposed, same sign.

8  
9 (No opposing votes)

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Our  
12 meeting minutes have been approved.

13  
14 All right. We'll go down to Council  
15 member reports.

16  
17 Eva, would you please go down the roll  
18 call list and call them out by name so that we can make  
19 sure everyone's been formally giving their reports,  
20 it'll be quicker that way.

21  
22 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. Madame Chair  
23 and Council. We'll call Council members one by one to  
24 provide your subsistence report for your community in  
25 your region. And since we do have a new Council  
26 member, Thomas Alstrom, on, we want to welcome him, and  
27 just provide a little overview for the process. This  
28 is a really important part of our Regional Advisory  
29 Council meetings where each of the Council members  
30 provides an update on subsistence activities and any  
31 issues of interest and concern for their community,  
32 their region, and their involvement with subsistence in  
33 their region. So we really appreciate hearing from  
34 each of the Council members and what you're seeing,  
35 what you're experiencing in and around your  
36 communities.

37  
38 So maybe we'll start with our longer  
39 term Council members first and we'll save the newest  
40 for the last with Thomas there, so you have a sense of  
41 the process.

42  
43 We'll start out with John Andrew first.

44  
45 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, this is John Andrew  
46 from Kwethluk. For my subsistence report, I won't have  
47 a very long one. But last fall, starting from our  
48 moose season we did -- better than half of our hunters  
49 over here did very poor because the water level was

50

1 really, really low so they didn't get to the hunting  
2 grounds usually. So when the water did rise we had a  
3 very late run of reds and cohos, they were catching  
4 them all way to freeze up. When it froze up, the water  
5 level to high, then -- higher than average, when it  
6 froze up we couldn't set under the ice for whitefish  
7 and pike in our usual places, there was too much  
8 current and too much water. There was hardly no eddies  
9 or calm water area where we set for whitefish. And  
10 starting off in November we had very low -- weather was  
11 mild, no snow all the way towards the end of December,  
12 and then end of December weather got pretty -- really  
13 cold, an almost normal winter, and a lot of snow,  
14 everything. Fresh, good snow, heavy snow piles we've  
15 seen in a really long time, 17, 18 years, something  
16 like that.

17

18 And a lot of our hunters over here, the  
19 younger guys they were hunting a few caribou, not too  
20 much, but most of the hunters that do go up came from  
21 other villages, all from Bethel area or further out,  
22 who can afford to come in and hunt caribou until the  
23 closure. Because most -- some of the people that do  
24 hunt moose, if they're successful in falltime they  
25 don't bother with caribou. A lot of the older guys  
26 rarely hunt caribou over here now. They were concerned  
27 with the low numbers of Mulchatna Caribou Herd. And  
28 dog mushers were pretty happy because of a little too  
29 much snow around here, a lot of the young guys have  
30 seen snow and the older guys were pretty happy. When  
31 you have a lot of snow and thick ice, we'll have a good  
32 spring flood and it'll flush out the rivers and we'll  
33 probably see some good drifting from up river and the  
34 freshwater fish will be able to get through the lakes  
35 to spawn and they're -- and reproduce in those lakes  
36 and it's a good sign. Some of the older guys were  
37 pretty happy with a lot of snow and the cold weather  
38 this year.

39

40 That's all I got for now.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Quyana, John.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you,

47 John.

48

49 And we will go to James Landlord.

50

1 MR. LANDLORD: We had same weather  
2 pattern like John mentioned. It got cold right away  
3 and the river froze up through December and there is  
4 thick ice and that snow. People started checking their  
5 fish under ice nets as soon as they were able to, where  
6 it was thick enough for them to be on top of the river.  
7 They were catching whitefish.

8  
9 Right now people are -- people in  
10 Mountain Village are ice fishing and they're catching  
11 big pikes. Some of them are the size of kings. A lot  
12 of big pikes right now.

13  
14 In about December I think when there  
15 was a patient traveling from Bethel to Scammon Bay, I  
16 think, they looked out the window and they saw a big  
17 pack of moose. They were estimating -- not moose,  
18 wolf, they were estimating them to be around 15 or 17  
19 pack moving towards the Northwest, or out on the  
20 tundra.

21  
22 (Indiscernible) and the guy's just  
23 picking up for a possible high water someplace up river  
24 but they don't know when the river -- the weather might  
25 crash or kind of before, crash in April and ice just  
26 turns to ice crystals so we don't know how it's going  
27 to be yet.

28  
29 People are catching ptarmigans,  
30 northwest of here, they call it Volcano Hill, so  
31 somewhere around that area and they were catching a few  
32 ptarmigans.

33  
34 And that's my report.

35  
36 Quyana.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

39  
40 MS. PATTON: Quyana, thank you, James.

41  
42 Then we have Phillip Peter, Sr.

43  
44 MR. PETER: Good morning, this is  
45 Phillip. Last year -- I will start off with fishing.

46  
47 We got late run because of low water.  
48 But some in my community didn't meet their quota for  
49 king salmon and -- and in July we don't fish because

50

1 the bugs were a problem.

2

3 And the other animals, the moose, moose  
4 hunting. We've got -- like John mentioned that we --  
5 the weather's slow and we couldn't reach the good  
6 hunting ground like Good Meadows where moose were  
7 roaming and -- but when I go moose hunting this fall,  
8 my (indiscernible) call that creek and we went over  
9 there and we were -- beaver dam, we were going to run  
10 the boat over and my brother-in-law told me, you know,  
11 that fish were jumping in there in that dam. And first  
12 time in my life I see a lot of reds went up and down,  
13 went up and down, many of them. First time I see those  
14 reds are in that creek up there. But we're good in  
15 hunting this fall. The moose hunt -- moose.

16

17 One of the things, yeah, brought up --  
18 those two items I want to talk about. In my community  
19 subsistence, the fishermen, the hunters, they ask for  
20 close the fish -- that special action request and  
21 they're going to do like that for the rest of the  
22 fishing seasons every year, we ask that that proposal  
23 for fishing and long time ago we didn't -- we didn't  
24 ask the State and Federal government to -- ask to fish.  
25 Our elders used to tell us when the fish are here you  
26 go fish but we got limits. Everyone knows the limits.

27

28 And the other one is whitefish net for  
29 setnetting. And when all of them work on that, you  
30 know, change that whitefish net to six inch or change  
31 it to (indiscernible) net, 60 feet long, 35 mesh, we  
32 need to start work on this problem seriously and with  
33 the action on it.

34

35 (Telephone interference - participants  
36 not muted - participant phone on hold)

37

38 MR. PETER: We've been talking about it  
39 for a long, long time now, we couldn't go nowhere  
40 because the Department's afraid to accept our -- what  
41 we want. So our elders didn't make no mistakes because  
42 they already done it a long, long time ago. They used  
43 to set the net in spring for (indiscernible) fish and  
44 big ones, we want -- we wanted to catch those big ones  
45 because we don't want to take those small kings, you  
46 know. That's a bigger problem, all 33 communities,  
47 because we don't want to eat those small jack fish,  
48 small kings for consumption. In spring they need the  
49 (indiscernible) fish and the big king salmon.

50

1 We need to work on those two proposals  
2 by 2020. We've been doing it for a long, long time and  
3 we need to do something about it to, you know, do  
4 something about it. I want a change, you know, change,  
5 our subsistence -- we're getting so many -- the big  
6 kings using that six inch -- I mean using that  
7 whitefish net. And even though we fish with 5.5, the 6  
8 inch for drifting when -- when we have opening, we  
9 catch medium size, not those big ones, medium size king  
10 salmon.

11  
12 And so that's my report.

13  
14 Because the people in my community keep  
15 complaining and complaining to me that we need to  
16 change those two proposals so I talk to them, I'll do  
17 something -- I'll do something about it to fix it.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 MS. PATTON: Quyana, thank you,  
22 Phillip. Thank you for your report and your feedback  
23 from your community.

24  
25 And we'll hear from Carl Maxie next.

26  
27 (Pause)

28  
29 MS. PATTON: Carl, are you on line with  
30 us still?

31  
32 MR. MAXIE: Good morning, yes, I am.

33  
34 (Telephone participant interference -  
35 background noise overbearing -- phones not muted)

36  
37 MS. PATTON: Carl Maxie, are you still  
38 on line with us, you can push star six to unmute the  
39 phone in order to speak and we can hear your report for  
40 your community.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Star seven, Eva.

43  
44 MR. MAXIE: Eva, can you hear me?

45  
46 MS. PATTON: Okay, maybe we -- oh, is  
47 that Carl?

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Carl, yes,

50

1 barely, barely hear you. I think that might have been  
2 you but try to speak up a little more, I could barely  
3 hear you.

4  
5 MR. PETER: Philip Peter, and I'm on  
6 phone.....

7  
8 MR. MAXIE: Like Philip Peter  
9 (Indiscernible - poor connection) and we get up to six  
10 inch (indiscernible) on what we have here  
11 (indiscernible) a lot of snow for spring season  
12 (indiscernible) some day I would like to see  
13 (indiscernible).

14  
15 That's all I have but.....

16  
17 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you very much  
18 Carl. And I think I caught what you were saying there,  
19 it was very difficult to hear, very quiet, so I don't  
20 know, if you might be able to speak closer to the phone  
21 next time when you're calling in, or speak a little  
22 louder so we're sure to be able to hear you.

23  
24 But I think I caught your discussion  
25 there and we will be discussing the call for fisheries  
26 regulatory proposals a little later in the meeting here  
27 today so the Council does an opportunity to discuss  
28 those proposals and to work with your communities to  
29 submit changes to the Federal subsistence fisheries  
30 regulations that you would like to see.

31  
32 Thank you, Carl.

33  
34 And moving on to Ray Oney.

35  
36 MR. ONEY: Yes, thank you, Eva. Ray  
37 Oney here from Alakanuk.

38  
39 Well, as you heard we finally had a  
40 real winter in a long time with all this snow and cold  
41 that we've been experiencing all winter. Finally have  
42 a cold spell in a long, long time. We have a lot of  
43 snow, the ice is almost three feet thick out there.

44  
45 I've been getting a lot of reports from  
46 people seeing moose in the village after the snow fall,  
47 we've been getting a lot of moose from one end of town  
48 to the other. There's moose everywhere in the village  
49 because the amount of snow that's out in the country.

50

1 Also we've heard about wolves in the community too  
2 chasing the moose. And I think yesterday or day before  
3 yesterday a bear being in the village too.  
4

5 People that I have been talking to say  
6 fishing has been really slow with the under ice net.  
7 People are out, out jigging for pike and I think  
8 sometime last week they were fishing for sheefish too,  
9 so they're slowly showing up.

10  
11 Other than that just trying to stay  
12 warm. That's all I've got.  
13

14 Thank you.  
15

16 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you, Ray.  
17 And we will move on to our new Alakanuk representative,  
18 Thomas Alstrom.  
19

20 MR. ALSTROM: Hello, this is Thomas  
21 Alstrom from Alakanuk. Are you able to hear me?  
22

23 MS. PATTON: Yep, can hear you loud and  
24 clear, thank you Thomas.  
25

26 MR. ALSTROM: Okay. This is Thomas  
27 Alstrom from the village of Alakanuk. And basically  
28 what Mr. Oney was saying there that, yeah, there's been  
29 a lot of moose here in the village of Alakanuk within  
30 the town. I usually -- every day or every other day I  
31 have moose bedded down in the back yard of my house  
32 here. And, yeah, there's been sightings and wolf  
33 tracks around town that I heard about and, yeah, also  
34 sightings of bear. And I remember last fall they had  
35 seen or sightings of -- you know, we're having a lot of  
36 brown bear problems with the community of Alakanuk  
37 sightings, you know, the upper end of town and then  
38 like how many days later the sighting was -- within the  
39 town. We had a lot of brown bear problems this past  
40 fall of 2019. And then as of now we're having problems  
41 with wolves. And then I believe the wolves are in and  
42 around town scaring the moose, and the moose are coming  
43 into town to seek protection. So with the sightings of  
44 wolves around the village of Alakanuk, they're like  
45 bringing the moose into the village and I believe  
46 they're seeking protection from the wolves by coming  
47 into the village. But then, again, we do have some  
48 loose dogs within the community of Alakanuk, and then  
49 if the moose come too far into the village then we have  
50

1 a problem with the loose dogs attacking the moose, so  
2 if they come too far in then kind of the dogs push them  
3 out and then if they go too far out of the village then  
4 the wolves attack them, so I guess they're having  
5 problems, either too far out of the village or too  
6 close within the village.

7  
8 Yeah, a lot of people been going out  
9 jigging for -- or starting to go out jigging for pike  
10 and sheefish.

11  
12 But other than that, yeah, that's  
13 pretty much all I got to say.

14  
15 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you,  
16 Thomas. And welcome.

17  
18 And then last but not least we have  
19 Alissa Rogers. And when Richard Slats joins us later  
20 in the meeting we'll give him a chance to provide his  
21 report for Chevak as well.

22  
23 So we'll go on to Alissa Rogers.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Thank  
26 you, guys, and thank you so much for hearing your  
27 subsistence reports. I greatly appreciate hearing  
28 what's going on in our region and within your  
29 communities and what's going on out there. You are my  
30 eyes and ears folks, and hearing from you guys and  
31 hearing what's going on, it helps understand everything  
32 that's happening within our region. And also let's me  
33 know if there's anything that we need to know in  
34 regards to changing the regulations or to changing  
35 recommendations for types of management to help improve  
36 our populations, our resources and protection of our  
37 environments and our subsistence way of life and  
38 honoring our cultural and traditions.

39  
40 For my report, I just came back this  
41 past weekend from Yukon and I've seen a huge increase  
42 in ptarmigan, seeing, and sighting actual ptarmigan.  
43 It's the first time I ever seen huge flocks like this  
44 since I can't even remember when; when I was back in  
45 high school, that was the last time I've seen something  
46 this huge of -- in population, abundance and flocks  
47 this big. So it's a huge increase.

48  
49 Starting off from the last time that we  
50

1 had met, going out fishing and hunting we had a pretty  
2 -- we had some big pike and we had an odd run of  
3 tomcods and whitefish juveniles. There was people out  
4 there who were putting blackfish traps out near the  
5 coast and in some of those stream areas around that  
6 area and they were catching tom cods and baby whitefish  
7 in their blackfish traps, and even in the land locked  
8 areas we definitely had an increase in small juvenile  
9 whitefish that were being caught in blackfish traps at  
10 huge number of abundances. Especially around some  
11 areas over here with these big lakes, we've definitely  
12 had a huge increase in that.

13  
14 Well, overall for blackfish traps, we  
15 have a few usual things that we have seen. It's not  
16 uncommon, what we call is overflowing and you could use  
17 dipnets to dip blackfish right out of these lakes, or  
18 right out of these streams or near beaver areas. There  
19 was so much blackfish there that they were literally  
20 coming up and like -- they looked like they were  
21 boiling in the water so you could just scoop them out  
22 of the water.

23  
24 We did have some concerns of sea ice  
25 that wasn't freezing. It was taking longer than  
26 previous years to freeze. There was quite some concern  
27 that for the safety of going out seal hunting, or going  
28 out to the coast and going hunting, that the sea ice  
29 wasn't freezing but when it really froze it surely  
30 froze and it's the most sea ice we've seen in a long  
31 time.

32  
33 I want to reiterate, I had a snow geese  
34 in my backyard this past fall. The most unusual thing  
35 I've ever seen in my backyard, but, yes I had snow  
36 geese in my backyard.

37  
38 We definitely had a decrease in rabbits  
39 this year compared to the previous years. I believe  
40 we're coming off our seven year cycle with rabbits.

41  
42 And then also one thing I did notice  
43 this year is I haven't seen many buntings, those little  
44 white snow birds around our area as much as we used to  
45 back in the day. I did go out and kind of look for  
46 them one time when they weren't showing up at their  
47 normal times and I went out to a couple areas to go  
48 take a quick peak where I usually see them and come to  
49 find out, they were hiding in grass, and every time

50

1 they seen a bird fly over or anything they were hiding  
2 inside the grass, which was the first time I ever seen  
3 that before. But that was kind of cute.

4  
5 When the ice actually froze over for  
6 traveling, we did have a decrease in whitefish when we  
7 put our ice fish net out. We had a decrease in  
8 sheefish. Definitely noticed our eddies had shifted in  
9 a lot of our areas that are really good areas we used  
10 to have for putting out nets under the ice. We did see  
11 an increase in chums and reds that were being caught in  
12 our ice nets that were coming in pretty late.

13  
14 Then we also seen a huge run of lush  
15 fish this year coming through the late fall.

16  
17 And what was brought to my attention  
18 and I was really concerned about was these emperor  
19 geese, there's a decline in the population estimates  
20 that indicated some type of over harvesting or some  
21 type of factor that was in the favor of the emperor  
22 geese but when, I guess, they did their count, there  
23 was definitely a decrease in the emperor geese which  
24 made it concerning to me because I would like to make a  
25 recommendation that we do a closure on emperor geese  
26 until their numbers and population becomes healthy  
27 enough again for us to harvest them. But honestly I'm  
28 pretty worried about the emperor geese's population  
29 since we finally just came out of a moratorium with  
30 them and we just, finally, started having the ability  
31 to legally hunt them. So I really want to keep my eyes  
32 on those.

33  
34 We did have huge concerns about caribou  
35 this year. There was definitely a lot of unreported  
36 harvest that had taken place. Reported through Native  
37 hotline but nothing in certain. We definitely had a  
38 decrease of moose on the Yukon River, especially near  
39 the islands where everyone goes. Ever since the  
40 caribou had shut down on this side there's been more  
41 hunting activity on the Yukon to get meat up there.

42  
43 There's been some reports of folks that  
44 went out and didn't catch any moose and there's been  
45 quite a bit of running into people a lot more, people  
46 up there on the Yukon than there was in previous years.

47  
48 But there's definitely a lot more moose  
49 in our area. The moratorium is definitely working on

50

1 building up our population down here. We've got quite  
2 a bit of moose that are running through town in Bethel  
3 and that's very unusual. So we've had quite the number  
4 of moose specifically on the highways and on standard  
5 oil, coming across the river, up by the airport, and  
6 up in Tundra Ridge crossing all over. So the moose  
7 moratorium for the Kuskokwim definitely has improved.

8

9 And that is my report.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 Eva.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Alissa.

16 Wonderful reports from all, thank you.

17

18 MR. LANDLORD: Eva.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Oh, do we have a Council  
21 member wanting to.....

22

23 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair. Eva.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.

26

27 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, this is James  
28 Landlord, Mountain Village.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead, James.

31

32 MR. LANDLORD: Yeah, I'd like to add  
33 one more. I just received a text from the tribal  
34 office that our gas station in Mountain Village had  
35 broken down and we had no sale of gas for about a month  
36 and that prevented people from going out to hunt moose  
37 and members here in Mountain are asking if the moose  
38 hunting season can be extended for Mountain Village.

39

40 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James. Thank  
41 you for that report. And we can, we can work with the  
42 Council or we can work with the community of Mountain  
43 Village directly.

44

45 MR. LANDLORD: Okay.

46

47 MS. PATTON: To submit a special  
48 action, given the circumstances there. And so that's  
49 something that we can follow up with your community to

50

1 work on that request so Mountain Village can submit  
2 that to the Federal Subsistence Board.

3  
4 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. Gas sales just  
5 opened up actually a couple days ago so we had no sales  
6 for about a month. We had to go to St. Mary's to get  
7 our gas.

8  
9 Okay, thank you.

10  
11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James, for that  
12 report, on behalf of your community. And we can follow  
13 up with your community probably after the meeting in  
14 order to speak with them directly if they want to  
15 submit a special action request regarding that.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 MR. LANDLORD: Thanks.

20  
21 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is  
22 Phillip.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,  
25 Phillip.

26  
27 MR. PETER: You had mentioned moose  
28 counting -- they going to start moose count -- are they  
29 going to start moose counting, they've got plenty of  
30 snow. I never heard any accurate numbers in our area  
31 on Kuskokwim. So if they're going to do it, do it  
32 right now before the snow melts.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Quyana. As far  
37 as I know U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently  
38 conducting moose surveys. I know Fish and Game  
39 had.....

40  
41 (Telephone participant interference -  
42 -- phones not muted)

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: .....currently --  
45 or Fish and Game was doing their moose surveys and then  
46 as far as I know U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are  
47 actively doing moose surveys -- excuse my  
48 pronunciation, but moose surveys right not so I think  
49 they're still doing moose surveys this week. Ray and  
50

1 Patrick or, if you guys want to chime in here as for  
2 agencies, if you guys know exact dates and when you  
3 guys will have an update for us on the moose  
4 populations.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Ray Born.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
11 If Ray isn't available right away to speak to that,  
12 they will be providing updates tomorrow during their  
13 agency reports as well so we'll get an update on that  
14 if he's not on line at the moment.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

17

18 MR. BORN: This is Ray Born. I'm  
19 sorry, I.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, no,  
22 that's okay, go ahead.

23

24 MR. BORN: .....the question was.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. BORN: This is Ray Born. Is there  
29 a question for me, I had you turned down a little bit?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We're trying to  
32 figure out -- Phillip had a question about your moose  
33 surveys and when you'd have an update for us.

34

35 MR. BORN: I think Alaska Department of  
36 Fish and Game has a pretty good report on that during  
37 their report, and then we can fill in some things, you  
38 know, during the agency reports, you know, later on  
39 tomorrow if that's acceptable.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Phillip, would  
42 that be okay with you if we do moose report on agency  
43 reports tomorrow?

44

45 MR. PETER: Yes, Ma'am.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,  
48 Phillip. All right, Eva, if there's no more further  
49 question or discussions on subsistence reports, I'd

50

1 like to move on to.....

2

3

MR. SLATS: Madame Chair.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

6

7

MR. SLATS: This is Richard.

8

9

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, good, quyana.

10

11

MR. SLATS: I walked in when Alissa was  
12 doing her report.

13

14

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, good, go  
15 ahead with your subsistence report.

16

17

MR. SLATS: Okay. I don't have that  
18 much to -- very much to report. It's just that I  
19 wanted to start off by applauding the Department of  
20 Interior with, you know, looking out for health, safety  
21 and welfare with everything that's going around and  
22 going on in the Globe.

23

24

Last time when we met in Bethel it was  
25 starting to freeze up but then it was raining and then  
26 there was all this concern about the Mulchatna Caribou  
27 Herd, and that was after we met and then we got snow  
28 this years so there's a lot more snowmachine travel  
29 aside from, you know, being blizzarded out.

30

31

And then I just wanted to mention to  
32 the Council that North Pacific Fishery Management  
33 Council has fisheries ecosystem planning, and I got  
34 appointed to the Local Knowledge and the Traditional  
35 Knowledge Task Force, you know, so I wanted to ask, you  
36 know, work with the rest of the Council about, you  
37 know, getting their feel about how they -- well, their  
38 knowledge too as well.

39

40

Also there is this Arctic Research  
41 Consortium of the United States and then about a couple  
42 of weeks ago I was appointed to the Arctic Indigenous  
43 Scholars, so, you know, like I had a question for the  
44 rest of the Council about how they feel about food  
45 traditional knowledge and local knowledge into writing,  
46 you know. So, you know, and then I've had reservations  
47 about doing that and, you know, that has always been my  
48 initial reaction.

49

50

1                   Because of the climate change and the  
2 rising temperatures and everything happening overnight  
3 I have a lot of, you know, everything going on in my  
4 mind as I'm speaking because it's really hard for me to  
5 begin thinking what is really happening, you know, it's  
6 either that or the news media is getting so far ahead  
7 that it's -- you know, that we've never knew everything  
8 that was going on in the world as it was happening.  
9 But I also believe that I begin to think that we may  
10 have to go or resort to the old ways with the things  
11 that are going on. But the thing is that there are  
12 unusual mortalities that are occurring to our  
13 resources, even if we did that. So I'm just -- as I've  
14 always tried to emphasize that the local subsistence  
15 users need to be considered every step of the way while  
16 we're doing all of this.

17  
18                   And then for, you know, the way we've  
19 always done is to -- traditionally we've always tried  
20 to hunt, fish and gather whenever we can and then store  
21 them -- store everything and had ways of doing this  
22 traditionally for the wintertimes.

23  
24                   And then when we're finally getting  
25 snow I seen a ptarmigan right here in our town a couple  
26 of weeks ago, so I haven't really gone out to go look  
27 for, you know, where I've always went to go look for  
28 the ptarmigan. But if I see a sighting there's got to  
29 be others. I think, you know, like I hope -- I'm  
30 beginning to hope that they're back in our area because  
31 -- well, because they have the snow. And the willows  
32 are still out there so, you know, they have -- they're  
33 able to survive.

34  
35                   And then right now when we get our fish  
36 and game we need to begin looking at keeping everything  
37 we have to make them keep longer, you know.

38  
39                   So these are just some of the things  
40 that have been going on in my mind. I didn't have my  
41 prepared, you know, like that paper that I was starting  
42 to summarize, my subsistence, in front of me, but those  
43 are just words that are coming off of my head and I  
44 wanted to thank the rest of the Council for being  
45 diligent about the work that they do and I'm glad to be  
46 here today.

47  
48                   Thank you.

49  
50

1                                   And I should have been put before  
2 Alissa's report because I could never do a report as  
3 good as her.

4  
5                                   Thank you.

6  
7                                   MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you,  
8 Richard. You joined us just in the right time as we  
9 were getting to you under our Council member reports.

10  
11                                   Madame Chair and Council, if I may.  
12 Just to let you know, as well, wonderful Richard that  
13 you were appointed to the North Pacific Fisheries  
14 Management Council for their Traditional Knowledge and  
15 rural community representative. We did have a request  
16 for them to present to the Council, and they have  
17 overlapping meetings this week so unfortunately were  
18 not able to join us. I do have handouts that I will be  
19 mailing to you now that we're not gathering together.  
20 But they do hope to be able to join us at the fall  
21 meeting if our meetings don't overlap.

22  
23                                   Additionally, those ecosystem changes  
24 that the Council was requesting to have some reports  
25 on, we also had Jim Murphy with NOAA, National Oceanic  
26 and Atmospheric Administration to present to the  
27 Council but he had also slide shows that would have  
28 been helpful for the information and given these sudden  
29 changes decided that it would be best for him to  
30 present to the Council at the fall meeting when  
31 hopefully we will be all gathered in person.

32  
33                                   So we are working to get those  
34 additional agency reports that the Council had  
35 requested. Those are two unfortunately we won't have  
36 at this meeting today but hope to have those in the  
37 fall.

38  
39                                   Thank you.

40  
41                                   MR. LANDLORD: Eva. Madame Chair.  
42 James Landlord, Mountain Village.

43  
44                                   MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, James.

45  
46                                   MR. LANDLORD: Yes. I think you asked  
47 Eva to do a profile on Harry Wilde, how long he's been  
48 on the RAC Committee. He passed away last month. So if  
49 Eva can say something about Harry.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you so much  
2 James.

3  
4 Yes, we heard from our other past  
5 Council Chair, Lester Wilde, Harry Wilde's brother,  
6 that he had passed away about a month ago now. And we  
7 would like to remember Harry was one of the first  
8 Council members appointed to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta  
9 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council after the Council  
10 was created under Title VIII of ANILCA and he had  
11 served for many, many years, only retiring, you know,  
12 probably about eight years ago so he was on since 1993.  
13 And served his community and the entire region, just a  
14 real subsistence advocate and knowledgeable and warm-  
15 hearted and we will miss him deeply.

16  
17 And I don't know, perhaps, other  
18 Council members who have served with Harry for these  
19 past years, too, would like to speak to him.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 MS. PATTON: Trapper John or Raymond  
26 Oney, did you want to say any words for Harry.

27  
28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MS. PATTON: Well, our best wishes go  
32 out to his whole family and we wish them well and he  
33 has been such a grace and warmth that has guided the YK  
34 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for so many  
35 years, so, Quyana, Harry.

36  
37 (Pause)

38  
39 MR. LANDLORD: Thank you, Eva.

40  
41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James.

42  
43 (Pause)

44  
45 MS. PATTON: Okay. Since we have  
46 concluded the Council member reports and we do have our  
47 Council member Richard Slats, who has joined us, we now  
48 have eight of our nine Council members present and  
49 everyone that will be joining us for this meeting.

50

1 If the Council wishes to go back to the  
2 election of officers now that we have everyone on line.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.  
5 At this time I'd like to go back to election of  
6 officers and I'll hand it over to you, Eva.

7  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,  
11 thank you. And we will conduct the election of  
12 officers. This is held every year at the winter/spring  
13 meeting. And it's a little bit awkward, normally we  
14 would do this in person, so that there's an opportunity  
15 to do anonymous voting but we'll do our best here.  
16 Perhaps given what the Council would like to do, either  
17 we can do roll call vote or all in favor.

18  
19 So we elect three positions for the  
20 Council. The position of the Chair. The position of  
21 the Vice Chair. The position of Secretary.

22  
23 Currently Alissa Rogers is Chair.

24  
25 Vice Chair was James Charles, who has  
26 since retired from the Council.

27  
28 And our most recent Secretary was  
29 Raymond Oney.

30  
31 And we start this, as the Coordinator,  
32 I will start with the call for the Chair nominations,  
33 and then once the Chair is elected, then the Chair will  
34 resume conducting the meeting to call the other  
35 positions.

36  
37 A nomination for Chair doesn't require  
38 a second, but we would like to open it up to the  
39 Council for nomination for Chair.

40  
41 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair -- I mean,  
42 Eva.

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.

45  
46 MR. ANDREW: I nominate Phillip Peter.

47  
48 MS. PATTON: We have a nomination for  
49 Phillip Peter.

50

1 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. I nominate  
2 Alissa Rogers.

3  
4 MS. PATTON: And we have a nomination  
5 for Alissa Rogers.

6  
7 Any other nominations for Chair.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. Move the  
12 nominations be closed.

13  
14 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. Hearing  
15 no other nominations for Chair we will open up to  
16 voting now. Maybe I'll just check in with the Council  
17 if you would prefer to vote by roll call votes since  
18 we're on teleconference.....

19  
20 (Telephone interference - participants  
21 note muted - participant phone on hold)

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Standby Eva. It  
24 sounds like we got put on hold. Somebody has us on  
25 hold and they're beeping us.

26  
27 MS. PATTON: Yeah, there has been some  
28 beeping going on in the background. Unfortunately, the  
29 only way that we can disconnect from being held on hold  
30 is to disconnect the phone line and we don't want to  
31 lose everybody. So if that beeping isn't too  
32 disturbing or too distracting, maybe we'll try to  
33 proceed with the meeting at this time and hopefully  
34 they'll take us off hold. My concern is we did have  
35 some difficulties with our connection before and we  
36 don't want to lose everyone on line.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That sounds good,  
39 thank you, Eva.

40  
41 MS. PATTON: Is everybody able to hear  
42 okay over the beeping?

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 MS. PATTON: I guess for Council  
47 members, in particular, right now.

48  
49 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, I can hear you.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thank you.  
2 We'll proceed so we don't disconnect our whole  
3 teleconference in order to drown that out.  
4

5 Okay, so we have two nominations for  
6 Chair of the YK Delta Council. Our first nomination  
7 was for Phillip Peter nominated by John Andrew and we  
8 will open up the floor for voting for Phillip Peter.  
9

10 And just so we can tally votes, and I  
11 apologize for a little bit of awkwardness over  
12 teleconference, but if it's okay, we go ahead and do a  
13 roll call vote so we can get a vote count for each of  
14 the Chair nominations.  
15

16 So for Phillip Peter, Sr., John Andrew.  
17

18 MR. ANDREW: Phillip Peter.  
19

20 MS. PATTON: That's a yes for Phillip  
21 Peter.  
22

23 James Landlord.  
24

25 MR. LANDLORD: Alissa Rogers.  
26

27 MS. PATTON: A vote for Alissa Rogers.  
28

29 Carl Maxie, Sr., a vote for Phillip  
30 Peter or Alissa Rogers.  
31

32 MR. MAXIE: Alissa Rogers.  
33

34 MS. PATTON: Raymond Oney.  
35

36 MR. ONEY: Alissa Rogers.  
37

38 MS. PATTON: Richard Slats.  
39

40 MR. SLATS: Alissa Rogers.  
41

42 MS. PATTON: Alissa Rogers.  
43

44 Thomas Alstrom.  
45

46 MR. ALSTROM: Alissa Rogers.  
47

48 MS. PATTON: Okay. And then we have  
49 our two nominations, Phillip Peter, Sr.  
50

1 MR. PETER: Vote for Alissa Rogers.  
2  
3 (Laughter)  
4  
5 MS. PATTON: And Alissa Rogers.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Phillip.  
8  
9 (Laughter)  
10  
11 MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful, thank you  
12 everyone.  
13  
14 So we do have the majority of votes for  
15 Alissa Rogers, reelected as YK Delta RAC Chair. Thank  
16 you everyone and I will turn it back to Alissa to Chair  
17 the meeting.  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.  
20  
21 At this time we're going to be taking  
22 up Vice Chair. We'll go ahead and open up the  
23 nominations. The nomination does not need a second.  
24 The floor is open for nominations for Vice Chair.  
25  
26 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.  
29  
30 MR. ANDREW: I nominate Phillip Peter.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: A nomination for  
33 Phillip Peter.  
34  
35 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.  
38  
39 MR. LANDLORD: I nominate Ray Oney.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Nomination for  
42 Ray Oney.  
43  
44 Any further nominations.  
45  
46 (No comments)  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hearing none,  
49 Eva, can you do the same thing that you just did for  
50

1 the Chair's seat on roll call.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Madame  
4 Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, wait, someone  
7 has to close it, sorry, Eva, I jumped the gun.

8

9 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair. I move to  
10 close nominations. This is James Landlord.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.  
13 Landlord. We'll go ahead and close the nomination.  
14 Eva, can you now do roll call for Vice Chair.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
17 So we have two nominations for Vice Chair. We have a  
18 nomination for Phillip Peter, Sr., for Vice Chair, and  
19 a nomination for Ray Oney for Vice Chair. So,  
20 similarly, if I go down by roll call vote, please say  
21 which you would like to elect to Vice Chair.

22

23 John Andrew.

24

25 MR. ANDREW: Phillip Peter.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Thomas Alstrom.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. PATTON: Again, this is nominations  
32 for Vice Chair, and we have two people nominated, one  
33 is Phillip Peter, Sr., and the other is Ray Oney.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. PATTON: Maybe we'll reconnect with  
38 Thomas on line. We'll go down to James Landlord.

39

40 MR. ALSTROM: This is Thomas Alstrom.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Okay, go ahead, Thomas.

43

44 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, I vote Ray Oney.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Thomas.

47

48 James Landlord.

49

50

1 MR. LANDLORD: Ray Oney.  
2  
3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James.  
4  
5 Carl Maxie.  
6  
7 MR. MAXIE: Phillip Peter.  
8  
9 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry was that Phillip  
10 Peter?  
11  
12 MR. MAXIE: Yes, Ma'am.  
13  
14 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. Just  
15 wanted to confirm I heard you correctly.  
16  
17 Richard Slats.  
18  
19 MR. SLATS: Phillip Peter.  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: And we go back up to  
22 Phillip Peter.  
23  
24 (No comments)  
25  
26 MS. PATTON: Phillip, are you on line,  
27 would you like to vote.  
28  
29 MR. ANDREW: Phillip.  
30  
31 MR. PETER: Do I have to vote for  
32 myself, too, or what?  
33  
34 MS. PATTON: Pardon?  
35  
36 MR. PETER: Do you have to vote for --  
37 oh, Raymond Oney.  
38  
39 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you.  
40  
41 Ray Oney.  
42  
43 MR. ONEY: Phillip Peter.  
44  
45 (Laughter)  
46  
47 MS. PATTON: And Alissa Rogers.  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Just to keep our  
50

1 official level here with Kuskokwim and Yukon folks,  
2 I'll go ahead and vote for Ray Oney.  
3

4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Alissa. So we  
5 have one, two, three, four votes for Ray and four votes  
6 for Phillip so we do have a tie, and when it comes to  
7 election of officers we hold the vote again until we  
8 can break a tie vote.  
9

10 So we currently have an equal number of  
11 Council members voting right now so we'll go back down  
12 the list again to see if we can break the tie and elect  
13 one for Vice Chair.  
14

15 Okay, we'll start at the top again,  
16 John Andrew.  
17

18 MR. ANDREW: Phillip Peter.  
19

20 MS. PATTON: Thank you, John.  
21

22 Thomas Alstrom.  
23

24 MR. ALSTROM: Ray Oney.  
25

26 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Thomas.  
27

28 James Landlord.  
29

30 MR. LANDLORD: Phillip.  
31

32 MS. PATTON: Hello, James, I didn't  
33 quite hear that, can you please repeat.  
34

35 MR. LANDLORD: Phillip Peter.  
36

37 MS. PATTON: Okay, Phillip.  
38

39 Carl Maxie.  
40

41 MR. MAXIE: Phillip Peter.  
42

43 MS. PATTON: Phillip Peter.  
44

45 Richard Slats.  
46

47 MR. SLATS: Phillip Peter.  
48

49 MS. PATTON: Ray Oney.  
50

1 MR. ONEY: Phillip Peter.  
2  
3 MS. PATTON: Phillip Peter.  
4  
5 MR. PETER: I vote for Ray.  
6  
7 MS. PATTON: And Alissa Rogers.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Ray Oney.  
10  
11 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. So now  
12 the vote is now five for Phillip Peter and three for  
13 Ray Oney. So Phillip Peter as Vice Chair.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: And we're going  
16 to go ahead and move on to Secretary. I'll go ahead  
17 and open the floor for Secretary.  
18  
19 MR. PETER: I nominate Ray Oney. This  
20 is Phillip.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,  
23 Phillip.  
24  
25 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair. I move to  
26 close the nomination. This is Richard Slats.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,  
29 Richard. If there is no more nominations we'll go  
30 ahead and close it at this time.  
31  
32 (No comments)  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, all  
35 those in favor of Ray Oney go ahead and signify by  
36 saying aye.  
37  
38 IN UNISON: Aye.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those  
41 opposed.  
42  
43 (No opposing votes)  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, Ray,  
46 we have you as our Secretary, congratulations.  
47  
48 MR. ONEY: Thank you.  
49  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: You're welcome.  
2  
3 Okay.  
4  
5 We'll go ahead and open the floor up if  
6 -- I feel like we should take a break but then we're  
7 all on teleconference so we can't -- if you guys want  
8 to -- what do you guys say, do you guys want to take a  
9 quick five, 10 minute break and then come back or do  
10 you guys want to keep going.  
11  
12 MR. ONEY: Keep going until noon.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, a  
15 voice has been heard. We'll go ahead and keep going.  
16 I'll go ahead and open the floor now for public and  
17 tribal comment on non-agenda items.  
18  
19 Public testimony.  
20  
21 Go ahead and state your first name,  
22 your last name, your affiliation so we can get you  
23 correctly on record.  
24  
25 (Pause)  
26  
27 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. This is Eva  
28 Patton, Council coordinator. Just wanted to check in  
29 with the public that's joining us on teleconference  
30 today. So we do have, on both days, in the morning, an  
31 opportunity to address the Council on non-agenda items.  
32 So if there's anything that you would like to bring to  
33 the Council's attention, anything to relay from your  
34 community that's not on the agenda, at this time, you  
35 can go ahead and alert us that you'd like to speak to  
36 the Council. We would just need your name and who  
37 you're representing.  
38  
39 (Pause)  
40  
41 MR. BARON: Hi, this is William Baron.  
42  
43 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.  
44  
45 MR. PETER: Yeah.  
46  
47 MR. BARON: Hello.  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We heard a couple  
50

1 people there.

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MR. WILLIAMS: This is Mike Williams  
from Akiak.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mike.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. First of all, I'd like to commend your recognition for our friend Harry Wilde. He has been a tireless worker for our subsistence hunting and fishing and gathering rights here in the region. And I spent a lot of time with him and it was good for him to give us advice and guidance to our way of life out here. And it's a public service that sometimes go, you know, he lost a lot of family time and a lot of that. So our hearts go out to his family and to all of you.

That's No. 1.

No. 2. Akiak Native Community has been submitting special action requests for the Kuskokwim River chinook salmon for the last five, this is our fifth year, and we request the Federal Subsistence Board to take up those SARs in April, early enough for us to -- do not rush in May, and that is our recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board, to take up the Kuskokwim River special action requests early enough so we can start planning for the summer early enough. I know we have those preliminary numbers right now. And that's No. 2.

No. 3. Our concern about the climate change impacts and we applaud the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperatives that have been doing a lot of research in our fish and wildlife and also the water and the air and the land. And I think those critical information that is happening to our communities with the climate change impacts, I think we need to make sure that we be getting engaged in that because it affects our fish, since we seen a lot of dead fish on the river last summer with -- in regards to the reds when we checked those fish, a lot of red fish on the Kuskokwim River were floating down. And every time we stopped by when those seagulls feed on them, we checked and it was mostly over 90 percent reds that were died from the heat, I think.

(Telephone interference - participants

1 note muted - participant phone on hold)

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: But, anyway, I think we  
4 need to continue to do all of that research and to  
5 support that.

6

7 But those are the only three things  
8 that I kind of wanted to make comments on. But, again,  
9 we're going to speak to our own special action request  
10 for the Kuskokwim River later on.

11

12 Thank you very much.

13

14 MR. JORDAN: Hi, Alissa.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi.

17

18 MR. JORDAN: This is Moses Jordan,  
19 Natural Resources for Orutsararmut Native Council.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Welcome, go  
22 ahead.

23

24 MR. JORDAN: We have a letter to the  
25 Federal Subsistence Board that we've come out with our  
26 committee, Subsistence Committee. It says:

27

28 To the Federal Subsistence Board from  
29 Orutsararmut Native Council, letter of recommendation  
30 to the Federal Subsistence Board. The recommendation  
31 from the Orutsararmut Native, ONC, Subsistence  
32 Committee on the following Federal special actions 20-  
33 01, 20-02, and 20-03 as follows:

34

35 ONC Subsistence Committee does not  
36 agree with the ANILCA .804 recommendation.

37

38 A. Allow the State of Alaska to manage  
39 the chinook salmon fishery based on the current 2020  
40 preseason forecast for the chinook salmon estimates  
41 with the range mid-point of 220,000.

42

43 B. Based on the current return  
44 estimate, ONC Subsistence Committee understands the  
45 conservative management directly for the subsistence  
46 use under ANILCA .804 would be complicated and  
47 difficult to enforce.

48

49 2. If chinook salmon return estimates

50

1 do not uphold current numbers based on the ADF&G  
2 chinook salmon preliminary estimates, the ONC  
3 Subsistence Committee recommends that ANILCA .804 be  
4 enacted and Federal management will pursue until  
5 chinook salmon estimates are met.

6  
7 I also have Robert Lekander with me.

8  
9 MR. LEKANDER: Hello, Alissa.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, good morning,  
12 Robert, welcome.

13  
14 MR. LEKANDER: Good morning. Just like  
15 Mike was saying, all those SARs, I hope they work on  
16 them early and we all know that on the Kuskokwim we are  
17 subsistence lifestyles, we've been on it all my life.  
18 And I hope the Feds take over because there's so many  
19 things going on, the global warming and I worry about  
20 that and high seas fishing and maybe we ought to keep  
21 getting those SARs out every year because just a few  
22 years of good -- last year was good, but the fish are  
23 so small and we ought to be cautious and let the Feds  
24 go for it again.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,  
29 Robert. Do we have anyone else for public testimony on  
30 nonagenda items.

31  
32 MR. BARRON: Yeah, Hi, Alissa, this is  
33 William (Ind) Barron. I'm an anthropologist.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi Will.

36  
37 MR. BARRON: I've been working in  
38 Akiak. And I just wanted to take this opportunity to  
39 share some of what I've been learning so thank you for  
40 this space.

41  
42 So I've been conducting research in  
43 Akiak since 2016 on issues related to fisheries  
44 management and well being. So I just wanted to briefly  
45 share a bit what that research looks like and then what  
46 I've learned and make a broad recommendation at this  
47 point.

48  
49 So since 2016 I've spent about 14

50

1 months in Akiak and while some of my research had  
2 involved individual and group interviews, most of my  
3 research has entailed fishing with people, working with  
4 youth, attending tribal council meetings and simply  
5 learning what matters to people by spending time with  
6 them in their day to day lives. I've also attended  
7 numerous meetings of the Kuskokwim River InterTribal  
8 Fish Commission as well as other fisheries management  
9 related meetings in the YKDelta region.

10

11 Although drastically high rates of  
12 morbidity and mortality among indigenous peoples in  
13 Alaska are not, at least to my knowledge, taken into  
14 consideration by the State of Alaska and Federal  
15 government when making fisheries management decisions,  
16 I have found that people understand ways of living and  
17 dying as related, at least partially to be effective  
18 fisheries management on their well being. For this  
19 reason, my research attempts to broaden a perspective  
20 on what well being means to people that goes beyond  
21 medical categories of disease and illness.  
22 Specifically my research focuses on how practices  
23 involving in fishing are also practices of care.

24

25 Thinking more broadly about while being  
26 involved, thinking about how care occurs in ways that  
27 are not just hierarchy, so relations of care in which  
28 there is an uneven distribution of power between  
29 caregivers and recipients of care, in many ways,  
30 reflected the relationship between the Federal  
31 government and Alaska Native peoples as well as the  
32 State of Alaska and tribes. One way this relationship  
33 plays out is in the context of fisheries management,  
34 when, for example, Federal fisheries managers say that  
35 they are giving people an opportunity to get a taste of  
36 fish when the river is open for 12 hours or 24 hours.  
37 This kind of regulatory gift, in my opinion, epitomizes  
38 the way that the settler formula institution  
39 historically present themselves as generous, and  
40 benevolent and how they continue to do so. But what  
41 I've learned through my research is that people want  
42 far more than merely get a taste of fish, a taste of  
43 fish does not just mean, as I understand it, tasting of  
44 fish, people want the ability to take care of each  
45 other on their own terms. Which, among other things,  
46 means being able to regulate themselves instead of  
47 being regulated.

48

49

50

So the care, the way that I see care

1 playing out is unique because, you know, it's also  
2 harder to identify because it does not look like  
3 clinical forms of care that pass between people  
4 directly or how people would take care of each other  
5 when somebody has the flu, for instance, instead no  
6 care, as I see it, is occurring through a shared  
7 concern for salmon. We can sort of imagine, or I would  
8 like us to imagine, you know, how care is, in a way,  
9 triangulated among humans and fish, rather than passed  
10 only between humans. And one specific way this plays  
11 out is when people use fish camp as interventions for  
12 family members and tribal citizens who are struggling  
13 with substance abuse or depression. This  
14 responsibility to take care of fish brings people into  
15 a network of relationships with fish and family and  
16 this network fosters mental and social health.

17  
18 So fisheries management is a  
19 complicated process and I'm still learning a lot about  
20 the many factors involved. But what I can say is that  
21 for many people in Akiak, as they've shared with me,  
22 well being means being able to care for each other in  
23 ways that are socially, culturally and ethically sound,  
24 which means fishing with family at the proper time and  
25 in the proper ways.

26  
27 So just to wrap up.

28  
29 I've brought a recommendation at this  
30 time, just to say that tribes need to be trusted to  
31 count their own fish and to manage their own fishing,  
32 and the Federal government, in my mind, has the ability  
33 to instill this trust in tribes. You know fisheries  
34 issues are more than about food security, it's about  
35 sovereignty and we're on this teleconference and not  
36 meeting face to face because of a public health crises  
37 and I would encourage us all to see the issues that  
38 we're talking about today, fisheries issues, is about  
39 public health first and foremost and the health of  
40 Alaska Native peoples.

41  
42 So thank you for your time.

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Thank you. We might have  
45 lost our Chair there for just a moment, and can I get  
46 your name again please.

47  
48 MR. BARRON: Yes, my name is Will (Ind)  
49 Barron.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thank you  
2 very much. Appreciate it.

3  
4 MR. BARRON: Yeah, Quyana.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry, Eva, I got  
7 disconnected.

8  
9 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thanks we got  
10 you back on line.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry about that.

13  
14 Would you be able to give a quick  
15 summary of what he said, I lost him at the people are  
16 -- Akiak -- Sir, would you be willing to do a quick  
17 summary of what you said. I apologize that I got  
18 disconnected. The last thing that I heard you say was  
19 that the people of Akiak greatly appreciated sharing  
20 their information with you and you found and then  
21 that's when I lost you.

22  
23 MR. BARRON: Yeah, well, sure, I'll try  
24 to summarize.

25  
26 (Pause)

27  
28 MR. BARRON: People -- well, wellbeing  
29 means for people, as I understand it, and how they  
30 shared with me, is being able to take care of  
31 themselves on their own terms. And Phillip Peter, Sr.,  
32 we heard him share earlier today that, you know, people  
33 have been regulating themselves for a long time and  
34 they know how to count their fish and they know how to  
35 manage their fish and the Federal government has the  
36 ability to instill that trust in tribes. And rather  
37 than having a hierarchy relationship of care, whether  
38 there's an uneven power distribution between the State  
39 and the Federal government and tribes, you know, people  
40 are taking care of themselves by fishing together and  
41 from the mental to the social, you know, people's  
42 social and mental health.

43  
44 Yeah, and the big point is that this is  
45 about more than food security but about sovereignty and  
46 I think this is a public health crises, or a public  
47 health issue.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

50

1 MR. BARRON: Sorry if that's not -- is  
2 that -- I'm happy to answer other questions. My  
3 apologies if that's not a good summary for you.  
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, it's okay.  
6 I'll get a review update from Eva, she's writing our  
7 meeting minutes and everything and you're also being  
8 recorded, so if any confusion, I'll go ahead and go  
9 back and review the recording.  
10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair. I would  
12 suggest that Will email that to Eva and please share,  
13 you know, if you have a written thing, because you're  
14 cutting out, even up here.  
15

16 Thanks.  
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That's a good  
19 idea. If that's okay with you, to go ahead and notify  
20 Eva and be able to have her assist you distributing  
21 that information.  
22

23 MR. BARRON: Absolutely. I will send  
24 that email to Eva now. I have it written down. Sorry  
25 that I was cutting out.  
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: No problem. We  
28 have expected technical difficulties with a  
29 teleconference.  
30

31 All right. Anyone else in  
32 teleconference land that has a public testimony.  
33

34 (No comments)  
35

36 MR. NICOLAI: Madame Chair.  
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.  
39

40 MR. NICOLAI: Yeah, this is Martin  
41 Nicolai in Kwethluk.  
42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, good morning.  
44 Thank you for joining us.  
45

46 MR. NICOLAI: Yeah, good morning.  
47 Yeah, I've spoken about this before in the past and I'm  
48 going to remind the Council again, and, hopefully, the  
49 Federal Fish and Game, that gives us -- the weir is  
50

1 going to be operated by the tribe here this year and  
2 I'm going to push for, not only one opening for the  
3 fish to pass through the weir but I wanted to see  
4 another opening for the fish to pass through the weir  
5 instead of -- instead of going back and forth for most  
6 of the fist, that they would have less trouble passing  
7 the weir. And I hope to see another opening sometime  
8 either this year or in the future sometime if the -- if  
9 the State or the Federal side is going to keep counting  
10 the fish through the weir process during all of our  
11 (indiscernible - poor connection).  
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.  
14 U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service is going to be giving a  
15 fish update on their agency reports and other -- I  
16 believe, and, Ray, could correct me if I'm wrong, but  
17 they're going to be giving also information on the weir  
18 for their plans for 2020.  
19

20 MR. BORN: This is Ray. That's  
21 correct. We have a slide on the Kwethluk weir for the  
22 agency updates. So, thank you, Alissa.  
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.  
25

26 MR. ALSTROM: Hey, Alissa.  
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, how are you  
29 doing. Welcome. Thanks for joining us, go ahead.  
30

31 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, this is Bill at St.  
32 Mary's. I just got on and what is the public  
33 testifying about?  
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Anything you want  
36 to testify about in regards to non-agenda items.  
37

38 MR. ALSTROM: Oh, okay. I thought it  
39 was specifically something else. Okay, thank you.  
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: You can if you  
42 want to if you have anything to report.  
43

44 MR. ALSTROM: Well, not at the moment.  
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank  
47 you for joining us this morning.  
48

49 MS. PATTON: Thank you everyone.  
50

1 And.....  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: At this.....  
4  
5 MS. PATTON: .....I do want to remind  
6 folks, so we did hear from ONC, from Moses, and  
7 just.....  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, we lost you.  
10  
11 MS. PATTON: Can you hear me now.  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 MS. PATTON: Alissa, are you able to  
16 hear me.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Are you  
19 available.  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: Are you able to hear me  
22 now.  
23  
24 (No comments)  
25  
26 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry folks it  
29 looks like we have lost our OSM folks up in Anchorage  
30 so standby until they reconnect. I'm going to get a  
31 hold of Eva and let her know.  
32  
33 MS. PATTON: Hi, Alissa, can you hear  
34 me through this mic.  
35  
36 (No comments)  
37  
38 MS. PATTON: Alrighty. I'm going to  
39 text and we're going to try to fix our connection on  
40 this end.  
41  
42 (Off record)  
43  
44 (On record)  
45  
46 MS. PATTON: Hello, can I just check in  
47 with any Council members who may be on line.  
48  
49 MR. ONEY: Ray Oney.  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Hi Ray. Thank you. I  
2 think we're still waiting for a few others of our  
3 Council members here. So we'll just standby for a few  
4 more minutes while we wait for the remainder of our  
5 Council together.

6  
7 (Pause)

8  
9 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, Alakanuk.

10  
11 MS. PATTON: Hello, Thomas. Wonderful,  
12 thank you.

13  
14 (Pause)

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, do we have  
17 Eva and Tina on line.

18  
19 MS. PATTON: Hello, welcome Alissa.  
20 Yes, this is Eva. And we do have a few Council members  
21 on line, maybe we'll touch base and see who else has  
22 joined us.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, that's great.

25  
26 (Pause)

27  
28 MS. PATTON: Let's see so far we had  
29 Ray Oney and Thomas Alstrom. Do we have other Council  
30 members who've joined back on line.

31  
32 MR. PETER: Phillip Peter.

33  
34 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Phillip.

35  
36 (Pause)

37  
38 MS. PATTON: Any other Council members  
39 on teleconference with us at this time.

40  
41 MR. LANDLORD: This is James Landlord  
42 from Mountain Village.

43  
44 MS. PATTON: James. Thank you, James.

45  
46 (Pause)

47  
48 MS. PATTON: Any other Council members  
49 that have joined us on teleconference.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PATTON: Let's see, we will give it  
4 just a few more minutes here so we can gather the last  
5 few Council members.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 MS. PATTON: Okay. Just touching base  
10 here again, do we have any other Council members that  
11 have just joined us.

12

13 MR. SLATS: Richard Slats.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Hello, Richard, thank you.

16

17 MR. MAXIE: Carl Maxie, Napaskiak.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Hello, Carl, thank you. I  
20 can hear you better now.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 MS. PATTON: Do we have John Andrew on  
25 teleconference yet.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MS. PATTON: Okay, while we're waiting  
30 for John Andrew to join us welcome, again, everyone.  
31 It sounds like you can hear okay on teleconference land  
32 there.

33

34 MR. MCKEE: Loud and clear.

35

36 MR. ONEY: Yes.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Okay. So this afternoon,  
39 we were going to move right into the Mulchatna Caribou  
40 Herd update from Lauren Watine, and the wildlife  
41 special action submitted by Togiak National Wildlife  
42 Refuge for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. So that will be  
43 coming up here just shortly. Do we have Lauren on  
44 line.

45

46 MS. WATINE: You do, I am here. Can  
47 you hear me?

48

49 MS. PATTON: Loud and clear, thank you.

50

1 And I'll turn it back over to our Chair to open up our  
2 session and John Andrew can join us when he comes on  
3 line.  
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.  
6 Thank you, folks, for coming back. We'll go ahead and  
7 call this meeting back to order at 1:08 on this  
8 beautiful 16th of March.  
9

10 Under our new business, Item No. 10A,  
11 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. We have -- I'm sorry, I forgot  
12 your name again.  
13

14 MS. WATINE: This is Lauren Watine.  
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,  
17 Lauren. I didn't want to butcher your last name.  
18

19 MS. WATINE: That's okay.  
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, take it  
22 away, it's all yours.  
23

24 MS. WATINE: Well, thank you, Madame  
25 Chair and thank you everyone for giving me this chance  
26 to sort of speak out of order. I really appreciate the  
27 opportunity, and I hope I can share some really  
28 important information with you and answer any questions  
29 you might have about the Mulchatna.  
30

31 So I'm going to start with a bit of a  
32 summary of what's happened since August before moving  
33 into more of the update.  
34

35 So we've been very busy collecting  
36 information on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd since our  
37 last meeting. But to summarize what has occurred,  
38 since August 2019 when we changed the RC503 bag limit  
39 for Mulchatna caribou from two animals to one animal.  
40 So that decision was made based on our July post-  
41 calving population survey that estimated the herd at  
42 approximately 13,500 which is reduced by about 50  
43 percent since the last population estimate conducted in  
44 2016.  
45

46 At that time we asked Federal managers  
47 to match our bag limit reduction at which point a  
48 special action request with a public comment period was  
49 initiated. After about two months the Federal  
50

1 Subsistence Board agreed to match the State reductions  
2 and appointed the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge as  
3 Federal in-season managers for the Mulchatna to allow  
4 prompt action to be taken on Federal lands as the State  
5 learned more about the status of the Mulchatna and  
6 implemented decisions.

7  
8 After many discussions with the State  
9 and other parties, the hunt for the Mulchatna Caribou  
10 Herd was closed on Federal lands at the end of  
11 December. A decision that the State was in agreement  
12 with, but which we decided to wait until we had a  
13 chance to discuss the Mulchatna with the Board of Game  
14 in Nome, which was meeting two weeks after that Federal  
15 closure was initiated. That decision wasn't an easy  
16 one to make but it was done because we wanted to ensure  
17 that the Board fully understood the situation and why  
18 we sought to close the hunt on this important herd.  
19 And so with the Board's understanding and approval, we  
20 made plans not just to close the hunt for the Mulchatna  
21 for the remainder of the season, but we also began  
22 rapidly working on a plan to communicate these  
23 immediate changes with the public. So since January  
24 31st, 2020, the hunt for the Mulchatna Caribou herd has  
25 been completely closed on State and Federal lands.  
26 Prior to and since that closure we've been monitoring  
27 the herd with monthly flights for colored animal  
28 survival and also to get a better understanding of the  
29 herd's movement and dynamics on the landscape.

30  
31 So as an update, just last week we  
32 conducted three flights for the herd. Two flights  
33 occurred in the western range of the Mulchatna and one  
34 on the east. We saw fewer animals than we had  
35 anticipated. Over the course of the whole survey out  
36 west, and this is just the western part of the  
37 Mulchatna's range we saw less than 2,500 caribou. The  
38 largest group we observed was less than 600 animals.  
39 We had 53 collared animals out west and we located 45  
40 out of 53. And the eight caribou we couldn't find are  
41 animals that have been missing since 2018 so we don't  
42 know where those animals are, if they're alive, if  
43 they're dead, if their collars died or anything like  
44 that. But we still listened for them every time we go  
45 out and conduct our surveys.

46  
47 So next week we're going to begin our  
48 captures for Mulchatna animals and we anticipate  
49 collaring another 40 to 60 animals this spring. These  
50

1 activities are going to be followed by our parturition  
2 survey in May which will assess calf production in the  
3 herd and we're, at that time, we're going to try to  
4 capture close to 100 caribou calves and follow them for  
5 survival through the fall. In June and July we will  
6 conduct another post-calving population survey to get a  
7 population estimate for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and  
8 see where that population is sitting since our 2019  
9 estimate of 13,500 animals.

10  
11 Some other activities we're engaging in  
12 with various partners includes greater education and  
13 outreach with subsistence communities to help the  
14 people of Alaska to understand what's occurring with  
15 the Mulchatna and how they can help its recovery.  
16 We're assessing range quality and evaluating the  
17 predator control program in and adjacent to the  
18 Mulchatna caribou calving grounds. And we are also  
19 reevaluating current goals and population objectives  
20 for this herd.

21  
22 So I want to assure that everyone knows  
23 we're doing everything possible to obtain a 2020 post-  
24 calving population estimate for this herd. And  
25 depending on what that estimate suggests for the  
26 Mulchatna, there's a very real chance that the RC503  
27 hunt for 2020 and 2021 will not open or be  
28 substantially restricted if it opens at all.

29  
30 We would all very much appreciate if  
31 you could continue encouraging users to report on their  
32 permits. Over 2,000 permits were issued prior to  
33 closure and we've received 1,040 permit returns. From  
34 the permit returns we've learned that 113 animals were  
35 reported as successfully harvested so that would be 73  
36 bulls and 40 cows. The rest of the returns were  
37 unsuccessful or permittees did not hunt. Over half of  
38 the permits that we still need reports on are from Unit  
39 17 and the Bethel area. So, again, if you guys could  
40 all help us by encouraging your friends, your  
41 neighbors, your community to please report on their  
42 hunts whether they hunted or not, we really, really  
43 need that information.

44  
45 So that's pretty much the bulk of my  
46 update on the Mulchatna and if you have any questions  
47 for me I'm more than happy to answer. There's probably  
48 a lot more that hasn't been covered that you may have  
49 questions about and I will do my best to answer those  
50

1 questions, if you have them.

2

3 MR. NICOLAI: My name is Evan Nicolai  
4 from Kwethluk. I'd like to have you address the  
5 territory or where the herd goes, maybe you could do  
6 that, I'd like to know that.

7

8 MS. WATINE: I will certainly do my  
9 best. So when the herd is completely joined up for the  
10 calving season they pretty much are in two different  
11 areas of their range, and that's why we call them the  
12 eastern herd and the west, even though they're all  
13 Mulchatna animals. For western animals, they were  
14 pretty much in the flats during our flight last week.  
15 And they were pretty close to some of our villages,  
16 like Quinhagak they were maybe 30 miles to the south  
17 and east, so they're staying -- they're not very far  
18 from our communities. So as people mentioned earlier  
19 in the meeting today with all of the snow we had, we  
20 were happy that we were able to close the hunt when we  
21 did because otherwise it would have been very easy for  
22 people to harvest animals, which wouldn't have been  
23 great for this herd at this time. Especially given the  
24 fact that they are ranging closer to communities with  
25 these deeper snows right now.

26

27 MR. NICOLAI: Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we  
30 have any more comments or questions for her.

31

32 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is.....

33

34 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We have Peter  
37 Phillip and then who is this.

38

39 MR. SLATS: Richard.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, thank you.  
42 We have -- go ahead Peter.

43

44 MR. PETER: Yeah, those caribous,  
45 they're decreasing and what causes them to decrease,  
46 those caribous?

47

48 MS. WATINE: Was the question what's  
49 causing them to decrease?

50

1 MR. PETER: Yeah, what causes them.

2  
3 MS. WATINE: So that's something we're  
4 still trying to learn more about right now. Caribou  
5 naturally go through a cycle where they increase quite  
6 a bit, like we saw in the late '90s and early 2000s and  
7 then they'll decrease back to their stable population.  
8 For some reason, as the Mulchatna decreased it never  
9 stabilized, it just continued to decrease, which is  
10 outside of the normal pattern for caribou. So we're  
11 not 100 percent sure why it's decreasing but it's  
12 likely due to a combination of things. There's  
13 probably not any one single factor that's causing that  
14 decline. And that's one of the reasons why we want to  
15 look at range quality because when we have so many  
16 animals on a landscape in the '90s and 2000s that could  
17 have degraded the available habitat for the Mulchatna  
18 animals. So that's a possibility, or possible reason  
19 why they're not doing so well. There could be added  
20 human harvest pressure on the Mulchatna, there could be  
21 predation issues. I mean it's -- we're not sure. It  
22 could even just be the animals changing their movement  
23 patterns and their dynamics. And so that's one of the  
24 reasons why we're going to be putting forth more of an  
25 -- a greater effort this year to collar animals so that  
26 we can get a better understanding of what the animals  
27 are doing on the landscape and maybe what's causing  
28 this herd to continue to decline instead of stabilize.

29  
30 MR. PETER: Is the -- another question,  
31 you know, last year they opened it in August and then  
32 it closed on the 31st of December last year, and I was  
33 wondering how many permitholders catch in August and  
34 December.

35  
36 MS. WATINE: I'm sorry I missed that  
37 last part. How many what?

38  
39 MR. PETER: How many in December before  
40 it closes, permitholders kill caribou.

41  
42 MS. WATINE: How many were -- okay, so  
43 in December -- in December the hunt was closed on  
44 Federal lands but it remained open on State land. By  
45 the end of December, we had about 90 animals reported  
46 harvested. But that wasn't just on Federal lands, that  
47 was including Federal and State lands.

48  
49 MR. PETER: What about in August?

50

1 MS. WATINE: Back in August when we  
2 reduced the limit -- so the hunt was still open in  
3 August, the limit was two animals until mid to late  
4 August when it went down to one animal. And I think at  
5 that time -- I don't have the information in front of  
6 me but that's not really a period when a lot of animals  
7 are harvested, at the beginning of the season. There  
8 might have been 10 reported harvested at that time but  
9 most people don't start hunting until a little bit  
10 after August and then there's that pause in October  
11 during the rut before people start trying to harvest  
12 animals again.

13  
14 MR. PETER: And another question for  
15 you, Ma'am, is that Unit 19A, which is up river in the  
16 Holitna area, there's some caribous up there too in 19A  
17 up river, Holitna area, and does anyone go up there and  
18 kill caribou animals up there?

19  
20 MS. WATINE: That's a great question,  
21 and I don't have a great answer for you. Most harvest  
22 doesn't occur in Unit 19. Most of it occurs in Unit  
23 18. But I can certainly look that information up and  
24 get it to the Board at a later time, if that's  
25 acceptable.

26  
27 MR. PETER: Okay, thank you.

28  
29 MS. WATINE: You're welcome.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Do we have  
32 any more further questions or comments.

33  
34 MR. SLATS: Yes.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, I'm sorry, we  
37 have Richard Slats. And then.....

38  
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)

40  
41 MR. SLATS: Hi, this is Richard. I  
42 believe Mr. Phillips may have asked this, during your  
43 study when you're looking at the Mulchatna caribou,  
44 during your studies have there been any like  
45 (indiscernible - poor connection) or findings or  
46 comments of their initial decline. I remember when we  
47 were discussing this in October it was like half of the  
48 population was gone and then at that time, when we were  
49 moving between -- we were -- like weathered out, and

50

1 then rain, and then rain turned to ice and then we kind  
2 of looked out the window and wondering whether -- if  
3 the caribou is looking at these kind of weather  
4 conditions, whether their eating habits, you know,  
5 feeding grounds were being rained on and then ice  
6 forming over them when it cooled off and then it gets  
7 really hard for them. We're wondering if any of the,  
8 like these kind of things have effect on what that big  
9 decline was back in the day and then also was looking  
10 at some of my readings about 200 reindeers being --  
11 well, dying, in (indiscernible) a couple years before  
12 -- well, two or three years ago, and then, you know,  
13 these things are not always -- not always the leaders,  
14 you know, (indiscernible) we're not taking half of the  
15 population of the Mulchatna caribou, you know, so we  
16 need to -- I think maybe that needs to be made clear  
17 when we talk about the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, that  
18 it's not the subsistence hunter that's causing the  
19 decline.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. WATINE: Absolutely. And that's a  
24 really important point. And if I wasn't clear when I  
25 was talking earlier, I completely apologize, I don't  
26 want anyone to think that we're saying our subsistence  
27 hunters are the reason that the Mulchatna has declined,  
28 because that is certainly not the case.

29

30 As we've seen in many other situations  
31 there's never a single reason for these patterns that  
32 we observe. There's many potential interacting factors  
33 that can be affecting the Mulchatna and causing this  
34 decline.

35

36 One of the things I did bring up  
37 earlier was range quality and that can also very much  
38 be affected by weather patterns. There could be really  
39 good food on the landscape but if the Mulchatna animals  
40 can't access it because of different weather events  
41 that could certainly affect them. So I have spoken  
42 with several people about the potential for these ice  
43 events on the vegetation to affect the Mulchatna, and  
44 it can certainly make it harder for them to forage  
45 effectively, and so that could certainly be  
46 contributing to their decline.

47

48 To your original question which was  
49 what do we -- do we know any information on --

50

1 regarding the causes of this decline, again, no, we  
2 don't -- we don't have any hard information right now.  
3 We're still working on collecting information. You  
4 know it's taken the Mulchatna a number of years to get  
5 to this point, it didn't just happen over night and so  
6 it's going to take us a bit of time to understand  
7 what's happening to this herd. But we are looking at  
8 all of those different factors that you've identified  
9 as we try and determine the answer to what's happening  
10 with Mulchatna.

11  
12 MR. MAXIE: Madame Chair. This is Carl  
13 from Napaskiak.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Carl, go  
16 ahead.

17  
18 MR. MAXIE: I have a question regarding  
19 the decline in counting. My question is do you count  
20 wolf packs around the caribou. I usually go out  
21 Napaskiak to Kwethluk and it was very odd that I seen  
22 wolf packs and -- I mean wolf packs and I seen caribou  
23 tracks going out to trees, I don't know if they were  
24 separated from the herd or (indiscernible - poor  
25 connection) that was my question in regards to wolf  
26 packs, and I seen before from the past.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 MS. WATINE: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear  
31 you very well, you were going in and out with your  
32 comments. Were you asking about wolf packs?

33  
34 MR. MAXIE: Yes. Do you count caribou  
35 at the same time -- count wolf packs in the area at the  
36 same time you count caribou (indiscernible - poor  
37 connection).

38  
39 MS. PATTON: Carl, this is Eva, sorry  
40 to interrupt here. I was wondering are you able to get  
41 really close to the phone receiver, to speak loudly,  
42 it's kind of fading in and out, it's difficult to hear.

43  
44 MR. MAXIE: Does this sound better?

45  
46 MS. PATTON: Yes, much better, thank  
47 you.

48  
49 MR. MAXIE: Okay. My question was,

50

1 when you count Mulchatna Caribou Herd, do you count  
2 wolf packs around the caribous, and area where the  
3 caribous are roaming around and plus I'm seeing more  
4 wolf packs than ever before from Napaskiak to Kwethluk  
5 on the back trail and I'm seeing more caribou tracks as  
6 well going down to trees out of the area, are they  
7 separated from the herd or not and that was my  
8 questions for -- if they counted wolves or wolf packs  
9 when counting caribou herds?

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. WATINE: Thank you for repeating  
14 your question and speaking closer to the receiver  
15 because that helped a lot. And so you've asked a very  
16 -- a great question. Normally we count our wolf packs  
17 in winter because it's much easier to follow them and  
18 also see them with good snow conditions. We count our  
19 caribou in the herd in June and July when they're  
20 grouped together trying to get away from the heat and  
21 bugs. So it's kind of hard to see wolf packs at that  
22 time so we don't count wolf packs and caribou at the  
23 same time but we do have wolves collared in areas where  
24 the Mulchatna calve and in areas surrounding the  
25 calving grounds. So we do our best to keep collared  
26 animals in these packs so that we can get an idea of  
27 how close they're getting to Mulchatna caribou and also  
28 maybe how often they're trying to hunt caribou and at  
29 what times of year. And we use this information to  
30 also get an understanding of how many packs are  
31 actually in the area.

32

33 We've had some interesting reports  
34 actually from our participants in the wolf control  
35 program. We've been seeing -- not only have they been  
36 seeing a lot of wolves on the landscape this winter, as  
37 everyone seems to be reporting, but they're seeing a  
38 lot of small packs. Now, what's causing there to be a  
39 bunch of little packs we don't know but some people --  
40 some previous work has suggested that in areas where  
41 wolves are heavily harvested they don't -- they split  
42 out into smaller packs or they don't group up into  
43 large packs because they keep losing their members, of  
44 the packs. So that's one of the things we're hoping to  
45 evaluate with the wolf control program, which is, what  
46 are some of the long term effects on wolf pack size and  
47 structure in heavily harvested areas and are we really  
48 meeting the goal of that program by harvesting wolves.  
49 Is it actually helping to promote caribou calf

50

1 survival, which is the goal of this wolf control  
2 program. Is removing wolves from the area in the hopes  
3 that with less predators around these calves will have  
4 a chance to be recruited into the population. But is  
5 that actually being achieved.

6  
7 So I hope that helps answer your  
8 question.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any further  
11 questions, Carl.

12  
13 MR. MAXIE: Thank you very much.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have anyone  
16 else.

17  
18 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, go ahead.

21  
22 MR. ANDREW: This is John Andrew at  
23 Kwethluk. In the years past when I used to do a lot of  
24 hunting and trapping up in near the hills, some of the  
25 years when -- way back in the '70s and early '80s, when  
26 we have heavy snow, when the snow is deep the caribou  
27 have trouble getting to their (indiscernible), the  
28 moss, the tundra or the hills, when they're weak the  
29 wolves will always sense that and they always hunt them  
30 down, just kill them and leave them. One time I drive  
31 that road -the hunters from Bethel and we found it --  
32 we tracked one herd at the same time were going after  
33 them. We counted 18 wolf kill in one morning. Not a  
34 lot of them were eaten except the last two. And I used  
35 to hear stories from those old reindeer herders that  
36 passed on from my area, in the winters where they have  
37 deep snow like this, and when in the winter they have a  
38 rainy spell and freeze over there will be mass  
39 starvation everywhere they -- in their migratory routes  
40 and not just starvation sometimes they fell through the  
41 ice in the swift waters, we don't see those because  
42 we're not up there to observe them. And right before  
43 they crashed in the 80s we noticed that the Mulchatna  
44 animals, because we know them because we live with them  
45 back in their migratory routes and they were showing  
46 up, the big brown ones with collars on them, we call  
47 them Mulchatna and the other one, Bristol Bay herd, is  
48 like the big tall ones with the light tan colors, they  
49 were -- they have some kind of sickness on them and  
50

1 they have -- they looked like worms inside their  
2 stomach. They're pink colored and they weren't eating  
3 well and some of them were suffering from hoof rot,  
4 that's mostly in the fall time, but in the winter they  
5 were mostly -- even their females were just laying,  
6 they weren't healthy, right before they crashed.

7

8 Those are just some of the factors we  
9 have to look into.

10

11 And those old reindeer herders always  
12 used to tell us that there's a difference between the  
13 Mulchatna herd and the Kilbuk Caribou Herd, there's a  
14 group of -- a herd up there, up in the (indiscernible)  
15 Aniak and Kwethluk up in the higher hills, higher  
16 mountains back there. They don't -- all of them  
17 they'll get sucked along with the Mulchatna Herd when  
18 they go by and some of those Mulchatna Herd they always  
19 fall off on the trail. In the summer time we see a few  
20 here and there back in our area when we're berry  
21 picking. And it's a pretty complicated issue I think  
22 for some, but very few know those, the biologists that  
23 work with the herds.

24

25 Qu yana.

26

27 MS. WATINE: Thank you very much. And  
28 you brought up something that -- I'm very happy you did  
29 because we've been talking a lot about some of the  
30 leftover effects of the Kilbuk Herd being, I guess,  
31 consumed by the Mulchatna, and how the Mulchatna and  
32 the Kilbuk had two different patterns and how they used  
33 the landscape and how they behaved, and so what are  
34 some of the effects of -- what are some of the effects  
35 the Kilbuk Herd might be having on the Mulchatna's  
36 movement and behavior and patterns. So that's  
37 definitely something we are very interested in. And  
38 we're doing our best to take into account, as we try  
39 and tease apart what's happening on this landscape.  
40 You know something you talked about earlier when you  
41 were discussing the Mulchatna was these heavy deep  
42 snows and starvation for the herd and, you know, we're  
43 in some ways very happy to finally be having a real  
44 winter for the first time in maybe six, almost 10  
45 years, but at the same time the Mulchatna has had  
46 several years now of really mild winters where they can  
47 access food and forage and it hasn't been too much of a  
48 struggle for them and now they're fighting a real  
49 winter. So that could definitely have some really

50

1 negative effects on this herd moving forward. That,  
2 again, we'll have to take that into account as we try  
3 to figure out what to do with this herd and how to best  
4 help it grow again.

5  
6 You brought up some issues with disease  
7 and I'm sorry part of your conversation cut out at that  
8 point but it sounded like these were things you  
9 observed before the herd started to decline last time  
10 maybe in the '80s with worms and hoof rot. You know  
11 hoof rot has been observed in the herd and I think Andy  
12 might be able to -- Andy Aderman with Togiak might be  
13 able to speak to that a little bit more maybe later,  
14 but it is present in the herd and these worms aren't  
15 unusual either. But I think it becomes a concern when  
16 we see it -- see a lot of animals coming in that have  
17 these worms. So far from people that reported  
18 harvesting animals, they -- we didn't have any reports,  
19 that I can recall, of worms, but I have heard of some  
20 people cutting into the hide of their caribou and they  
21 see worms just under the skin, it's not in the gut or  
22 anything but it's just under the skin. But, again,  
23 there weren't too many reports like that.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have anyone  
26 else.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. I  
31 guess my question -- this is Alissa Rogers, I was  
32 hoping to get a date or a timeframe when we could get  
33 the next update on this caribou herd because I know  
34 there's quite a bit of us that are watching this herd  
35 fairly closely and so I haven't heard anything -- today  
36 is my first update in a long time. So when should I be  
37 looking for an update on this herd?

38  
39 MS. WATINE: That's a great question,  
40 Alissa. If you guys want more frequent updates,  
41 please, connect with Eva and she can connect with me  
42 and our liaison in Fish and Game to provide more  
43 frequent updates. In some ways we chose to wait until  
44 now to give an update because although we're actively  
45 surveying the herd and working on it every single  
46 month, to give you an update after every survey we do,  
47 we wouldn't have too much to share, nothing very new.  
48 And so I don't want there to be this fatigue of  
49 information where you're hearing a lot from us but

50

1 you're not getting a lot of information.

2

3 So I mean we can certainly give you  
4 more updates if that's what you would like, but up  
5 until now this has been -- this is a pretty good time  
6 to give a pretty good update with actual real  
7 information of changes that have occurred and things  
8 that we've learned. We're coming into our survey  
9 season right now so pretty soon we're going to have a  
10 lot of new information coming in. So we're going to  
11 have new captures of animals and then we're going to  
12 see our parturition survey being done which looks at  
13 calf production and then we'll also be collaring calves  
14 and looking at their survival. So after May we should  
15 have some pretty good new information leading up to the  
16 population estimate.

17

18 I won't be able to give you, I guess, a  
19 full report on calf survival until the fall because we  
20 try and write up all of that information after we feel  
21 like -- if the calves have survived to a certain point,  
22 they're probably recruited into the population and then  
23 we can look back at all of those data points of animals  
24 that survived or did not and come up with a good report  
25 on calf survival through time for you. So that could  
26 be coming in the fall if that's something you would  
27 like a consistent report on, we can certainly work on  
28 getting that information to you, for sure.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, that sounds  
31 great. Thank you so much for that feedback.

32

33 Eva, would it be okay if you connected  
34 her and get that information for us so we can keep  
35 updated on this herd.

36

37 And my last question was since it  
38 closed -- sorry, since we have closed the hunting down,  
39 have we seen a decrease in the number of caribou go  
40 down a bit, enough, or is it -- the closure -- I guess  
41 that's what I'm trying to say.

42

43 MS. WATINE: Yeah, so are you asking  
44 are we able to see more animals on the landscape right  
45 now since closure or are we not seeing more harvested  
46 animals on the landscape during surveys?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Well, I guess  
49 what I'm trying to find out is, since we did the

50

1 closure and we're reducing the amount of harvesting,  
2 I'm hoping that it's helping the population, at least  
3 stabilize for now and that we're not seeing as much  
4 dead caribou out there from hunting or elements or  
5 anything like that. Every single caribou counts right  
6 now to allowing this population to become abundant  
7 again and reproduce. I just want to make sure that our  
8 efforts and I want to make sure that our people know  
9 that having this closure is to the benefit of the  
10 population, but also acknowledging that -- and giving  
11 respect to the people that because of their closure and  
12 because we are not harvesting the caribou that in a  
13 couple of years from now we're going to see a bounce  
14 back of the caribou just like we did with the moose,  
15 and I just want to give the appreciation to the people  
16 because without their help, yeah, without the help of  
17 them tightening the notches a little bit more and using  
18 things to get harvest in their time of need, for this  
19 population to grow so we can have more caribou down the  
20 road.

21

22 I feel like the people need to be  
23 acknowledged for that.

24

25 MS. WATINE: Absolutely. And I  
26 completely agree with that. And so I won't have a  
27 really great answer for you until we are able to get  
28 our population estimate this coming summer. What I can  
29 say is on my survey flights and on the law enforcement  
30 flights that have been done, there have definitely been  
31 -- from my understanding, less harvested animals on the  
32 landscape. So people are getting the message. They  
33 are not participating in the harvest activities. And  
34 just so everybody knows, the entire hunt is closed on  
35 State and Federal lands. So, legally, right now it is  
36 -- so right now it's not legal to harvest Mulchatna  
37 animals at all. And people are, for the most part,  
38 following that closure. So it sounds to me like we've  
39 gotten our message across but we need to continue to  
40 make sure everyone is on board and understands why this  
41 closure is necessary at this point.

42

43 I can't say right now, again, if this  
44 closure is having the effect we want it to. At the  
45 very least it's keeping things level, I would hope.  
46 And I would hope at the very least, come June and July  
47 when we do this next survey to estimate the population,  
48 we do not see a decline in the population. I hope that  
49 at the very least it is at 13,500 because that means we

50

1 have -- there are things we can do to help it grow and  
2 that this action has done the bare minimum that we  
3 needed it to, which is to stop the decline. And right  
4 now that's the key is to just stop this decline and  
5 then work towards determining why is it declining and  
6 how can we cause it to increase again.

7  
8 So I know that's not really the answer  
9 you want maybe but that's the best answer we have right  
10 now. And we can certainly keep you guys in the loop as  
11 best as we can on what we're observing out there.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. I  
14 greatly appreciate the information.

15  
16 Do we have anybody else that would like  
17 to comment or have questions about the Mulchatna  
18 Caribou Herd. If not, I'd entertain that we move on to  
19 the next agenda item.

20  
21 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray  
22 Born.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

25  
26 MR. BORN: Yeah, I just want to echo  
27 Lauren's appreciation for everybody's help in the  
28 caribou with the closures happening. We've been  
29 checking on it about once a week and we have not found  
30 any kind of indication of any kind of tracks getting  
31 close to the caribou so, again, thanks to everybody out  
32 there for doing a great job of following the closure.  
33 I really appreciate that support.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 (Telephone participant interference -  
38 background noise overbearing -- phones not muted)

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.  
41 At this time, there's someone -- we're hearing some  
42 background noise, can you please star six to mute your  
43 phone or press mute on your phone.

44  
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Press mute on your  
46 phone.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I don't think  
49 they can hear me.

50

1 (Telephone participant interference -  
2 background noise overbearing -- phones not muted)

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Everyone just  
5 want to check and look at your phone, star six to mute  
6 your phone. Tina, is this a connectivity issue or is  
7 this someone's phoneme, or do you have tha.....

8  
9 MS. PATTON: You know, I think it's  
10 background noise. So maybe we'll give a shout out to  
11 everybody on teleconference, I know we've asked you to  
12 get really close to the phone so we can hear everyone,  
13 but mute your phone when you're not speaking and you  
14 can do that if you have a mute button, or if you're on  
15 a cell phone or just a regular phone that doesn't have  
16 a mute button, just push star six and that will mute  
17 it.

18  
19 I'm not sure.....

20  
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)

22  
23 MS. PATTON: Yeah, who -- is somebody  
24 trying to address the Council?

25  
26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 MS. PATTON: Alrighty. Well, I'm not  
30 sure we're going to be able to make a connection with  
31 that person. If we might be able to proceed with that  
32 background Everybody who's on teleconference right now  
33 if you can please star six that will mute your phone  
34 and that will help reduce the background noise.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, it seems  
37 like it's getting worse.

38  
39 MS. PATTON: Are people able to hear  
40 okay. We've got Chris McKee who was going to address  
41 the actual special action request regarding the  
42 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. Do you feel you can hear okay  
43 for Chris to talk over the top.

44  
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Don't you guys  
46 have the ability to mute everybody?

47  
48 MS. PATTON: Unfortunately we don't,  
49 not with this teleconference system.

50

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think we're  
2 good.

3  
4 MS. PATTON: Okay, great. Maybe we'll  
5 go ahead and have Chris McKee, who is also on  
6 teleconference, to provide an overview of the special  
7 action request and we do have Togiak Staff on  
8 teleconference as well.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Let's go  
11 ahead and move on to special action with Chris McKee,  
12 go ahead you have the floor.

13  
14 MR. MCKEE: Okay, thank you. Madame  
15 Chair and members of the Council. Again, for the  
16 record my name is Chris McKee and I'm the Wildlife  
17 Division supervisor at the Office of Subsistence  
18 Management in Anchorage. I'm here just to give a brief  
19 overview of the special action request WSA 20-04. At  
20 this time the analysis is still in the early stages of  
21 review and so I don't have an actual formal analysis to  
22 present it to you at this time. But I wanted to give  
23 you all a brief overview of what the request was so  
24 that you can at least make an informed recommendation.

25  
26 As was indicated earlier, this is an  
27 action item for the Council and your recommendation  
28 will be incorporated into the analysis that will be  
29 considered by the Federal Subsistence Board on this  
30 matter at a future date.

31  
32 So Temporary Wildlife Special Action  
33 Request, WSA 20-04 was submitted by the Togiak National  
34 Wildlife Refuge and the Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
35 Refuge and it requests that the Federal in-season  
36 manager be delegated authority to open and close  
37 seasons, announce harvest limits and set sex  
38 restrictions for caribou in all or portions of Units  
39 9A, 9B, 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A and 19B for the  
40 2020/2022 regulatory cycle. The proponent states that  
41 the summer 2019 population estimate for the Mulchatna  
42 herd was 13,500 caribou, which represents a 50 percent  
43 decline from the previous five years and is well below  
44 the State's minimum population objective of 30,000  
45 caribou. The proponents note that the 2019/2020  
46 Federal and State seasons were shortened due to  
47 conservation concerns and that this herd is not  
48 expected to recover within the next year. The  
49 proponents believe that this request will help conserve  
50

1 and recover the herd and provide the flexibility needed  
2 to make harvest management decisions in a timely  
3 manner. They recognize that this request will reduce  
4 harvest opportunity in the short run, but conserving  
5 the herd now will increase harvest opportunity in the  
6 future. The proponents also state that the harvest of  
7 other resources, such as moose may increase in response  
8 to this request.  
9

10 So this has kind of been alluded to  
11 previously, but just a little bit of a recent history.  
12 In November of last year the Board approved Special  
13 Action Request WSA19-07 with modification that  
14 decreased the harvest limit for Mulchatna caribou from  
15 two to one caribou across the range of the herd for the  
16 2019/2020 regulatory year, and the modification  
17 included closing Units 18, 19A and 19B to caribou  
18 hunting except by Federally-qualified subsistence users  
19 with the harvest limit of one bull caribou and  
20 delegating authority to the Togiak National Wildlife  
21 Refuge manager to open and close seasons throughout the  
22 range of the herd and to set sex restrictions in Units  
23 9A, B, C, 17A, B and C., for the 2019/2020 regulatory  
24 year, and the Board approved the request due to serious  
25 conservation concerns for the herd and support from the  
26 affected Regional Advisory Councils and local users.  
27

28 Following this action by the Board, the  
29 acting Togiak Refuge Manager exercised his delegated  
30 authority and closed caribou hunting on Federal public  
31 lands across the range of the herd on December 31st,  
32 2019 for the remainder of the season. And then shortly  
33 thereafter in January of this year the Alaska  
34 Department of Fish and Game issued an emergency order  
35 which closed the RC503 caribou registration permit hunt  
36 on January 31st, 2020. And ADF&G issued this emergency  
37 order because of the population declines experienced in  
38 the population.  
39

40 So a lot of the other biology and kind  
41 of the harvest questions were asked and answered by  
42 Lauren in her previous presentation but I just wanted  
43 to give you guys a quick overview about what was being  
44 requested. We're also going to have public hearings  
45 regarding this special action at a future date and  
46 information that we get, any comments from the public  
47 and other interested entities along with tribal  
48 consultation will be incorporated into the analysis  
49 before it is forwarded on to the Federal Subsistence  
50

1 Board for them to make a decision.

2

3 So with that that's all I had. If I  
4 can answer any questions I'd be happy to do so.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we  
9 have any comments or discussion on this, if not we'll  
10 go ahead and get a motion -- do you need a letter of  
11 recommendation or a motion to support for this action  
12 -- special action?

13

14 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,  
15 this is Eva. Yes, the Board is seeking a  
16 recommendation from the Council on this proposal. And  
17 so, you know, standard to the Council's practice we  
18 would seek a recommendation, you know, either in  
19 support or oppose or support with modification and a  
20 justification for that vote. And if I may, to have  
21 Chris McKee repeat the special action request so it's  
22 clear what is being asked.

23

24 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. ANDREW: I move that we support  
29 this special action request.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Is  
32 this John.

33

34 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.  
37 Motion made to support a special action made by John  
38 Andrew, can I get a second.

39

40 MR. PETER: Madame Chair I second the  
41 motion. And I got a few comments I want to -- and one  
42 question.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, you  
45 could.

46

47 MR. PETER: My question would be --  
48 would it be from January all the way to March, all the  
49 way to August, is it going to be a complete -- complete

50

1 closure, no fall hunting for caribou in Unit 18?

2

3 MR. MCKEE: So I can't really answer  
4 that because I'm not sure what the determination the  
5 Federal Subsistence Board is going to make. As I  
6 indicated before it's just asking that the Federal  
7 manager be delegated authority to open and close the  
8 season, announce harvest limits and any sex  
9 restrictions for caribou throughout the (indiscernible  
10 - interruption)

11

12 (Telephone interference - participants  
13 not muted - participant phone on hold)

14

15 MR. MCKEE: So I can't speak to what  
16 the Board may or may not do or what the Federal  
17 manager, depending on what the situation is during the  
18 season.

19

20 MR. PETER: And it's going to be  
21 completely closed for subsistence hunters and sport  
22 hunters?

23

24 MR. MCKEE: Again, I can't answer that,  
25 I don't know what the Board is going to do when it  
26 makes a decision on the special action request or what  
27 the Federal in-season manager might do once the season  
28 comes around in August.

29

30 MR. PETER: Yeah, it looks like it's  
31 going to be confusion on this subject, you know.

32

33 MR. MCKEE: Madame Chair, if I may.  
34 One thing I forgot to add during my presentation is  
35 that both the Western Interior and Bristol Bay Regional  
36 Advisory Councils voted to support this special action  
37 as submitted. So I forgot to add that into my  
38 presentation but I wanted this Council to be aware of  
39 that.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. I  
42 believe we had a motion on the floor to support this  
43 proposal as is and it would have to rescind if -- if  
44 anybody wants to make modifications, we'd have to  
45 rescind the motion on the floor.

46

47 (Telephone interference - participants  
48 not muted - participant phone on hold)

49

50

1 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

4

5 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Ray Oney  
6 for the record. Do you know if the other RACs  
7 submitted any comments or are in support of this  
8 special action request?

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Could  
13 we get a justification for both the RACs that have  
14 supported this proposal, please.

15

16 MR. MCKEE: As I mentioned, both the  
17 Western Interior and Bristol Bay Councils voted to  
18 support the special action. They stated the herd  
19 needed to be protected and there needs to be an in-  
20 season manager for this herd to take action, if needed,  
21 during the season. They both supported it for  
22 conservation reasons. That's the Western Interior and  
23 Bristol Bay Councils.

24

25 MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you.

26

27 MS. WATINE: Madame Chair, this is  
28 Lauren Watine. Can I say something about this?

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, you can.

31

32 MS. WATINE: So I just want to say that  
33 Fish and Game supports a decision on an in-season  
34 manager being allocated. If any -- if for some reason  
35 this hunt does open in the fall, it would be very  
36 beneficial for quick action to be taken on the Federal  
37 side of things, which having an in-season manager would  
38 allow rather than have to go through another several  
39 months comment period to make any changes. And from  
40 the State's position, we would support having Togiak  
41 National Wildlife Refuge continue to be the acting in-  
42 season manager. They have worked with us for many,  
43 many years on the Mulchatna herd and they have insights  
44 into this herd that maybe the other Refuges wouldn't  
45 have. And we already have a very close working  
46 relationship with them and are in regular communication  
47 about the Mulchatna.

48

49 So, we, at Fish and Game, support this.

50

1 And thank you for letting me speak out of position,  
2 give our thoughts on this matter.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right.  
5 Anybody else on our Council have comments or questions  
6 towards this special action.

7  
8 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is  
9 Phillip again.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,  
12 Phillip.

13  
14 MR. PETER: I will support this caribou  
15 closure but I want to insert the opening for Federally-  
16 qualified hunters in the falltime. We go up there to  
17 Kisaralik and Kwethluk, and the Kasigiluk, look for  
18 caribou in falltime.

19  
20 That's my suggestion. Thank you,  
21 Ma'am.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Eva, would  
24 that be a poll on the current motion on the floor, to  
25 make that recommendation in or would it just be under  
26 our justification.

27  
28 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,  
29 this is Eva Patton. Maybe just to qualify, and Chris  
30 could read the special action request again. So right  
31 now it's asking for the Federal manager to have the  
32 authority to manage the herd and so that would give  
33 them the in-season ability to make a decision whether  
34 to open or close, and so supporting the special action  
35 request would give the manager the authority. The  
36 Council could make a request through the Federal  
37 manager to have an opportunity for a hunt at that time.  
38 That would be, you know, a modification to the  
39 proposal, or those requests could be made through the  
40 Federal manager once he has that authority, it wouldn't  
41 have to go back through the Federal Subsistence Board  
42 process.

43  
44 And maybe we could have Chris McKee  
45 just clarify again the exact wording of this special  
46 action request and that might help clarify that.

47  
48 MR. MCKEE: Sure. Madame Chair. The  
49 request isn't asking for the season to be closed

50

1 explicitly. Again, the request is -- it's requesting  
2 that the Federal in-season manager be delegated  
3 authority to open and/or close seasons, announce  
4 harvest limits and set sex restrictions for caribou  
5 throughout the range of the Mulchatna herd for the  
6 2020/2022 regulatory cycle. So it's not explicitly  
7 asking for a closure in and of itself. That's a  
8 possibility, but the request itself is not asking to  
9 close the caribou season, as written.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Phillip,  
12 do you understand what we're voting on right now?

13

14 MR. PETER: Yeah, I understand now,  
15 clearly.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

18

19 MR. PETER: Okay.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. If there's  
22 no more questions or comments we'll go ahead and follow  
23 through with our motion on the floor. If there's no  
24 more discussion can we go ahead and close it and take a  
25 vote on it.

26

27 MR. PETER: I call for question, Ma'am.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Question's been  
30 called. All those in favor of supporting the special  
31 action signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those  
36 opposed, same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Motion passes.  
41 All right, did Togiak want to chime in on this  
42 Mulchatna Caribou Herd or are we moving on to.....

43

44 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: .....Fisheries  
47 Resource Monitoring Program update.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may.

50

1 Thank you Council.....

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.

4

5

MS. PATTON: .....for that excellent  
6 discussion. And if we could just have a few words of  
7 the Council's justification for support of this  
8 proposal, for the Federal in-season manager.

9

10

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.  
11 Would you be able to go down the list of names and call  
12 people by their names so that we know what their  
13 justification is and how they would like to see this  
14 proposal -- their support.

15

16

MS. PATTON: And, Madame Chair, the  
17 Council did have good discussion and good questions and  
18 so just a few Council members who would like to speak  
19 to the -- to the vote, that would be -- that would be  
20 sufficient to provide the Council's justification  
21 clearly.

22

23

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

24

25

(No comments)

26

27

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. I'll start  
28 by saying that I supported this proposal because the  
29 Mulchatna Caribou Herd has declined over the past year  
30 and we definitely have been keeping an eye on it ever  
31 since it dropped past 30,000 and just continuously to  
32 drop without a rebound or coming back up in the  
33 population, and we definitely had tried to put in  
34 proposals in the past and advocate on behalf of the  
35 caribou herd to close the caribou herd, shut down  
36 portions of it or reduce harvest or bag limits,  
37 something to try to slow down the harvests and to -- to  
38 save the population of this caribou herd. I believe  
39 these are very good strides to rebuilding this herd.

40

41

And also if we could put under  
42 justification from my personal comment that, that we  
43 have some type of like a working group, or maybe a  
44 Mulchatna Working Group, in regards to discussing this  
45 with stakeholders, the people, tribal entities who are  
46 heavily involved in it. And also from a technical  
47 standpoint on a scientific basis.

48

49

That's my justification.

50

1 Thank you, Eva.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.

4 And I'll just check, are there any other Council

5 members that would like to add to that.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you very much  
10 Council. And a big thanks to Lauren Watine for joining  
11 us this afternoon. I know she's headed on her way out  
12 so thank you very much for those updates and, yes, we  
13 will follow up and be in touch. The Council can  
14 convene a working group or, you know, non-official  
15 meetings to discuss information, share information, and  
16 help keep those community connections.

17

18 And there will be public hearings  
19 coming up on this special action request as well. They  
20 have not yet been scheduled but there will be public  
21 hearings as well and we'll be notifying everyone when  
22 those do get scheduled and where they'll be held and,  
23 of course, available by teleconference as well.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MS. WATINE: Thank you, Eva. And,  
28 Madame Chair, for accommodating my schedule and letting  
29 me speak with you guys. I really do appreciate it,  
30 and, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any  
31 questions outside of, I guess, our official meeting  
32 times. So we're happy to share whatever information we  
33 can as we can.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, well,  
36 thank you so much. I greatly appreciate you guys being  
37 here and being very patient with us on the  
38 teleconference, it's greatly appreciated. Hopefully  
39 we'll be able to meet in a face to face meeting here in  
40 the future. And I congratulate you guys for all the  
41 hard work that you're doing and continue to keep up the  
42 good work. The more information that we get from you,  
43 the better decisions that we could make on our end.

44

45 All right, we don't have anything else  
46 on caribou I'd entertain that we move to Fisheries  
47 Resource Monitoring Program update with OSM.

48

49 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair

50

1 and members of the Council. This is Pippa Kenner and  
2 I'm the anthropologist at OSM that usually works with  
3 your Council.  
4

5 It's really an honor to be here today  
6 to talk to you about the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
7 Program and give you an update. I'm really impressed  
8 with the teleconference. I'm able to follow along and  
9 hear everybody clearly and thank you very much. I'm  
10 really glad that we're meeting even though we couldn't  
11 meet in person.  
12

13 Okay.  
14

15 We're currently in the final phase of  
16 the 2020 Monitoring Program funding cycle. The Federal  
17 Subsistence Board met on January 28 to 30 and made  
18 recommendations about the final funding plan. Once the  
19 Office of Subsistence Management, that's us, has a  
20 final budget, the Assistant Regional Director will  
21 approve the funding plan and all applicants have been  
22 notified of the status of their submissions.  
23

24 I have a list of the continuing and new  
25 projects that were funded beginning in 2020. I did  
26 hear a question earlier about the Kwethluk weir. And a  
27 partnership between the Refuge, the Yukon Delta Refuge  
28 and the community of Kwethluk has been funded to run  
29 that weir for four years beginning in 2020.  
30

31 Does anybody want to hear of other  
32 projects that were funded or should I just continue?  
33

34  
35 (No comments)  
36

37 MS. KENNER: Okay. So.....  
38

39 MR. NICOLAI: Madame Chair.  
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:  
42

43 MR. NICOLAI: Are you able to hear me,  
44 Madame Chair.  
45

46 MS. PATTON: I can hear you on line.  
47 Alissa, are you able to hear?  
48

49 MR. NICOLAI: Yes, can you hear me, my  
50

1 name is Evan Nicolai and I'm from Kwethluk.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Yes, hi, Evan. Please go  
4 ahead, I think Alissa might have gotten cut off there,  
5 please go ahead.

6

7 MR. NICOLAI: Okay. On the question of  
8 the funding for Kwethluk, would they be considering  
9 just as Martin Nicolai requested, that there be another  
10 opening so that there's not one opening for the fish to  
11 go through the weir?

12

13 That's my question, thank you.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Again, this is Pippa  
16 Kenner, and that's a really good question. The Office  
17 of Subsistence Management is made up of different parts  
18 and pieces, and the piece that you're talking about is  
19 the regulatory aspect of what we do and we have  
20 received three special action requests concerning how  
21 the chinook salmon season will be managed, and we're  
22 going to talk about that later in the meeting. It's a  
23 really good question. Right now what we're talking  
24 about is that the Refuge has entered into a partnership  
25 with Kwethluk Native Community to run the weir with a  
26 longterm aspect that eventually the Native community  
27 would be the primary director of that weir. So we're  
28 talking about they were awarded the funds to pay for  
29 that.

30

31 Are there any other questions.

32

33 MR. BORN: So Madame Chair.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray  
38 Born.

39

40 (Telephone interference - participants  
41 not muted - participant phone on hold)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, go ahead.  
44 I'm sorry, I'm hearing a really loud beeping and it's  
45 coming in and out of people talking. I don't know if  
46 anyone else can hear it, it sounds like we were put on  
47 hold again. So if you could talk closely into your mic  
48 that would be greatly appreciated so that I could hear  
49 you a lot better. Even though I have the phone to my

50

1 ear I've had -- I have iPods in and it's really hard to  
2 hear so I greatly apologize for the inconvenience of  
3 having a teleconference meeting but go ahead.

4  
5 MR. BORN: Thanks very much. Just one  
6 minor correction, you know, the agreement between the  
7 Village of Kwethluk is actually with Kenai Fisheries,  
8 they're the ones that put this agreement together and  
9 they're the ones that are actually helping to  
10 facilitate that.

11  
12 And, Evan, that's a good question about  
13 the second opening in the weir for more fish to get  
14 through. That's been talked about quite a bit. And  
15 right now based upon the science we've seen to date it  
16 doesn't make that big of a difference, but as we move  
17 more and more towards Kwethluk being the managers of  
18 the weir in four or five years, that's a discussion  
19 that, you know, the village will actually have the  
20 opportunity to make the choices on. But for the next  
21 four to five years, as we go through this funding with  
22 FRMP, we'll be able to work together on that and  
23 continue to do some great work as we transition more  
24 and more to the village actually managing the weir.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
29 Are there any more questions?

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 MS. KENNER: Okay. There'll be more  
34 chances to ask questions.

35  
36 So what we call the 2020 funding cycle  
37 is nearing its end. That is projects we -- we know  
38 which projects are going to be funded and they'll be  
39 starting in the next couple of months.

40  
41 And now it's time for the Councils to  
42 begin the development of priority information needs for  
43 the 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program call for  
44 proposals. And this is due out in November 2020. So  
45 I'm going to talk a little bit about that.

46  
47 Priority information needs, you might  
48 also hear them being called PINS, which is that  
49 abbreviation for priority information needs. They're

50

1 an important component of the Monitoring Program.  
2 Priority information needs determine the type of  
3 projects Councils for each region consider -- that  
4 Councils for each region consider important and provide  
5 a framework for evaluating and selecting project  
6 proposals. So your Council covers two regions. One is  
7 the Yukon region and one is the Kuskokwim region. So  
8 the Eastern Interior and Western Interior Council have  
9 already gone through this process.

10  
11 We are asking for several Council  
12 members to volunteer to meet by telephone over the  
13 summer to identify knowledge gaps and information  
14 needed for management of subsistence fisheries in their  
15 region for the 2022 call for proposals. The  
16 information needs the Council develops and a list of  
17 what projects have been funded addressing information  
18 needs will be given to the people at the meeting, they  
19 will then discuss whether the Monitoring Program funded  
20 projects have addressed the previous priority  
21 information needs that were developed by the Council  
22 and develop new priority information needs to address  
23 issues the Council has identified. The results of  
24 these telephone conferences will be presented to reach  
25 respective Council, that's the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta,  
26 Western Interior and Eastern Interior Councils during  
27 their fall meeting to help jumpstart the discussion on  
28 the topic. Councils will formally make a motion to  
29 adopt priority information needs at that meeting and  
30 start a whole new Monitoring Program funding cycle.

31  
32 So this isn't an action item but we are  
33 looking for a couple of people, Council members, who  
34 are interested in forming this group to identify  
35 priority information needs for your region, and this  
36 would be an appropriate time to announce that interest.  
37 Because the Kuskokwim Yukon Delta Council covers the  
38 two drainages, it would be nice if we could have one  
39 person from the Yukon area and another person from the  
40 Kuskokwim area. Now, most of your Council members are  
41 new so they won't have remembered this process. Rather  
42 than going into a lot of details about the Fisheries  
43 Resource Monitoring Program, I suggest that we just  
44 move forward and they're going to be learning a lot  
45 more about it in the fall when we give a presentation.

46  
47 So right now I'm looking for at least  
48 one person from the Yukon and another Council member  
49 from the Kuskokwim who will meet with us telephonically  
50

1 in the summer with their other partners from Western  
2 Interior, and in the case of the Yukon, the Eastern  
3 Interior Council.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.  
8 I greatly appreciate the info and I love hearing the  
9 processes of it. I want to ask, who, if anybody right  
10 now in our Council members who, one, express interest  
11 in participating in this. It's a really great program,  
12 you learn a lot and it's one of the programs where I  
13 started out my fisheries career at.

14

15 So is there anyone on our Council for  
16 the Yukon River.

17

18 (Telephone interference - participants  
19 not muted - participant phone on hold)

20

21 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.

24

25 MR. LANDLORD: In the past who was on  
26 there from the Yukon?

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Pippa do we have  
29 that record of information for this past but.....

30

31 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
32 In the past Ray Oney was one of the representatives for  
33 the Yukon River, and it doesn't have to be just one  
34 individual. In the past we've also had the entire  
35 Council participating because everyone was very  
36 interested to weigh in. And we're seeking your  
37 feedback from your community and your observations,  
38 what are some of the subsistence fisheries research  
39 that you see needs to be done and things that should be  
40 investigated based on your observations and your  
41 experience. So we're really, you know, seeking having  
42 that dialogue with you and with the Council, and with  
43 the other Council members too who live in other parts  
44 of the Yukon River and in that case on the Yukon.

45

46 So it's open to everyone, anyone who is  
47 interested on the Council. Of the currently serving  
48 members Ray Oney had participated in our last  
49 discussion.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That's great.  
2 Would I be able to recommend that we get two people  
3 because it seems like it's really large and I feel like  
4 since fisheries are such a huge part of our lives we  
5 would be interested in maybe having two seats on the  
6 Yukon and two seats on the Kuskokwim, would that be  
7 appropriate to say?  
8

9 MS. PATTON: Absolutely, thank you,  
10 Madame Chair. Yes, that would be great, and especially  
11 -- I mean both are very large rivers and so if we had a  
12 little spread of representatives, people that are more  
13 familiar with, you know, further up the river, or down  
14 the river, that would be wonderful if we could get at  
15 least two on both rivers if -- if folks are interested.  
16

17 Thank you.  
18

19 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair.  
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.  
22

23 MR. SLATS: Yes, this is Richard. I'm  
24 from the Coast and I'm kind of interested  
25 (indiscernible - cuts out)  
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That's great.  
28 Maybe we could add a coastal seat on there too, Eva.  
29

30 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. Because this  
31 program covers the entire YK Delta so that would be  
32 wonderful to have Richard's input as well.  
33

34 MR. SLATS: Thank you.  
35

36 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Richard.  
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Ray, are you  
39 still interested?  
40

41 MR. ONEY: Yes, Alissa, I'll go ahead  
42 and volunteer my name, Ray Oney.  
43

44 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you, Ray.  
45 And anyone else on the Yukon interested to participate?  
46

47  
48 (No comments)  
49  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Again, it's open to as  
2 many as would like to participate or if you're just  
3 curious or a new Council member and interested to see  
4 how the process works you're welcome to join us in the  
5 discussion too.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Well, Eva, would  
8 it -- I feel like you can go down and just ask, because  
9 we only have three people from the Yukon including one  
10 coastal, would it be okay if we can have all three of  
11 them on there?

12  
13 MS. PATTON: Sure. James.....

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Can we -- are  
16 you, Thomas.....

17  
18 MS. PATTON: James.....

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Are you  
21 interested as well, and James Landlord, are you guys  
22 interested in participating in this?

23  
24 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. Yep. This is  
25 James, yes.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Tommy.

28  
29 MS. ALSTROM: Yes, this is Thomas.  
30 Yeah, I could volunteer and participate in this.

31  
32 MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful everyone.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: And then for the  
35 Kuskokwim side, would John -- John Andrew are you  
36 interested in this?

37  
38 MR. ANDREW: Okay, I'll volunteer.

39  
40 (Laughter)

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. If  
43 Bob was here I'd ask him too because he's the farthest  
44 up river. Anyone else from the lower river, Carl,  
45 you're the farthest down the river, are you interested?

46  
47 MR. MAXIE: Oh, yes, I'll be.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. What about

50

1 Mr. Peter, I know you're real involved in our  
2 fisheries.

3

4 MR. PETER: Yeah, I'll do -- I'll do  
5 that.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. And  
8 you could add my name to the list. If there's anybody  
9 else that wants to be involved in this just let Eva  
10 know, and Pippa know.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you  
13 everyone.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Yes, thank you very much.

16

17 MR. NICOLAI: This is Evan. Ms. Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, go ahead.

20

21 MR. NICOLAI: Yeah, are any of the  
22 parties that are involved in this including the tribes  
23 given notice that that's also their option to volunteer  
24 as well?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'll defer that  
27 question to Pippa and Eva.

28

29 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
30 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. Well, the developing  
31 the priority information needs that will direct the  
32 kind of proposals we ask for for the Fisheries Resource  
33 Monitoring Program is one of the responsibilities of  
34 the Regional Advisory Council. It's one of their, you  
35 know, stated responsibilities, however, they can  
36 request to hear from tribes and that's part of the  
37 reason why we suggest we start the process with more of  
38 an informal teleconference with interested people so  
39 they can bring those points of views to the development  
40 of the priority information needs.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Did  
45 that answer your question?

46

47 MR. NICOLAI: Yes, thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

50

1 Another thing that works really well is go to your  
2 nearest and local Regional Advisory Council member who  
3 is going to be working on this as well, keeping tabs  
4 and keeping in touch with your representative is really  
5 key in making sure that we involve our tribes and our  
6 people and people who want to participate in  
7 subsistence activities.

8  
9 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
10 I would also like to add that this is an opportunity  
11 for informal discussion, to really share information,  
12 but all of the discussion then comes back to the public  
13 through the Council meeting process in the fall. So we  
14 have public participation and discussion on those  
15 issues at the time.

16  
17 (Pause)

18  
19 MR. ONEY: Is that the end of Pippa's  
20 report?

21  
22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, yes. Unless  
23 there were any further questions. Then we have Greg up  
24 next to speak to the call for fisheries proposals and  
25 the program updates.

26  
27 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair. Members of  
28 the Council. This, again, is Greg Risdahl. I am the  
29 Office of Subsistence Management Fisheries Division  
30 leader and the acting Deputy Assistant Regional  
31 Director. And I'm going to give you just a brief  
32 update on the fisheries regulatory cycle.

33  
34 Every two years the Federal Subsistence  
35 Board calls for proposal to change Federal regulations  
36 for the subsistence take of fish and shellfish on  
37 Federal public lands and waters. The Board is now  
38 calling for 2021/2023 regulatory cycle proposals. You  
39 can find a flier in your RAC book starting on Page 15  
40 -- did they get their RAC books by the way -- that  
41 describes how to submit a regulatory proposal.

42  
43 The Board will consider proposals to  
44 change Federal fish and shellfish seasons, harvest  
45 limits, methods of harvest and customary and  
46 traditional use determinations until April 20th.

47  
48 There are a number of ways that you can  
49 submit proposals.

50

1 If you have a fishery proposal that you  
2 would like to submit as a Council or as an individual  
3 you can discuss that right now. You can also submit  
4 proposals to OSM through your Council coordinator, by  
5 hand or by mail, and we can assist in drafting of your  
6 proposals if you'd like. There's also an online  
7 process outlined more clearly in flier in your book.  
8

9 These proposals will be analyzed and  
10 presented to the Councils during this fall meeting  
11 cycle this year for Council recommendations. Proposals  
12 and analysis and Council recommendations will be  
13 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board for action  
14 at the January 2021 Fisheries regulatory meeting.  
15

16 And that concludes the update on the  
17 fisheries regulatory cycle.  
18

19 Do you have any questions.  
20

21 (No comments)  
22

23 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
24 If I may add just a little bit of context, too, for our  
25 Council members. We do have a couple new Council  
26 members who -- this is their first process of going  
27 through a call for fisheries proposals.  
28

29 We did hear a couple folks comment at  
30 the beginning of the meeting that their communities had  
31 relayed to them an interest in changing fisheries  
32 regulatory proposals. The Council, at this meeting,  
33 has an opportunity to submit proposals through the  
34 Council yourself.  
35

36 (Telephone interference - participants  
37 not muted - participant phone on hold)  
38

39 MS. PATTON: There is opportunity up  
40 until the April 20th deadline for individual Council  
41 members to submit proposals on their own or if you know  
42 your community has a proposal that you would like to  
43 try to work on, you can reach out to our office and we  
44 are available to help draft a proposal.  
45

46 So whether the Council submits a  
47 proposal of their own today or not, all proposals will  
48 come back to the Regional Advisory Council for your  
49 recommendation at the fall meeting.  
50

1                   And so there's opportunity beyond  
2 today, you know, if there isn't a particular proposal  
3 that the Council was prepared to submit today, but  
4 individuals had ideas about proposals for their  
5 communities, there's time to work on those up until the  
6 deadline on April 20th.

7  
8                   Thank you.

9  
10                  MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.  
11 At this time I'd like to entertain if anybody on the  
12 Council has a fish proposal or a fish idea that you'd  
13 like to change in our current regulations, go ahead and  
14 speak up so we can get it and get it written.

15  
16  
17                  (No comments)

18  
19                  MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Hearing  
20 none, we'll go ahead and keep this open, this agenda  
21 topic item open for the remainder of our agency  
22 reports, especially when we're doing our fisheries  
23 information because I know ideas will start generating  
24 on certain items that you guys want to discuss more on.  
25 So we might be able to get a couple proposals after we  
26 hear the agency reports.

27  
28                  MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair.

29  
30                  MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

31  
32                  MR. LANDLORD: Was this notice sent out  
33 to the tribal governments on the Yukon, like Russian  
34 Mission on down to.....

35  
36                  MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'll defer that  
37 question to Eva.

38  
39                  MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
40 Yes. And so the news release had just recently come  
41 out a couple weeks ago. And it gets distributed by  
42 email and there's also public service announcements on  
43 the local radio stations and ads in the local  
44 newspapers. But I will continue to reach out to the  
45 tribes to make sure that they've received the notice  
46 and are aware of it and especially for the Council,  
47 since you're working directly with your own  
48 communities, if you know there's an interest from your  
49 community and your tribe or an individual would like  
50

1 assistance with developing a proposal, we're here to  
2 help with that -- Staff is here to help with that.

3  
4 MR. LANDLORD: Okay, thank you. We  
5 have a tribal council meeting in a couple days so I'll  
6 try to put this on the agenda to see if any of the  
7 Council members have any proposals in mind.

8  
9 Thank you.

10  
11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James. This is  
12 Eva again. And I did email digital copies to all the  
13 Council members who have access to email and I can make  
14 sure that -- you know, email or fax, that call for  
15 proposals goes through to your tribal council as well,  
16 to make sure they get it okay.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 And, Madame Chair, and Council,  
21 again.....

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.

24  
25 MS. PATTON: .....as Alissa had stated,  
26 this is open, you know, if you start thinking of  
27 something tonight that you would like to develop or,  
28 you know, as you're hearing the updates for fisheries  
29 on your rivers and you have some ideas for a proposal,  
30 we can take that back up again tomorrow as well, if the  
31 Council has some ideas that you'd like to work on.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

36  
37 All right, let's go ahead and move on.  
38 If you guys decide you guys want to make a proposal we  
39 have all the way until tomorrow to make a proposal, as  
40 long as we have quorum we'll be okay.

41  
42 We'll go ahead and move on to A, B, C,  
43 D, Item E, review and approve FY2019 annual report.

44  
45 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair  
46 and Council. The Council will find your draft annual  
47 report on Page 18. And, again, this is a draft and so  
48 I had asked everyone to take a close look at it, see if  
49 there are any edits or changes you would like to make

50

1 to this annual report.

2

3

4 There were quite a few topics that the  
5 Council wanted to address the Board on. Many of them  
6 regarding different aspects of climate change impacts  
7 to subsistence, both to fish and wildlife habitat to  
8 subsistence activities, travel and access to resources,  
9 interest for request for continued research and  
10 information to address and mitigate climate change  
11 impacts to the YKDelta region, and adaptive management  
12 strategies to respond to changing subsistence  
13 resources, access and preservation of subsistence foods  
14 in a changing environment.

14

15

So those were topics one through four.

16

17

18

19

Five. Ongoing concerns about seabird  
die-offs and sick seals. So a request for more  
information and updates on that.

20

21

22

Six. Concerns about observed songbird  
declines in the YKDelta region.

23

24

25

Seven. Concerns about Donlin Mine,  
potential impacts to subsistence.

26

27

28

29

30

31

Eight. The Council was concerned about  
Council member travel and ample time for full  
participation and sharing of traditional knowledge at  
the RAC meetings, and a request to the Board to support  
that.

32

33

34

35

36

37

Nine. The importance of appointing  
more Yukon River representatives for balanced  
membership on the Council and concerns the Council had  
on recent Secretarial appointments, or a reduction in  
the Council size.

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

So please do take a look and see if you  
have any edits or additions. We did have a request by  
Council Chair Alissa Roberts [sic] regarding holding  
meeting by teleconference and the challenges of that  
and we certainly can add that to bring that to the  
Board's attention. It kind of falls in line with  
Number 8 as well, about full participation and sharing  
of traditional knowledge.

47

48

49

50

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, can you.....

1 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

4

5 MR. ONEY: Yes, thank you, Madame  
6 Chair. For the record, Ray Oney.

7

8 I remember hearing maybe at our last  
9 meeting about someone giving a report on the Arctic  
10 terns, the summer birds, there were no sightings of  
11 them last summer, and I'm wondering if it's included in  
12 this report. I'm sorry, I didn't get a chance to read  
13 through all the reports, but that's my comment.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Madame Chair  
20 and Council. Thank you, Ray.

21

22 I can add that, that wasn't  
23 specifically addressed. But I can add that detail and  
24 request for specific information on Arctic Terns under  
25 the Council's ongoing concerns about seabirds. I'll  
26 add that detail to the report.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 (Telephone interference - participants  
31 not muted - participant phone on hold and excessive  
32 talking on other lines not muted)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Would it be  
35 possible that we can also add in there that we want to  
36 recognize Harry Wilde for his years of service on our  
37 Council. And see if it's possible that the Federal  
38 Subsistence Board can recognize him as well in some  
39 type of plaque or some type of way of remembering him.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
42 Absolutely we can add that and would be happy to.

43

44 MR. PETER: Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Peter.

47

48 MR. PETER: I want to see on the coast,  
49 like Richard, we need a Board member from the coast

50

1 like Quinhagak or (In Yup'ik) and Chefornak, Toksook  
2 Bay people living on the coast there on the Bering Sea.  
3 If we balanced that it would be good, three of us are  
4 from -- I mean four of us from the river, in land, but  
5 I want to see those people down the coast like Richard.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Peter. I totally agree with you 100 percent,  
9 completely. If we could add that in, Eva, to  
10 specifically say that we are requesting more  
11 notification and more emphasis to our coastal villages,  
12 that way we can have a full represented board from our  
13 whole entire Unit 18 region -- I mean, sorry, Yukon  
14 National Wildlife Refuge region.

15  
16 My apologies.

17  
18 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
19 Absolutely. I will add that detail and discussion on  
20 full representation from throughout the entire Yukon,  
21 Kuskokwim and Delta region.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, John.

28  
29 MR. ANDREW: This is John Andrew. I  
30 was scanning through our annual report, my biggest  
31 concern is always the mining issues, No. 7. There was  
32 another one we had discussions before, I don't remember  
33 which Council, maybe at the State committee, but I  
34 think we had discussions on some of these barges that  
35 have never been cleaned up on our rivers. There's a  
36 big one across the mouth of Kwethluk, a ways up river  
37 from there, there's a big graveyard that has barged  
38 through (In Yup'ik) and maybe there's a couple of  
39 sunken -- one -- maybe one I can remember, sunken,  
40 Tuntutuliak River and some fish camps there are family  
41 fishing boats. Those have never been cleaned up, those  
42 are something we need to look into too.

43  
44 Yeah, Quyana.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, thank you,  
47 John. You bring up a really good point and I know we  
48 brought that discussion up and I think it was ONC that  
49 had brought up -- sorry, someone's trying to call me

50

1 and I'm trying to decline it -- okay, I got it.

2

3 Yeah, Eva, would we be able to squeeze  
4 that in there, somewhere in regards to the concern for  
5 environmental factors, in regards to that.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Yes, absolutely. And I  
8 know the Council has had discussion on that before  
9 so.....

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, we have.

12

13 MS. PATTON: .....we can add another  
14 subject matter to address the cleanup of sunken barges  
15 and other abandoned boats on the river as well. So  
16 I'll add that as another topic but it does add into  
17 some of the details and concerns that are already  
18 raised by the Council.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That'd be greatly  
25 appreciated because I definitely know that at least  
26 down here, that in our Steamboat Slough, there's that  
27 barge that we've been trying to get rid of and get it  
28 out but it's definitely a political -- it became a  
29 political issue now and it's kind of been taken out of  
30 our hands to get that thing removed. But it's causing  
31 the red salmon to deter away from that. Usually people  
32 are able to get a whole bunch of red salmon in that  
33 slough but ever since that barge sunk it's rerouting  
34 the salmon that's going through there and there's oil  
35 condition, sheen, you can smell fuel, et cetera, et  
36 cetera. So it's really not very pleasant for our  
37 resources to have to endure human destructive activity.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Yes, I'll add  
40 that detail to the report.

41

42 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray  
43 Born.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. BORN: This is Ray Born.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Hi, Ray, go ahead. I

50

1 think we might have just lost Alissa momentarily.

2

3 MR. BORN: Yeah, I have to jump off for  
4 another conference call so I'll be off until about 4:30  
5 or so. So if we could defer Yukon Delta reports until  
6 tomorrow that'd be best, or maybe later today, whatever  
7 works best. But I do need to get on to another call  
8 right now.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray. And I  
13 think the timing is that we would probably move on to  
14 our Yukon River reports first, so that we have all of  
15 the combined discussion on the Kuskokwim and also your  
16 updates tomorrow most likely.

17

18 Thank you for the update.

19

20 MR. BORN: Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, if we  
23 don't have anything else for the annual report I'd like  
24 to entertain that we move forward unless we -- Eva, do  
25 you need us to sign off on a motion to submit this?

26

27 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
28 That would be helpful to make a motion to submit with  
29 the amendments as discussed and I'll make those changes  
30 and get back with the Council for your concurrence and  
31 then it'll get submitted for final editing to the  
32 Board. But a motion is helpful just to clarify.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.  
37 I'd like to entertain that we get a motion on the floor  
38 to submit with the current amendments that we just had  
39 made.

40

41 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is  
42 Phillip. I make a motion to accept the FY2019 annual  
43 report.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.  
46 Peter. We have a motion on the floor made by Phillip  
47 Peter, can I get a second.

48

49 MR. ONEY: Second, Ray Oney.

50

1 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair, this is  
2 Richard. I second it.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Quyana. We had a  
5 second by Ray Oney.

6  
7 If there's no further comments or  
8 discussion on this we can go ahead and have a question  
9 to be called.

10  
11 MR. LANDLORD: Question.

12  
13 MR. PETER: Question.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Question's been  
16 called. All those in favor say aye.

17  
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those  
21 opposed, same sign.

22  
23 (No opposing votes)

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,  
26 motion's been passed. Moving on to the Yukon River  
27 agency report. We're going to have ADF&G will be the  
28 first to speak in this order; we have Alaska Department  
29 of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
30 tribal governments and then Fish Commission. So go  
31 ahead take it away, ADF&G, for Yukon River.

32  
33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
34 I think -- so for the Yukon River we have Gerald  
35 Maschmann on line and typically they provide a joint  
36 report or discussion on Yukon River fisheries. And  
37 then it was my understanding that they were also  
38 coordinating on the Kuskokwim fisheries and the report  
39 with the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

42  
43 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is  
44 Gerald Maschmann with Fish and Wildlife.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,  
47 Gerald, go ahead.

48  
49 MR. MASCHMANN: I think ADF&G is

50

1 listening in so if there's any questions I can't answer  
2 they're there to jump in if they need to.

3

4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm listening in.

5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: So it's a joint report  
7 so I'll get started.

8

9 The 2020 Yukon River chinook salmon  
10 season outlook is looking like a run similar to 2019 or  
11 maybe smaller with a drainage-wide escapement of  
12 between 144,000 to 222,000 fish. That's a wide range.  
13 And a run size like this will require some subsistence  
14 salmon fishing restrictions to meet escapement and  
15 harvest sharing goals. Restrictions will be, you know,  
16 more severe if we're near the low end of that goal and  
17 they'll be less severe if we're closer to the top end  
18 of that goal.

19

20 The summer chum salmon run is looking  
21 like a run near 1.9 million fish and that should  
22 provide for normal escapement, or for escapement,  
23 normal subsistence harvest as well as additional  
24 commercial, personal use and sportfishing  
25 opportunities.

26

27 Our 2020 chinook salmon and summer chum  
28 salmon season management strategies are still being  
29 formulated at this time. We'll be consulting with  
30 fishermen prior to the season, as well as this RAC, but  
31 our strategies will likely include similar strategies  
32 to those implemented the last few years. Fishing will  
33 likely be restricted early in the season, possibly with  
34 the use of selected gear to target chum salmon.  
35 Fishermen should expect a combination of reduced or  
36 cancelled periods and gear restrictions to limit  
37 harvest of chinook salmon while allowing for harvest of  
38 summer chum salmon. Subsistence fishing opportunities  
39 should be spread out over the run to prevent  
40 overharvest on any particular part of the run, and  
41 should abundance indicate a run size similar to the  
42 last few years and near that upper end of the goal,  
43 some subsistence fishing opportunities with 7.5 inch  
44 gillnet gear could be allowed.

45

46 Moving to the 2020 Yukon fall season  
47 outlook. The run forecast is for approximately 827,000  
48 fall chum to a little over one million fall chum  
49 salmon. This fall chum salmon run size is expected to

50

1 be sufficient to achieve escapement objectives and  
2 provide for a normal subsistence harvest with a surplus  
3 available for commercial, sport and personal use  
4 fisheries. This outlook will be revised as we usually  
5 do prior to the beginning of the fall season based on  
6 the relationship between the summer chum and the fall  
7 chum salmon sizes.

8  
9                   Expectations for the 2020 coho salmon  
10 run will be near average. Coho salmon are mostly  
11 harvested during the second half of the fall chum run  
12 and surpluses are expected to be available for  
13 subsistence and other uses.

14  
15                   The 2020 fall season management  
16 strategies, again, we haven't, you know, put anything  
17 in stone yet but after we consult with you folks on the  
18 RAC and fishermen at the pre-season meeting, we  
19 anticipate a full subsistence opportunity during the  
20 fall season. Commercial fall chum fishing is expected  
21 to begin at that transition period between the summer  
22 and fall season and will depend on the in-season  
23 projection. A commercial opportunity will be dependent  
24 on the run strength projected from the summer chum,  
25 fall chum relationship as well as in-season indicators,  
26 and managers are working with fishermen in Ft. Yukon  
27 and up in Old Crow in Canada to advise on the Porcupine  
28 River fall chum management strategies, as unfortunately  
29 the Porcupine River stocks, particularly the Fishing  
30 Branch stock up in Canada has not been performing as  
31 well. So we'll be working with those folks to try and  
32 figure out the best way to manage those stocks.

33  
34                   That's my report for the 2020 outlook  
35 and unless you have some questions, that's it.

36  
37                   (Telephone interference - participants  
38 not muted - participant phone on hold)

39  
40                   MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do you have the  
41 International Treaty strategy?

42  
43                   MR. MASCHMANN: Oh, yes, before I.....

44  
45                   MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

46  
47                   MR. MASCHMANN: The U.S./Canada Yukon  
48 River Panel will be meeting April 3rd through the 8th  
49 in Fairbanks and the Panel will be finalizing the

50

1 outlook and time will be allowed at this meeting for  
2 public participation and testimony. So, no, we don't  
3 have the final Panel agreed upon outlook yet, but what  
4 I reported is probably pretty close. I would encourage  
5 folks, if you can make it to Fairbanks, to participate  
6 in that process, it's very interesting. You know it's  
7 in the U.S. here in Fairbanks. So anyone who's  
8 interested and can make it to Fairbanks, I would  
9 encourage them to do so.

10

11 Additionally, I think YRDFA will be  
12 reporting later, but the preseason fishermen's meeting  
13 that YRDFA organizes will be in Anchorage on April  
14 30th. And so, you know, I encourage Ray Oney and the  
15 new Council members, Mr. Landlord and Thomas, if they  
16 can work with YRDFA and their tribal councils, if they  
17 want to attend that meeting, to work with those folks.  
18 So, again, that's April 30th.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we  
21 have a preliminary number and did we meet expectations  
22 for last year to our agreement?

23

24 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair. We were  
25 pretty close, if Deena's on line, I think our chinook  
26 salmon were borderline, we may come in just a few  
27 thousand short on our chinook salmon. Again, we made  
28 what we're required to meet for escapement, but we  
29 didn't put quite enough fish up for our sharing, our  
30 border sharing obligations with Canadian fishermen, so  
31 we may have been just a little bit shy on that. But we  
32 didn't.....

33

34 MS. JALLEN: Madame Chair.

35

36 MR. MASCHMANN: .....put enough.....

37

38 MS. JALLEN: Madame Chair.

39

40 MR. MASCHMANN: .....for escap.....

41

42 MR. JALLEN: Madame Chair, this is

43 Deena Jallen.....

44

45 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair.

46

47 MR. MASCHMANN: .....escape.....

48

49 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair.

50

1 MS. JALLEN: Madame Chair, this is  
2 Deena Jallen with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
3 We were about 1,200 kings short at the border of  
4 meeting the harvest objective but we did meet the  
5 objective -- the escapement goal but we didn't meet the  
6 harvest share objective. We were a little bit shy on  
7 that.

8  
9 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: First name and  
12 last name please.

13  
14 MR. ESTENSEN: Can you hear me?

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, I can hear  
17 you, we need your.....

18  
19 MR. ESTENSEN: Okay. Okay.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: .....first name  
22 and last name.

23  
24 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, my name is Jeff  
25 Estensen, I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
26 Game, and I am the fall season manager, fall chum and  
27 coho. There are two international agreements that we  
28 have with Canada for fall chum. One is on the main  
29 stem and that one was made this year. We also have  
30 another one that is on the Porcupine River for the  
31 Fishing Branch, that Gerald was talking about, that was  
32 not achieved this year for fall chum.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. For  
37 those of you that are -- since we are not on hold  
38 anymore, for those of you that are working or answering  
39 phones while we're in this meeting, we can hear a  
40 beeping and it goes in and out of people when they're  
41 talking, so if you need to take a call, please hang up  
42 with us and then call us back after you're done with  
43 your phone call. That will alleviate the disturbance  
44 in the background.

45  
46 All right, thank you guys.

47  
48 Yukon folks, did you guys have any  
49 comments or questions you would like to ask anybody at  
50

1 this time?  
2

3 MR. BUSTER: I got a question, Gabe  
4 Buster from Alakanuk tribe.  
5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gabe.  
7

8 MR. BUSTER: Yeah. You know on the  
9 salmon, you know, we -- for subsistence we eat them  
10 over here and what about way, way, way up river on the  
11 Canada side, do they -- are they edible or do they just  
12 use them for dog food or -- that was my question.  
13

14 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is  
15 Gerald.  
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gerald.  
18

19 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, they're edible up  
20 in Canada and, you know, that's the fish they're used  
21 to. So, you know, like some folks think Lower Yukon  
22 kings are too oily and some.....  
23

24 MR. BUSTER: Okay.  
25

26 MR. MASCHMANN: .....folks in the Lower  
27 Yukon would probably think they're too dry but, you  
28 know, those are the fish they've been fishing for as  
29 long as they've been fishing so, yep, they eat those  
30 fish and, yeah, so the answer to your question, yes,  
31 they're edible.  
32

33 MR. BUSTER: Yeah. I got another  
34 question, too, for you. You know the fishing, we've  
35 been noticing different -- like last year, like the  
36 sores and the different -- some of the sheefish, you  
37 know, the insides of them they were kind of hollowed  
38 out and you guys ever, you know, get in contact with  
39 any company that -- like, you know, even with the  
40 climate change and the nuclear plant over at Japan, you  
41 know, those currents, you know, they come over on this  
42 side because they were -- did you guys get any  
43 information about that plant over there?  
44

45 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is  
46 Gerald.  
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gerald.  
49  
50

1 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, you know, we got,  
2 I think maybe a few more reports of sores and pussy  
3 fish last summer, you know it was pretty hot, I don't  
4 know if people on the YRDFA conference are just getting  
5 more used to reporting what they're seeing, and we're  
6 getting more reports but it seemed like we got a few  
7 more reports last year than we've had in the past. It  
8 could have been due to maybe the hot weather was  
9 exacerbating that issue, but we definitely encourage  
10 folks on the YRDFA teleconference to report what  
11 they're seeing and the quality of the fish and if they  
12 can get pictures and post them to the Fish and Game  
13 website, that's helpful too.

14  
15 As far as I know from -- I don't know  
16 if Deena has the latest report, they've -- there does  
17 not seem to be any effects from the Japanese nuclear  
18 accident reaching the Bering Sea, or infecting any of  
19 the Yukon River salmon so I think for what we're  
20 seeing, as far as sores and pussy fish maybe it was  
21 just the warmer weather last year or folks are just  
22 seeing a little more often and reporting it more.

23  
24 But we definitely like to hear those  
25 reports and if you're participating on the YRDFA  
26 teleconferences this summer, we'd like to hear about  
27 the quality of the fishing so keep those reports  
28 coming.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 MR. BUSTER: Thank you.

33  
34 MS. JALLEN: Madame Chair, this is  
35 Deena Jallen with the Fish and Game.

36  
37 We did have a lot of concerns and  
38 questions about the Fukushima radiation this summer and  
39 there were some news articles that came out and there's  
40 been some studies done on the Federal level, like the  
41 North Slope Borough did a study where they looked at  
42 samples from traditional foods, like seal and whales  
43 and polar bears and there's some other samples, or  
44 other tests that have looked at water, and while they  
45 did find very tiny amounts of radiation, the amounts of  
46 radiation found in water or in those foods was well  
47 below the levels considered safe by the Food and Drug  
48 Administration. So if you were to get, you know, beef  
49 from the store, that may have a higher level of

50

1 radiation, and, you know, there's always kind of  
2 natural levels of radiation that are present in our  
3 environment just from natural processes. But the  
4 levels that have been detected in food and in sea water  
5 have been very low.

6  
7 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

10  
11 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame  
12 Chair. For the record, Ray Oney.

13  
14 Gerald, maybe this was answered or  
15 asked by Alissa already, but about the end of season  
16 chinook salmon usage for the Yukon wide, if I can get a  
17 report from someone as far as the chinook catch and  
18 also the summer chum and fall chum for the Yukon area.

19  
20 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is  
21 Gerald.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gerald.

24  
25 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, I didn't plan to  
26 report too much from 2019, but the 2019 preliminary  
27 subsistence salmon harvest in Alaska portion of the  
28 Yukon River drainage was estimated to be 48,400 chinook  
29 salmon, which is the highest since 2007 and within the  
30 amounts necessary for subsistence, this is above the  
31 2014 to 2018 average of 20,500 fish.

32  
33 Summer chum, 64,300 summer chum were  
34 harvested in the subsistence fishery in 2019.

35  
36 63,900 fall chum were harvested.

37  
38 Both of these are nearly 20,000 fish  
39 below their 2014 to 2018 averages. Whereas 5,800 coho  
40 salmon were harvested in the subsistence fishery, and  
41 this was below the 2014 to 2018 average of 11,300 fish.  
42 So that change in harvest is likely related to good  
43 fishing and drying weather during the chinook salmon  
44 run and maybe the unusual lack of overlap between the  
45 chinook and chum salmon runs, which meant for increased  
46 chinook catch efficiency. So perhaps even the increase  
47 harvest of chinook salmon meant fishermen did not have  
48 to harvest as many chum and coho to make up for the  
49 difference.

50

1 I don't have the commercial harvest.  
2 The commercial harvest, that was reported last fall, so  
3 I didn't prepare for those harvests.  
4

5 So, Ray, I don't know were you looking  
6 for commercial harvest?  
7

8 MR. ONEY: No, I was just wondering --  
9 asking about the subsistence portion of it.  
10

11 MR. MASCHMANN: Okay. Yeah, thank you,  
12 good question.  
13

14 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you.  
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.  
17

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Gerald and  
19 Deena and Jeff. Oh, we got Alissa back here, any  
20 further questions?  
21

22 MR. PETER: Madame Chair.  
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.....  
25

26 MR. PETER: This is Phillip.  
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: .....Peter -- Mr.  
29 Peter, go ahead.  
30

31 MR. PETER: Yeah, on the report, what  
32 kind of driftnets are using in Yukon, six inch  
33 driftnet?  
34

35 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair. I don't  
36 have the regs in front of me, Deena, do you know the  
37 dimensions of the dipnet.....  
38

39 MS. JALLEN: I.....  
40

41 MR. MASCHMANN: .....and the.....  
42

43 MR. PETER: No.....  
44

45 MR. MASCHMANN: .....size of the  
46 dipnet?  
47

48 MR. PETER: No, no, for drift --  
49 drifting, you know, drifting.  
50

1 MR. MASCHMANN: Oh, drifting.

2

3 MR. PETER: Yeah.

4

5 MR. MASCHMANN: On the Yukon, we allow  
6 drifting with 7.5 inch or smaller mesh gillnets. Those  
7 are typically targeting the king salmon. But in times  
8 of conservation when we're conserving chinook we may  
9 allow drifting with six inch or smaller, to, you know,  
10 target chum salmon with allowing for some of those  
11 smaller kings to be caught in that. And if we have to  
12 restrict further we may limit fishing with -- for non-  
13 salmon species with four inch mesh or smaller and we  
14 may even limit fishing with dipnets.

15

16 MR. PETER: On your report you  
17 mentioned about 7.5 gillnet, does it -- do you see  
18 changes on those kings escapement -- changes on  
19 escapements right on the king salmon, is it they are  
20 increasing or decreasing? I'm talking about the  
21 gillnets, if we use that kind of net, 7.5 is there  
22 improvements on escapements for king salmon going up to  
23 Canada?

24

25 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is  
26 Gerald. We've been, for the most part, meeting most of  
27 our objectives the last some years. You know we've  
28 seen a dip in the chinook salmon run and we've had some  
29 pretty severe restrictions. It appears like we've had  
30 a little up tick in the chinook salmon run and, you  
31 know, we're optimistic but, again, the fish come in as  
32 they come in.

33

34 So I think we're holding steady for now  
35 and with the runs the way they look like they might be  
36 coming in there's an opportunity for folks to get some  
37 kings but maybe not as many as they would like, but  
38 there's also the opportunity for plenty of chum and,  
39 you know, for -- I guess the run sizes are holding  
40 steady but they're just not that good, not like we'd  
41 want to see them.

42

43 MR. PETER: And what about them, on the  
44 mouth of the Yukon, on the coast line, when they start  
45 running, the Fish and Game opened the area when the  
46 fish are coming?

47

48 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is  
49 Gerald again. Yeah, folks in, you know, Scammon Bay

50

1 and Hooper Bay, we call that the coastal district or  
2 the southern coastal district, and we open and close  
3 their subsistence schedule a little bit different from  
4 District 1, you know, within the Yukon drainage.

5  
6 The last few years they've had a little  
7 bit more opportunity because fishing's a little bit  
8 more difficult along the coast. You know folks in  
9 Hooper Bay tend to fish more in the bay and they tend  
10 to fish for a little more summer chum and fewer kings.  
11 And folks in Scammon Bay kind of tend to come over to  
12 the Black River in the Yukon, which is part of District  
13 1 so we definitely keep an eye on the coast and make  
14 sure they get, you know, their fishing time in. And we  
15 like to talk with people from the coast, see how  
16 they're doing, and they call our office and let us know  
17 how fishing is and how they're doing.

18  
19 So we definitely like to hear from the  
20 coast and, you know, any reports on the YRDFA  
21 teleconference are also valuable.

22  
23 MR. PETER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, Peter.

26  
27 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

30  
31 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Robert Williams  
32 from Akiak Native Community. Just wanted to see if --  
33 I got a question for your end. Do you have a count of  
34 how many fishermen or ladies that complain about the  
35 smell of maggots, purple dots, white dots, even in the  
36 roe; do you have a count of up and down -- at least up  
37 and down the Kuskokwim. Because I caught a few of  
38 those and I let the Fish and Game bring them down by  
39 the Y by the Kwethluk area. And I didn't understand  
40 what they were telling me, I was hoping that they'd  
41 email me, because I do go about moving my fish around  
42 once -- once they're in the rack, and I have to take so  
43 much of my fish out of the rack because they smell.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I can give you an  
46 answer from just what I was told. I guess we're  
47 shifting gears really quick, if that's okay with the  
48 Council, to answer his question about these Kuskokwim  
49 River fish that have a smell to them.

50

1 Due to the.....

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I was just.....

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: .....we're  
6 talking.....

7

8 MR. WILLIAMS: I was just wondering if  
9 you had a count of, you know, from all the way from at  
10 least Eek up all the way to Nikolai; I was just  
11 wondering if you guys had a count on that one, you  
12 know.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, there's  
15 been quite a bit of reports that are coming in talking  
16 about exactly what you're talking about and one of the  
17 main reasons is because the river was so warm last year  
18 that the fish were spoiling as soon as you pull them  
19 out of the river. So that was one of the biggest  
20 things that was causing the smell and the discoloration  
21 of the salmon.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I caught one, you  
24 know, it wasn't a maggot coming out -- coming out from  
25 the meat.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: It's a worm.

28

29 MR. WILLIAMS: It's more fatter than  
30 that.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: A fat white -- I know I  
35 gave those to the Fish and Game and I couldn't  
36 understand what they were saying and I wished that they  
37 had emailed me about those -- what kind -- that was my  
38 question, and hopefully I can hear something from your  
39 end.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, we're going  
42 to be talking about Kuskokwim River tomorrow morning, I  
43 believe, because at this rate we might be just pushing  
44 to 5:00 o'clock.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: But we'll be  
49 talking about Kuskokwim River tomorrow morning.

50

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay, Quyana.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We're on the  
4 Yukon right now.

5

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Quyana.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, you're  
9 welcome. I can get you in touch with Fish and Game,  
10 some of them are on here right now but they'll be able  
11 to discuss it a little bit more.

12

13 Switching gears back over to the Yukon  
14 River, I apologize for the tangent. Was there any more  
15 discussion on Yukon River strategies, what we're  
16 looking at for next year.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I did want to ask  
21 really quick, what did you say that the count was for  
22 the fall chum? I got the upper end of one million, but  
23 I didn't get the lower end of that estimate.

24

25 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, Madame Chair,  
26 this is Gerald.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gerald.

29

30 MR. MASCHMANN: The run forecast is for  
31 approximately 827,000 to 1.045 million fall chum. And  
32 that will change as we finish the summer chum season  
33 because there's a good relationship between what we see  
34 with summer chum with the fall chum. So that's our  
35 preseason projection. But as we finish the summer chum  
36 season, that projection will change and, of course, as  
37 we're moving through the season the project will change  
38 based on the Pilot Station sonar and the Mountain  
39 Village test fishery and the Lower Yukon test fishery.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Any  
42 further comments or questions for Gerald for Yukon  
43 River.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. I did  
48 have one more thing that just came to mind. We had  
49 kind of a little chum scare this past summer, we

50

1 learned from this past season, do we have anything in  
2 our toolbox that we're going to use in light that it  
3 might happen again this year since we're predicting  
4 what we're seeing?  
5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is  
7 Gerald. I assume you're meaning that maybe the warm  
8 temperatures and the chum salmon die-off that we saw,  
9 is that what you're talking about?  
10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: When the chum  
12 salmon weren't coming in and we were going to go -- we  
13 were going to have a strategic plan in place and  
14 restrictions. Are we still going to look to that  
15 forecast of the chums coming in late as they did this  
16 past summer?  
17

18 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is  
19 Gerald.  
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gerald.  
22

23 MR. MASCHMANN: Well, again, I think  
24 we're going to -- that was definitely an interesting  
25 season. I think it's going to be on our minds and  
26 we're going to watch for it and we're going to be  
27 monitoring the temperatures, and we're going to be  
28 talking with fishermen at the preseason meeting,  
29 assuming we have it, and we're going to ask them what  
30 they think we should be doing, if we see another late  
31 run of chum or if we see high temperatures. So we're  
32 definitely open to hearing what the RAC members think,  
33 yourself, and particularly the folks who are  
34 representing the Yukon.  
35

36 Again, the management strategies aren't  
37 set in stone, they're always flexible and we're always  
38 wanting to know what's best for the fishermen, and  
39 what's best for the fishery so.  
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank  
42 you.  
43

44 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.  
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.  
47 Thank you, Ray.  
48

49 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame  
50

1 Chair. For the record, Ray Oney. Have you gotten any  
2 reports from high seas trawling, what the bycatch may  
3 be for chinook?  
4

5 Thank you.  
6

7 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, I don't  
8 have any of those reports. I don't know if Deena or  
9 Jeff have seen any of those reports. I'm sorry.  
10

11 MS. JALLEN: Madame Chair, this is  
12 Deena Jallen with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
13 Those numbers are available on line in various web  
14 sites, I tried to look them up earlier and it's kind of  
15 hard to dig through them. But they're also going to be  
16 published in the Joint Technical Committee report, and  
17 I'm looking that up right now to see what the numbers  
18 were. And, of course, there's caps and stuff in place  
19 so that fisheries are managed to make sure that they  
20 don't get too many chinook and chum salmon bycatch.  
21

22 I'm pulling up the table right now,  
23 hold on.  
24

25 So the chinook salmon bycatch right now  
26 in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery  
27 for all fisheries is 31,000 in 2019. And that's a  
28 little bit above the number in 2018, which was 17,000  
29 but below the numbers in 2017, and 2016. And chinook  
30 salmon bycatch in the -- and that's for the A and B  
31 season for all the fisheries, pollock, and all  
32 fisheries.  
33

34 Hopefully I'm looking at the correct  
35 number but, yeah, those numbers, they get published on  
36 their website and there's a NOAA website, a fisheries  
37 NOAA website that those are available on, and I think  
38 those may be -- yes, so, hopefully that helps. And  
39 they'll be published in the Joint Technical Committee  
40 report.  
41

42 MR. ONEY: Thank you.  
43

44 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,  
45 this is Eva.  
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.  
48

49 MS. PATTON: I also have reports that  
50

1 were provided by Diana Stram who is the research  
2 biologist for the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
3 Council. Again, unfortunately she wasn't able to  
4 participate in this meeting because they have  
5 concurrent meetings this week. But she did provide  
6 reports that I'm mailing to the Council, they were  
7 going to be handouts, but unfortunately -- so they're  
8 in the mail and they are on board for the next fall  
9 meeting again and, hopefully, we won't have meetings  
10 that overlap, so they are looking forward to reporting  
11 to the Council directly as well.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, this is  
16 Alissa. I was wondering, did we ever send a letter to  
17 NOAA and to the fishery council that we wanted them to  
18 retain a low bycatch number until our chinook salmon  
19 increased. Did we ever get that letter sent out or can  
20 we put a letter in as soon as possible to reduce the  
21 bycatch number back to 17,000?

22

23 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
24 Yes, there was a letter developed and sent by the  
25 Council. That was a few years back now, so the Council  
26 hasn't recently sent another letter regarding the  
27 chinook salmon bycatch. The Council can develop and  
28 make a recommendation to send another letter with that  
29 request if the Council wishes.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I think it would  
32 be very beneficial that we send this letter. If  
33 anyone's up for it, to entertain with a motion that we  
34 send a letter to the Fisheries Council to reduce the  
35 bycatch numbers.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
40 If the Council would like to submit a letter, that is  
41 something that does take a motion and a vote by the  
42 Council and just a few words about what you would like  
43 to have in the letter and addressed to who.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Did  
48 anyone want to make a motion so we could send a letter  
49 to the Fishery Council to reduce the bycatch number

50

1 back to 17,000?

2

3 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair, this is  
4 James Landlord. I make that motion to send that  
5 letter.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: A motion has been  
8 made by James Landlord to send a letter to the North  
9 Pacific Management Fisheries Council in regards to the  
10 chinook salmon bycatch, to reduce the numbers back to  
11 17,000 because we're still in conservation mode and  
12 we're still restricted, both the Yukon and Kuskokwim  
13 Rivers, and subsistence is still being restricted,  
14 commercial fishing is being restricted, our numbers of  
15 chinook salmon have not returned to high numbers and if  
16 we're being restricted on the river, the bycatch  
17 numbers should still remain low.

18

19 Can we get a second.

20

21 MR. ONEY: Ray Oney, second.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Second by Mr. Ray  
24 Oney. Any further comments or questions or discussion  
25 to any -- do you guys want to talk more about -- in  
26 regards to bycatch.

27

28 MR. NICOLAI: On the -- Ms. Chairman.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: First and last  
31 name, please.

32

33 MR. NICOLAI: Evan Nicolai. Organized  
34 Village of Kwethluk. In that letter can you include  
35 the delay for the fishermen to allow for fish to escape  
36 towards the drainages, or even the tributaries so that  
37 the numbers of fish increase. That's one option that  
38 allows for more fish to come up into the rivers, when  
39 you delay the time that these trawlers have openings.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.  
42 Nicolai.

43

44 Did any of the Council members like to  
45 entertain that addition?

46

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any further  
2 discussion on this with Council members?  
3  
4 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, John.  
7  
8 MR. ANDREW: Just a question. Can't we  
9 just simply ask them to (indiscernible) from their  
10 website -- or to get that info?  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.  
13  
14 MR. ANDREW: Thank you.  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: You're welcome.  
17 All right, any further comments or questions or  
18 discussion on stuff you want to add into this letter.  
19  
20 (No comments)  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,  
23 hearing none, can we go ahead and close this motion and  
24 take a vote on it.  
25  
26 MR. LANDLORD: Question.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Question's been  
29 called. All those in favor of writing a letter to the  
30 North Pacific Management Council to reduce the bycatch  
31 number from 31,000 to 17,000 for chinook salmon signify  
32 by saying aye.  
33  
34 IN UNISON: Aye.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those opposed  
37 same sign.  
38  
39 (No opposing votes)  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,  
42 motion's been carried.  
43  
44 Eva, do you need anything else on that  
45 or do you got it?  
46  
47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
48 This is Eva, no, that was good. We have the basic  
49 intent and then I can work with the Council on  
50

1 additional details and language before we submit a  
2 letter so we'll be working with you to finalize it.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. All  
7 right, do we have any Yukon tribal governments that  
8 want to speak on the fishery for the Yukon River.

9

10

11

(No comments)

12

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. We  
15 have the Yukon River InterTribal -- wait, do we have  
16 the Fish Commission for the Yukon River on the agenda  
17 today, Eva?

18

19

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MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
We did not get any confirmation for participation from  
the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission. And,  
actually the Yukon River InterTribal Watershed Council  
wasn't available for this meeting either. So we'll try  
for both of them again in the fall meeting.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, sounds  
good, well, thank you Eva.

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
Association.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, Madame Chair, I'm  
here.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you for  
being here and being patient with us, I greatly  
appreciate it. Go ahead, you have the floor.

MR. JENKINS: Well, first I think you  
guys are doing an admirable job under very challenging  
circumstances, so tip of the hat to your Staff and to  
the Council members and everybody joining in.

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and  
members of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory  
Council. Thank you for this opportunity to present to  
you. I am pleased to represent the Yukon River  
Drainage Fisheries Association. My name is Wayne  
Jenkins and I am YRDFA's Director.

1 First off I would like to introduce to  
2 you our new Executive Director, Serena Fitka. Serena  
3 is on the line. I will be stepping into retirement  
4 over the next several months. I hope that everyone  
5 will have an opportunity to meet Serena in the near  
6 future, on the river this summer perhaps, or at one of  
7 the upcoming meetings. We regret not being able to be  
8 there with you in person today. But we are very  
9 excited to be working with Serena and we look forward  
10 to her efforts working with the YRDFA Board and the  
11 RACs and other stakeholders.  
12

13 And, Serena, can you just share a few  
14 words with the Council if you're on the line.  
15

16 MS. FITKA: Yes, good afternoon, Madame  
17 Chair. My name's Serena Fitka. And I grew up in St.  
18 Marys. And I look forward to working with the people  
19 of the Yukon River.  
20

21 MR. JENKINS: Thanks, appreciate that.  
22

23 I want to begin our report with an  
24 update on our Fisheries Resource Management Program  
25 projects and then update you on some of our other  
26 related activities. I'm not sure which handouts we  
27 were able to get to you, I was planning on bringing  
28 them with me but maybe Eva was able to get them printed  
29 up and to you.  
30

31 The first FRMP project I want to speak  
32 to is our in-season community surveyor project, which  
33 our -- which Catherine Moncrieff, our anthropologist,  
34 that's one of her projects. We're just wrapping up the  
35 four year cycle that began in 2016. Our final report  
36 is in its last stages, we expect to distribute it  
37 around the end of March. We were able to train and  
38 hire 19 surveyors over this four year project period  
39 and we're proud of this number because it reflects our  
40 retention rate and capacity building efforts at the  
41 community level. We were able to keep most, or many of  
42 our 10 surveyors from year to year and we have some  
43 surveyors who have worked on this project for over 10  
44 years and they are our leaders and our mentors to our  
45 new surveyors as new ones come on line. In the 2019  
46 fishing season, our surveyors conducted 377 interviews  
47 with 142 fishing households over a 13 week period. They  
48 participated in 10 teleconferences. In Ruby, Tanana  
49 and Eagle, all participating fishers reported meeting  
50

1 their subsistence needs last year and most also did in  
2 Alakanuk, Marshall and Ft. Yukon.

3  
4 We have just received notice of our  
5 2020 funding for this program. The new funding cycle  
6 begins April 1st and we'll begin by rehiring our  
7 surveyors and holding our surveyor training event in  
8 Anchorage in late April, which will be associated with  
9 the YRDFA Board meeting and the preseason. More on  
10 those meetings in just a bit.

11  
12 Next I want to share with you just a  
13 few snippets from our in-season salmon management  
14 teleconferences. We're also just wrapping up that four  
15 year cycle of FRMP funding. In the 2019 season we held  
16 13 in-season teleconferences. And some of the  
17 important topics that were discussed between the  
18 fishers and managers and others on the call were the  
19 recordbreaking hot temperature, both in the Bering Sea  
20 and on land. High water temperature. Poor chum flesh  
21 quality. Sores on some fish. Also the dead, unspawned  
22 salmon kill on the Koyukuk River. Discussions were  
23 held over providing for the subsistence harvest in the  
24 face of all this. We had more Canadian and First  
25 Nation peoples on the calls this year and that led to  
26 some very good discussions. And there was also  
27 surprise at the high number of chinook salmon counted  
28 at Pilot Station and yet barely making the escapement  
29 goal for Canadian origin chinook and not meeting the  
30 apportionment for First Nations in Canada, which is  
31 part of the agreement, the Yukon River agreement.

32  
33 We also have received notice of the  
34 2020 FRMP funding for this project, and YRDFA would  
35 like to thank the YKDelta RAC, your OSM Staff and all  
36 other supporters of these two outreach and  
37 communications projects for Yukon River fishers, the  
38 managers and the stakeholders on the river. We feel  
39 like that these two projects have become a very  
40 important part of the ongoing conversation and  
41 cooperation that takes place on the river. And from  
42 the looks of it we're going to need to work even closer  
43 together over the coming years as we move into periods  
44 of climate disturbance and other challenges.

45  
46 The last FRMP project I'd like to  
47 update on is the local and traditional knowledge of  
48 anadromous fish in the Yukon Flats with a focus on the  
49 Draanjik Basin. This project is just beginning it's  
50

1 final year. It ends March 31st of 2021. Tasks that  
2 remain include biological field work, which were  
3 postponed last summer due to fires in the area and  
4 other delays. We had it planned for this spring,  
5 summer and fall, look for coho, chinook and chum salmon  
6 in the area. Community meetings which will take place  
7 in the fall. Catherine will present the preliminary  
8 results and gather feedback at those meetings and our  
9 final report should be out about one year from now.  
10 And basically this one starts with interviews with  
11 elders to try to identify important spawning areas and  
12 other river reaches important to the fish that will  
13 then get checked on the ground and hopefully in time be  
14 added to the State's anadromous fisheries catalog.  
15 That ensures greater protection for those river  
16 sections for salmon species.

17  
18 Other Yukon River fisheries activities  
19 I want to inform you about includes the YRDFA annual  
20 Board meeting. This was planned to take place in  
21 Anchorage on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 28th and  
22 29th. The Yukon River preseason planning meeting, the  
23 big planning meeting with agency personnel and  
24 management staff was to take place the day after the  
25 YRDFA Board meetings, that's Thursday April 30th. Due  
26 to the Covid-19 virus situation, we're working with our  
27 partners to figure out the best way forward for having  
28 these important meetings. It may be teleconferences,  
29 it could be using Zoom or other tools on the internet,  
30 but it's too early how that's going to shake out or how  
31 quickly we'll get past this period of dealing with the  
32 virus. We're certainly going to be cautious about  
33 convening people, especially with the ages of many of  
34 our constituents, so stay tuned and we'll let everybody  
35 know how things are moving forward once we have those  
36 plans in place.

37  
38 And, finally, I'd like to tell you  
39 about the work that YRDFA's been doing, or continues to  
40 do as far as Pew Charitable Trust support for outreach  
41 to communities and tribal governments as far as BLM's  
42 Resource Management Planning process, which continues.  
43 We have, since 2014, assisted tribal governments in  
44 communities to engage with the Bureau of Land  
45 Management as they make these long range plans. There  
46 are two, the Bering Sea Western Interior and Central  
47 Yukon. Agencies are formulating their 20 year resource  
48 management plans for millions of acres in those  
49 regions, and, of course, those plans can affect many of  
50

1 the communities and local people in those areas.  
2 Though tribal councils and communities have clearly  
3 explained to BLM their concerns for protecting  
4 traditional subsistence use for the harvest of these  
5 vitally important foods in those areas, BLM appears to  
6 prefer mining and development of the land by opening up  
7 over 90 percent of their managed areas in what is  
8 referred to as their preferred alternative. This is  
9 included in the Draft EIS for the Bering Sea, Western  
10 Interior area. And this is not acceptable to the  
11 communities and the people who could be most affected  
12 by the decisions and development on these BLM lands.  
13

14 In response over 20 tribes in the  
15 Bering Sea, Western Interior region have formed a new  
16 organization called the Bering Sea, Western Interior  
17 Tribal Commission -- InterTribal Commission for  
18 standing together and for pressing their concerns. In  
19 a recent meeting in Anchorage with Alaska BLM Director,  
20 Chad Padgett, the Tribal Commission heard that a new  
21 alternative was being formulated by BLM. It remains to  
22 be seen if it supports the Commission's request for  
23 protection of critical traditional use areas, which are  
24 necessary for cultural and nutritional needs of local  
25 people living there. The Western and Eastern RACs --  
26 oh, I'm sorry. The YKDelta RAC might consider sending  
27 letters of support to the Federal Subsistence Board  
28 sharing their concerns on these issues and showing  
29 support for the Bering Sea, Western Interior  
30 InterTribal Commission.  
31

32 I hope that Eva was able to share with  
33 you a letter, which we refer to as the 20 Alaska Tribe  
34 comment letter. This was sent to BLM, Alaska District  
35 Manager and Field Manager provided -- hopefully  
36 provided to you as a handout. It's fairly lengthy and  
37 covers a lot of the issues that they are dealing with  
38 and are concerned about. There's a long list of how  
39 the trust relationship between the Federal agency and  
40 the Federally-recognized tribes has not been upheld by  
41 BLM, and how the NEPA process has been mismanaged.  
42

43 We have just learned that BLM is  
44 reviewing the present draft alternatives and may be  
45 creating this new one, and it is hoped that this new  
46 one will reflect BLM addressing the requests made by  
47 the tribes individually and collectively.  
48

49 And with that, that is the end of my  
50

1 report. I would gladly accept any questions that you  
2 might have.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you so  
5 much, Wayne. It's bad news to hear you going but  
6 congratulations on your retirement, and we welcome  
7 Serene Fitka to our meetings and we look forward to  
8 working with you in the future.

9

10 Do any of our Council.....

11

12 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do any of our  
15 Council members have any comments or questions for the  
16 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

17

18 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

21

22 MR. ONEY: Thank you. Madame Chair.  
23 For the record, Ray Oney. Thanks, Wayne, for your  
24 report. And, again, I want to say thank Serene Fitka  
25 on board as an Executive Director for YRDFA, welcome  
26 aboard.

27

28 When you mentioned earlier that there  
29 wasn't enough fish that wasn't going into Canada side,  
30 has the YRDFA Board come up with any strategy as far as  
31 what they'd like to look at as far as trying to get  
32 more fish into Canada.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. JENKINS: Through the Chair. Mr.  
37 Oney, thank you for that question. The YRDFA Board has  
38 not come together to discuss that yet. That's  
39 certainly on the agenda for the proposed Board meeting  
40 at the end of April. It will certainly, I think, be a  
41 part of the preseason meeting discussions. You know  
42 with the high count in the lower river and those low  
43 numbers crossing over at Eagle, you know, it asks the  
44 complicated question where -- what happened to the  
45 fish, right. Did we catch too many. Did we lose a lot  
46 of fish due to the temperature situation but we just  
47 really didn't see their bodies. Did they go up other  
48 drainages. Is it a combination perhaps of all of  
49 these. But I think it points out a real challenge for

50

1 the managers and for subsistence users on the river.  
2 In times like these when we are thrown curves, like  
3 last year, you know, were we too over confident, you  
4 know, it's just a really tough call when things are  
5 looking really good and then late in the season we find  
6 out, well, they're not that good for the folks in  
7 Canada. So, you know, people all up and down the river  
8 may want to ponder, what do they have to have, how they  
9 may substitute even when things look good, maybe we  
10 need to remain in conservation mode in our minds and in  
11 our practices, thinking about those folks further up  
12 that may not have an opportunity to catch fish.  
13

14 So it just seems like it's a very  
15 volatile situation and, you know, it's not -- I don't  
16 know that it's important to find any blame, I think the  
17 question is how do we all work more closely together to  
18 try to address the challenges of our times.  
19

20 And certainly the YRDFA Board will be  
21 discussing it.  
22

23 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Wayne.  
24 Maybe I -- I know the Yukon River is one long river to  
25 manage and it's pretty hard to satisfy everybody from  
26 one end of the river to the other. But they've been  
27 doing their part as far as trying to make sure that  
28 fish are taken all along the river, all up to the  
29 border. So I'm hoping that they're still able to do  
30 that as long as that run is strong, as far as the  
31 chinook salmon. We will see how it'll work out this  
32 summer.  
33

34 So thank you for your report,  
35 appreciate it.  
36

37 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, through the  
38 Chair.  
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Anyone  
41 else.  
42

43 (No comments)  
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,  
46 hearing none, well, thank you so much, I greatly  
47 appreciate it. Wayne, once again hopefully we'll cross  
48 paths.  
49  
50

1 MR. JENKINS: Yes. Yes.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.  
4  
5 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank  
8 you, Wayne.  
9  
10 All right, let's.....  
11  
12 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: .....see.....  
15  
16 MS. HOOPER: Madame Chairman.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, go ahead.  
19  
20 MS. HOOPER: Hi, Alissa, sorry, this is  
21 Jennifer Hooper at AVCP. I was just looking at the  
22 agenda and I think I walked in as you were possibly --  
23 I think we missed our call on the agenda and wondered  
24 if this was a good time to give a quick update for  
25 AVCP.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: So, Jennifer.....  
28  
29 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
30 I was just going to suggest that if you were on line.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, we had to  
33 change around our agenda to accommodate this  
34 teleconference so that we're not jumping around and  
35 getting people confused. But if we're all done with  
36 Yukon River fisheries, that's what I was just about to  
37 ask you, Eva, if we're all done with Yukon fisheries at  
38 this point.  
39  
40 MS. PATTON: Yes, Madame Chair. That  
41 was it for our Yukon specific points. And so I was  
42 actually going to just check on teleconference and see  
43 if Jennifer was available to provide the AVCP.....  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Perfect.  
46  
47 MS. PATTON: .....update. Thank you.  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Perfect. All  
50

1 right, thank you. Go ahead, Jennifer, you have the  
2 floor.

3  
4 MS. HOOPER: Okay, thanks. Sorry if I  
5 jumped the gun. We don't have a whole lot of updates  
6 so it should be pretty quick.

7  
8 And I'm sorry I missed the fall meeting  
9 and so I'm not quite sure what John shared with you  
10 all. I think we've kind of gotten into the routine of  
11 just doing a high level overview of big things that  
12 we've been focusing on and, you know, have on our  
13 radar.

14  
15 And so just real quickly as we're, you  
16 know, approaching springtime. We've had our regional  
17 migratory bird WCC meeting and I appreciate your  
18 comments from this morning on the emperor geese.  
19 That's also, you know, a concern of everyone. And  
20 there should be a lot of energy spent here between now  
21 and the next several weeks into spring hunting on  
22 developing some education and outreach materials on,  
23 you know, conservation messages and things like that,  
24 statewide.

25  
26 Here recently, obviously with  
27 everything kind of frazzled and things cancelling land  
28 postponing, within AVCP we've had a halt on any out of  
29 region travel, and so anything beyond, you know, Bethel  
30 and the villages are on suspension right now and so  
31 just kind of going in line with how everyone else is  
32 approaching the situation and either cancelling or  
33 postponing things.

34  
35 We're working on trying to develop some  
36 forestry related hazardous fuels reduction projects in  
37 a couple of the villages. We're in talks with --  
38 contact within the Fish and Wildlife Service on some  
39 potential communities and then Paige is also working on  
40 developing a partnership with the Campfire Alaska  
41 program and looking at ways to get fire safety  
42 information out to the villages.

43  
44 We're still heavily involved with sort  
45 of some Bering Sea Coalition groups and efforts trying  
46 to address issues with shipping traffic and then how to  
47 utilize and maximize the potential with the different  
48 task forces and committees that the North Pacific  
49 Fisheries Management Council have put into place in the  
50

1 last year. I know Richard mentioned this morning his  
2 involvement with the subsistence and local knowledge  
3 traditional task force, there's also a climate change  
4 task force and then a community engagement committee  
5 that was scheduled to kind of wrap up our work with a  
6 meeting next month in April but that's been cancelled,  
7 along with the April Council meeting. And so depending  
8 on how things go the next couple of months, those will  
9 hopefully will be rescheduled and made available for  
10 people. The community engagement committee was  
11 actually going to be held here in Bethel along with a  
12 sort of a 101, quick course, on the North Pacific  
13 Council process, and, you know, short training for the  
14 public, you know, people who are interested in learning  
15 more about the Council process. So hopefully we'll be  
16 able to continue, keep the location, you know, as  
17 Bethel, and just, you know, at a later time but still  
18 provide that opportunity for people out here to learn  
19 more about the Council process.

20

21 We're working on a couple of large  
22 scale projects with ICC Alaska, Inuit Circumpolar  
23 Council of Alaska. Some food sovereignty and food  
24 security projects. And we've got several efforts going  
25 on with that.

26

27 And just like everyone else, it's nice  
28 that it's warmed up and the weather is just amazing now  
29 and I know we're all looking out our windows wishing we  
30 could be outside.

31

32 But other than that that's a quick  
33 summary of what AVCP's been looking at and kind of what  
34 our efforts are going to be here.

35

36 Another -- the last big, I guess for  
37 the -- bit project, is we're going to be rolling out a  
38 survey tool specifically for the Natural Resources  
39 Department, requesting feedback from the tribes and,  
40 you know, public people from the region, what their  
41 areas are -- priority areas of concern are and  
42 questions and issues to be provided, you know, back to  
43 us to help provide a little more focus to where we  
44 spend our energy with just a Staff of three. I'm sure  
45 we've relayed it before to you all that, you know, we  
46 kind of jump from one thing to the other as the fires  
47 increase, and looking for ways to get a little more  
48 focus, direct, straight from the tribes and the region  
49 on areas that we, you know, maybe should be spending

50

1 our energy and focus on. So that will be coming out  
2 here. Hopefully by the end of the month we'll work on  
3 a large scale roll out, we've got, you know, Facebook,  
4 a Facebook page and I think our communications  
5 department has Twitter and I'm not sure what else along  
6 with the website. But that will be coming out here in  
7 the next couple of weeks. So I hope everyone sees it  
8 as a useful tool and helps to provide us some good  
9 feedback and focus.

10

11 Well, that's it, Quayana.

12

13 (Telephone interference - participants  
14 not muted - TV noise)

15

16 MS. HOOPER: I hope I wasn't just  
17 reporting to myself.

18

19 MS. PATTON: No, thank you, Jennifer.  
20 I think we might have just lost Alissa for a minute  
21 there. This is Eva.

22

23 MS. HOOPER: Okay. Okay.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you very much  
26 Jennifer for your report and I know you guys are  
27 working on so much there at AVCP and spread across a  
28 broad region and all subsistence resources, so -- and  
29 always with so few Staff, so thank you for taking the  
30 time for the meeting and all the good work there.

31

32 MS. HOOPER: Thank you. Yeah, I should  
33 be on line the rest of today and tomorrow in case  
34 people have any questions or suggestions for us.

35

36 Thank you, Eva.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Thanks Jennifer. And any  
39 questions for Jennifer from the Council.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Jennifer,  
42 it's Alissa. Sorry about that, I got disconnected  
43 again. I did have a couple of questions.

44

45 Were you guys in any capacity helping  
46 to get those barges removed or at least get that barge  
47 removed in Steamboat Slough?

48

49 MS. HOOPER: I do not -- not myself.

50

1 We have an environmental program here that may be  
2 working on that, I would have to check with them  
3 though. But I can see what I can find out.  
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. And really  
6 quick, at your guys' Migratory Bird Council meeting,  
7 did you guys -- could you tell us the final decision on  
8 emperor geese?  
9

10 MS. HOOPER: Well, there really was no  
11 decision to make. Right now the Fish and Wildlife  
12 Service is -- the population threshold is in that  
13 yellow, sort of cautious, conservation mode, and so  
14 last fall at the Alaska Migratory Bird CoManagement  
15 Council meeting, the group decided that they were not  
16 going to implement any further formal restrictions or  
17 bag limits or anything like that, but that they wanted  
18 to work on a larger scale, you know, education and  
19 outreach program throughout the State, to help, you  
20 know, bring more awareness of the -- you know, the  
21 species and their life history, population, biology and  
22 then start with that and see how that works out. But  
23 there was no formal approval or, you know, non-approval  
24 or any decision that our group, you know, was asked to  
25 make.  
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. All right,  
28 well, thank you so much. Is there anybody else in the  
29 Council that might have questions for Jennifer at this  
30 time?  
31

32  
33 (No comments)  
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,  
36 hearing none, thank you so much, Jennifer, I greatly  
37 appreciate for your time and patience for being here on  
38 the teleconference with us.  
39

40 MS. HOOPER: Yep, thanks.  
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. It  
43 looks like it's 4:00 o'clock. Eva, what time did you  
44 want to go until?  
45

46 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.  
47 I would suggest that we begin wrapping up for the day  
48 at this time so that people have an opportunity to get  
49 a dinner break prior to the special action public  
50

1 hearing tonight for the fisheries special action.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.

4

5

MS. PATTON: We are encouraging all the  
6 Council members to participate in that meeting which  
7 will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. by  
8 teleconference. And before we convene I'll provide  
9 that teleconference number to everyone here on line.  
10 It is a different teleconference number than the one  
11 you're calling in to this meeting.

10

11

12

13

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15

16

17

So, again, we were hoping to break so  
14 everyone would have enough time for dinner prior to  
15 getting back on a teleconference this evening for a  
16 couple hours.

17

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30

And then we are hoping to reconvene  
19 tomorrow morning and start back up again with all the  
20 Kuskokwim reports. So we do have a couple tribes that  
21 wanted to speak directly to the special action request  
22 plus the regular Kuskokwim reports from both the Fish  
23 and Wildlife, and Fish and Game in-season fisheries  
24 managers, the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission  
25 and then some of our partners who work on the in-season  
26 fisheries as well. So our hope is to have all of those  
27 Kuskokwim discussions in the morning after the  
28 Council's had an opportunity to hear from the public  
29 this evening.

30

31

32

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

33

34

35

36

MS. PATTON: And I'm going to grab that  
34 teleconference number, and do let me know if the  
35 Council has any questions on that.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Okay,  
40 so it sounds like we're going to go ahead and -- right  
41 after Eva gives us our number to call in again at 6:00  
42 o'clock tonight for the fisheries special actions,  
43 again, that's at 6:00 o'clock tonight.

44

45

46

47

Let's see, Eva did you have that phone  
46 number readily handy, I don't have it here.

48

49

50

MS. PATTON: Yes, I do. And in case  
49 anybody misses it I had also emailed it to all the

1 Council members and also in a broad public  
2 distribution, and it's also available on line if you go  
3 to the OSM website under fisheries special actions.  
4 But for everybody that's on the teleconference now and  
5 public participating and for our Council members, the  
6 teleconference number to call in tonight, the public  
7 hearing will be starting at 6:00 p.m., and running  
8 until 8:00 p.m. Teleconference number, toll free, 1-  
9 888-566-1030. And, again, that number is 1-888-566-  
10 1030. And then the passcode is 3344290. So again  
11 that's 3344290, and that's the passcode.

12  
13 And for Council members, if you have a  
14 challenge getting through to that teleconference,  
15 please, do text me on my personal cell phone because  
16 then I can help you get connected, or if you need that  
17 number again.

18  
19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What is your cell  
20 phone number.

21  
22 MS. PATTON: So we do have a work cell  
23 phone number, is 907-444-4851, and then the Council  
24 members have my personal cell phone number.

25  
26 (Pause)

27  
28 MR. ONEY: If nothing else I move to  
29 recess.

30  
31 MR. PETER: Second.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, we  
34 have a motion on the floor to recess before this  
35 evening. We'll be coming to our 6:00 p.m., meeting for  
36 this special action hearing, and we'll convene -- we'll  
37 reconvene our meeting at -- is it 9:00 o'clock a.m.,  
38 Eva?

39  
40 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct. So 6:00 to  
41 8:00 p.m. for the public hearing tonight with this  
42 teleconference number that I just reiterated. And then  
43 same teleconference number that you've got in your  
44 meeting books, on your agenda, that you called in  
45 today, 9:00 a.m., tomorrow, we'll reconvene our RAC  
46 meeting.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right.

49  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'll hear from  
4 you guys tomorrow, 9:00 a.m.

5

6 MS. PATTON: And we'll hear everyone on  
7 line tonight at 6:00 p.m.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: After you eat a  
10 good meal.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Yes. Get a good meal,  
13 give your ears a break. Wonderful job, everyone on the  
14 Council, I know this is difficult straining to hear for  
15 so many hours, and, again, tonight. So get some good  
16 rest, have a good dinner and we'll be on at 6:00 p.m.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,  
19 thanks, Eva. Bye.

20

21 MR. ONEY: Thanks, Eva.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Bye.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 16th day of March;

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 3rd day of May 2020.

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